

# The MULTICULTURAL MIRROR

One School  Many Cultures



Volume 16  
Issue 3  
April 2018

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Hong



MAC members and Ida Gray award winners at the DEI Day

Theme:  
Bringing the dental  
school to the world

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*"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 heartfelt 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 for another great year of engagement!

Dr. Todd V. Ester  
Director of Diversity and Inclusion



**SCHOOL OF  
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# Getting To Know Our ITDP Students

By Raymond Hong



The Internationally Trained Dentist Program (ITDP) offers an opportunity for dentists who are graduates of foreign dental schools to obtain a Doctor of Dental Surgery (DDS) degree. We welcome the 20 students who started this program in January 2018. When we asked these 20 students about their backgrounds, 13 replied with answers about their country of origin, degrees, family, career motivation, hobbies, and more.

## *Student Backgrounds*

Among the 13 students who responded to the survey, 12 are from India and 1 is from China. All students have a Bachelor of Dental Surgery (BDS) or Doctor of Dental Surgery (DDS) degree, while some have additional degrees in public health and business administration. 11 of the students have spouses and 2 have children. Five students have a family member such as a parent or sibling in the dental or other health professions.

## *Choosing Dentistry as a Profession*

Deciding to pursue dentistry is a major life decision. One student had already decided by the early age of 7! The remaining students followed shortly with 10 deciding in their teenage years and 2 in their early 20s. When we asked what attracted students to become dentists, the answers ranged widely. Many students referred to their childhood experiences as motivation. For example, one student mentioned growing up in a high fluoride area, while another mentioned their hometown not having a female dentist. Others were attracted by dental related illnesses of relatives including oral lesions and cancer. One student simply enjoyed the mechanics of dentistry. Overall, the descriptions of the reasons for choosing dentistry showed a lot of enthusiasm for the profession and excitement to be able to become a dentist.

# Getting To Know Our ITDP Students

By Raymond Hong

## *What do ITDP Students like to do in their free time?*

When asking students about their free time, their answers ranged widely. Two of the students mentioned spending time with family, while one enjoys singing. One student enjoys sketching and painting and another loves to solve puzzles. Others mentioned physical activities such as dance, yoga, and tennis. Several students relax with reading a book, sleeping, or simply watching Netflix.

## *Travel*

When we asked the ITDP students to share their favorite travel experience, we were amazed how widely they had travelled. This includes North America, Europe, Asia, South America, and more! One student mentions travelling through the USA, visiting multiple states. Two students show their love for Michigan and its beautiful upper peninsula as their favorite travel experience. Several students mention visiting France, Italy, and Greece, while some enjoy the oceanic scenery in Hawaii and Maldives. One mentions serving underprivileged communities in Guatemala, in which the town was surrounded by a volcanic lake! Others travelling in India in places such as Goa and Mumbai. Interestingly, one student mentioned residing in a tropical jungle for a week and tracking elephants and leopards! Their experiences during these trips were described as unforgettable and as having impressed the students very much. It was great to see all the interesting places the ITDP students have been, and many of them are still excited to see the places they'll go in the future.

## *Interesting Facts*

Our last question was about interesting facts that make the ITDPs unique and we received many fascinating answers to this question. One student mentioned having a twin sister, while another loves putting Ikea furniture together. Two students mentioned their passion for photography, one for personal blogging and another for birds. One student mentions a near death experience, falling from the second story at the early age of 2! One unique student can speak up to four languages, while another mentions doing yoga for over 20 years. Interestingly, one student mentions their participation in the founding a non-profit organization in India, which hosted the first pride event in the country! Other interesting facts include passion for animals (more than dentistry), love for nature, making jokes, working hard, and impressing family.

We enjoyed getting to know our ITDP students and are proud to have them as a part of the University of Michigan! Welcome to all of you!



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This year's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Day was on March 14, 2018. It focused on "Building Bridges of Trust". The event opened with a video presentation emphasizing campus-wide Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion efforts. It highlighted the momentum of change being felt from "top to bottom" at U-M, and the determination to keep it going. Creating a lasting, impactful change takes time, patience and trust. "Trust is a currency. It's never to be taken for granted. It's earned", said the bicentennial alumni award recipient Carla Dirlikov Canales in the video.



## Diversity Board Itinerary

**April 14 - Campus Day**  
**April 30 - D3/D4 Orientation**  
**May 1 - D2 Orientation**  
**June - D1 Orientation**

The School of Dentistry has long been at the forefront of advancing the dialogue on DEI. The Co-Chairs of the Multicultural Affairs Committee (MAC) Mary Jo Gray and Dr. Henry Temple thanked the attendees for recognizing the members of our community who make extraordinary efforts to promote diversity and create an atmosphere of inclusion for students, staff, faculty, and patients. Carl Buchanon II, a D3 student representative on the MAC, and Dr. Salzmann introduced a "Traveling Diversity Board" which will be present at various school-wide events. Dean Laurie McCauley congratulated MAC on the many accomplishments of the past year. She also revealed that during her last meeting with the Provost, the School of Dentistry was praised for being the leader and setting an example for the University of Michigan in DEI issues. Dr. McCauley then shared an account of a visitor's 12-year-old daughter and her friend being visibly impacted by the story of Dr. Ida Gray who continues to serve as a wonderful inspiration and who lends her name to the award celebrating the diversity, equity, and inclusion. Dr. Todd Ester introduced Mrs. Natalie Brown, School of Dentistry new HR Director. Together they will serve as DEI Co-leads. Dr. Ester praised the participation of the School's faculty, staff and especially students. In the past year, MAC saw the highest increase in student engagement. This showcases the need for the members of our community to share experiences, contribute to the common goal, and advance the vision of a society where all are welcome, valued, and celebrated.

