**Hello Predents**

Thank you to everyone that came to the meeting on the 5th of October, in which representatives from ASDA that go to UIC College of Dentistry talk about what life is like for them. Majority of the questions is just what is like to be in dental school, so for more information about ASDA, PLEASE visit the website ASDAnet.org

Here is a rough sketch of the questions asked as well as the response given.

* What can I do other than conference held in Chicago?
	+ A few said that the conference is really the only big thing because you can build connections there as well as having experience. However, there is articles/newspaper they give out every month for people that play the $63 a year as well as the ASDA notebook, which is compiled of what each school around the United States is like and recommendations of how to get into dental school. For more information about ASDA, I highly recommend you visit asdanet.org
* How was undergrad compared to the first two years of dental school?
	+ It is not as bad as people say. It is just much harder because you have to put forth more effort as well as not getting behind because of all the information they throw at you. Also, there is class from 8am-4pm, which can play a hefty role in scheduling and studying times. Definitely DOABLE!
* How do you keep organized in dental school?
	+ Like mentioned above, do not get behind because you can lose time on studying. Have a set schedule of how much you want to study as well as giving yourself free time so you don’t overwork yourself!
* Describe your experience with SLG
	+ SLG is opposite of lecture setting. Nine people handle a case and think together at all the possibilities that could be wrong with this patient. Afterwards, they go home, do research, and talk about those points the next day so you can progress with the case. They all said it was very beneficial and helpful for them. It’s good to get away from lecture setting. Find all the relevant facts about the case. How to disagree and agree with people since it’s in a clinic setting and all of the students are of equals.
* Is there an advisor that guides your thru SLG or is it on your own?
	+ Facilitator that sits with the group, but the students do all the talking. However, the facilitator will intervene if they go off topic and at the end will talk about what they did wrong and what not. Two different cases per module.
* How kind of preps did they do for DAT
	+ Spent at least 8 weeks studying for it. There is MANY resources you can use such as: Chads videos, AP bio books, crackdat, datboocamp, cliffnotes, and Kaplan. It’s hard to say how to study because everyone studies differently, but definitely use these

resources because practice makes perfect! Practice exams before dat.

* Application deadlines?
	+ Opens June 1st and definitely apply EARLY! The earlier the better because they do cycles every month or so. They also look at everything, so have a variety of things you can talk about on the application process.
* DAT more than once?
	+ Up to you, if you think it is too low, then do it. However, some schools take the most recent DAT score so be careful! You have to wait 3 months before taking it again can only take it up to 3 times. PLANNING is everything!!
* What if I do not get in my first year of applying?
	+ Show that you still care about being a dentist by doing proactive activities. Some examples are getting a masters (especially if your GPA is low), retaking the DAT, volunteering, shadowing, or anything that would improve your application.
* How many schools should I apply to? And why did you choose UIC?
	+ The average is around 10, that way you can have multiple options. UIC is a great dental school because of the huge population, great clinic, they have heard only positive things from people that go there, and close to their hometown.
* Any jobs while in dental school?
	+ Some do, but really hard to manage since you are very busy. If you good at managing then sure, but do not be afraid to quit if school is too hard since school comes first.
* How do you go about shadowing a dentist for the 100 hours?
	+ Ask around as much as you can to shadowing a few hours a week or so. Try for it to be a general dentist, if not, that is okay. Start shadowing as soon as you can because it is good exposure and lets you know if you truly want that as your future.
* Paying for dental school?
	+ There are loans for dental school just like undergrad, but more expensive.
* Is dental school fun?
	+ It is fun and rewarding, especially when you get to test your skill on real patients to see how far you have come. Learning wise it is better for them because you get to apply your knowledge to real world examples.
* Interviews?
	+ Be yourself- common phrase everyone will tell you, but it’s very true! Dental schools want to see you as a person instead of a machine going through the motions not giving back to the community (just there for your degree).
* Clinic vs lecture in dental school
	+ About 80% lecture first year, 50% lecture second year, 70% clinic third and fourth year.
* Recommendations for a good application?
	+ Good DAT, GPA, having extracurricular, passionate about something (aka something that motivates you), research experience.
* How are exams? What happens if you are struggling with exams?
	+ There is small tests 3 times every week to make sure you are on track with studying, but there is something called assessments week every four weeks with everything that you have learned for that module. If you are struggling/failing exams, there are upperclassman tutors(paid) that will help you along the way. If the problem persists, you are on probation and a faculty works with you and see what’s wrong. VERY rare for someone to get kicked out due to grades.
* Commuting?
	+ Living as close to campus is optimal for the first two years just because of how hard it can be. You also miss out on the community, in which case students can meet up and study for a certain exam together.
* Personal statement recommendations?
	+ Do not say the same thing as what is on your application (redundant information). Say something that is real and important to YOU that motivated you to become a dentist.
* Something that you wish you would’ve known before school?
	+ Time commitment is a huge thing to get used to because of the long school hours and studying.