

The MULTICULTURAL MIRROR

One School  Many Cultures



Since Dr. Woolfolk, our retired dean for student affairs, initiated the Profile for Success (PFS) Program in 1994, nearly 500 pre-dental students participated in this dental school preparatory summer program in our school. Here are the 2022 students together with our Dean Hu, Assistant Dean Ester and Ms. Crosby.

Greetings!

Dear School of Dentistry Family,

I am so happy to extend salutations and well wishes to you all as we come to the end of 2022. In light of all the tremendous changes that are taking place in our world, it is a great joy to be able to work in such a wonderful dental school community. Our Diversity, Equity and Inclusion - Multicultural Affairs Committee (DEI-MAC) has been busy this year, planning activities such as the Taste-Fest, Veteran's Day Celebration, LGBTQ+IA Ally Training, Pride Month activities, Multicultural Mirror publications, Implicit Bias CE courses, lunch and learn CE events and community conversations. We have also entered into the planning phase of our DEI Strategic Planning 2.0 and launched our UMSD Climate Study. We are grateful for all of you who have been able to enjoy our events and learning opportunities this year. It is with great expectation that we look to the coming year with renewed hope and promise.

Let me take a moment to thank each and every member of our DEI-MAC and DEI-MAC Implementation Committee for your tireless dedication and commitment in helping us live out our values of diversity, equity and inclusion in a joyous manner. As we have navigated the challenges of our present time, we have learned that together we can accomplish anything. Our DEI 2.0 Planning theme is "Moving Forward Together". Our dental school and community is still thriving and changing the world through our research, teaching, service and DEI efforts and leadership! This year our School of Dentistry is the host for the Joint MLK, Jr. Day Health Science Committee Events. We will focus on student engagement and community building across our health science schools and units. We also encourage you to participate in our book dialogue on Harriet Washington's "Medical Apartheid" and hope to see you at our key-note event on January 16, 2023! Have a joyous holiday season and please enjoy this Fall edition of the Multicultural Mirror.

May you have a good end of the Fall term, and may your holidays and New Year be filled with Love, Joy, Hope and Peace!

Dr. Todd V Ester
Assistant Dean, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

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**SCHOOL OF
DENTISTRY**

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Stumbling Stone

In Berlin, stones in sidewalks remind us of Jewish citizens who were murdered during the Holocaust.

These stones are called “stumbling stones” because they are supposed to make us stumble and think about what happened and what should not happen ever again.

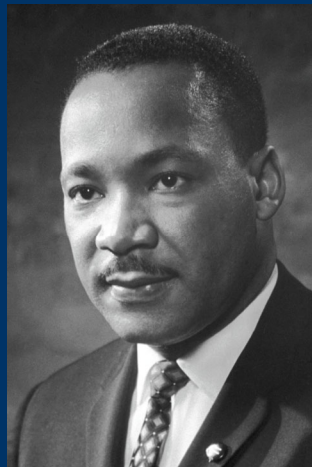
In this Multicultural Mirror, we share with you a quote that should be a “stumbling stone” for us.

Please submit quotes that are a “stumbling stone” for you and we will publish them in the next MM!

In 1965, at the end of the famous speech that Martin Luther King, Jr., gave in Montgomery, Alabama, at the end of the

Selma to Montgomery March, he said:

“Of all the forms of inequality, injustice in health is the most shocking and inhumane.”



Meet The Dental School Class of 2026

by Avery Berger - Photos by Ken Rieger



We asked our newest first-year class of DDS students a little about themselves to get to know them better! We asked them whether they have any relatives working in the healthcare field, why they wanted to be a dentist, what they like to do in their free time, their favorite travel experiences and a fun fact about themselves. A total of 98 of the 109 D1 students provided answers to these questions and we learned some pretty neat things about the incoming class that we are excited to share with you!

Do you have family members that work in the dental or medical field?

Based on the 98 D1 student responses that we received, over 60% of D1s do not have a relative that works in the healthcare field. Of the 39 students that had a relative who works in the healthcare field, 20 of these students had a relative that works as a dentist or dental hygienist. The other 19 D1 students with a relative who works in the healthcare field represent professions such as pharmacists, physicians, anesthesiologists, nurses and medical researchers.

Why do you want to be a dentist?

Students in the D1 class decided they wanted to become a dentist at ages ranging from 3 years old to 29 years old. On average, students decided they wanted to become a dentist around the age of 17. Overall, 60 students decided to pursue a career in dentistry by the end of high school, before the age of 18, 33 students decided during their undergraduate years, between the ages of 19 and 22 and 5 students decided at ages older than 22.



