



SPRING 2026

AED ALUMNI

NEWSLETTER



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WANT TO GET INVOLVED?

"I'm graduating soon, and I want to stay involved in the AED alumni community"

A Google form will be sent out at the end of each semester to the graduating class. This form will allow you to express interest in being contacted after graduation for alumni opportunities.

"I know an AED alumnus who is interested in being featured"

Share the contact information of any interested alumnus to Aleena Chattha at chattha@email.sc.edu.

Do you have feedback on how to improve the alumni newsletter? Scan this QR code!



CHECK OUT UOFSCAED.COM FOR MORE RESOURCES!

“Since graduating from USC in 2022, I was able to gain incredible experiences prior to starting medical school at VCOM in July 2025.

I worked as a medical assistant in Ortho in Total Joints and the Urgent Care with OrthoSC in Myrtle Beach, SC. I was also fortunate to have volunteered at the Smith Free Medical Clinic in Georgetown. Following these wonderful experiences, I transitioned into being a full-time realtor with my parents for about a year. It was unique learning new skills (especially sales + marketing) and meeting so many awesome people in this role. I just started at VCOM in Spartanburg, SC and love it so far. The faculty, students, environment, and facilities are world-class. I definitely recommend coming to the open house(s) and other events this fall!”



Tyler String

MI at VCOM



Diana Rizzo

PA Grad at Thomas Jefferson University

“After graduation, I took a gap year to apply to PA school while working as a medical assistant in a dermatology office. I decided to attend Thomas Jefferson University in Philadelphia, PA for PA school and started in May 2023. I just graduated in the beginning of August 2025 and am studying for the PANCE while applying to and interviewing for jobs. I am interested in Hospitalist or Primary Care positions and am looking to stay somewhere in the Northeast!”



Sophie Crosby

D3 at UB Dental

“I am currently at the University at Buffalo School of Dental Medicine in my D3 year. I have a Navy HPSP scholarship paying for my school and I am planning on pursuing general dentistry after graduation. I travel as much as I can on the weekends and holidays, love rock climbing and hiking, and seeing as much live music as possible. I have embraced the snow up here and a love of the Buffalo Bills!”

WHAT ALUMNI DID DURING THEIR GAP YEAR(S)!

MCLAREN HECK

“I worked as a Medical Assistant in OB/GYN in Saratoga Springs, NY, from 2023-2025. I have since started PA school at SUNY Upstate Medical University in Syracuse, NY.”

Any Advice for AED members?

“Make as many connections as possible and remember you are capable! Cast a wide net when applying!”

Feel free to reach out if you need connections in Upstate NY! (518) 390-1168 or mclheck@gmail.com”



JANNA MACLAREN

“After graduation I moved back home to Baltimore, MD to work as a medical assistant in dermatology. I started medical school at Georgetown in Washington DC in Fall 2024 and am now at the beginning of my M2 year!”

Any Advice for AED Members?

“Take everything one step at a time and recognize that every path is different. Take advantage of as many opportunities for mentorship at possible!”

If you could give any advice to your undergrad self, what would it be?

“Don't be afraid to take time off, it really helps you gain perspective on school. And don't be afraid to take a nontraditional gap year! Travel, get a fun job, live in a new city. Enjoy some time to develop an identity other than dental/medical student. Also, use AED to explore different career paths! I was pre-med, then pre-PA before settling on dental school.”

- Sophie Crosby, D3 at UB Dental

“Keep an open mind! AED can expose you to new specialties or paths that you may have not known you would like before. Experience as much as you can, it will help you in the future.”

- Brianna Milne, EM PA

“Work hard, but enjoy this process.”

- Kaitlyn Hickey, Ortho Sports Med PA

“Find out what you want early, know that you want and go for it. Decide hard and never look back— it helps eliminate time wasting activities/years. Anyone can go to dental school or become an OMFS — you just have to want it enough. Work as hard as you can!”

- Hadi Bouali, D3

“Do not give up. If this is something you truly want, you WILL succeed. Let yourself feel every victory and every setback. It will make you stronger!!!”

- Emma Brauner, MUSC M1