

The MULTICULTURAL MIRROR

One School  Many Cultures

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Happy Holidays - A Time of Giving!



Happy Holidays from all MAC Members!

Front Row from left:

Judy Craft, Sterilization;
Marita Inglehart, POM;
Eileen Quintero, Dent. Informatics
Saliyah Miles, D1;
Will Osibin, D3

Second Row:

Kenneth May, BMS;
Elizabeth Easter, DH4;
Ovy Quintanal, D1;
Isabel Castillo, D2;
Miriam Iglesias, Ortho/Pedo;

Back Row:

John Squires, Dent Informatics;
Elliott Hill, BMS;
Bonita Neighbors, CDC;
Henry Temple, POM;
Ricardo Lugo, D4;
Priscilla Johnson, D3

Not Pictured: Miran Forsyth, D4

From left:

Wassim El Awadi, DH3;
Ash Rohra, D2;
Catherine Krull, BMS;
Helena Ritchie, CCRS;
Cheryl Quiney, Patient Services



Editor: Brady Schneider, pre-dental student

Dental School Outreach

December is usually a time when we think about giving to others. However, students, staff and faculty members in our school are involved in giving back to those less fortunate throughout the year. This December issue is therefore dedicated to everybody in our school who donates their expertise and time throughout the year.

Community outreach at the University of Michigan Dental School is a tradition of giving back to those less fortunate. From 2004 to 2009, the number of patients served has nearly doubled; while the number of procedures has increased by 5,000. The overall purpose is to provide meaningful dental care to the underserved and never served populations. This has been an increasing challenge in many regions of the United States. One strategy to meet this challenge has been to increase student awareness of and opportunities for service to these populations. The university covers many areas in the outreach program, such as Detroit, Grand Rapids, Traverse City, and many more!

The dental outreach program has many positive features including: building strong partnerships, community involvement, and a significant amount of treatment delivered. On discussion of the program, students say, "These were my favorite weeks in dental school", "I had an amazing mentor that allowed me to explore avenues of dentistry I have not experienced in dental school", "The experience allowed me to grow and changed my opinion of outreach", and "I felt I had a real sense of responsibility!"

As well as the amount of knowledge and experience the students are gaining; they also are improving their productivity. They are able to do more procedures, especially as the amount of time they spend at the clinic increases (from 3 weeks in 2006 to 8 weeks in 2010). Finally, the program teaches students to adapt to new situations and gives them insight into field of dentistry which is often underserved or forgotten.



Outreach beyond the U.S.A. - Jamaica

The University of Michigan Student National Dental Association (SNDA) under the auspices of the non-profit organization, HealthCare International (HCI), travelled to Jamaica in January of 2011 to provide medical and dental services. Seven third year dental students and two fourth year dental students, supervised by their faculty advisor Dr. Elliot Hill, spent a week total in May Pen and Ocho Rios Jamaica traveling to rural areas providing much needed healthcare. A group of approximately fifteen



dental students from Columbia University College of Dental Medicine also joined SNDA and HCI. This outreach mission has become an annual event for members of the UM SNDA as well as UM SNDA Alumni, Dr. Brandon Gordon ('06) and Dr. Philippe Rouchon ('08).

Preventive dentistry was the cornerstone of HCI's efforts in Jamaica. Every site where work was performed had an extensive...

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Outreach Jamaica continued.

preventive component that included dentists, hygienist, dental students, and pre-dental students. The preventive efforts included oral health education and application of fluoride varnish. Many of the treatment sites visited during SNDA's stay in Jamaica were elementary schools, which allowed HCI and SNDA to reach out to children in preventing dental disease. The second most numerous treatment procedure performed was oral surgery. The oral health of many citizens in Jamaica's rural country communities precludes them the opportunity to restore teeth and thus they are left with only the option of extraction. Restorative dentistry was performed on a limited basis due to lack of supplies, equipment, and appropriate patient cases. This unique trip combines outreach principles for underserved communities with fellowship between dental students, alumni, and faculty. Any questions about this annual outreach trip or Healthcare International can be directed to Kamille Brown (kalybrow@umich.edu) or Ricardo Lugo (rilugo@umich.edu).



Outreach beyond the U.S.A. - Guyana

Guyana is a tropical country situated on the northern coast of South America. It is the only country in South America where English is the official language. Although, Guyanese use Guyanese Creole which is an English-based creole language. It is bordered by Venezuela to the west, Suriname to the east, Brazil to the south and the Atlantic Ocean on the north.

Guyana has an area of 214,969 sq km (83,000 sq mi), about the size of Great Britain. The population is about 750,000 and the main industry is sugar and rice. The monthly household income is about \$300 US dollars.

Our mission for this trip was to provide the highest quality dentistry in a mobile setting, and provide the opportunity for Guyana pastors to evangelize. This is the 8th dental trip to Guyana and Dr. Scott Hodges in Grad Endo clinic leads the mission.

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A World of Holidays

January

- Jan. 1 - Japanese New Year
- Jan. 1 - Feast of St. Basil (Christian)
- Jan. 6 - Epiphany (Christian)
- Jan. 6 - Three King's Day
- Jan. 7 - Eastern Orthodox Christmas (Christian)
- Jan. 13 - Lohri (Buddist, Hindu, Sikh)
- Jan. 16 - MLK Day
- Jan. 23 - Chinese New Year

February

- Feb. 7 - 8 - Tu Bishvat (Judaism)
- Feb. 20 - Washington Birthday
- Feb. 20 - Maha Shivaratri (Hindu)
- Feb. 22 - Ash Wednesday (Christian)

March

- March 8 - Purim (Judaism)
- March 8 - 9 - Holi (Hindu)
- March 20 - Vernal Equinox (Pagan)
- March 21 - Naw-Ruz (Baha'i)

Outreach Guyana continued.