The event continued with the official presentation of this year's awardees, who were recognized for their true passion and actions to promote a diverse and welcoming culture for all. Kelsie Pittel, D3, has served as the President of the School of Dentistry's Alliance for Inclusion, and as Outreach Chair for her professional fraternity Xi Psi Phi. She is passionate about social justice issues and has helped implement several LGBTQ+ initiatives at the U-M School of Dentistry. Kelsie has been leading by example and consistently widening her outreach efforts on campus and beyond.

A trailer for the documentary about student diversity that premiered Monday, Jan. 15, at the Michigan Theater in Ann Arbor was then shown. "Me, the Other" was co-produced by a School of Dentistry adjunct faculty member Dr. Zhahrazad "Sherry" Mirafzali. It features a D4 student Syed Hussain Haider as one of the main subjects. Both received Ida Gray awards. Dr. Mirafzali said, "It's not a political film at all; it's not religious. It's just giving the story, and through the different stories showing how we're all human and we all want to do something good. We need to be given a chance, and the chance is by educating the public to more of what 'the other' is like. I can find my story in your life if we are communicating. And then, we'll have empathy for each other." Hussain Haider remarked: "At the end of the day, the movie tells success stories. There are hurdles, there are problems, there are 'otherness' things that come into different people's lives. But there are also successes and triumphs, too, so I hope that that's how my story comes out. My story reinforces for other immigrants, and it educates for those who have never met an immigrant."



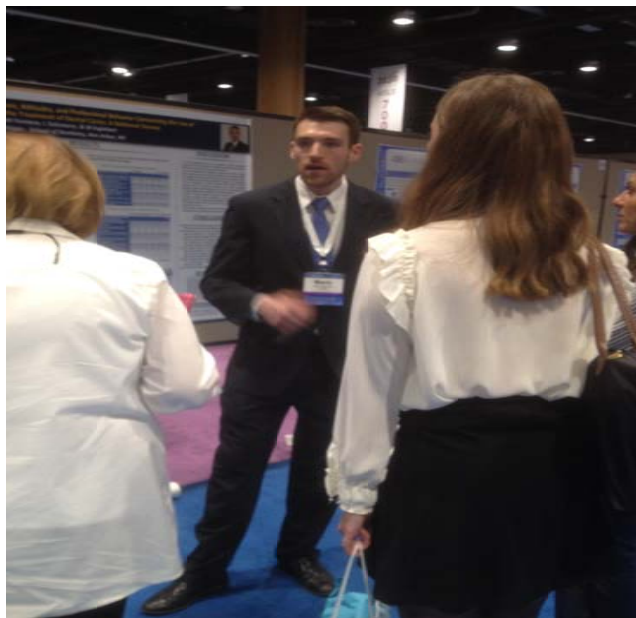
This year's faculty awardee is Dr. Elliott Hill, Clinical Assistant Professor at the Biologic & Material Sciences department. Dr. Hill's contributions to the positive, inclusive climate at the School of Dentistry have been ample and far-reaching. He returned to his alma mater to fulfill his true passion of educating and mentoring. Leading the outreach program to provide free dental care to children in rural Jamaica for the past ten years, he inspired scores of professionals to continue volunteering time to care for underserved populations long after graduation.

The DEI day was a celebration of the many accomplishments in the area of diversity, equity, and inclusion at our School. More work is to be done, and there is always more trust to be built. Thankfully, now more than ever, the enthusiasm and eagerness to join this cause is palpable. The future is in capable, trustworthy hands.