Meet The Dental School Class of 2026

by Avery Berger - Photos by Ken Rieger



Students provided a multitude of reasons why they wanted to pursue a career in dentistry. The most common reasons included wanting to help others, the work-life balance that dentists have, the skills required such as an emphasis on working with their hands and being able to combine passions of science and art throughout their everyday work. Many students also discussed the positive impact that their general dentists, orthodontists and oral surgeons had on their lives, leading them to want to make the same positive impact on others' lives within their communities. Another popular reason why students wanted to become a dentist is the opportunity to build life-long relationships with patients. Students also noted liking the flexible schedule of a dentist and the opportunity to become your own boss. Overall, these responses attest to the D1 students' enthusiasm and passion for the job.

What do you like to do in your free time?

When we asked the new D1 students what they like to do in their free time, 70 told us that they enjoy being active. Students mentioned liking a wide variety of outdoor activities including hiking, going on walks and runs, skiing, surfing, biking, lifting weights, paddleboarding, dancing, playing soccer, tennis, basketball, golf and frisbee. Students like to be adventurous by traveling and trying new foods. Many students like to get creative by doing art projects, cooking, drawing, writing, photography, painting and crocheting. No wonder so many students chose dentistry for its artistic aspect! Also students enjoy spending time with family and friends, watching Netflix and YouTube, playing video games, listening to music, shopping and relaxing in their free time. The D1 class also includes some musicians that play the piano. It is our hope that students will continue pursuing these passions throughout their time at Michigan!



Meet The Dental School Class of 2026

by Avery Berger - Photos by Ken Rieger

Best Travel Experiences

When we asked the D1s to share their favorite travel experiences, we were impressed by how far and wide they had traveled. Their travels included trips to countries in North America, Asia, Africa, South America, and Europe.

Within the United States, students mentioned notable trips to Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Florida, Hawaii, Illinois, Maine, Nevada, New York, North Carolina and Tennessee. One student has traveled to 49 of the 50 states and is looking forward to visiting their final state, Alaska, in the near future!

Popular destinations outside of the United States included Greece, Mexico, Indonesia, Japan, Kenya, France, Cuba, Colombia, Israel, Honduras, Italy, Aruba, Australia, Spain, Tanzania, Panama, South Korea, Jamaica, Turks and Caicos, Mecca, Lebanon, Russia, Ghana, Montreal, Vancouver and more! Students traveled with friends, family, school groups, religious groups and humanitarian organizations.

Many enjoyed getting to explore new cultures by trying new foods, sightseeing and immersing themselves in what each destination had to offer. While most students travel to relax and have fun, some of the D1s mentioned traveling with a purpose of helping others. One student went on a dental mission trip to Peru where they set up clinics to provide dental care to those without access to a dentist. Another student went on a mission trip to Jamaica to help a deaf center for children renovate a building for teacher living. Another student traveled to Panama on a medical brigade where they got to learn all about medical and dental care in Panama. Students had such a wide range of travel experiences that shaped them into the people they are today!



Meet The Dental School Class of 2026

by Avery Berger - Photos by Ken Rieger

Fun Facts about Themselves

Can you recite 100+ digits of pi, say the alphabet backwards or solve a Rubik's cube? Our D1 students can! These are just a few of the many special talents that students shared with us when asked to provide a fun fact about themselves. Many students shared their love of pets with multiple students owning dogs and cats. One student had 8 pets at one point in their life: 1 dog, 1 rabbit, 1 hamster, 2 parakeets, 2 turtles and a fish! Another common response was that students are bilingual or trilingual. There are many athletes within the D1 class including former gymnasts, basketball players, ice skaters, hockey players and more! Musicians within the class play instruments including the piano, guitar, ukulele, trombone, french horn and more! Lastly, many students provided dental-related fun facts that were particularly interesting. One student is missing their lateral incisor while another student still has all of their wisdom teeth. Also, one student shared that they have never had a cavity! Someone also shared that their artwork will be featured in the dentistry exhibit in the Sindecuse Museum this fall! One student will be the first doctor in their family! Overall, our D1 class had lots of interesting facts to share and we can't wait to see how they will put their unique talents to use during their time at Michigan!

We look forward to getting to know much more about you during your journey to graduate as a dentist in 2026!

Welcome to the University of Michigan! Go Blue!

