



Chronicle Monthly

VOLUME 16, EDITION 2

FEBRUARY 19, 2021

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

AAWD celebrates 100 years of women in dentistry!

Presidents' Series

Eleanor Bushee Senior Dental Award Application now OPEN

February is Black History Month

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Black History Month 1

Presidents' Series 1-2

Webinar Reminder March 2 2

Survey Reminder 2

Archives 3

Contact 3

AAWD Honors Black History Month



In 1890, Ida Gray Nelson Rollins (above) graduated from the University of Michigan College of Dentistry. She was one of just three women in her graduating class, and was the very first African-American woman dentist in the United States! Rollins opened her own practice in Ohio, then later moved to Chicago with her husband and continued to practice there. She was vice president of the Professional Women's Club of Chicago!

Dr. Vada Watson Somerville (below) began working as an office secretary for her husband's practice. In the wake of World War I, with the fear that her husband might be drafted, Somerville decided to attend the USC dentistry school to learn the profession. Soon after her graduation she became the first licensed female African American dentist in the state of California!



Dr. Jeanne Sinkford (above) has overcome race and gender barriers to rise to the top of her profession. She graduated at the top of her class from Howard University, earning a DDS in 1958. She taught at Howard University, where she was promoted to professor and associate professor. In 1975 Sinkford was appointed dean, making her the first female dean of any dental program!

Presidents' Series

AAWD, a Look Back in Time

I graduated from dental school in 1979, one of 13 women in a class of 215. Although it wasn't easy getting through dental school with a 4 year old at home, and no possibility of going part time to be able to spend more time with my child, I made it and was so proud. I did have a few instances of prejudice against women in dental school. I

remember one in ortho lab when the instructor told me I would be better sewing buttons on my husband's shirt than bending ortho wires. And then there was a board examiner who joked in German that I was no dentist. Why German? Why no dentist? Who knows. He couldn't find anything wrong with my work and it WAS said in jest, but, really.....

Dr. Jean Furuyama, 2004

The laugh, however, I think was on him. When I finished my residency, I opened my practice from scratch in April 1981 and within 3 months I was busy full time and within a year I needed to take on an associate. I realized that not only was being a woman in dentistry not a detriment, it was a huge advantage. Rightfully or not, patients felt that I was more gentle and cared more about them as people.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

Presidents' Series

Dr. Jean Furuyama, 2004

Early on I became active in AAWD, not because I was a radical feminist, but because I felt AAWD offered the friendship and support only other professional women could provide. I remember going to a lecture at one of our meetings given by a fellow professional, a practicing psychiatrist. I'll never forget her words. "What male doctor would be treating a patient and all of a sudden remember, oops, I forgot to buy milk?" I'm now retired, so I don't have to worry about such things, but I bet there are lots of

women dentists who go through similar experiences.

It is the shared experiences and the shared aspirations that draws us to become AAWD members. During my tenure as president, I made friends from all over the country who are still great friends now. We had board meetings 4 times a year and various other activities such as a cruise to Bermuda. I see on the web page that you are planning another cruise once the pandemic is over. Great. Go for it. You won't be sorry.

And best wishes for the 100th anniversary of AAWD. Just imagine. 101 years since we women got the vote and 100 years women are still joining together to make our lives and our profession better.

Best wishes,

*Jean G. Furuyama,
DDS, FAGD*



DON'T FORGET TO PARTICIPATE IN OUR SURVEY REGARDING CONTINUING EDUCATION—CHECK OUR SOCIAL MEDIA PAGES (FACEBOOK & INSTAGRAM) & EMAIL.

YOU'RE INVITED
What's the deal with student loans? Financing
(**&Refinancing**) an Education Webinar

March 2nd, 8PM EST

AAWD |  **Juno**



From the Archives

We will be featuring photos, meeting minutes, and comments from past members of AAWD.

Please submit any interesting historical data or stories that you'd like to share!

Thank you to Dr. Furuyama for sharing some photos from her time on the board.



7794 Grow Drive
Pensacola, FL 32514
800-920-2293

Advancing, Connecting & Enriching
The Lives Of Women Dentists

info@aawd.org



Past Presidents from left to right, Jane Shelby, Barbara Mousel, Rise Martin, June Lee, and myself, Jean Furuyama. 2004.



From left to right: myself, Cissy Furusho (2005 president), our speakers, and on the far right Rise Martin (president 2003). 2004.

Thank you to all of our partners!