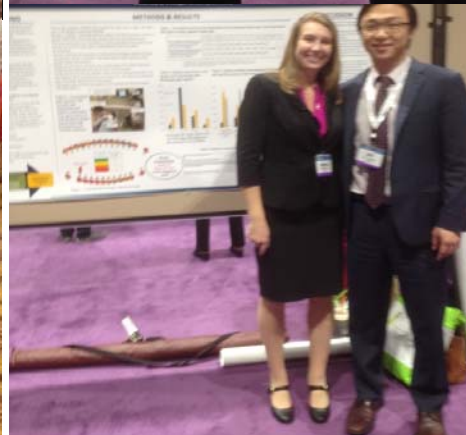
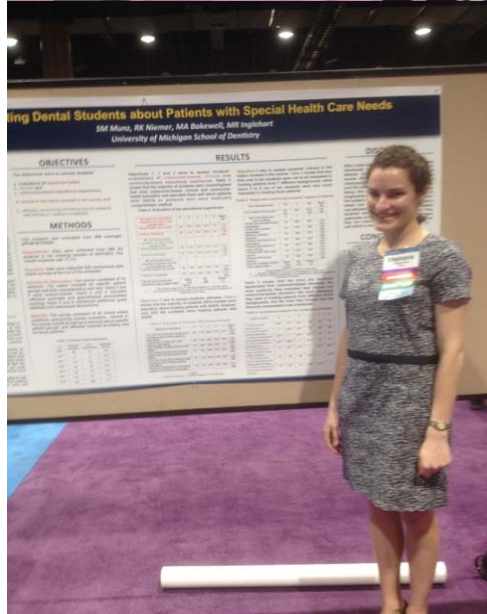
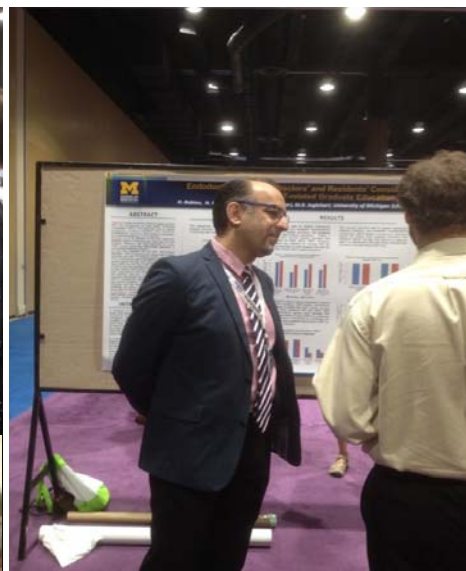
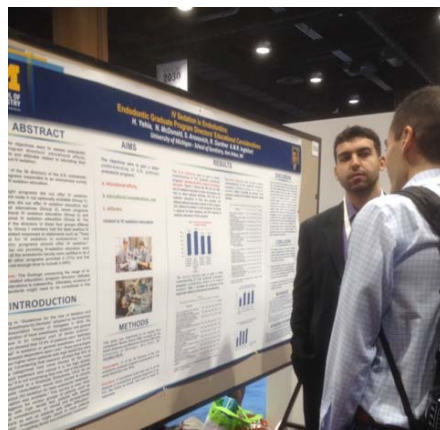
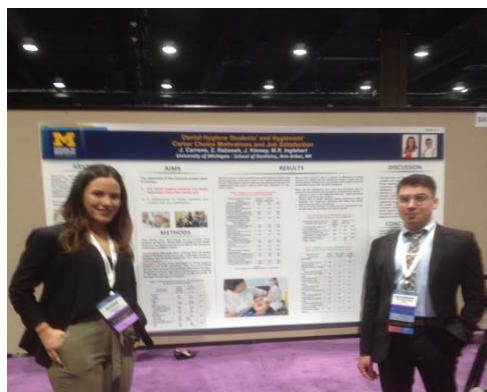


## American Dental Education Association



Mario Antonioni: 2nd prize in student poster competition at ADEA

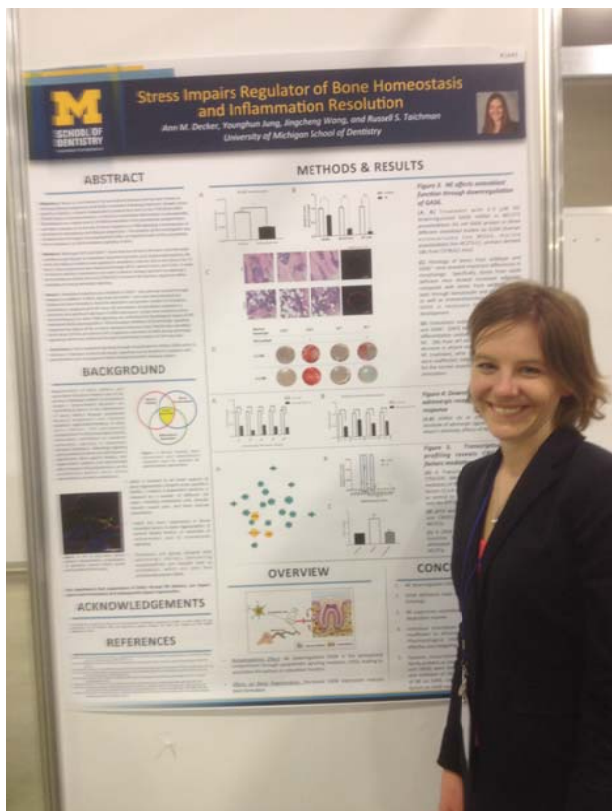
The ADEA Annual Session & Exhibition is the premier professional development and networking event for dental, allied dental and advanced dental education colleagues. Its four days featured dynamic plenary sessions and workshops, and an exhibit hall showcasing academic dentistry's leading partners and suppliers. The 2018 ADEA Annual Session & Exhibition took place March 17-20, 2018 in Orlando, FL. Congratulations to our own Mario Antonioni (left) who won 2nd prize in the student poster competition!



