

# The MULTICULTURAL MIRROR

One School  Many Cultures



Volume 16 - Issue 2  
December 2018

Editor:  
Filza Zaidi

## Happy Holidays! & a Happy 2019!

Greetings School of Dentistry Family,

I am happy to extend well wishes to you all as we come to the end of 2018. In light of all the tremendous change that is taking place in our world, it is a great joy to be able to work in such a wonderful dental school community. Our Multicultural Affairs Committee has been busy this year planning activities such as the Taste-Fest, Veteran's Day Celebration, LBGTQ Ally Training, Multicultural Mirror publications, lunch and learn events and sharing data from our 2017 university wide climate survey. We have also entered into Year 3 of our Diversity Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Five Year Strategic Plan and are conducting seminars for our departments on "Navigating the World of Unconscious Bias." We are so grateful for all of you who have been able to enjoy our events and learning opportunities. It is with great expectation that we look to the coming year with renewed hope and promise. Let me take a moment to thank all members of our Multicultural Affairs Committee (MAC) and MAC/Implementation Committee for their tireless dedication and commitment in helping us realize our values of diversity, equity and inclusion in a joyous manner. Next year in February, we look forward to our DEI Day Celebration where we will celebrate our Dr. Ida Gray award recipients. You don't want to miss this event! Have a joyous holiday season! Enjoy this edition of the Multicultural Mirror.

May your holidays and New Year be filled with Love, Joy, Hope and Peace!  
Todd V. Ester DDS, MA; Director of Diversity and Inclusion

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## We are happy to announce the 2018 Taste Fest Winners!

### Best Entree

Liane Racelis & her Mum  
Nyonya Chicken with Blue Flower Rice

### Best Other Dish

Dr. Henry Temple  
Chutney Chicken with Rice

### Best Dessert Dish

Office of Diversity, Equity & Diversion  
Arroz con Leche



# Taste Fest 2018 - Out of One Many: Rice.

If you missed the Multicultural Affairs Committee (MAC)'s "Out of One Many: Rice." event on October 18, 2018, you missed out on a treat! Literally! Faculty, staff, and students came to the Sindecuse museum with big eyes as tables of wonderful rice dishes filled the room. It was definitely a site to behold as smiles, laughter, and lots of eating took place.

This year, the MAC worked very diligently to put on an event that topped last year's Taste Fest. The event's play on words (Out of One Many: Rice) celebrated all types of dishes with rice. From the traditional chicken with rice to dessert out of rice, there was something for everyone to enjoy!

As one entered the Sindecuse museum, you were greeted with small sheets of paper to keep track of your favorite dishes for the "best rice dish" contest. As you grabbed your sheet you were directed to the veggie and fruit tray table before indulging in all of the food that volunteers so graciously offered for people to try. It was not uncommon to see people holding 2-3 plates in order to insure that they received samples of all of the available goodies.

During the event I went around and asked people to give me one word to describe the event. Following is a list of these words:

