

The MULTICULTURAL MIRROR

One School  Many Cultures

**DENTAL AND DENTAL HYGIENE STUDENTS,
STAFF AND FACULTY MAKE A
DIFFERENCE IN MICHIGAN AND WORLDWIDE!**



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MAC members and Ida Gray winners at the DEI Day
Photo courtesy of Lynn Monson

In this issue...

DEI Day 2

Women's Tea 3

Community-based Dental Education 4

Alliance for Inclusion 5

Outreach to Corfu, Greece 6

Dental students in Brazil 7

Outreach to Guatemala 8

Outreach to Ethiopia 9

Outreach to Jamaica 10

Upcoming Events 11

*"It is spring again. The earth is like a child
that knows poems by heart."*

Rainer Maria Rilke

Spring is in the air and with the change of season comes the wonderful spirit of renewal, growth and new beginnings. We are so happy that this academic year will be one that many of us will never forget, full of challenges and amazing triumphs. We wish our dental school community a heart felt congratulations for all that we collectively do to ensure that our school and community is diverse, equitable and inclusive. Congratulations to the Multicultural Affairs Committee in its celebration of "20 Years of MAC!"

Dr. Todd V. Ester
Director of Diversity and Inclusion



**SCHOOL OF
DENTISTRY**

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Day on February 22, 2017, was a celebration of all the work we've done, a statement about the current impact of our actions, and a poignant reminder of the importance to continue to build an inclusive environment at the School of Dentistry. Dean Laurie McCauley set the tone by informing the audience that our goal to "Be Heard" is manifesting; Provost Courant told Dean McCauley that he has "heard" about what is going on at the School of Dentistry.



A slide show capturing the 20-year history of the Multicultural Affairs Committee (MAC) allowed students to see that many of the staff and faculty have not always had gray hair! It also provided context to the current climate; many current students were just infants when MAC began in 1996!

To start, past Ida Gray Award winner Dr. Emerson Robinson presented Dr. Kenneth May with this year's award for a faculty member. Dr. Robinson threw in a few jokes and then Dr. May delivered a riveting speech, bringing to light a story about his former high school being converted from an internment camp for Japanese Americans in Rohwer, Arkansas, a somber reminder of the nation's historic need to make progress in multicultural affairs.

Teresa Patterson received this year's Ida Gray award for a staff member that had made exceptional contributions to our school's climate. She thanked the dental school community for ongoing support, explaining that the love of her job motivates her and that the people here give her happiness. Carlotta Fantin-Yusta, the recipient of the Ida Gray award for an outstanding student, reciprocated her award reception with a gift to the school in the form of a sculpture.

The atmosphere of the awards ceremony carried over into the Sindecuse Atrium where refreshments were served. By the end of the day, all participants had a renewed sense of our past, present, and future work towards building a more diverse, equitable, and inclusive community at our dental school.



Women's Tea

Text and pictures by
Muneeb Shaikh



At this year's Women's Tea event on Friday, March 31, 2017, the Sindecuse Atrium was filled with happy dental and dental hygiene students, staff and faculty. A wonderful slide show created by Shyrie Patel informed the participants about the achievements of women in our school and nation wide. Elegant centerpiece decorations of beautiful tea sets by Cheryl Quiney and Women's Tea pamphlets emphasizing the importance of living a stress free life made this event fun for everybody who attended.



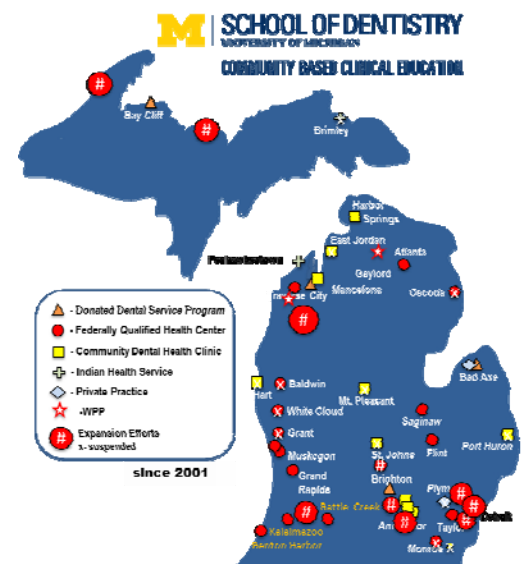
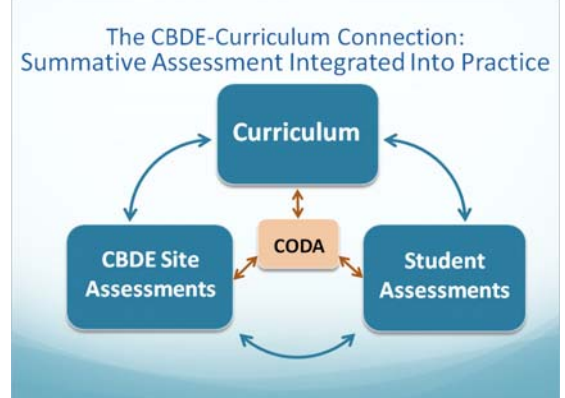
The solution to inadequate access to oral health care could lie in our school's Community-based Dental Education (CBDE) program. Helping vulnerable populations at community dental clinics and health centers across the State is now well established at the U of M School of Dentistry. CBDE has enhanced our students' dental education and is now well integrated into their curriculum. The students provide high quality and comprehensive dental care to underserved patients and patients covered by Medicaid, while learning through expanded practice experiences that influence their practice decisions upon graduation. Because of its unique design and proven accountability, the program has been recognized nationally by the American Dental Education Association, Delta Dental Foundation, the Michigan and American Dental Associations as well as other dental schools outside of Michigan.