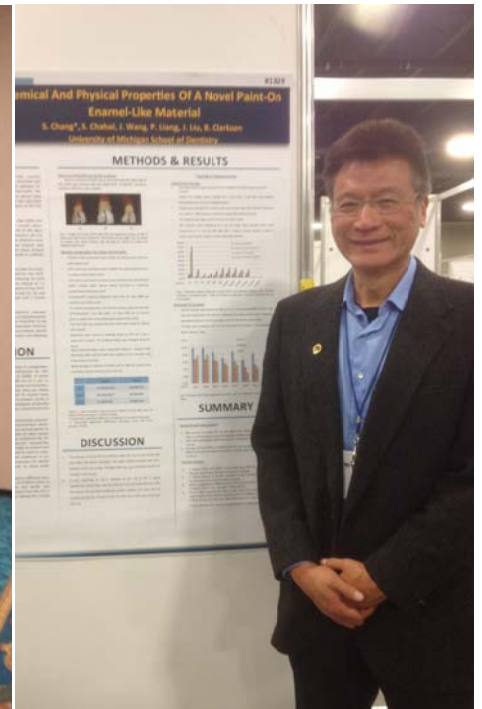
# Spreading the Word about Research at the UM-SOD

## American Association for Dental Research

The 47<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the AADR was held at the Greater Fort Lauderdale/Broward County Convention Center



Our own Alexa Oklejas won the 2nd place in the AADR Hatton Competition: Junior Winner  
With the poster entitled:  
Combination Chemotherapy Decreases Head and Neck Cancer Stem Cells.  
A. Oklejas\*, K. Warner, Z. Zhang, A. Pearson, J. Nor





# Women's Tea - Celebration

By Natalia Simon  
Photos by Dr. Henry Temple

"This is a perfect day for tea!" - proclaimed MAC Co-Chair Mary Jo Gray, as we looked out onto the rainy gloomy day outside. On March 27, the School of Dentistry community gathered to sip tea, taste scrumptious cookies and cheesecake, and most importantly, celebrate women and women's achievements at work, play, science, and life.



The attendees were greeted by a slideshow celebrating inventions by women. Fascinating stories about creativity were on display: a fire escape, CCTV, central heating, paper bag, life raft, wireless transmission technology, among others. In her opening speech, Ms. Gray encouraged everyone to step up, speak out, and be who we need to be in this life, even if it is hard to do. The impeccable "five o'clock tea" décor contributed to the overall jubilant air of the event. As staff, faculty, and students mingled, they were tasked with matching motivational quotes with the women who had spoken them that Lisa Dodge had created. Since "googling" was strictly forbidden, many teams worked to solve the riddle. Dean McCauley obviously knew the answers from first glance, but preferred not to give the solutions away, wishing everyone "good luck with that"! If you missed the event, you can still try your hand at this matching game on the next page!





# Women's Tea Quiz

## Motivating Quotes from Strong Women

1. "We realize the importance of our voices only when we are silenced."
2. "Never limit yourself because of others' limited imagination; never limit others because of your own limited imagination."
3. "In politics, if you want anything said, ask a man; if you want anything done, ask a woman."
4. "I've learned that you shouldn't go through life with a catcher's mitt on both hands; you need to be able to throw something back."
5. "The most effective way to do it, is to do it."
6. "The secret of getting ahead is getting started."
7. "Great minds discuss ideas; average minds discuss events; small minds discuss people."
8. "Life shrinks or expands in proportion with one's courage."
9. "It takes a great deal of courage to stand up to your enemies, but even more to stand up to your friends."
10. "The question isn't who's going to let me; it's who's going to stop me."
11. "I know for sure that what we dwell on is what we become."
12. "I have learned over the years that when one's mind is made up, this diminishes fear; knowing what must be done does away with fear."

Match the author with the quote by placing the number (1-12)  
on the line next to the author's name.

- |       |                   |
|-------|-------------------|
| _____ | Sally Berger      |
| _____ | Amelia Earhart    |
| _____ | Oprah Winfrey     |
| _____ | Eleanor Roosevelt |
| _____ | Margaret Thatcher |
| _____ | Mae Jemison       |
| _____ | J.K. Rowling      |
| _____ | Ayn Rand          |
| _____ | Rosa Parks        |
| _____ | Malala Yousafzai  |
| _____ | Maya Angelou      |

