

# The MULTICULTURAL MIRROR

One School  Many Cultures



Multicultural Affairs Committee  
UM SCHOOL OF DENTISTRY

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 UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN  
SCHOOL OF DENTISTRY

## *Celebrating Diversity in Our Dental School*



## *Tropical Mission: Dental Outreach in Jamaica*

For the past 8 years, a group of dental students and faculty have gone on a week-long outreach trip to various communities in Jamaica to provide dental care. This year, unlike previous years, a large collaborative effort was put forth into fund-raising. We organized the first talent show at the UMSOD consisting of dental faculty and students sharing their talents. Performances included ballroom and hip-hop dancing as well as classical music and a full band. The talent show was a great success that received positive feedback from all those in attendance and we hope it will become an annual fundraiser at the school.

Every year, the mission trip is scheduled in January in honor of Martin Luther King Jr.'s legacy. The ultimate goal this year was to provide dental care to underserved communities in the surrounding areas of Runaway Bay, Jamaica. Students and faculty of the UMSOD partnered with founding members of Healthcare International Inc. and other dental students and professionals to serve in the rural areas in most need of medical and dental care.

We were lucky enough to stay in a great location in the beautiful country and have some time to relax and try different activities. However, volunteering in Jamaica was hard work that required a consistent daily routine. At the start of the day, everyone met for breakfast to have a good meal before work began at 7:30 am. After breakfast, everyone helped to load the vans to transport equipment and supplies. Once we arrived at the site, the equipment and supplies were unloaded and set up to make our day as productive and efficient as possible. We visited a different primary school each day and were able to see both adults and children. Most of our work consisted of extractions and prophies and small sedative fillings. After a full eight to nine hour workday, we traveled a couple of hours back to the resort to relax and reflect on our accomplishments for the day.

*Christopher Ammons, Parminder Dulay and Edward Heath are all D3 students who traveled to Jamaica for their first outreach experience this year and are inspired to continue providing to those in need on future outreach opportunities!*

## **A World of Holidays Academic Year 2012/13**

### April

Apr. 1 – April Fools Day  
Apr. 1 – Republic Day – Iran  
Apr. 2 – Malvinas Day – Argentina  
Apr. 4 – National Day – Senegal  
Apr. 5 – Arbor Day – South Korea  
Apr. 6 – Chakri Day – Thailand  
Apr. 6 – Uprising Day – Sudan  
Apr. 7 – Women's Day – Mozambique  
Apr. 9 – Martyr's Day – Tunisia  
Apr. 11 – Liberation Day – Uganda  
Apr. 13 – National Day – Chad  
Apr. 14 – Pan America Day – Honduras  
Apr. 15 – National Day – Niger  
Apr. 16 – Independence Day – Cyprus  
Apr. 16 – National Day – Syria  
Apr. 17 – Independence Day – Cambodia  
Apr. 17 – National Day – Syria  
Apr. 18 – Independence Day – Zimbabwe  
Apr. 19 – Independence Day – Venezuela  
Apr. 19 – Patriot's Day – Uruguay  
Apr. 22 – Earth Day  
Apr. 23 – National Sovereignty – Turkey  
Apr. 23 – St. George's Day – England  
Apr. 25 – Liberation Day – Italy/Portugal  
Apr. 25 – Sinai Liberation Day – Egypt  
Apr. 27 – Independence Day – Afghanistan/Sierra Leone/Togo  
Apr. 30 – Independence Day – Israel  
Apr. 30 – Vappu Day – Finland

## Getting to Know You - Traveling to India



The Taj Mahal was the site Dr. Temple enjoyed the most. Its exquisite design and craftsmanship, white marble inlaid with semi-precious stones, is awe-inspiring. And the story that goes along with it is sad and amazing. The Taj was built by Shah Jahan in memory of his third wife, Mumtaz Mahal, who died during the birth of their 14th child. Building started in 1632 and was completed in 1648, but it took 5 more years to finish the surrounding buildings and garden. In his later years, Shah Jahan was "imprisoned" by his son, and never set foot in the Taj; he could only watch its final construction from his apartment in the Agra Fort downriver from the Taj. He was then buried in the Taj Mahal next to his wife Mumtaz.