Community

Fun

Delicious

Fantastic

Yummy

Awesome

Excited

Fabulous

Tasty

Delish

Epic

Diverse



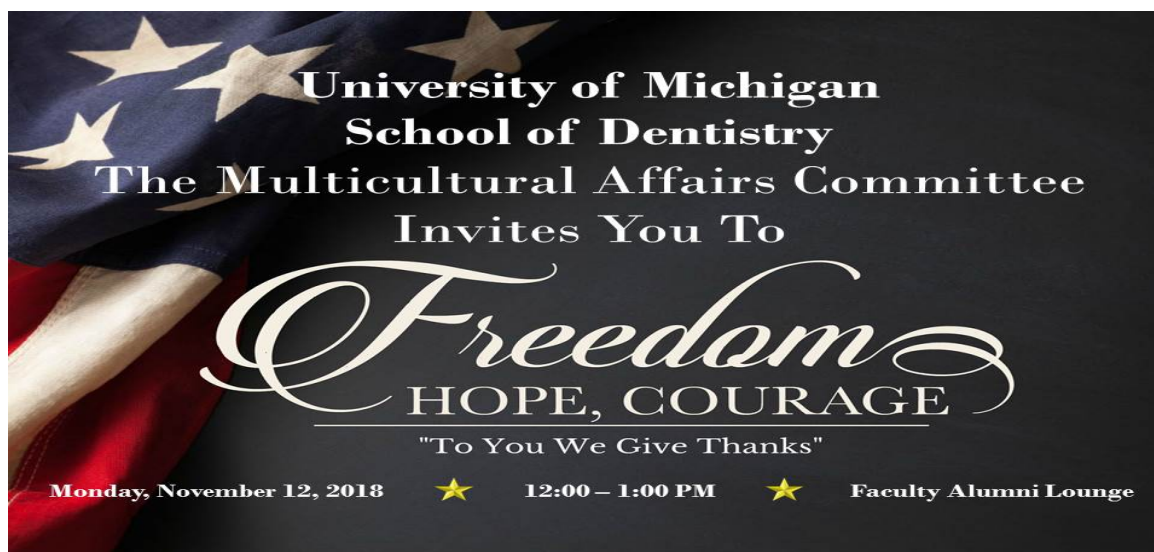
I am sure that those of you who attended this wonderful event will agree with these words provided!

Thank you to the MAC and to all the participants for coming together!

A HUGE thank you to all of the volunteers who supplied dishes!! This event was special because of YOU!

By Filza Zaidi





## To You We Say Thanks!

On Monday, November 12, 2018, community members of the Dental School and the Department of Public Safety Services (DPSS) gathered together in the FAL to honor our veterans. It was a very moving and memorable occasion.

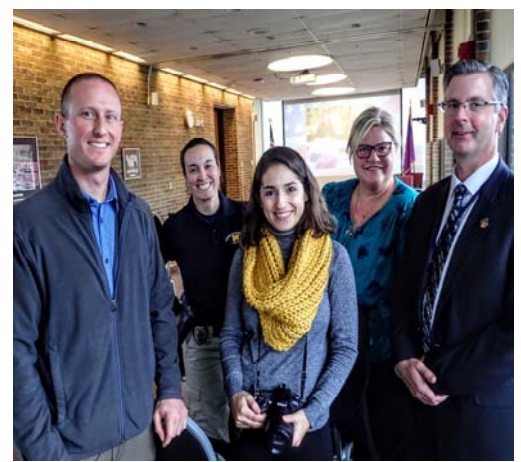
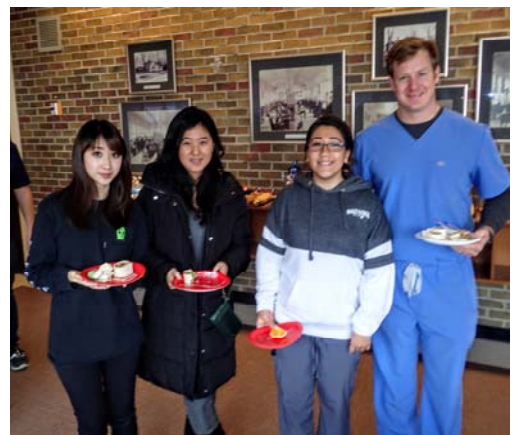
Jeffrey McDole, the DPSS Director of Technology Services, gave the welcome and introduction to the program. A thought provoking keynote address followed given by Dr. Brandon Gordon, a 3<sup>rd</sup> year graduate student in Prosthodontics. The most memorable message for me was that although we say “thank you”, we should never forget the sacrifice that our veterans made for our country. This sentiment is better stated in this quote that Dr. Gordon cited:

“From the Soldiers who shivered and starved through the winter at Valley Forge, to the doughboys crouched in the muddy trenches of France, to the platoon who patrolled the hazy jungles of Vietnam, and the young men or women patrolling the mountains of Afghanistan, we say ‘Never Forget’.”





# Veterans Day Celebration - Photos courtesy of Dr. Henry Temple





# Hispanic Student Dental Association Outreach Program

By Said Al-Jazaeri

Every year, the members of the Hispanic Student Dental Association have the opportunity to participate in health fairs organized by the Community Action Agency in Lenawee County in Southeast Michigan.