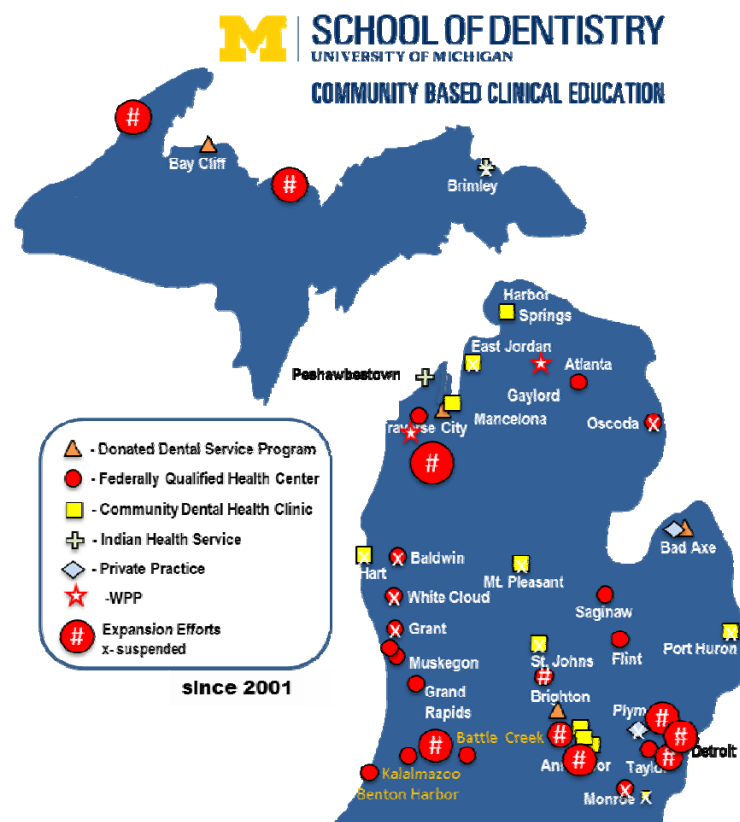


On September 1, 2017, Dr. Piskorowski, the former director of the Community Based Dental Education (CBDE) Program at our school moved on to UCLA to create a similar program there. Dr. Mark Fitzgerald became our new Associate Dean of Community Based Collaborative Care and Education (CBCE). In a recent interview he described to us how he developed the new major directives and missions for the CBCE. The senior students' rotations until the end of the academic year consisted of 9 weeks of rotations. In the 2018/19 school year our seniors will begin to spend 12 weeks in external rotations to 20 different sites. Increasing emphasis on raising cultural awareness during these rotations is a major goal for our new associate dean.

A second change will be that Dr. Fitzgerald will work on creating interprofessional education and care opportunities. In 5 sites collaborative care will be stressed starting with the next academic year.

A third innovation will be that the students will be exposed to health care delivery models of the future. Current rotations to federally qualified health care centers, community health centers, and tribal health centers are already offering these experiences. Selected DSO—sites might be added in the future.

The integration and expansion of Tele Health is a fourth innovative change that will be developed in the future. We look very much forward to seeing all these changes and developments take place!





## Dental Students Engage in LGBTQ+ Advocacy

Alliance for inclusion (AFI), the dental school's LGBTQ+ advocacy and awareness group, has had an exciting year! Some of the highlights from the past academic year include co-hosting a discussion panel with the U of M Law School titled *Transgender Rights Information Panel: Changes in Transgender Healthcare*. The panel discussed legislation that impacts healthcare for the transgender community, and how trans individuals can legally protect themselves.

Additionally, for the first time, AFI rented a table at Detroit's annual Motor City Pride celebration. At the event we passed out toothbrushes and flyers relating to LGBT oral health considerations and answered oral health questions from pride-goers (Picture 1). Our members were excited to partake in an advocacy event that has been historically important to the community.

Members of the AFI also presented information about LGBTQ+ oral health to employees of LGBT Detroit (Picture 2). This presentation touched on the effect of smoking on oral health, oral presentations of HIV and STI/STDs, risk factors for oral cancer, and finding inclusive dental practices. Lastly, our members tabled at various events including Dawn Farms, a local rehabilitation center, UofM's LGBT Health and Wellness Fair, and Affirmations LGBT Resource Center in Ferndale, MI.

Alliance for Inclusion (AFI) aims to educate dental students, staff, faculty, and professionals, as well as the community at large, about diversity issues in hopes of encouraging awareness, mentoring students, as well as providing perspectives in treating a diverse patient population. We are committed to engaging the dental school community to make it a more inclusive and accepting space for all patients, students, faculty and staff.

### Outlook:

In addition to 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.



Many U.S. immigrants face language barriers on top of challenges related to healthcare, such as finances, navigating the U.S. healthcare system, and health care expectations. All these factors put U.S. immigrants at higher risk for oral health diseases, such as caries and periodontal disease. The ultimate goal of HelloDENT is to promote oral health awareness and education within the immigrant community of Washtenaw County and connect them to a dental home.

HelloDENT was first established as a collaboration between Dr. J.W. Lee of HelloMED Walk-in Clinic and dental students Shirley Ye and Ji Na Kim. While Dr. Lee handled general health awareness and care, HelloDENT focused on the dental side of health. As a project under Bridges of Discipline, a student organization composed of various interdisciplinary service or educational projects related to dentistry, this initiative has now grown to involve a handful of regular volunteers and two more project co-directors, Jennifer Hsu and Arthur Ho.

Now, we have formed an on-going relationship with the Chinese-speaking senior population at Parkway Meadows. Based on the testimonies of the Chinese-speaking elderly, our observations, and a needs assessment, our first step toward connecting them to a dental home is to teach the seniors a wide array of oral health topics relevant to the geriatric population. So far, we have held two seminars (known as Project Days) on dental-related topics. The pilot Project Day, held in October 2017, focused on oral hygiene instructions. Based on resident and volunteer feedback, we created a second educational seminar in February 2018 on tooth extractions. The third, held in March 2018, is on dry mouth, accompanied with a demonstration and explanation of various dental products commonly found in pharmacies.





