



THE  
AMALGAMAC  
A publication of the First District Dental Society  
Dentists Dedicated to the Dental Health of  
the Community



APRIL 2023 EDITION

- *Save the Dates: Next Year's CE Courses*
  - 2022 FDDS Award Winners



**- Featured photo by Susan Tromley -**



APRIL 2023

FIRST DISTRICT DENTAL SOCIETY

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

**Crunchy Wells, DMD**

President, FDDS

**Chelsea Hixenbaugh**

Executive Director, FDDS

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# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY DR. CRUNCHY WELLS



Happy Spring to all of our **Awesome Members!** What an amazing winter the First District Dental Society has enjoyed. We kicked off 2023 with Kay Maddox, RN, who delivered a no-nonsense OSHA presentation touching on everything from PPE to proper record keeping. It is such a gift to listen to her stories and suggestions to help our teams stay safe and compliant. Yes, it is easier to take an on-line course, but the knowledge that we shared as dental professionals was so worth the three hours of time.

In February, we completely switched gears to an evening event. Returning from a performance in Las Vegas, local magician, Brandon Baggett truly surprised everyone in attendance with his magic and comedy. Shout out to Dr. Patrick Tromley and Dr. Austin Hixenbaugh, who were VERY good sports during the show, **Molars & Magic**. In addition, **I would like to thank the many generous individuals and offices that donated to the wonderful silent auction.** We are excited to share that over \$5,000 was raised for the **Southern Indiana Oral Health Foundation** focusing its efforts on creating a USI Dental Hygiene Endowed Scholarship. Dr. Tromley worked tirelessly acquiring a "Half Pot" license, and between those donations and the fearless

auction bidders, we had a very successful and exciting evening.

Most recently, on March 9th, we gathered for wonderful presentations from First Bank officers, Nikki Roser and Chris Bailey. Those in attendance learned both concepts in strategic business planning and common threats to cybersecurity and what to watch for in our businesses.

April promises to be awesome as well. **We are excited to have the Ascension St. Vincent Mobile Dental Clinic ON SITE**, welcoming all of our members, present and past, to tour and learn about the growth and potential that the unit holds for the Tri-State. Please join us on **Thursday, April 13th, beginning at 4:30 p.m. in front of ECC for a tour and a toast!** Then come inside for an amazing presentation by IUSD's own pediatric specialist, Dr. Juan Yepes. FDDS will be learning the latest facts and figures about the Human Papilloma Virus and what we can do to help our patients from the very entertaining Dr. Yepes. This is a CE opportunity that you will not want to miss.

The days are getting longer, so let's use the extra light to make a difference in our community. As dental professionals, we are each

blessed with talent and treasure. Let's open our hearts to those areas in dental need in the Tri-State. There is a "Dental Blitz" at the Evansville Christian Dental Health Clinic scheduled for April 14th, 2023. If you have time to help, please contact the clinic at (812) 202-7470.

Also, we are still collecting donations for the SIOHF Endowment. To make a contribution, please contact Dr. Austin Hixenbaugh (austin.hixenbaugh@gmail.com).

In addition, the USI Dental Hygiene program is taking applications for a full-time dentist for the program. Please reach out to me for information on this rewarding opportunity ([crunchywells@gmail.com](mailto:crunchywells@gmail.com)). We are part of the best community, and I am so grateful for each and every member...The First District ROCKS!

*All of My Very Best,  
Dr. Crunchy Wells*

# FDDS ELECTION RESULTS 2023

BY PATRICK TROMLEY, DDS

I would like to thank everyone in the First District who took the time to vote for the following Executive Council Members.

**A special thanks to all of the members of the First District Executive Council who have served and continue to serve our dental society.** If it were not for people like you, we would not have organized dentistry, along with all the great things that organized dentistry does for each one of us. My hat is off to you!



