

The MULTICULTURAL MIRROR

One School  Many Cultures



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Editor:
Filza Zaidi

GIES Award

Theme: "Celebrating
our diversity"

*"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.

This past March in Chicago, our collective efforts were recognized by the ADEA Gies Foundation with an Academic Institution Achievement Award for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. This recognition is a great testament that our efforts in DEI are making a difference. Go Blue! Thank-you to the Multicultural Affairs Committee for another great year of engagement!

Dr. Todd V. Ester
Director of Diversity and Inclusion

In this issue...

Getting to know ITDP 2-3

DEI Day 4-5

Gies Award Gala 6-7

Women's Tea 8-9

Upcoming Holidays 10

Upcoming GTKY 11

MAC Members 12



**SCHOOL OF
DENTISTRY**

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Getting To Know Our ITDP Students

By Filza Zaidi



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 2019. When we asked these students to tell us a little about their background, 18 responded and share with us information about their country of origin, degrees, family, career motivation, hobbies, and more.

Students' Backgrounds

Among the 18 students who responded to the survey, 12 are from India, 1 is from Canada, 1 from Iraq, 1 from Pakistan, 1 from Lebanon, 1 from Ecuador & 1 from Nepal. All students have a Bachelor of Dental Surgery (BDS) or Doctor of Dental Surgery (DDS) degree, with some have additional degrees in public health and master in dental surgery. Twelve of the students have spouses and 3 have children. Nine students have a family member such as a parent or sibling or relatives in dentistry or in 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 8! The remaining students followed shortly with 10 deciding in their teenage years and 2 in their early 20s.

When we asked what attracted them to becoming a dentist, 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 how their orthodontists brought a huge change in their lives and brought so much confidence. 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 Filza Zaidi

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

When we asked the ITDP students of the Class of 2021 what they like to do in their free time, their answers ranged widely. Three of the students mentioned spending time with family, while one enjoys singing & shopping. One student enjoys sketching, and painting and another loves to go hiking with their family. Others mentioned physical activities such as dancing, cycling, yoga, or tennis. Several students relax with reading a book, sleeping, or simply watching Netflix.

Travel

The ITDP students favorite travel experiences showed how widely they had travelled. Many of them had travelled not only in North America, but also Europe, Asia, and South America! One student mentioned travelling through the USA, visiting multiple states. Two students expressed their love for Michigan and its beautiful upper peninsula as their favorite travel experiences. One student mentioned a road trip to the Grand Canyon. Several students mentioned visiting France, Italy, and Scotland, while some enjoyed visiting Cancun. One mentions serving underprivileged communities in India, others travelling in India in places such as Goa and Mumbai. Their experiences during these trips were described as unforgettable. It was great to see all the interesting places the ITDP students have visited, and many are excited when they think of future travels they would like to do.

Interesting Facts

Our last question was about interesting facts about themselves. We received many fascinating answers to this question. One student mentioned exploring new places, while another mentions how she is the first generation in her family to go to any professional college. One mentioned how she was parted from her parents and had to live with her aunt to get a good education. Two students mentioned their passion for photography, one for personal blogging and another for music. One student can speak four languages & is learning two more from her colleagues, while another mentions doing yoga for over 20 years. One student describes volunteering at a clinic in the jungle in Ecuador. Another student likes to play with his son during his free time. Other interesting facts include passion for animals, love for nature, making jokes, working hard, and being with family.

We enjoyed getting to know our ITDP students and are proud to have them as a part of our dental school community! A very heartfelt welcome to all of you!



**SCHOOL OF
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As I walk through the halls of the University of Michigan School of Dentistry, I can't help but look at the pictures of the graduating classes. It is amazing to see how diversity gradually changed in the school over the years. The class of 1876 is just a few men who were trying to be "tooth carpenters". I wonder how much of a priority diversity was back in 1876. But today in 2019, it is obvious that the school values diversity, equity and inclusion. Whether the school has had a constant focus of DEI since its inception in 1875 or has been gradually enriching the student and staff tapestry over the past few decades, it is very clear that the UM - SOD values DEI today more than ever. Just looking at the class make-up for our upcoming graduates, we can see the stark contrast between the class of 1876 and the class of 2019. Today, the men and women in the dental and dental hygiene classes as well as our graduate students come from all racial and ethnic backgrounds.