## Bringing Oral Health Education to the Chinese-Speaking Immigrant Population



Our focus on hand is to continue building UMSOD's relationship with the Chinese-speaking immigrant population. We have several more seminars planned for the upcoming semesters, and have also recently won two grants, which will be used to enhance our educational seminars with more sophisticated equipment and a wider variety of materials. In addition to educational outreach, we are currently working to address some of the main barriers to accessing oral health care that the Chinese-speaking immigrant residents face. Eventually, we plan to reach out to other immigrant populations in the area.

Arthur Ho shares his experience with co-directing this initiative: "[The Chinese-speaking elderly population] is a tight-knit community. People share their experiences and ask each other for advice, so word travels fast. That can be a good thing, but it also means that there are a lot of widespread misconceptions about oral care or even fear and distrust toward dental providers. If someone had a bad experience at the dentist, then everyone ends up worried about what the dentist will do to him or her. These educational outreach sessions aren't just about presenting information or teaching better habits; we are trying to address a lot of concerns [the seniors] have about the dental system, improve their perceptions of dentistry, and help them see the value of going to the dentist regularly."





Learning overseas is a unique and extraordinary experience, sometimes life changing. The School of Dentistry through its Global Initiatives for Oral and Craniofacial Health (GIOCH) has created different global initiatives specifically designed to provide intense learning experiences for dental and dental hygiene students to enrich students' understanding of global health, cultural intelligence, creating sustainable and responsible community-based preventive programs, different health education models and health care systems. Each initiative has different educational and service goals and students can apply to the initiative that fits better her/his career goals. Educational goals range from learning about the visiting country's health challenges, systems of dental and medical care, dental education to its culture, history, et cetera. Service goals include learning about WHO initiatives, participating in sustainable solutions for local problems including the engagement of local government and health agencies. The number of initiatives has grown substantially during the last couple of years increasing the number of opportunities for students. In 2017, students participated in programs in Kenya, Brazil, Guatemala, Mexico, Greece, and Ethiopia. In a few weeks, two new initiatives will start in China and Israel. More than 30 students are expected to participate in global initiatives in 2018. On the next few pages, you find summaries of activities in some of the initiatives during the last few months.



Returning for its second year, University of Michigan GIOCH represented by Dr. Kyriaki Marti, Dr. Domenica Sweier, Dr. Christos Skouteris, D3 Amanda Robertson and I, Kathy Cho, arrived in the fantastic country of Greece in June of 2017. During what must have been the busiest week of my life, we set out to Greece in hopes to learn about their dental education, discuss collaborations with other health providers, develop a permanent program to provide oral health care for patients with special needs on the island of Corfu, and to encourage local dentists to get involved in working with patients with special needs. For months before the trip, Amanda and I together with faculty of our school, Dr. Carlos Gonzalez-Cabezas (GIOCH director), Dr. Marti and Dr. Sweier (Initiative leaders), faculty from the University of Thessaloniki, Dr. Matiakis Apostolos and Dr. Zouloumis Lamros, and the president of the Corfu Dental Association, Dr. Rapsomanikis, join numerous video conferences, email communications, conference calls, etc. to plan all the activities to happen during the trip.

The UMSoD group started off the week getting to know the faculty and students of University of Thessaloniki and sharing our curriculum at the Interprofessional Management of Oral Health Needs educational meeting. The faculty, students and members of community were interested in how we collaborate with various sectors of health care to treat our patients. The group was invited to a pediatric dentist's private office where a large number of special needs patients is seen due to lack of providers that feel comfortable treating them. This was the topic that inspired the team to return to Greece and it was impressive to see how some providers have taken on the responsibility of caring for their community. After the beautiful ferry ride into Corfu, the group attended the Dental Association of Corfu meeting where the benefits of interprofessional care were emphasized. Toward the end of the week, we visited "MELISSA" School to provide oral screenings for patients with special needs enrolled in the school and to generate data for the Corfu dental association to use in their pursuit of creating a sustainable program to bring access to care for these special needs patients on the island. It was a great start to opening up the line of communication for developing a program for this vulnerable population. To end the week, the group visited the only hospital on the island and the downtown that illustrated the very rich history of Corfu.



Despite the language barrier, the Greek hosts and professionals we have met throughout the week went out of their way to get to know us and to make us feel comfortable in their country. Starting from the video conference with Dr. Apostolos (4am Greece time) to set up our itinerary to the VERY late nightly dinners to summarize the days, everyone we met welcomed us with open arms and were genuinely interested in discussing the future of oral health care in Greece. I left Greece with my head inspired, my heart full and my stomach even fuller.