## FDDS OFFICERS 2023-2024

**Crunchy Wells**, *Immediate Past-President*

**Robert Janowski**, *President*

**Robert Shumate**, *President-Elect*

**Luke Keusch**, *Vice President*

**Chelsea Hixenbaugh**, *Secretary*

**Alesia Brown**, *Treasurer*

**Adam Lottes & Aditi Jindal (hold over)**, *In-Town Executive Council*

**Basal Hassan & Kassidy Wolfe (hold over)**, *Out-of-Town Executive Council*

**Patrick Tromley**, *Trustee*

## ***Delegates:***

Mike Wolf (hold over)

John Greif

Mark Sitzman

Austin Hixenbaugh

Sarah Buedel

## ***Alternate Delegates:***

Kassidy Wolfe      Brad Bath

Luke Keusch      Alesia Brown

Mary Miles      Aditi Jindal

Crunchy Wells      Peter Wulff

*\*The above officers, council members, delegates, and alternate delegates will take office from July 1, 2023—June 30, 2024.*

***Respectfully submitted,***

***Dr. Patrick Tromley, Trustee***

***“To everyone that has served and will be serving, thank you for your time and talent.”***

# THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSOR



## Cybercrime & Your Practice

With Nikki Roser & Chris Bailey

- March 9, 2023 -



## IS HIRING!

The University of Southern Indiana, College of Nursing and Health Professions is seeking a dentist for a one-year renewable, non-tenure track, nine month clinical faculty position (August 15-May 15). The successful candidate for Contract Assistant Professor of Dental Hygiene will hold a valid Indiana dental license, in good standing or be

eligible for licensure. Responsibilities of the position include clinical and laboratory teaching in the Dental Hygiene and Dental Assisting Programs. In addition to teaching, responsibilities include participation in academic program evaluation and curriculum revision, and other program and college-related activi-

ties. This position begins on August 15, 2023. Review of applications will begin immediately and continue until the position is filled. To learn more about the position and to apply, please visit <https://usi.peopleadmin.com/postings/10519>.

*Seeking a  
9-Month  
Contract  
Dentist*

As an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer, the University of Southern Indiana considers all qualified applicants for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, pregnancy or marital status, national origin, age (40 or older), disability, genetic information, sexual orientation, gender identify, veteran status, or any other category protected by law or identified by the University as a protected class.

## A MESSAGE FROM THE TRUSTEE: AWARD WINNERS

BY PATRICK TROMLEY, DDS

Each year the First District nominates candidates for Specialty Awards for the Indiana Dental Association.

Even if the candidate does not become the recipient of the award on the IDA level, that person is still honored the following year at

the First District's Award Ceremony.

It is awesome to be able to honor the following people who volunteer their time and efforts for the



—Respectfully submitted by  
*Patrick A. Tromley, DDS,*  
Trustee

### ~ THIS YEAR'S RECIPIENTS ~

#### RISING STAR AWARD — DR. AUSTIN HIXENBAUGH, DMD

Austin has practiced as a general dentist in the Evansville area since 2019. Austin graduated from the University of Kentucky College of Dentistry. Austin, also, served a one-year General Practice Residency at the University of

Kentucky. Austin is a member of the American Dental Association, the Indiana Dental Association and the First District Dental Society. Austin served as President of the Southwestern Indiana Oral Foundation last year, and he currently is

a Board Member. He has served as a delegate/alternate delegate for the Indiana Dental Association for the last 3 years. Austin has quickly become a promising leader to our dental community. Congratulations Austin on receiving this award!



#### COMPONENT SOCIETY HONOR DENTIST — DR. MARK STANDRING, DDS

Mark practiced dentistry in the Evansville area for about 45 years. Mark graduated from Indiana University School of Dentistry in 1977. Mark is a

member of the American Dental Association, the Indiana Dental Association, the First District Dental Society and the Academy of General Dentistry.

Mark was on the staff at the Shrine Hospital. Mark recently retired from dentistry and is enjoying retired life.

The First District would like to honor Mark Standing as our Component Society Honor Dentist.

## IDA LEADERSHIP AWARD— DR. JOHN GRIEF, DDS, MSD

John has practiced periodontics in the Evansville area for over 33 years. John is a member of the American Dental Association, the Indiana Dental Association, the First District Dental Society, the American Academy of Periodontology, and the Midwest Society of

Periodontology.

John is a past president of the First District Dental Society. John has served in the Indiana Dental Association House of Delegates as a delegate and an alternate delegate for several years. John was President of the First District

during our “virtual COVID year” and met that challenge head on.

John is looked up to by the dentists in the community as a proven leader and has provided a voice for dentistry in the area.

Congratulations, John, for receiving this honor!