"I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel."



Meet the Dental Hygiene Class of 2024

By Avery Berger - Photos by Ken Rieger

We also asked our new DH3 students to answer some questions about themselves to get to know them better! We are excited to share with you the responses of 12 of the 38 students who started in May 2022. We asked whether or not they have a family member who works as a dental hygienist or another health profession. We also asked them when they knew they wanted to become a dental hygienist. To learn a little more about their interests, we asked them to share what they like to do in their free time, their favorite travel experiences and a fun fact. We hope you enjoy learning about our newest DH3 class!

Do you have family members that work in the dental or medical field?

Out of all the student responses, 75% of the respondents do not have a family member that works as a dental hygienist or in the healthcare field as a whole. Three students mentioned having family members that work in the healthcare field, all of which are dental hygienists! One student even has a sister that was a part of the University of Michigan Dental School's dental hygiene program and graduated in 2018!

Why do you want to be a dental hygienist?

Our DH3s shared a multitude of reasons for wanting to become a dental hygienist. Most have aspired to become a dental hygienist since their mid to late teens however one student has dreamt of becoming a dental hygienist for as long as they can remember and another student did not make the decision until they were 25. While many students shared that they wanted to become a dental hygienist to help others by building their confidence through their smile, other reasons for wanting to become a dental hygienist included the autonomy, good hours, hands on learning and a love of teeth!



Meet the Dental Hygiene Class of 2024

Photos by Ken Rieger



What do you like to do in your free time?

Most of our DH3s like to watch movies and spend time with family and friends in their free time. Other students included enjoying spending their free time watching YouTube and TikTok, reading, painting, hiking, working out and shopping. One student mentioned that they love taking their dog to the dog park while another student loves spending their free time with their children!

Best Travel Experiences

Our newest dental hygiene students have traveled all over the world! Within the United States, they shared notable travel experiences to Florida, Hawaii and Maine. In Bar Harbor, Maine, one student volunteered at Acadia National Park to help build a map that will help children in Maine learn about the geography of the park! Outside of the United States, students enjoyed traveling to Costa Rica, England, Ireland, Portugal, Mexico and Syria. Most students added that these trips were made special by being able to spend quality time with family!

Fun Facts about Themselves

The dental hygiene students shared lots of fun facts about themselves! Many students love animals as one student shared that they have two guinea pigs and two dogs, another student has three Chihuahuas and a third student has two cats. One student loves burritos, while another student loves to bake and worked at a pastry shop for two and a half years. One student plays the flute, one student is super tall and grew nine inches one summer, one student can speak four languages and another student has a hitchhiker's thumb!

We look forward to getting to know you more during the next 18 months until you graduate in May 2024!

Welcome to the University of Michigan! Go Blue!

Meet The Master's of Science in Dental Hygiene Students

by Avery Berger - Photos by Ken Rieger

We are happy to introduce the incoming class of graduate students pursuing a "Master's of Science in Dental Hygiene" degree! Five of the 6 students participated in our survey and here are their answers:

Do you have family members that work in the dental or medical field?

3 students have a family member working in the dental field! Their jobs vary from dentists, to dental hygienists to dental assistants!

When and why did you decide to be a dental hygienist?

Students decided that they wanted to become a dental hygienist as early as age 10 and as late as 32! Reasons for becoming a graduate student included wanting to partake in research, specifically looking at periodontal disease, hoping to broaden their knowledge about oral health, and making new discoveries in the field of oral health. One student noted the positive impact their dentist and dental hygienist had on them and how they would like to make a similar positive impact on patients' lives. Another student described their desire to pay forward the volunteer dental care that they received as a child!

What do you like to do in your free time?

Our Master's students enjoy participating in a wide variety of activities during their free time! Multiple students enjoy spending time with their families, specifically their kids. Other activities that our Master's students like doing in their free time include creating education dental hygiene content for social media, travelling, reading, exercising, watching TV and listening to music!

Best Travel Experiences

When asked about their best travel experience, we were amazed to learn about all of the cool places our Master's students have visited! One student described their first time travelling alone to Florida to participate in the RDH UnderOneRoof convention. Another student described travelling to Peru where she got engaged to her husband! Other destinations included the Great Smokey Mountains, Traverse City, Michigan and Alaska!

Fun Facts about Yourself

We learned lots of fun facts about our Master's students! One student love to cook and is always looking to try new dishes! Another student was born in Peru, one student was born with congeniality missing laterals on their maxillary arch and one student was born with one of their eyes being half blue, half green! Another student managed their own dental practice for almost five years before coming to the United States!