The CBDE program at our school has 2 goals:

1. To provide quality service to underserved populations in the State of Michigan, while enhancing the students' education.
2. To change student attitudes and create value regarding public health service careers by providing students with immersion experiences in public health clinics.

Overall, students' clinical experiences are robust and accountable. These positive experiences have resulted in approximately 8-17 % of the graduating classes since 2006 choosing public health clinics as their first choice for employment after graduation, with an astounding 21% in 2016 when the national average for all schools was only 2%. These statistics show that our students are willing to work in underserved areas when they experience a clinic model that is well managed. As a result of our program's success, several Federally Qualified Health Centers have expanded dental services to multiple locations in Michigan, exemplifying the long lasting impact of this program.

It will take our ongoing mutual efforts to provide much needed dental care to vulnerable residents of Michigan.



As the academic year comes to an end, Alliance for Inclusion (AFI) reflects back on a very busy year. AFI is the University of Michigan School of Dentistry's lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning+ (LGBTQ+) advocacy and awareness group.

Its primary missions is to:

- 1) Increase internal visibility of the LGBTQ+ community and offer educational experiences on LGBT civil rights issues and barriers to healthcare;
- 2) Engage in external community outreach opportunities that connect AFI with other LGBT-focused groups.

Internally, the biggest project for the AFI for this year has been our LGBTQ+ Advocacy and Awareness Sticker project. Having members of the LGBTQ+ community and allies place a small rainbow sticker on their MCard visibly demonstrates to patients and community members the presence and acceptance of the LGBTQ+ community within our school. These efforts received lots of positive feedback from students, staff, faculty and patients. Additionally AFI, along with MAC, hosted an educational workshop called Ally Training and discussed terminology, inclusive language, barriers to care and micro-aggressions experienced by members of the LGBT community. As part of the MAC Getting to Know You lunch and learn series, AFI invited Jay Kaplan, an ACLU attorney, who discussed the Affordable Healthcare Act and what protections it affords to the LGBT community and what changes are expected under new administration. With help from OutLaws, of the Law School, AFI co-hosted a panel discussion on account of International Transgender Day of Visibility, which addressed threats to transgender rights and how the LGBTQ community and its allies should respond.



External Community Outreach to the Food Gatherers' kitchen at the Delonis Center, at the Canton Charter Academy Wellness night, the LGBTQ health and Wellness Resource Fair and the Ozone House's PrideZone event



Canton Charter Academy Wellness Night— brush away sugar bugs with elementary school students



LGBTQ Health and Wellness Resource Fair— connected with members of the LGBT community.



Ozone House's PrideZone meeting for LGBTQ+ youth.

Outlook:

Despite being proud of this year's accomplishments, AFI has their sights set on future outreach projects and events in the upcoming semester. We are excited to have such an engaged, passionate group of individuals that will continue to work towards our organization's mission.



The University of Michigan Global Initiative in Oral and Craniofacial Health (GIOCH) was initiated in the beautiful island of Corfu in July 2016. Corfu is situated in the Northwestern part of Greece in the Ionian Sea. The idea for this program started in 2015 and soon became part of the GIOCH program at our school (Director: Dr. Gonzalez). Our collaboration with Dr. Matiakis Apostolos from the “Aristotle” University of Thessaloniki (Greece) resulted in creating the Global Initiative Program for Special Needs Individuals in Corfu. After months of planning with additional collaborators Dr. Zouloumis Lambros, Head of the School of Dentistry at Thessaloniki and 4 of his Hospital Dentistry residents, Dr. Rapsomanikis the President of the Corfu Dental Association, and students and faculty from our school, the first activities took place in July, 2016.

The objectives were to

- 1) develop a program to improve the oral health care for children and adults with special health care needs in Corfu;
- 2) empower local dentists to manage these patients in collaboration with other health professionals; and
- 3) educate and engage the local community, including patients and caregivers.