The 2017 GIOCH Program sent another two students to São Paulo-Bauru School of Dentistry (USP-FOB) in Bauru, Brazil for the 6<sup>th</sup> consecutive year. These two students, newcomer Cory Ball and returnee Cassandra Wieckhorst, were immersed into Brazilian culture for two weeks in late August of 2017 and experienced what “winter” was like in South America- 90 and sunny! While the winter weather contrast was a nice change of pace for the two students, the goal of the trip was to experience a different model of oral health care delivery in an international setting at the Bauru School of Dentistry. The differences in the care provided were vast and included a large gap in technological means of treatment. For example, the radiographs were still developed via film, and there were no sensors on campus. This added additional time to several treatments, especially endodontic or even restorative procedures but also added a different view and diagnosis of radiographs and more engaging conversations with faculty discussing the cases.

Instead of waiting for films to develop, the two American students shadowed the Brazilian providers for the two week stay. Similar to how clinics are oriented at Michigan, the Bauru setup also included specific periodontics, prosthodontics, and other specialty clinics. Among the most famous in the world, the Bauru dental school has a Cleft Lip-Cleft Palate hospital. This section of the school was not experienced in full by Cory and Cassie because of the expansion that the school is undergoing by adding a medical institution right down the street from the dental clinics. The entire campus was very excited for this medical school and the opportunities it would bring as well as the expansion that the Brazilians could expect in the amount of people and varieties of culture that would come to learn at this unique institution.



One of the best parts about the dentistry in the Brazilian school is how the treatment is not influenced by financial standing of the patient. The patients pay nothing out of pocket and the treatment is entirely free, so the students get exposed to a variety of different treatments. Cory and Cassie were able to witness many additional procedures such a mandibular fracture surgery and multiple esthetic cases that involved crowns and/or veneers. The trip to Bauru, Brazil was a pleasure, and Cory and Cassie want to thank the amazing doctors who organized the trip and allowed all this to happen- Dr. Carlos Gonzalez, Dr. Squarize and Dr. Castilho at U of M and Dr. Adilson in Bauru. They want to also thank the International College of Dentists for their financial support. The trip certainly opened both of the students’ eyes to a variety of different healthcare delivery methods and this gave them the opportunity to explore new ideas to treat patients back in the states.



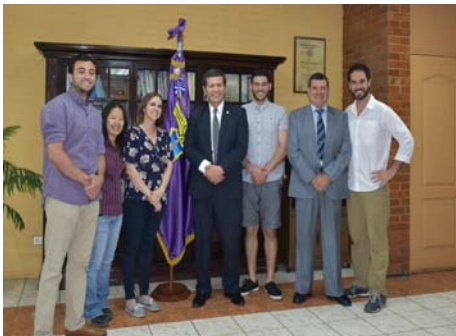


The second ever GIOCH initiative trip to Guatemala lasted from February 24<sup>th</sup> to March 7<sup>th</sup> 2018. Our group consisted of four dental students: Khalil Abdallah, Sergio Calleja, Amanda Robertson and Joe Sheena, and one dental hygiene student: Alice Ou. We began our trip in the small village of Chichicastenango (Chichi for short) where we stayed at the missionary campus of Monte Flor. Our goal was to continue implementing a preventive program in the local community and support a local dental clinic built by a church that provides free care for the most needed. Monte Flor clinic contained two fully-functional dental chairs that were stocked by donations from dental offices in the USA. Working along Dr. Steve Niergarth, a general dentist from Traverse city, MI, and with the help of his generous wife Lisa, we were able to help in providing care to upwards of 120 patients. The clinic was a well-oiled machine those four days from 9am to 5pm.



In conjunction with helping in the dental clinic, on Monday and Tuesday afternoon, the students of the University of Michigan School of Dentistry worked in informing and screening the children that lived in the area. Due to the lack of access to care and inability to afford services, many of the children from the area came to Monte Flor clinic with rampant decay and no means to avoid or remedy it. Participating in the preventive program we aimed to arrest as many lesions as possible with SDF and prevent new lesions by applying fluoride varnish to as many kids as we could. Before we started the screenings, we went over oral hygiene instructions with the children and provided all of them with a toothbrush and fluoride toothpaste. Children in pain or with abscesses were referred to the dental clinic where they were treated for free.

By the end of the week, the UMSoD group reluctantly left Monte Flor and Chichi to do some sight-seeing and discover what Guatemala had to offer visiting Lake Atitlan, a beautiful body of water located at the base three towering volcanoes. From Lake Atitlan, we traveled to Antigua where we met Dr. Aguilar, the director of the community program of the Universidad de San Carlos de Guatemala and some of his dental students. The Guatemalan dental students picked us up Sunday morning and took us to go to breakfast on a mountain, zip-lining and ultimately to Guatemala City where we resided until we left on Wednesday. On Monday, we got a private tour of the dental school from some of the students and we met the Dean and Secretary of the dental school. At that time, we provided a presentation about the University of Michigan School of Dentistry and Dental Hygiene programs. The student body was very welcoming to us and provided insight on how the school worked and what it took to become a dentist in Guatemala. The Guatemalan dental students also showed us some of Guatemala City historical sites. On Wednesday morning, it was time for the group to head back to Ann Arbor to continue their endeavors in becoming dental professionals.