## DR. LLOYD J. PHILLIPS DISTINGUISHED SERVICES AWARD — DR. JOE FOX, DDS



Dr. Joe Fox is a member of the American Dental Association, the Indiana Dental Association, and the First District Dental Association.

We honored Dr. Fox as the Indiana Dental Association recipient of the Lloyd J. Phillips Distinguished Services Award because he was unable to accept his award in

Indianapolis. We are not honoring Joe on the First District level as our award winner.

Joe has served the indigent care population in our community beyond measure and is very deserving of this award. Congratulations, Joe, on an exceptional practice of dentistry and for this award!



## PRESIDENT’S AWARD - DR. MIKE WOLF, DDS

Dr. Mike Wolf served as president of the First District Dental Society from 2021-22. Mike has practiced dentistry in the Evansville area for over 20 years. He quickly went through the ranks in the First District Dental Society and proved to

be a very strong leader. Mike got an early start on obtaining his speakers for the continuing education line-up for his year as President. I feel like Mike’s year as President went so quickly because of his organization skills. It was a joy to

watch Mike blossom into the Presidential role and become a well-respected and organized leader.

Mike, thank you for your time and leadership in serving in the role of President this past year!



# A CLOSER LOOK: AIR LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

BY KASSIDY WOLFE SUGGS, DMD

Not long after I became a part of FDDS and expressed interest in becoming more involved with the IDA, Dr. Tromley suggested I think about applying for a program sponsored and facilitated by the IDA, called “AIR Leadership Development Program”. I had never heard of the program before, but after looking into it, it sounded like something that would be right up my alley.

“AIR” stands for “acceptance”, “inclusion”, and “respect”; all of which are qualities that might be used when talking about a great leader. **The program accepts 10 dentists in the state of Indiana who are looking to take their leadership experiences to a higher level;** almost 100 dentists now collectively make up a group of AIR alumni. I was fortunate enough to be chosen as one of the cohort members of the 11th class of AIR.

The program consists of 3 in-person sessions over the course of one year, all expenses covered by the IDA. **These meetings take in place our state's capital and home of IDA headquarters, Indianapolis.** The training sessions are facilitated by IDA Assistant Executive Director, Jay Dziwlik; I can confidently say the program would not be the same without him! Jay makes leadership training fun and interesting in a way that truly makes you see the value in the topics that are being presented. He uses a variety of literature to lay the framework for each of the training sessions, pulling in ideas about certain phenomena to get the conversation going, then, he does a fantastic job at making sure the bulk of the session is just that: a conversation. Since we are a small group of 10 dentists, the discussions are something that I have really treasured about this program. Jay also brings in other presenters, ranging from IDA Legislative Liaison Shane Springer,

to IDA President Dr. Jill Burns, to other specialists in different fields of development training.

In September of 2022, our cohort had our first in-person session, which focused on how to identify your personality type and strengths, which was then applied to how these combine to create who you are as a leader. It was then taken a step further to think about how certain leadership styles, combined with one's own personality traits, work in tandem with different and similar leadership styles and personality traits of, say, coworkers, colleague dentists, staff members, and, even, personal relationships. This was then applied to how these dynamics may play out in certain conflicts and how to better navigate difficult work and life situations.

I had completed the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator® and other personality tests before, but I had never thought about the results in an active manner like this; I realized that this is information that can be very valuable in everyday interactions.

This past January, our cohort met again for our second session. This session laid the groundwork for implementing change; working examples ranged from updating an office policy to changing how chores are done within a family household. This then paved the way for a very important topic in dentistry: implementing change on the legislative stage through advocacy. **I found this session particularly exciting, yet critical, feeling the sense of urgency and the importance of organized dentistry's legislative efforts.** We were able to tour the State House, getting a real sense of the processes that surround implementing a change at the state level and how **all of these seemingly-small steps of the process could affect dentists all throughout**



Indiana.

We have our third and final session coming up in April and I'm already getting excited to hear about what topics we will be covering! I'm certain that there will be some discussions centered on the happenings of the Midwest Dental Assembly coming up - another IDA event that I'm looking forward to.