In July 2016, 3 students (Jennifer Cleary, Nicole Pentis and Brittany Phillips) and three faculty members (Drs. Fontana, Gonzales and main organizer Dr. Marti) met with leaders of two special needs organizations, Special Olympics Special Smiles (Corfu) and the “Melissa” Group, and discussed the needs and challenges related to access to oral healthcare. We visited the Corfu General Hospital, the main referral site for patients with special needs on the island to discuss the activities in the hospital. We also met with local administrators, including the Mayor of Corfu and the Vice-Governor of the Ionian Islands Region who expressed their commitment to support this initiative. We also organized a Symposium: “Global Initiatives in Oral Health”. During this meeting, faculty and students from the University of Michigan and the University of Thessaloniki, the members of the Corfu Dental Association, and experts in Special Care dentistry presented lectures about providing dental care for patients with special health care needs. All participants examined ways to improve access to oral healthcare and enhance prevention for all special needs individuals in the island and to enhance future collaborations among healthcare professionals towards that goal. We are very grateful for the gracious hospitality of local dentists and the local community and look forward to progress with the next steps of the GIOCH Corfu initiative.



In August 2016 Neil Thomas, Claire Cho, and Cassandra Wieckhorst attended the University of São Paulo-Bauru School of Dentistry (USP-FOB) located in Bauru, Brazil, which was listed as the #1 dental school in all of Latin America by QS World Rankings 2017. While shadowing in the student clinics, we noticed many similarities between our school and the USP-FOB. But the differences were what stood out the most. For example, the students matriculate directly after high school, making them around 22 years old when they graduate with a Bachelor's Degree in Dentistry. During the third year, all 50 students spend their clinic time completing the same procedures. As they advance to the fourth year, they also have integrated clinics with three faculty members from each department and a master's student per faculty helping the students, resulting in excellent guidance during clinic time. The students are in these clinics for four hours twice a day: they are in pairs and each will see a patient for two hours while the other assists, and vice versa, allowing the students to utilize a much needed assistant, and to double the learning time. The treatment is free to the patients which is a valuable opportunity to maximize student learning and patient care because the treatment plans were not limited by finances. Additionally, a unique place of pride for USP-FOB is Centrinho, literally "little center" which originally began as a small Cleft Lip-Cleft Palate hospital and has now blossomed into a nationally famous center. Patients will travel from far away such as from the Amazon to seek treatment at this hospital. The students at USP-FOB rotate through Centrinho, giving them experience with treating CL/CP patients.



Because of the warm climate, the pathways between departments and stairwells are all outside, creating a tropical feeling. But even warmer than the weather in Brazil are the Brazilians. They are incredibly warm hearted, and greeted us with hugs, kisses, and enthusiasm. The faculty and students all put their lives on hold to ensure we were able to learn about each department at USP-FOB and experience the culture in Brazil. This relationship also affected the way patients and providers interacted: a basic level of trust and comfort appeared to be solid right from the start rather than having to be built gradually. While I have always been incredibly passionate about helping people through dentistry, my passion grew during this experience. I was able to see my existing dental knowledge in an entirely new lens, which challenged me to consider how cultural differences impacted dentistry and patient relationships. Therefore, I benefited as a future dentist by bringing many multifaceted lessons from USP-FOB back home with me to Michigan. We want to thank Dr. Squarize for facilitating this trip and the International College of Dentists who funded it.





In March of 2017, Andrew Gasior, Joel Lints, Lauren Morrison, Margaret Priebe, Angela Svaan, and I headed to Chichicastenango to take part in the first U of M outreach trip in Guatemala. Dr. Niergarth, a general dentist from Northern Michigan, and his wife Lisa have been returning to this town in Guatemala for many years to volunteer much needed dental services. We spent five days working in his two chair clinic at a missionary called Manos de Jesus (aka Pray America) assisting Dr. Niergarth with extractions, restorations, cleanings, and oral healthcare education. Each day, two people from our team were able to visit 3-4 local homes and spend about an hour at each home observing the rural living conditions, often mud brick huts with no electricity or running water. Getting to spend time with families was invaluable to provide education about preventing oral diseases. It was truly an eye opening experience to give a child their first toothbrush. We were also able to visit five schools and speak to hundreds of children about oral health promotion, providing hands-on demonstrations and distributing toothbrushes, toothpaste, and floss.

On the final day of our trip, we visited the school of dentistry at the Universidad de San Carlos de Guatemala. This is the largest dental school in Guatemala. We were very impressed with the caliber of the program and had great conversations with the students about their current efforts in reducing the prevalence of oral diseases in rural areas like Chichicastenango. We hope to deepen this connection with this university in future outreach trips to Guatemala. I am so grateful for the opportunity I had to positively impact the oral health of those in need in Chichicastenango, and these meaningful experiences will stay with me for the rest of my life!