On February 20, we celebrated this diversity during the yearly dental school DEI ceremony, when the Ida Grey award was given to Carl Buchanan, a fourth year dental student, Ms. Dinella Crosby and to our alumnus Dr. Kevin Sloan, we could see there was so much more to diversity, equity, and inclusion than what we can gather from the class photographs. The participants and audience at this event came from many different cultural backgrounds. And the sheer number of students, staff and faculty members at this event demonstrated how valued DEI is in our dental school. Towards the end of the ceremony we were presented with following words from Dr. Martin Luther King:

If you can` t fly, run.

If you can` t run, walk.

If you can` t walk, crawl.

But by all means, Keep Moving!

With these words in mind, I ask my classmates, my mentors, and the staff at the UM-SOD: How can we keep moving? How can we ensure that we continue the progress that is illustrated in the history of our class photographs? And how can you personally support DEI at the University of Michigan School of Dentistry?

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) By: Rahul Srivastava



Have you ever been to the Oscars? Neither have I, but I had the honor of attending the 12th Annual Gies (pronounced "Guys") Awards Celebration Gala and I imagine the Oscars running a little like this ceremony. The Gies Award Gala is an evening of pure magic. A place where the American Dental Education Association (ADEA) honors Leadership, Innovation, and Legacy in the dental education field. Winners of these awards are recognized for their contributions to oral health and dental education. This year's awards took place at the Hyatt Regency in Chicago and our dental school was honored with not one, but two awards. Bowties, long evening gowns, shiny shoes, and great smiles filled the room. It was as if I was transported to a magical place when entering the gala. Lights, cameras, video screens, teleprompters, and wonderful food! I had to tap myself to make sure I was not in a dream.

A little history behind the Gies Awards shows that these awards were first presented in 2007 and since then, the yearly gala is a platform for change in the field. This award is made to celebrate new ideas, show opportunities, and tackle issues that face the future of dental education. It was no surprise that our school was among the awardees. However, Gies awards are very prestigious and it is not easy to obtain one by any means. Dr. Lynn Johnson, Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs & Institutional Effectiveness received an award for innovation in dental education for her work in helping launch iTunes, U/podcasts affiliated with our lectures. It can be difficult for students to remember the copious amount of information that we get in lectures. Having lectures recorded and at our fingertips on demand has been very helpful. The second award was awarded to our school for achievement of an academic institution in the area of diversity, equity and inclusion. Dr. Todd Ester, Associate Dean of Diversity and Inclusion, accepted this award for our school. His speech radiated from the stage to the hearts of those in the crowd when he said: "I lift this award to you and it will continue to serve as a beacon of hope to what is possible, important, and should be celebrated. For even though we have accomplished much, there is tremendous work to do", said Dr. Ester as he finished accepting the award. In this moment, as I stood clapping and smiling from ear to ear at Table 3 surrounded by staff, faculty, and alumni of our school, I felt so proud to be apart of such an amazing dental program.

These two awards for our dental school symbolize the tremendous work being done at UMSOD and all of the efforts to improve not just relations within our building, but tackle dental issues far and near. I am grateful to be affiliated with an institution that is being proactive and it is only right that they be recognized!

Congratulations! Go Blue!

ADEA Gies AWARDS

By: Carl Buchanon II



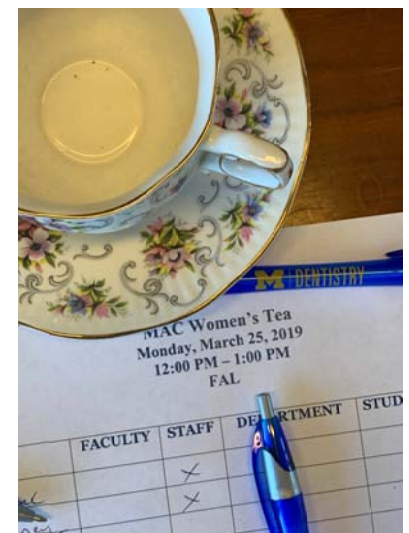
Women's Tea - Celebration

By Kayla Tillmann
Photos by Willy Wangsa

Where would you be today without the women in your life? For Women's History month, the Multicultural Affairs Committee (MAC) hosted the Women's Tea with the theme of "Women in Our Lives". Staff, students and faculty gathered together to celebrate the special women that had positively impacted their life.

