The 89th Annual ADHA Meeting has it all.

**Scenes from Friday**

Massages, cacti, works of art and goodie bags — the 89th Annual ADHA Meeting has it all.

**Reward Yourself**

How buying everyday office supplies can lead to better technology for your patients.

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Where you can get a free sample of these new disposable paper tray covers.

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**Stay and play awhile**

Companies new and old show off their best products here at the ADHA

By Robin Goodman, Dental Tribune

It’s a warm, fun and friendly atmosphere here in Phoenix at the 89th Annual ADHA Meeting. While Friday’s high reached a mere 102 degrees, it was cool inside the exhibit hall as hygienists visited six aisles of booths catering to their every need and whim. Among the 18 first-time exhibitors is OraHealth (booth No. 328). The company is showing off its XyliMelts for xerostomia, which OraHealth claims is even effective for dry mouth caused by prescription and over-the-counter medications. These double-sided discs are placed between your cheek and gum with the tan adhesive side against the gums. After adjusting them with the tongue.

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**Expand your mind**

By Robin Goodman, Dental Tribune

Educational sessions were in high demand Friday, as many of them were sold out, but their timing couldn’t have been more perfect. The day began bright and early at 8:45 a.m. with the exhibit hall opening ceremony, giving attendees an hour or so to peruse the booths before heading to class.

After expanding their brains, hygienists and students alike returned to the exhibit hall floor for a free lunch from noon to 2 p.m., sponsored by Orbit gum.

Today’s educational offerings include two sold-out sessions in the morning: “The Ins and Outs of Polishing: Why, Why Not and What” and “A New Process of Care.” Hit the polishing lecture after lunch, as the second session still had seats available as of press time.

Another afternoon course of interest is “Medical Histories and Medical Emergencies: Vital Signs for the Dental Professional” from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.

Or if you would like some career assistance, seek out the lecture on “Does My Resumé Make Me Look Inexperienced?” from 1 to 4 p.m.

For more details, check out the full course descriptions in the official program.

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At right, Casey Hein, BSDH, MBA, was one of three speakers Friday during the Hu-Friedy sponsored lecture on ‘Put the Power in Your Hands: Effective Periodontics Through Technology and Technique.’

Photo/Robin Goodman, Dental Tribune
ADHA supports Dental Reform Act of 2012

Organization sees benefit of establishing new tiers of licensing to create force of mid-level dental providers

The American Dental Hygienists’ Association (ADHA) has issued a news release commending Sen. Bernard Sanders, chairman of the Senate Subcommittee on Primary Health and Aging, and Rep. Elijah Cummings, ranking member of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, for their leadership on oral health issues. The two lawmakers introduced the Comprehensive Dental Reform Act of 2012, which seeks to overcome barriers that more than 140 million Americans face in accessing oral health care services — and ensure the public has dental coverage and access to safe and high-quality oral health care.

The ADHA reported the United States is in the midst of an oral health care crisis, with nearly 48 million people living in federally designated “shortage areas” that lack an adequate number of dentists to serve the population. Less than 20 percent of Medicaid-eligible children received dental care in 2010. In addition, nationwide, the number of dental-related visits to the ER jumped by 16 percent during a three-year period between 2006 and 2009 to more than 830,000 visits for preventable dental conditions.

With access to comprehensive dental coverage, the ADHA news release reported, vulnerable populations, such as the elderly, children in low-income families and members of racial and ethnic minority groups, are able to receive treatment for oral disease while it is still manageable. This diminishes the need for more costly restorative services and emergency care.

In addition to expanding dental coverage, the Comprehensive Dental Reform Act seeks to raise the public’s awareness of the importance of oral health and expand the dental workforce to accommodate the millions more Americans who may become eligible for dental coverage in 2014. More than 50 countries have used mid-level dental providers for decades to help deliver much-needed oral health care to patients.

Most recently, the ADHA recognized the need for mid-level dental providers — and their ability to increase access to care — by passing legislation establishing two new members of the dental team: the dental therapist (DT) and the advanced dental therapist (ADT).

The ADT functions much like the physician’s assistant, requiring the on-site supervision of a dentist for most services provided. The ADT, however, is modeled after the nurse practitioner and collaborates with a dentist in the treatment of patients but does not require on-site supervision. This collaborative relationship allows the ADT to provide services in communities where no dentist is regularly available, creating a pipeline to care for those disenfranchised from the current delivery system.

At a Feb. 29 hearing on access to dental care, Christy Fogarty, RDH, MSOH, told members of the Senate Subcommittee on Primary Health and Aging about her experience practicing as a dental hygienist and ADT in the Minneapolis area and the impact she has had on increasing access to care for vulnerable populations. Her patients include children (ages 21 and younger) and pregnant women who currently have limited or no access to oral health care.

“Christy’s testimony spoke to the advantage of [how] being educated first as a dental hygienist and then as an ADT allowed her to provide important preventive care combined with restorative services within the ADT scope of practice,” said ADHA President Pam Quinones, RDH, BS. “Our goal is to improve access to dental care throughout the country and to ensure that the public is receiv- ing the best care possible.”

(Source: ADHA)
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Scenes from Friday

In a brief moment of peace, Karen Hays, from left, Jason Ney and Christine McLaren at the DENTSPLY Professional booth (No. 400).

What one might guess is an installation erected especially for the ADHA event in the Phoenix Convention Center Lobby is actually a permanent art exhibit that notes, ‘Art is a guaranty of sanity.’

Mark Schwer at the Shofu booth (No. 431) explains how to use the company’s products.

Dana Stoy, from left, Dr. Steve Harada and Lauren Partington at the Patterson booth (No. 203).

Fresh from the Procter & Gamble/Crest Oral-B Breakfast and toting their goodie bags are hygienists Yvette Johnson, from left, Cathy Garrison, Audrey Hung, Aubree Chismark, Andy Hung (a guest) and Mihaela Pope, all from California.

Hygienists Barbara Pizsler, from left, Mary Kaye and Lucia Delgado flank the Diamondback Cacti on Parade in the Phoenix Convention Center. The trio didn’t have to travel too far to attend as they hail from Albuquerque, N.M.

Ahh ... don’t forget to swing by the Brasseler booth (No. 102) to visit the Relaxation Station for a free massage.

Head to the center of the exhibit hall floor to find the Community Center booth where you can find ADHA branded items.

Photos by Robin Goodman
Dental Tribune
If you were having flashbacks to the ‘70s while riding an elevator in the Hyatt Regency Hotel on Thursday night, it is no surprise given the music that seeped into the elevator shafts. Sunstar hosted its Student Bash costume party in the Atrium for hygiene students, and it was a groovin’ good time. Counted among those present were roller derby competitors, disco divas and some very talented Twister players (we still don’t know how they smiled for the camera without falling over!). Even Darth Vader and one of his Storm Troopers were seen burning up the dance floor. Every attendee to the event received a satin jewelry bag that held a sample of Sunstar products, one of which was a Star Wars toothbrush to fight evil plaque. May the force be with you!

Student Bash travels back in time

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Mydent International is offering free samples of these paper tray covers. To obtain a free sample, visit www.defend.com/disposable-paper-tray-covers or e-mail your request to: samples@defend.com. This product is now available through most major dealers.

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