This year, the team was made up of 27 people; 7 dentists, 2 dental students, 7 dental hygienists, 7 Ferris dental hygiene students, 1 dental assistant, 1 nurse, and 2 family members.

It was a nine-day trip, four days traveling and five days of clinic time. The mobile clinic was set up at the local church right after the Sunday church service on March 6, 2011. It started at 6:30 am and went until 8 or 9 with a 30 min. lunch break. The news of the dental service was spread by word of mouth and Guyanese people started gathering at the door at 5 am everyday. I was told to work only as much as I was comfortable, but when I saw the people waiting to be seen, I just wanted to be there and treat them all night long. They waited for their turn to be seen for 10 hours or more but when they sat in our chairs, they were thankful. It was a humble experience to be there and serve them.

Life in Guyana was a lot different from the life in the states. Guyanese people were very happy and relaxed. Everyone in the village was one big family and everyone takes care of each other. We were together outside late at night after dinner and shower, and talked loud and played a

religious video clip. The neighbors weren't bothered and didn't complain about the noise.

During 5 days, we saw 631 patients. Almost all of the patients received prophylaxis (more like Sc/Rp) and 162 people received sealants. 170 permanent teeth and 72 primary teeth were extracted. 519 fillings were done on 1078 surfaces. 101 root canal therapy was done on 48 teeth. It was heart breaking to see a beautiful young girl sitting on a chair and her teeth were extracted. We tried hard to save as many teeth as possible.

It was a blessing to be part of this trip. Working with dentists and dental hygienists, and see their work ethics to work hard and treat everyone equally were priceless. One of the students who traveled last year said, "It was the best thing I've ever done in the dental school."

Outreach Beyond the U.S.A. - Honduras

This past winter break thirteen dental students, one dental hygiene student, one dental alumnus and two spouses of dental students traveled to Honduras for the 2nd year in a row to provide dental care. This group spent 4 days in the small village of Tocoa located in the northeast corner of the country and treated over 700 patients. Several services were provided such as fluoride treatments, cleanings, extractions, composite/amalgam restorations, and endodontic treatment.

The group was organized through the Christian Dental Association and MedMissions, a Christian mission organization in the US focused on providing health care to impoverished areas in

Latin America. This year's group consisted of three fourth year, six third years, one second year, and three first year dental students. Dr. Gary Mancewicz (DDS 1976) was able to attend and provide additional care, teaching, and guidance to the students.

MedMissions partners with several Honduran dentists that help coordinate the mission. Dr. Oliver Zelaya and his family graciously helped to arrange travel accommodations across the country along with food and hotel arrangements. The group also worked with three other Honduran dentists and two Honduran dental

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Outreach Honduras continued.

students who helped organize, translate, screen, and triage the hundreds of locals that waited all day for dental care.

The majority of the supplies and equipment for the providing care were already in Honduras. This included five portable dental units and chairs that were connected to a portable compressor. In addition there was a cavitron for cleanings, a pressure cooker for sterilizing the instruments, and a portable x-ray unit. The group was also able to receive additional supply donations from school of Dentistry, Henry Schein, SAFCO Dental, and other local benefactors. Most patients were able to get their own toothbrush, toothpaste, and floss.

The experience created many unique memories and exposed its members to the eminent needs in Central America.



Not only was this trip special in that students were able to provide dental service but it was also an important cultural opportunity to practice Spanish, collaborate with the Honduran people, and open the doors for future Missions. The group has plans to continue its work in years to come. Fourth year student Jon Hekman and his wife Kim will be moving to Honduras in the summer of 2012 and are committed to work there for 2 years providing care. If you would like to participate or have any questions please contact Jon (jon.hekman@gmail.com), Stephen (smancewicz@gmail.com) or Luke (lukedain@umich.edu).

Students and Staff Speak Out About Why They Help

Students and Staff that volunteer their time to community service are a large part of the University of Michigan community. As stated in previous articles, they feel more rewarded through their volunteering activities. So we decided to ask them where they have been, what they have done, and why they did it.

Both staff and students have been many places locally, such as a local elementary school, and

globally, including Honduras and Jamaica.

The students have been involved in mission trips with the Christian Dental Association, the Hope Clinic, Taft Clinic, Give Kids a Smile day, and Relay for life. Meanwhile, the staff is involved in Summer Gardening Maintenance for the Museum of Natural Science, their children's Parent Teacher

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Speaking out continued.

Organization, the Education Project for Homeless Youth, the Board of Directors for the John Crosby Foundation, Assistant Scoutmaster for BoyScouts of America, and "Friends in Deed."

Reasons they stated for why they volunteer are even more interesting. Common answers among both students and staff were, "It's good to give back.", "To make a difference in the lives of those who, through unfortunate circumstances, need your support and help during a very difficult time.", "It makes me feel great and that I am making a difference, even in a small way.", and "I always feel a sense of satisfaction and accomplishment in helping others to the best of my ability." It is always extremely impressive to see the students and staff, who already have full schedules, find time to give back to their communities!



Students and staff volunteering their time to the community