Overall, my experience thus far with AIR has been even more pleasant than what I was expecting when I applied for the program. It has been a great transition experience for me as I identify who I am as a young, private practice dentist. **Above all, the AIR program has opened my eyes to the endless list of opportunities that organized dentistry has to offer its member dentists and how we can all work together to create a better profession.**

*Though I'm the first dentist from the FDDS to participate in the program, I certainly hope I am not the last.* I would strongly encourage anyone who is looking to grow their confidence as a leader, grow relationships with dental colleagues, or grow the practice of dentistry as a whole, to check out the AIR program.





# FDOS Member Spotlight: Dr. Cassidy (Wolfe) Suggs

**Practice Location:** Holland, IN; Haubstadt, IN; and Green River Road in Evansville, IN

**Hometown:** Raised in Mt. Vernon, IN, and I now live in Wadesville, IN

**Where did you attend undergrad:** University of Kentucky—go CATS!

**Where did you attend dental school/Specialty:** University of Kentucky College of Dentistry, then General Practice Residency at Prisma Health Richland in Columbia, South Carolina

**What year did you graduate:** 2020

**If you weren't a dentist, what would you be doing?** Probably either some kind of interior design, or I would have gone to culinary school!

**If you were scheduled to be executed tomorrow, what would you eat for your last meal?** Buffalo chicken tacos from a local campus restaurant in Lexington, The Local Taco! With Hacienda chips, salsa, & ranch on the side :)

**What is your favorite vacation spot?** Anywhere I can be outside in warm weather!

**What are your hobbies?** Hanging out with my husband, family, friends, and pets, riding the side-by-side on a nice day, trying a new recipe, cuddling up on the couch with a good book, completing projects around the house.

**Do you have a spouse or significant other?** I just got married to my best friend, Andrew, in October of last year!

**Do you have children or pets?** No children just yet, but we have a miniature zoo: a yellow lab (Gunner), an English Cocker Spaniel (Nash), and two ragdoll kitties (Harrison and Kirby).

## FOUNDATION NEWS

### MARK YOUR CALENDARS!



A FUNDRAISING EFFORT FOR  
THE SOUTHWESTERN  
INDIANA ORAL HEALTH  
FOUNDATION

**BANDANA'S  
BBQ**

GIVE BACK EVENT

APRIL 17TH - ALL DAY  
6636 LOGAN DRIVE, EVANSVILLE, IN

**MUST PRESENT 20% COUPON!**

- BUY YOUR STAFF LUNCH
- BUY GIFT CARDS
- TAKE YOUR FAMILY TO DINNER

Bandana's BAR-B-Q wants to help make a difference along with  
**Southwestern Indiana Oral Health Foundation**

**Monday April 17, 2023**

**11:00 am – 9:00 pm**

Please join your family and friends at our  
Evansville Location

6636 Logan Drive (812-401-9922)

Present this ticket to your server  
and Bandana's will donate a portion of the  
total proceeds to help  
Southwestern Indiana Dental Needs



Good for Dine-In & Carryout

SMELL THAT SMOKE



**Be Sure to Present the Ticket**

**Above for SIOHF to Receive**

**20% Back!**

# Foundation News

## SIOHF PRESIDENT — DR. SHEA PERKINS



Southwestern  
Indiana Oral  
Health Foundation

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dr. Shea Perkins,  
*President*

Dr. Steve Buedel

Dr. Austin Hixenbaugh

Dr. Brent Grafe

Dr. David Yates

SOUTHWESTERN  
INDIANA ORAL HEALTH  
FOUNDATION  
P.O. Box 416  
Newburgh, IN 47629



Hello everyone! I wanted to take this opportunity to introduce myself as **I will be the acting President of SIOHF for 2023-2024.**

I am a Newburgh native and a 1999

Memorial High School graduate. I attended Bellarmine University and The University of Louisville School of Dentistry.

I opened my practice in Newburgh in the late summer of 2007 and **it has been a honor to practice alongside the First District Dental Community for the past 15 years.**

I have been married to my husband, Tom, for 15 years and we have a brilliant, sassy 10 year old named Caroline. We are currently working on building a hobby farm in Newburgh, so we have lots of new adventures on the horizon.

The mission of SIOHF is to provide dental education, outreach and access to care for our community. **Our main objective for 2023-2024 is to fund a scholarship for the USI Dental Hygiene Program.** We are raising funds to subsidize the tuition of a dental hygiene student who intends on working within the First District upon graduation.