The Agency serves community members from disadvantaged backgrounds and during the summer months provides services for migrant farm workers who come to Michigan to cultivate crops. HSDA students, with the support from faculty members attended this past summer several weekly health fairs to provide oral health education, toothbrushes, toothpaste and floss.

As students, we are not allowed to provide treatment, but we can refer workers with significant dental problems to local dentists who treat the workers at a reduced cost. We usually provide recommendations in regards to oral hygiene habits from brushing to flossing and we emphasize the importance of receiving Fluoride.

These outreach opportunities would not be possible without the support of our phenomenal dental faculty who guided us every step of the way. We would like to acknowledge Dr. Kenneth May and Dr. Andrés Sierralta who were a huge support for our efforts! Thank you very much for your support!



# Informing our students about the results of the 2015 dental school and 2017 university climate surveys

On two evenings in November, a group of students who are members of the MAC provided information to all students in the school about the results of the 2015 dental school and the 2017 university-wide climate surveys. Our Dean, Dr. Duff and our MAC Members discussed the results from these surveys with the students. Results related to the areas of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion & Community were explained and examples of how these results shape activities aimed at increasing diversity and improving the climate in our school. Different programs that are held throughout the year such as “Getting to Know You” Lunch & Learn events, Continuing Education courses, LGBTQ+ Ally Training, Veteran’s Day Celebration & Taste fest celebration were discussed to spread the word about all the different ways we try to contribute to our dental school community.

By Said Al-Jazaeri





# Getting to Know Our New MAC Members

Our MAC has student, staff and faculty members. Every year in September, we send out a call for new members. This year we expanded our MAC family by adding the following dental and dental hygiene students, faculty and staff members. We asked these members to tell us a little about why they wanted to join the MAC



Audrey Niemchick, a D3 student, told us “Coming from a Multicultural family myself, I see a great benefit in celebrating our own different cultures and teaching other people about them so they can celebrate with us, and I love that the MAC promotes this idea and hosts events and programs celebrating different cultures. I also believe that it is important to have a safe and supportive environment for people who may not always have the privilege of a safe environment in their every day life, and I want to be a part of this support.”

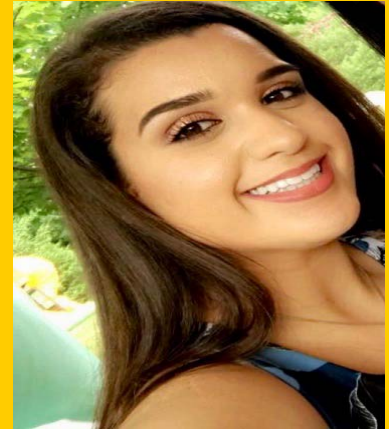






**Sarah Radden, a D1 student, says “I decided to join MAC because I wanted to be apart of a committee that was dedicated to making all students and especially students from underrepresented backgrounds feel more included and valued at the University of Michigan School of Dentistry.”**

**Amy Akasheh, a D3 students, wrote “The events this committee does for the school, as well as the new ideas cultivated to enhance the dental school experience and sense of community is something I would like to be a part of.”**



**LaTasha McCoy, a DH3 student, responded “I decided to join MAC because of all the great things that I heard about it and all the things that I witnessed being done. Bringing all different cultures together to share what they enjoy doing and their beliefs is wonderful to me. I love learning and to be able to learn about other cultures is exciting. “**



**Neha Vazirani, an ITDP 2020 student says “I would like to contribute towards the committee’s work in bringing together people from different cultures and backgrounds and bring a fresh perspective to the team.”**





**Maysa Sawabini, a DH2 student, responded: “I decided to join the MAC because, According to Mother Teresa, ‘If you judge someone, you have no time to love them. ‘ Diversity is not just about race, it is geographic, socio economic, cultural, religious, people with various disabilities, and it is looking at different lifestyles. It is about valuing what makes us different and respecting those differences. Life does not happen in a vacuum, and college communities are made up of all kinds of people from all walks of life. I want to be involved and be supportive to anyone who might need the support, in these struggles.”**