Dr. Temple



Hawa Mahal ("Palace of the Breezes") in Jaipur

### May 2013:

May 1 – May Day  
May 1 – Labor day  
May 3 – Constitution Day-  
Japan/Poland  
May 5 – Cinco de Mayo – Mexico  
May 5 – Coronation Day -  
Thailand  
May 5 – Liberation Day – The  
Netherlands  
May 6 – Martyr's Day –  
Lebanon/Syria  
May 8 – Parent's Day – South  
Korea  
May 9 – Liberation Day- Czech  
Republic/Slovakia  
May 10– Independence Day –  
Micronesia  
May 12 – Independence Day -  
Israel  
May 13 – St. Mary's Day –  
Colombia  
May 14 – National Unification Day  
– Liberia  
May 15 – Independence Day –  
Paraguay  
May 17 – Constitution Day-  
Nigeria/Norway  
May 18 – Victoria Day – Canada  
May 20 – National Day -  
Cameroon  
May 21 – Buddha's Day –  
Cameroon  
May 22 – Sovereign Day – Haiti  
May 23 – Labour Day – Jamaica  
May 24 – Bermuda Day - Bermuda  
May 25 – Liberation of African  
Continent Day  
May 25 – National Day -  
Argentina  
May 25 – Independence Day –  
Eritrea/Jordan  
May 26 – Constitution Day –  
Denmark  
May 26 – Independence Day –  
Guyana  
May 31 – Regiment Day –  
Brunei/South Africa

## MAC Women's Month Tea Gathering

On March 15, 2013, the Multicultural Affairs Committee celebrated Woman's History Month by bringing together the University of Michigan dental school community for a cultural tea tasting. The tea gathering recognized and celebrated the accomplishments of famous women from each of the world's seven continents and supplied tea native to each continent.



A traditional Chinese Tea Ceremony was held and attendees were able to experience the taste of the traditional Chinese Da Hong Pao tea. In addition, MAC member John Squires was presented a retirement gift in honor of his help with MAC over the years.

Photos: Dr. Temple

Text: Chelsea Stein, pre dental student



### June 2013:

June 4 - Independence Day - Tonga  
June 4- Revolution Day - Ghana  
June 4- Lailat al-Miraj  
June 5 - Constitution Day - Denmark  
June 5 - Liberation Day - Seychelles  
June 6 - Constitution Day - Sweden  
June 6 - Memorial Day - South Korea  
June 9 - Independence Day - Argentina  
June 10 - National Day - Portugal  
June 11 - National Day - Libya  
June 12- Independence Day - Philippines  
June 13 - Vincent's Day - Germany  
June 14 - Flag Day - U.S.  
June 16 - Father's Day - U.S.  
June 21 - Summer Solstice

### July 2013:

July 3 - Asala - Dharma Day  
July 4 - Independence Day  
July 8 - Start of Ramadan  
July 9 - Martyrdom of the Bab  
July 15 - St. Swithin's Day  
July 15 - Tisha B'Av  
July 24 - Pioneer Day  
July 28 - Parent's Day

### August 2013

Aug. 1 -Lughnasadh - Lammas  
Aug. 3 - Lailat al Qadr  
Aug. 6 - Transfiguration  
Aug. 15 - Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary  
Aug. 21 - Raksha Bandhan  
Aug. 23 - Khordad Sal

## *Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration*

On Monday, January 21<sup>st</sup> 2013, the Multicultural Affairs Committee of the University of Michigan - School of Dentistry hosted an awards ceremony that celebrated the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Martin Luther King Jr.'s "Dream Speech," as well as the great achievements of the winner's of the Ida Gray Awards. The ceremony began with the uplifting words of the African American National Anthem "Lift Every Voice and Sing," echoing from the audience throughout the Sindecuse Atrium of the dental school.

Following the anthem, Dean Peter Polverini gave a speech expressing the successes and challenges of the dental school with facing equity and diversity in the past, present, and future. He celebrated the considerable advancements that the Michigan School of Dentistry has made over to become an inclusive environment that celebrates diversity.



After watching an inspirational video presentation of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s "Dream Speech" from August 28<sup>th</sup> 1963, Dr. Bonita Neighbors discussed the importance of continuing Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s message of social justice in the field of dentistry today. Dr. Neighbors elaborated on the need for future dentists to work to fix the health disparities involving minorities in the field of dentistry.