MERGED Program in Ethiopia

Text and photos by Sheri McCormack & Michael Sesi

The Michigan-Ethiopia Research, Growth, and Education in Dentistry (MERGED) program was developed by Sheri McCormack, Michael Sesi, Dr. Diane Chang, and Dr. David Brzezinski. Their initial visit to Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, took place over spring break 2017. They discussed future collaborative research and community health initiatives with students and faculty at Addis Ababa University and St. Paul's Millennium Hospital.

During their visit, they witnessed how dentistry is practiced in Addis Ababa and gained a better understanding of obstacles that dental professionals in Ethiopia overcome.



The MERGED team met dental students and faculty at Addis Ababa University, a six-year program in Ethiopia's capital city. The long term goal of this collaboration is to develop an exchange that gives Michigan students an opportunity to see how dentistry is practiced in Ethiopia and give AAU students increased exposure to specialty programs at U of M.

The team also spent time at St. Paul's Hospital. They observed in the triage room and had many discussions with residents about the opportunity to jointly publish an international research study related to oral health in Ethiopia.

The goal for 2017 is to collaborate with students, residents, and faculty in Addis Ababa not only in research and education, but also in public health initiatives.

With the help of their Ethiopian colleagues, MERGED is launching the "Smile Ethiopia" campaign to promote brushing and flossing as part of the daily routine. We hope to use social media to engage adolescents in the campaign for oral health.

You can find the "Smile Ethiopia" page on Facebook and Instagram.





In January 2017, I had the privilege of joining 10 of my classmates and 2 faculty members (Dr. Elliot Hill and Dr. Kyle Pullen) on a trip of a lifetime to participate with Healthcare International providing dental care throughout Jamaica. Along with students and faculty from Tufts University School of Dental Medicine, volunteers from throughout the USA, and local Jamaican dentists, we spent the week traveling to remote schools and churches in order to provide extractions, oral hygiene instructions, and fluoride varnish for patients in local communities.

Arriving in the morning, we would turn classrooms into areas of triage and then treatment. Student desks were converted to operatories allowing us to see both children and adults who spent the day waiting in line in order to receive necessary dental care. Each day of our trip, we travelled to a different parish providing countless extractions and just as valuable oral hygiene instructions. The dentistry we conducted for the people of Jamaica has been one of the most memorable experiences I've had in dental school. I can speak for my classmates when I say the camaraderie developed between both Universities, volunteer staff, Jamaican Dentists, hygienists, and patients has truly evolved into what I believe will be lifelong friendships.



Upcoming Events

Dental Students: Unconscious Bias Training;

May 1 & 2, 2017

Staff "Change It Up" Training, May 10, 2017

Faculty "Change It Up" Training, May 17, 2017

Religious Holidays during the 2016-2017 Academic Year

This is not an inclusive list and there may be other holidays that pose conflicts for students. Link to [U-M Guidance to Students Regarding Conflicts Between the Academic and Religious Calendars](#)

HOLIDAYS	FAITH	DATE(S)
Good Friday	Christian	April 14
Eastern Orthodox Good Friday	Orthodox Christian	April 14
Baisakhi	Sikh	April 14
Easter	Christian	April 16
Eastern Orthodox Easter	Orthodox Christian	April 16
Ridvan	Baha'I	April 21
9th Day of Ridvan	Baha'I	April 29
12th Day of Ridvan	Baha'I	May 2
Declaration of the Bab	Baha'I	May 23
Ascension Day	Christian	May 25
Eastern Orthodox Ascension Day	Orthodox Christian	May 25
Ramadan **	Islam	May 27 - July 25
Ascension of Bahá'u'lláh	Baha'I	May 29
Shavuot *	Jewish	May 30 - June 1
23rd of Ramadan **	Islam	June 18
Eid al-Fitr **	Islam	June 25
Martyrdom of the Bab	Baha'I	July 9
Holy Day of 'Arafah **	Islam	August 31

*Jewish holy days begin and end at sundown on the first and last days listed.

**These holidays are calculated on a lunar calendar and are approximate.

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Barjinder Singh Takra
Carlotta Fantin-Yusta
Carl Rene Buchanon

Dan Bair

Guneet Kohli

Jae Young Han

Joseph Samona

Joshua Hurlburt

Milad Karim

Peter Liang

Rachael Vasquez

Sandra Alias

Shyrie Patel

Wassim Awad El Awadi

Dental Hygiene Students:

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Jamie C. Buchanczenko

Kayla S. Buchanczenko

Faculty & Staff:

Bonnie Lynn Dawson

Cheryl D Quiney

Diane Lynn Nixon

Dinella Crosby

Elliott Earl Hill

Helena H Ritchie

Henry J Temple

John Girdwood

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