**Randon Campbell, a D2 student, responded that he joined the MAC because “...to encourage kinship and diversity is to nurture soil so that perspectives may mingle and truth be discovered. I feel it is necessary now more than ever to bolster Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion within the school. In 2019, I hope that the MAC can increase the student response rate to the Climate Survey by 10% to make sure that all voices will be heard.”**



**The new Faculty and Staff MAC members were also very excited to share why they wanted to join the MAC Community.**

**Pamela Harnick, from Academic Affairs, explained that she joined the MAC “So that I can participate in bringing increased multicultural sensitivity, equity, and inclusion to the School of Dentistry. “**



**Usha Dronamraju Kompella, from Dental informatics division wrote “I have heard many good things about the MAC and their activities I would like to be part of them and help in any way I can.”**







Willy Wangsa from Dental Informatics division swrote "I have dedicated myself assisting people in many areas. I value people and relationships. My recent contribution to the University is introducing the intercultural communication topic to the dental school units by presenting a poster at the Michigan IT symposium. Lastly, I would like to share the quote from Erin Meyer: "The culture of my country has a strong character that was totally invisible to me when I was in it and part of it."

Kristi Ocenasek, OPD staff member responds "As a newly appointed member of the VOICES OF THE STAFF - Advancing Diversity Equity and Inclusion team, I'd like to work together to share ideas and promote DEI. "



Sabrina Garcia Hammaker, a faculty member wrote: "Starting a new chapter of my story in Ann Arbor has been a life-changing experience. Since the beginning of my residency program in August of 2013, I had the opportunity to interact with a wide variety of people, each of them with different backgrounds. From my classmates to my patients, each person had their own way to connect with me and with the rest of the world. Through these new connections, I have been fortunate to learn so much about so many individuals and the cultures, making everlasting friendships in the process. Based on my own experiences, I have become fascinated with how an environment full of acceptance and respect can do for ourselves and for others' well being. Our dental school has shown to be a place where diversity is always welcome. We see it in our students, in our staff, and in our patients. I strongly believe that we need to continue the cultivation of an atmosphere that celebrates diversity, inclusion, understanding, acceptance, and respect of every individual that walks into the dental school. I joined MAC with the intention of becoming a part of that mission as I continue my career at the School of Dentistry."

## Upcoming Holidays

Hanukkah	December 2 - 10, 2018
Christmas	December 25, 2018
Kwanzaa	December 26 - January 1
Feast of the Epiphany	January 6, 2019
Eastern Orthodox Christmas	January 7, 2019
Sankranti	January 15, 2019
Eastern Orthodox Beginning of Lent	March 6, 2019
Ash Wednesday	March 6, 2019
Chinese New Year & Tet	February 5, 2019
Purim	March 20 - March 21, 2019
Nowruz	March 21, 2019
Passover (Pesach)	April 19—27, 2019
Good Friday	April 19, 2019
Easter	April 21, 2019

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## Multicultural Affairs Committee Members

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

### Faculty & Staff:

Natalie Brown  
 Rogerio Castilho  
 Judy Craft  
 Dinella Crosby  
 Bonnie Dawson  
 Lisa Dodge  
 Todd Ester  
 Mary Jo Gray  
 Sabrina Garcia-Hammer  
 Pamela Harnick  
 Elliott Hill  
 Marita Inglehart  
 Yarrington Katrice  
 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 (D3)  
 Sandra Alias  
 Said Al-Jazaeri  
 Carl Buchanon II  
 Randen Campbell (D2)  
 Alexandria Horner  
 Joshua Hurlburt  
 Jennifer Hsu  
 Katie Hu  
 Carla Jones  
 Milad Karim  
 Michael Korleski  
 Peter Liang  
 LaTasha McCoy (DH3)  
 Audrey Niemchick (D3)  
 Shyrie Patel  
 Kelsie Pittel  
 Sarah Radden (D1)  
 Maysa Sawabini (DH2)  
 Joseph Samona  
 Rahul Srivastava  
 Kayla Tillman  
 Rachael Vasquez  
 Neha Vazirani  
 Neelege Watson  
 Mary Young (ITDP 2020)