Dr. Bill Piskorowski celebrated the collaboration of dental students, faculty, and staff of all different ethnicities and backgrounds striving to fulfill one mission: to advance oral health care. Dr. Piskorowski expressed the need to focus on positive achievements of the university's students, faculty, and staff in order to obtain inspiration for future advancements.



Dr. Marilyn Woolfolk concluded the MLK discussion by having students of the audience stand to represent the diverse community and social equality the school has to offer. She continued to discuss how it has come a long way from just an all white male dental class to one filled with people of all gender, ethnicity, and economic backgrounds.

Dr. Woolfolk stressed how Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr exemplified great persistence and how that persistence should be valued today to further achieve social equality. Together, the doctors were able to celebrate the meaning of justice and equality to celebrate the 50 years of social advancement led by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

After a musical interlude of the song “Lean On Me,” played by pianist and D3 Student Peter Van Beck, the ceremony concluded with the introduction of the recipients of the Ida Gray Awards. Ida Gray is recognized as the first black woman to graduate from the UM school of Dentistry, as well as the first black woman to earn a D.D.S. degree and to practice in Chicago. Juana Gissendanner, BS, RDH from POM received The Faculty Award. Elizabeth Easter from MCOHR received the Staff Award. The wolverine Patriot Project (Mariam Dinkha, Jesse Edwards III, Kevin Goles, Kevin Groth, Steven Kilpatrick, Amogh Naik, and Saroj Saha) received the Student Group Award. All recipients were recognized for their display of outstanding efforts in promoting multicultural ideals.

Photos: Dr. Temple

Text: Chelsea Stein, pre dental student



## *The Wolverine Patriot Project*

What is the Wolverine Patriot Project (WPP)? It is something more than just providing dental treatment to military veterans. It is the beginning of a process of putting military veterans that are below the 200% poverty level back into society so that they can succeed. The WPP has been fortunate enough to have the help of Dr's Edward and Janis Duski, a husband and wife team, and their staff at Duski Dentistry in Gaylord, MI, open up their doors to these well-deserved military veterans.



The WPP, under the direction of Dr. Wilhelm Piskorowski and Dr. Howard Hamerink, consists of: Ameen Shahnam, Kevin Goles, Tony Guinn, Mariam Dinkha, and Jesse Edwards III. Each member has his or her own personal reasons for taking part in this project. However, they all have the common goal of providing care to military veterans. The mission of the program is to enhance student education while also providing care to disabled and homeless military veterans, which serves as the primary focus of the program. In fact, there is no dental program that focuses on veterans that have given a lot to this

country, especially those veterans that have often been forgotten. Not only are we providing care to these veterans, but WPP also wants to complete these patients' treatments from start to finish.



In total, we have provided over \$26,000 worth of treatment to approximately 27 veterans. WPP will next be traveling up to Duski Dentistry for the third time on March 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> to provide care to these veterans, who were present at the previous two events. This third event is going to be vital to the continuation of this project as, afterword, all the data from the three events will be compiled and presented to stakeholders of this project. Thus, it will be determined if this project will be sustainable to be considered part of the University of Michigan Community-Based Dental Education Program with the help of Champions in the community of Gaylord, MI.



# Multicultural Affairs Committee -

## Members

Wassim El Awadi	- DHyg4	Judy Craft	- Sterilization
DeAngelo Webster	- D1	Elizabeth Easter	- Staff
My Yang	- D1	A Oveta Fuller	- Faculty
Lora Kewallal	- D2	Mary Jo Gray	- Compliance Specialist
Saliah Miles	- D2	Elliot Hill	- Faculty, BMS
Ovy Quintanal	- D3	Marita Inglehart	- Faculty, POM
Isabel Castillo	- D3	Ken May	- Ex Officio
Ash Rohra	- D3	Bonita Neighbors	- CDC
Ailar Bagherdaei	- D4	Gail Oljace	- Computing
Priscilla Johnson	- D4	Christine Pink	- Staff
Will Osibin	- D4	Cheryl Quiney	- Patient Services
JJ Sae-Ung	- D4	Helena Ritchie	- CCRS
Carmen Garcia	- G.S. Ortho	John Squires	- Computing
Eileen Quintero	- Computing	Henry Temple	- POM



*Farewell to our Graduating Seniors on the MAC!*