We look forward to getting to know you better during your journey to earn a Master's degree!

Welcome to the University of Michigan! Go Blue!



Meet The Internationally Trained Dentist Program (ITDP) Students

Photos by Ken Rieger

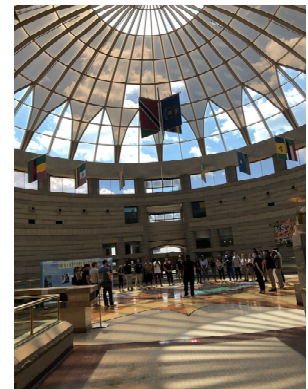
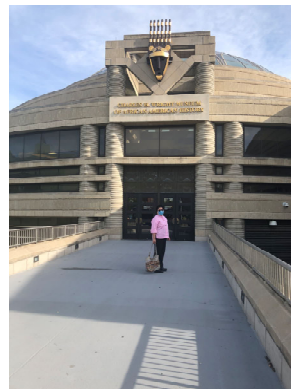


Wright Museum Visit 2022

By Avery Berger; photos by Marita R. Inglehart

Each year during their orientation, our D1 students take a trip to the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History to learn about African American history and how it will affect their interactions with patients from backgrounds different from their own background. This year, 105 of the 109 students participated in this fieldtrip and 96 students responded to the post-visit survey. All 96 reported that the museum visit was informative! and 95 described it as thought provoking. After a guided tour, the students worked in groups of five to six students on a group project. This assignment asks them to select one exhibit and describe how it relates to their own experiences when they will interact with patients in the future.

This year in September, for the first time, Dr. Kaartinen, our Associate Dean for Research and Director of the OHS/PhD program, organized a fieldtrip for his students. And they also considered this trip as quite relevant for their future research and clinical activities. This group had enjoyed a barbecue lunch in Detroit after their visit that allowed them to discuss their thoughts.



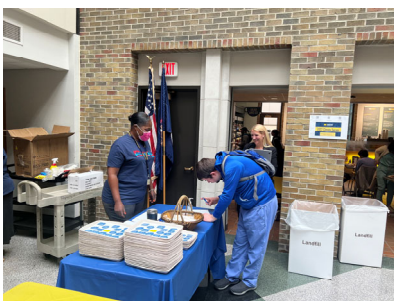
Tastefest 2022

By Avery Berger; Photos by Dr. Ester

**We are happy to share with you that Taste Fest 2022
was a wonderful success!**

Every year, the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion - Multi-cultural Affairs Committee (DEI-MAC) hosts this event to highlight foods from the many diverse cultures represented within our own dental school community.

**The following pictures were taken during
Taste Fest 2022:**



Diwali Celebration 2022

By Rutvi Patel

Diwali is India's biggest celebration of the year, symbolizing the spiritual victory of light over darkness, good over evil, and knowledge over ignorance. The festival is usually held over five days, and involves people dressing up in their finest clothes, lighting earthen clay lamps (divas) in their house, sharing gifts and sweets (mithai), and setting off fireworks.

This year, the Asian Student Dental Organization held a Diwali celebration on October 27th in the Sindecuse atrium, with traditional food and snacks, diya painting, and henna!



Multicultural Affairs Committee

<http://www.dent.umich.edu/student-life/extracurricular/multicultural-affairs-committee-mac>

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Grad Pros.
Courtney Miers, D4
Ayesha Niazi, D4
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DH3
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Di Xie, D3



Religious Holidays during December 2022 – April 2023:

This list of religious holidays was provided by the UM Provost.

HOLIDAY	FAITH	DATE(S)
Hanukkah *	Jewish	December 18 - 26
Christmas	Christian	December 25
Kwanzaa	Interfaith / African-American	December 26 - January 1
Sankranti	Hindu	January 14
Lunar New Year	Interfaith / National	January 22
Ash Wednesday	Christian	February 22
Eastern Orthodox Beginning of Lent	Orthodox Christian	February 28
Purim*	Jewish	March 6-7
Ramadan	Islam	March 22 - April 21
Good Friday	Christian	April 7
Easter	Christian	April 9
Passover	Jewish	April 5 - 13
Vaisakhi	Sikh	Apri. 14
Eid al-Fait**	Islam	April 21

Please note that this is not an inclusive list and that there are other holidays that were not included.

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