**Greetings PDC’ers!**

On Thursday, February 18, we hosted 2014-2015 UIC Pre-Dental Club President, Dana Hamed to talk about her experiences with ASDA, American Student Dental Association, and the benefits of being a member.

First off, being an ASDA member gives you exposure to dental issues. Members travel to Washington D.C. during National Dental Student Lobby Day every year in order to lobby for dental related issues that are important to their future practice of dentistry. This April, ASDA members will lobby for the decrease of student loans of dental students. Attending these events gives you something to talk about during interviews and the dental schools will see how serious you are about dentistry.

ASDA holds annual leadership conferences that will allow you to learn about the advancements in the profession, introduce you to dental schools and meet dental students across the country. These conferences give you a place to network with the board of ASDA and possibly get a letter of recommendation from them. That would automatically give you a foot in the door of any dental school. These conferences are held in different states, but once a year, it is held in Chicago. The cost for the conferences is quite expensive, about $400 to attend; however, they are worth every penny. Positions to be a part of the ASDA pre-dental board are also available.

Being a member of ASDA has many benefits for pre-dental students. ASDA will send you a Guide for Pre-Dental Students book that consists of updated information about every dental school in the U.S.. This will be a very useful tool for when you start applying for dental school. Members will receive ASDA News and a magazine called *Mouth* that features different issues of dentistry in the mail every month. Member benefits also include discounts to educational resources such as Crack the DAT, CourseSaver and Chad’s videos, insurance, financial services, and more.

In ASDA’s website, *<http://asdanet.org/predental/>*, resources for pre-dentals are available. There is a pre-dental timeline that is very much recommended to follow, especially for freshmen. The website also consists of tips for preparing for the DAT, tips for attaining letters of recommendations, tips for writing personal statements, a pre-dental shadowing guide and so much more! There is a section in the website that interviews different types of dentists about a typical day in their lives. It is strongly recommended to take a look at this website and take advantage of all the available resources!

**February 21-27 is Pre-Dental Week and ASDA is hosting a contest to all pre-dental clubs across the nation. The pre-dental club that recruits the most members to ASDA will win lunch provided by ASDA, a personalized webinar with ASDA leaders, and raffle prizes to give away to club members! Last year, UIC PDC won this competition and we gave away two iPads, Amazon and Best Buy gift cards. Help us win again this year by becoming a member!**

So how do you become an ASDA pre-dental member? If you filled out the application Dana passed out during the meeting and paid the $63 yearly fee, then you’re all set! If you weren’t able to fill out the application, you can fill one out online (<https://members.asdanet.org/asdassa/ssaauthmain.login_page>) . Just be sure to write that you are part of the UIC Pre-Dental Club so that you can be part of the raffle that we are hosting. UIC PDC will be paying the $63 membership fee of 3 lucky members! If you apply online, please send us a screenshot of the confirmation email. **The deadline to apply is Friday, February 26.**

During Pre-Dental Week, ASDA will be hosting two webinars on the topic of scholarships and licensure. You can check out the dates and register for free by visiting this website <http://asdanet.org/webinars/>. You can also find recordings of past webinars. There are webinars regarding topics of choosing the right dental school, preparing for the DAT, financing your dental education, non-traditional paths to dental school and much more.

 **If you have any questions about ASDA**, please feel free to contact Dana Hamed at dhamed3@uic.edu or John Tran, the pre-dental chair for UIC ASDA at ttran50@uic.edu. For more information about UIC ASDA, feel free to visit their website at <http://www.uicasda.com/>