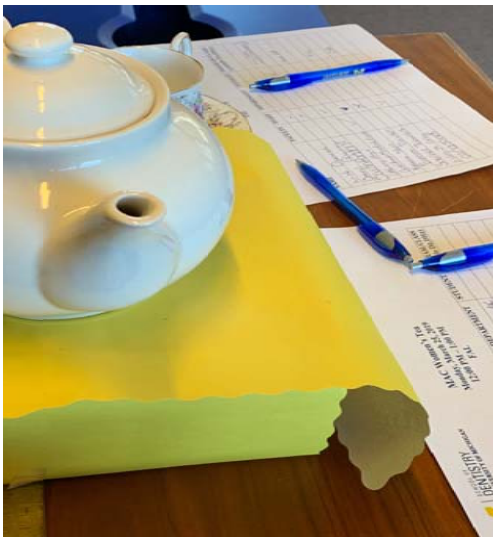
This year MAC reached out the UMSOD community for submissions of photos of special women in their lives and a short paragraph about what made these women so special. Seventeen students, staff and faculty members submitted contributions to a slide show that was shown during the Women's Tea celebration. Michael Fox honored his wife, Nan Hatch her grandmother, Renee Duff her sister, Bonnie Dawson her best friend and Kayla Tillmann her two best friends. Kim Huner contributed a photo of the four generations of strong women in her family, and Carrie Towns celebrated our dean as a role model for her own life. Many others such as Valerie Murphee, Carla Jones, Cheryl Quiney, and Todd Ester Neleege Watson honored their mothers for their unconditional love and demonstration on how to live a joy filled life.

It became evident that many of us in the UMSOD community are in our current positions today because of the encouragement, inspiration and support of the women in our lives.



Women's Tea

By: Kayla Tillmann



Upcoming Holidays during the 2018-2019 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	April 19
Easter	Christian	April 21
Eastern Orthodox Good Friday	Orthodox Christian	April 26
Eastern Orthodox Easter	Orthodox Christian	April 28
Baisakhi	Sikh	April 14
Ridvan	Baha'I	April 20
9th Day of Ridvan	Baha'I	April 29
12th Day of Ridvan	Baha'I	May 2
Ascension Day	Christian	May 30
Ramadan	Islam	May 5 - June 4
Eastern Orthodox Ascension Day	Orthodox Christian	May 30
Declaration of the Bab	Baha'I	May 23
Ascension of Bahá'u'lláh	Baha'I	May 28
Shavuot	Jewish	Jun 8 - June 10
23rd of Ramadan	Islam	May 27
Eid ul-Fitr	Islam	June 3-4
Martyrdom of the Bab	Baha'I	July 9
Holy Day of 'Arafah **	Islam	August 11

UPCOMING GETTING TO KNOW YOU EVENTS:

- May 13, 2019: "Comparison of the dental school experience in India vs. USA."
Speaker: Nayanika Sanga
- May 20, 2019: "Introducing the ITDP students of the class of 2021"
Speakers: Eyad Altawashi & ITDP students of the class of 2021
- June 4, 2019: "Diversity and Leadership: Students' experiences and perspectives"
Speakers: Jordan Brown, Brandon Gordon & Kayla Tillmann
- September, TBD: "Providing care for patients with Jewish faith"
Speaker: Leah Sarment

Multicultural Affairs Committee Members

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

Faculty & Staff:

Natalie Brown
Judy Craft
Dinella Crosby
Bonnie Dawson
Lisa Dodge
Todd Ester
Mary Jo Gray
Sabrina Garcia-
Hammaker
Pamela Harnick
Elliott Hill
Marita Inglehart
Katrice Yarrington
Usha Dronamraju-
Kompella
Kenneth May
Romesh Nalliah
Kristi Ocenasek
Elizabeth Pitts
Cheryl Quiney
Helena Ritchie
Larry Salzmann
Gloria Sdao
Henry Temple
Willy Wangsa
Marilyn Wersen

Students:

Amy Akasheh
Sandra Alias
Said Al-Jazaeri
Carl Buchanon II
Randon Campbell
Alexandria Horner
Joshua Hurlburt
Jennifer Hsu
Katie Hu
Carla Jones
Milad Karim
Michael Korleski
Peter Liang
LaTasha McCoy
Audrey Niemchick
Shyrie Patel
Kelsie Pittel
Sarah Radden
Maysa Sawabini
Joseph Samona
Rahul Srivastava
Kayla Tillman
Rachael Vasquez
Neha Vazirani
Neelege Watson
Mary Young