A team of eleven Dental and Dental Hygiene students and U of M faculty member Dr. Carlos González-Cabezas participated in the fifth annual University of Michigan Kenya Global Initiative in February of 2018. To help guide our objectives for the program, we followed the guidelines provided by the World Health Organization's Basic Package of Oral Care with the understanding that the dentist to patient ratio in Kenya is reported by the Department of Oral Health Services to be 1: 378,000. Our focus of the program was to provide non-invasive dental care to at-risk primary aged children in Meru, a town about 150 miles from Nairobi. We increased the reach of our program by developing relationships with local primary schools, teachers, dentists, hospitals, and community members who help aid in our mission of increasing access to oral healthcare both while we are working with them and Meru and after we leave. Our goals have been accomplished and improved upon over numerous trips to Meru by tailoring our oral hygiene instruction to create an active peer-based educational system and modifying our restorative treatments for improved longevity and clinical success.

We were able to screen, document, treat decay, and give oral hygiene instruction to 1250 students by traveling each day to one of six different primary schools where we set up temporary dental clinics. Student desks and chairs were turned into functional operatories. Care was provided in the form of dental exams, dental sealants, the application of the dental decay resisting compound silver diamine fluoride, atraumatic restorative treatment, and individualized and peer-based oral hygiene instructions. Each year, patient data are collected, analyzed, and compared to previous years in order to assess our treatment outcomes and impact on the community.

Throughout our two weeks there, we were given the privilege of working with many community leaders and dental advocates. A local dentist, Dr. Mwongera, spent the day with us at our temporary clinic at the primary school which he attended as a child in an effort to inspire the students there to not only be advocates for their oral health and provide much needed treatment but to also encourage them to stay in school. Marcy Nthiori, a Meru Community Oral Health Officer, and a local dental student worked hands on with us as dental providers on our team at St. Dorothy's School where we were able to discuss the differences in dental care and dental education between the U.S. and Kenya. D-3 participant, Harjot Sandhu, expressed that "While my mission was to provide dental care to those in need, I benefited from great friendships with local community members and a deeper understand of cultural similarities that cross borders". We are grateful for the gracious hospitality, friendship, and support from the entire Meru community and are looking forward to continuing the ever evolving GIOCH Kenya Global Initiative.

## Wisdom from Wakanda's King T'Challa

Quote from Marvel Movie "Black Panther"

For the first time in our history, we will be sharing our knowledge and resources with the outside world.  
 Wakanda will no longer watch from the shadows.  
 We cannot, We must not.....  
 We will work to be an example of how we as brothers and sisters on this earth should treat each other.  
 Now more than ever the illusions of division threatens our very existence,  
 We all know the truth more connects us than separates us.  
 But in times of crisis the wise build bridges, while the foolish build barriers.  
 We must find a way to look after one another, as if we were one single tribe.

### Religious Holidays during the 2017-2018 Academic Year

*This is not an inclusive list and there may be other holidays that pose conflicts for students.*

HOLIDAYS	FAITH	DATE(S)
Good Friday	Christian	March 30
Easter	Christian	April 1
Eastern Orthodox Good Friday	Orthodox Christian	April 6
Eastern Orthodox Easter	Orthodox Christian	April 8
Baisakhi	Sikh	April 14
Ridvan	Baha'I	April 21
9th Day of Ridvan	Baha'I	April 29
12th Day of Ridvan	Baha'I	May 2
Ascension Day	Christian	May 10
Ramadan	Islam	May 15 - June 14
Eastern Orthodox Ascension Day	Orthodox Christian	May 17
Declaration of the Bab	Baha'I	May 23
Ascension of Bahá'u'lláh	Baha'I	May 29
Shavuot	Jewish	May 30 - June 1
23rd of Ramadan	Islam	June 7
Eid al-Fitr	Islam	June 15
Martyrdom of the Bab	Baha'I	July 9
Holy Day of 'Arafah **	Islam	August 21

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## Multicultural Affairs Committee Members

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

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**Judy Craft**  
**Dinella Crosby**  
**Bonnie Dawson**  
**Lisa Dodge**  
**Todd Ester**  
**Mary Jo Gray**  
**Elliott Hill**  
**Marita Inglehart**  
**Kenneth May**  
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**Romesh Nalliah**  
**Bonita Neighbors**  
**Diane Nixon**  
**Elizabeth Pitts**  
**Cheryl Quiney**  
**Helena Ritchie**  
**Larry Salzmman**  
**Gloria Sdao**  
**Natalia Simon**  
**John Squires**  
**Henry Temple**  
**Marilyn Wersen**  
**Katrice Yarrington**

### Students:

**Priyata Agrawal**  
**Sandra Alias**  
**Said Al-Jazaeri**  
**Jamie Buchanczenko**  
**Kayla Buchanczenko**  
**Carl Buchanon II**  
**Carlotta Fantin-**  
**Yusta**  
**Yasmeen Hassan**  
**Jae Han**  
**Alexandria Horner**  
**Joshua Hurlburt**  
**Jennifer Hsu**  
**Katie Hu**  
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**Michael Korleski**  
**Peter Liang**  
**Ruchin Mandiwala**  
**Jodi Movens**  
**Alice Ou**  
**Shyrie Patel**  
**Kelsie Pittel**  
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