Hi PDCer’s,

Thank you to everyone who came to our first meeting of 2018! At this meeting we had a Q&A with current and recently graduated dental students from Midwestern College of Dentistry. Below are some of the questions asked and summarized responses from the panel. As always, if you have any questions feel free to email us at uicpdc32@gmail.com

**Two current dental students and a fellow recent graduate accompanied Dr. Lion Grenader for the panel. Prior to acceptance, their backgrounds and majors ranged from chemistry, biology, psychology, as well as working as a registered nurse. Some of them had research experience in organic chemistry and biology. They all recommended shadowing a lot before applying. One current D4 went to undergrad out of state in Ohio, the other current D3 student went to U of I, and the fellow recent graduate was a returning student who had been out of school for some years. Both graduates are currently working as associate dentists in offices. Dr. Lion Grenader went to UIC himself and was a former Pre-dental club president! He can be contacted at** **liongrenaderdmd@gmail.com** **and said feel free to ask him any questions and let him know your part of UIC PDC.**

Q: *Are there any financial aid options offered at Midwestern?*

A: *Currently, there are a handful of scholarships but they tend to be specific to certain backgrounds, ethnicities, and financial situations. However, getting loans as a dental student is quite easy since banks understand what your future income will be and trust you to pay the loans back. Don’t stress about them.*

Q: *Why did you all choose Midwestern?*

A: *For some of us, it was the only school we were accepted to, for others because it was inviting. Everyone there seems happy and friendly. The school is “pretty” and bright with new facilities as well. We’re all happy with our choices to have gone here.*

Q: *Any advice for the DAT?*

A: *Study a lot, especially the last month before taking the test. For some of us, we studied all summer or during a break (like winter break). Don’t take it until you’re ready. Learn your weaknesses, and learn how to study efficiently. You’ll tell yourself you’re going to study for six months, but then really not start until the last couple of months. But it’s ok to take breaks! Just stay focused when you’re studying and don’t be distracted. Some of us used Kaplan and loved it (the online course, either online classroom or self-paced), others used DAT Destroyer and DAT Bootcamp.*

Q: *Are there any clinical requirements for graduation currently at Midwestern?*

A: Currently, Midwestern isn’t a “numbers” school in terms of having a required number of fillings and crowns to graduate. However, we think the new dean from Arizona Midwestern has plans to move that way.

Q: *What should I include in a personal statement?*

A: *Don’t be cliché and talk about how you wanted to be a dentist since you had braces, etc. Some of us talked about shadowing experiences, others related hobbies and accomplishments and related those to dental aspirations. Just be yourself! Don’t try and put on an act. Also, have a lot of people read over it and give you advice! You’ll definitely make changes to it.*

Q: *Which way do you see the dental world moving?*

A: *Well, since many dentists from the “baby boomer” time are retiring, it could either move into corporate dentistry buying those practices up, or group practices with say one oral surgeon, one periodontist, on general dentist, etc. Truthfully, corporates pay dentists fresh out of school more, and it will take a few or more years to have money to open your own practice when you get out of school. However, these are just our ideas.*

*Finally, if you get denied, make sure you ask WHY. Call the schools, ask questions, be involved. Show this is what you want to do!*

Thanks again to Midwestern for coming to visit us!

* + **Next Meeting**; **February 7th at 5:00pm in room SCE 613**
	+ Other Announcements

**VOLUNTEERING**

* **Give Kids a Smile Day**- Feb. 8th from 9:30am-12:30pm at the UIC College of Dentistry. Volunteers will assist with oral health educations, logistics, fun activities, etc. Please email Khatija at knoorula@uic.edu to volunteer.
* **Oral Health America Gala** - Feb. 21 at the Marriott Marquis at McCormick Place. We are looking for 10 individuals to volunteer from 4pm-10pm and 15 individuals to volunteer from 12pm-4pm for this event. This will be first come first serve. Food will be provided for both shifts. Sign up at the following form <https://goo.gl/forms/ye9zd9UYXOnLesg42>.  SIgn up quick because spots will fill up fast!

\*\*\*If you RSVP/commit to something, you MUST attend or have a valid excuse!\*\*\*

**JOB OPPORTUNITIES**

* **Two Positions Available at the UIC College of Dentistry** - available May 16th. First position as a dental assistant, must be able to commit 1 year, must be an undergraduate who gets Federal Work Study, must have experience or take a dental assisting course (such as at a community college); you'll gain hands on experience. Second position as an administrative assistant, must be able to commit 1 year, must be an undergraduate who gets Federal Work Study, must be a driven person who pays close attention to detail; you'll have opportunities to shadow dentists. Please contact Carmen Espino at (773) 886-0627 or cespinz3@uic.edu

**OTHER**

* Admission Alerts: the UIC College of Dentistry has developed a new emailing system to let pre-dental students know about important upcoming events and resources available to them. Because you are all in this club, all of you have been added to their email list and if you have not already, you should hear from them very soon.
* News for **Graduating Seniors**: we'll be giving **graduation cords**to all graduation active PDC members, so when you walk across the stage Pre-dental club will be with you!
* PDC Board Elections: elections will be held for 2018-2019 PDC board positions in April, so if you're considering running we encourage you to start thinking about it. Individuals who wish to run need to prepare a 2-4 minute speech for the position they're running for, and you can only one for one position. An email with more details about elections will be sent soon, so keep your eyes out for that if you want to know more.
* DAT Preparation Material Discount Codes

DAT Bootcamp 20% off -"uicpdc"

Gold Standard DAT 30% off code - "UIC30"

* Come pick up your sweaters at office hours!**:**Our NEW spring 2018 office hours are below,

**Monday:** 11:00-1:00pm

**Tuesday:**8:30-11:30am and 3:00-6:00pm

**Wednesday:**7:30-11:00am

**Thursday**: 12:30-2:50pm

* **Students Applying to Dental School This Summer**: the process to apply has changed slightly, so please read in detail the following information forwarded from UIC College of Dentistry. Additionally, there will be informative AADSAS sessions on

Friday, April 20 from 1-2pm in 850 UH

Thursday, April 26 from 11am – 12pm in 850 UH

***Mark Your Calendar*!** The 2019 American Dental Education Association Associated American Dental Schools Application Service (ADEA AADSAS®) “soft opens” on **May 15, 2018**, three weeks earlier than last year!  For applicants, this added preparatory time can be put to good use, resulting in higher quality applications ready for submission on June 5. No more pressure to submit same-day!

**2019 ADEA AADSAS Application Schedule:**

**Starting May 15, 2018:**

* Applicants and reapplicants can get an early start in preparing the 2019 ADEA AADSAS application. Start your application in mid-May, then submit early—**June 5, 2018** is the first date to submit an ADEA AADSAS application.
* Applicants can print the Transcript Matching Form and send it to their registrar’s office.
* Applicants can request recommendation letters.
* ADEA AADSAS will accept Dental Admission Test (DAT) scores from the American Dental Association.
* Applicants applying to the ADEA Fee Assistance Program (FAP) can mail the required documents to ADEA AADSAS.

**Starting June 5, 2018:**

* Applicants and reapplicants, prepare ahead and submit early – **June 5, 2018** is the first date to submit an ADEA AADSAS application.
* If all official transcripts are received, ADEA AADSAS will start the verification process.
* Applicants that applied to the ADEA Fee Assistance Program (FAP) and submitted all required documents will begin to see decision statuses.

*Us E-board members are excited for another great semester with you all!*

*Good luck on any upcoming exams, and keep smiling bright!*