As we all know, keeping talented hygienists and assistants in our area is vital to the success of our practices. **This scholarship will reward those who choose to serve the community they reside in.**

There are many ways we are raising funds for the scholarship. Most recently, we celebrated Valentine's Day together at Evansville Country Club. We had our first half pot raffle, and Dr. Wells was lucky enough to go home a winner! The magician was amazing and the silent auction items did not disappoint. Auction winners we able to enjoy IU basketball tickets, handmade quilts, puzzles, wine and cheese baskets, golf at French Lick, and some luxury handbags. We all had a great night!

**Our next fundraiser is a BBQ Giveback at Bandana's on Monday, April 17.** Please consider going out to lunch or dinner with your families or treating your office to lunch. A portion of every dollar spent will be given back to the Foundation.

Please keep an eye out for future fundraisers. They will be mentioned in your Amalgamac or will be sent by email.

Finally, we are always looking for new ideas and ways we can make a positive impact in the community. **If you have any interest in volunteering or have something you would like us to consider please feel free to reach out to [sperkins@newburghfamilydental.com](mailto:sperkins@newburghfamilydental.com).**

The one thing that separates the First District from many others is our collective desire to better the community that we serve. I look forward to working together to make a difference.

*Dr. Shea Perkins*



SOUTHWESTERN INDIANA ORAL HEALTH FOUNDATION  
DENTAL HYGIENE ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP

## About Scholarship

Our Foundation (SIOHF) is excited to be partnering with the USI Hygiene Department in developing an Endowed Scholarship for a hygiene student.

We believe it is vital to have a scholarship funded, as this will focus on investing in future hygienists in our community and practices.

If we make our goal of \$12,500 for this endowment, a student will receive \$500 per year. If we reach \$25,000, a student will receive \$1,000 per year.

## Criteria



- ✓ Need-based scholarship
- ✓ Second year dental hygiene student
- ✓ From the First District area
- ✓ Recipient will attend a CE event & share the impact of the scholarship

*Interested in Donating?*

Make checks out to **Southwestern Indiana Oral Health Foundation** & mail to  
P.O. Box 416, Newburgh, IN 47629

Dentist Name:

Address:

Phone Number:

Email Address:

Donation Amount:  Check Number:

Thank you for your support of the USI Dental Hygiene Endowed Scholarship!



~A SPECIAL

THANK YOU~

TO THOSE WHO HAVE  
GENEROUSLY DONATED  
TO THE SCHOLARSHIP!

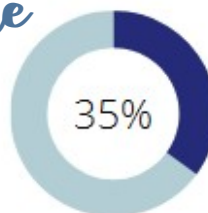
- Dr. James Breuker
- Dr. Patrick Tromley
- Dr. John Greif
- Dr. Maritza Jenkins
- Dr. Mike Wolf
- Johnson Family Dental
- Dr. Chester Rycroft
- Dr. Brent Grafe
- Dr. William Hart



## USI Endowed Scholarship Update

WE HAVE RAISED A TOTAL OF

\$4,380!



TOGETHER WE CAN REACH  
OUR GOAL OF \$12,500!

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## FDDS UPCOMING EVENTS (2023)

### APRIL

**Human Papilloma  
Virus (2 CEs) w/ Dr.  
Juan Yepes**

Date: April 13 @ 6:00 p.m.

**SIOHF Giveback @  
Bandana's Bar-B-Q**

Date: April 17 (all day)

### MAY

**IDA Midwest Dental  
Assembly**

Date/Location: May 19-21  
in Indianapolis, IN

*\*Check emails for registration information & updates!*

### SEPTEMBER

**Ethics & Jurispru-  
dence w/ Jay  
Dziwlik (2 CEs)**

Date/Time: September 21

### OCTOBER

**All You Need to Know  
About the Temporo-  
mandibular Joint w/  
Dr. Shaun Matthews  
(3 CEs)**

Date/Time: October 27 @  
8:30 a.m.

### NOVEMBER

**“Hurts So Swell” &  
“Waiting to Inhale” w/  
Tom Viola (6 CEs)**

Date/Time: November 17 @  
8:00 a.m.

### JANUARY

**OSHA w/ Kay Maddox  
(2 CEs)**

Date/Time: January 19 @  
8:30 a.m.