

Word of Mouth...

“Great Expectations accurately reflects the thoughts and prayers of all in the profession as we welcome those who are the future of dentistry. The opportunity of knowing and working with both the present and the future will assure that the traditions and values that have made our profession great will endure.”

John Findley, DDS

President, American Dental Association

“Great Expectations has been a blessing to all involved, and the enthusiasm from our participants is contagious. This program is meant to be an integral part of the dental student’s indoctrination into our profession. Mentoring is simply professional growth.”

Mark Gannaway, DDS

Great Expectations Program Director

“My good friend Dr. Mark Gannaway at Baylor and the inspiration of Dr. Art Dugoni helped us get Great Expectations started at UTDB Houston.”

Tommy Harrison, DDS

President, Texas Section of the ICD

“It is an honor as a professional to serve as a mentor for the ultra-successful Great Expectations mentorship program.”

Hilton Israelson, DDS

President, Texas Dental Association

“As a student mentor, the most rewarding aspect of Great Expectations is the personal satisfaction I gain from helping new students. Not only can I share my newly developed skills and knowledge, but also my experiences with adapting to a new life in dental school. I feel a greater sense of pride in my dental education.”

Collin Kraus

Baylor College of Dentistry Class of 2009

“I spent some time with Drs. Lynne and Bill Gerlach and learned if you don’t have honesty and integrity you’ll never make it with your patients.”

Laura Mayer

Baylor College of Dentistry Class of 2011

“The Great Expectations program has exceeded my expectations! It is an example of the best our profession has to offer - leaders giving of their time, their talents and their financial support in order to help our future colleagues and the patients they will serve.”

Leighton A. Wier, DDS, FICD

President, International College of Dentists USA Section

For more information on how to implement a Great Expectations program at your school, contact:

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**GREAT
EXPECTATIONS**
Mentoring Professionalism



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A program of the
Texas Section
International
College of Dentists



In the beginning...

In 2007, the Texas Section of the International College of Dentists President Dr. Moody Alexander was inspired during a Dallas County Dental Society (DCDS) leadership class to create a program aimed at first-year dental students. He hoped to expose dental students to positive professional mentors who they could emulate in their future practices. Meetings were arranged with representatives from Baylor College of Dentistry (BCD) administration, Texas ICD and DCDS members in which collaborative efforts defined the organization, structure and purpose of the program. Texas ICD President-elect, Dr. John Chandler proposed the name "Great Expectations" and Dr. Mark Gannaway, BCD's Director of Comprehensive Care, Restorative Sciences, volunteered to become the Program Director for the faculty-driven program. Large planned events in combination with small-group meetings were scheduled throughout the year in order for the practicing dentist mentors and students to discuss topics integral to their professional growth.

In 2008, the American Dental Association awarded DCDS a Golden Apple Award for its involvement in the mentorship program. With a focus on small-group interactions with upperclass students, faculty and practicing dentists, "Great Expectations: Mentoring Professionalism" seeks to inspire ethical, professional dentists by providing insight and support at the beginning of their training.

The ICD welcomes the participation of other organizations that ascribe to the tenets of this program. There is much work to be done, and the Fellows of the ICD see the progression of this program as a cooperative rather than competitive process.



Strategic Plan

Vision Statement

To share life and inspire dental students

Mission

To mentor professionalism by connecting dental students, faculty and practicing dentists.

Goals

1. **Mentoring:** Influence through listening, leadership and example

Objectives:

- Provide a forum to connect students, faculty and practitioners
- Serve as a resource to students

2. **Professionalism:** Fostering responsibility and commitment to the community and the dental profession

Objectives:

- Convey depth of commitment to profession and community
- Promote the management of professional dilemmas with ethical behavior

3. **Support:** Create an environment of trust and open communication that allows students to address their unique issues

Objectives:

- Be available
- Build trust and provide encouragement

Implementation

1. Recruit leaders from the faculty, upperclass students and practicing dentists
2. Leaders establish goals, objectives and actions for the program
3. Leaders divide participants into groups consisting of 8-10 first-year dental students, two upperclass students, one faculty member and two practicing dentists
4. Groups decide on the meeting agendas, locations and dates

Some examples include:

- ice cream social
- first-year dinner
- office visit
- home visit
- end-of-year barbecue

5. Have fun doing 1-4!

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Dental Society

