

MULTICULTURAL NEWSLETTER OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN SCHOOL OF DENTISTRY

# *The* MULTICULTURAL MIRROR

One School  Many Cultures

## Welcome to the 2010-11 School Year!

*The first weeks of Dental School for the class of 2014 were filled with anxiety....*



Photos courtesy of Celia Alcumbrack-McDaniel.

*...lines....*



*... new faces (Dr. Woolfolk!)...*



*... new places (preclinic)...*



*... (Charles Wright Museum in Detroit)...*





*... breakfast with interesting people such as Dr. Stefanac...*



*... moments of pure joy (such as receiving the white coat!)*...



Breakfast photo by Celia Alcumbrock-McDaniel; others by Per Kjeldsen.

*... hanging out with Dean Polverini (after the white coat ceremony)...*



*... and getting that class photo done right!*



## Meet the Dental School Class of 2014

### Starting New

For the first time in our school's history, the D1 students arrived for their first term in the beginning of July. By now the 60 in-state, 42 out-of-state and 4 international students are well into their second term. They seem to have settled in rather well – and even welcomed a first baby last week! In July, we asked them to tell us a little about themselves, and 66 students responded. So here are some bits of information about our D1s.

Of the 66 students who responded, 14 have a spouse or partner and 5 reported that they have children – with one student having 3 children. A total of 21 told us that they had close relatives who are dentists such as their mother (6), father (5), uncle (3), or cousin (6). When we asked them how old they were when they decided to become a dentist, the answers ranged from an early 9 years old to the mature age of 37.

### Why Dentistry?

The reasons our D1s went into dentistry were equally wide ranging. The love for dentistry was one major reason for quite a number of students who told us for example "I became obsessed with teeth after getting my braces off & loved the profession even more after shadowing & learning more about it" or "I loved going to the dentist as a kid and wanted to do the same." Several students talked about role models who inspired them such as their family members who were dentists ("Seeing my mom helping people in her mission trips inspired me to become a dentist;" "Watching my mom interact w/ her patients," or "I shadowed my cousin and found the work fascinating") or dentists in their communities ("Dentists in my community influenced me to want to follow in their footsteps;" "My family dentist had a great influence on me;" or "Due to a visit with dentist, he informed me not only about the field but about the procedure he was performing").

Another group of students chose dentistry as a

career because they want to help others ("To be better able to serve my community. [While] growing up, access to dental care was very limited for me and the members of my community;" "Be able to help people directly;" "Help people in a way suited to my talents;" or "I wanted to help people reach their full potential by helping them to be more confident in their smile & self"). Some students see that the work a dentist does matches their own talents ("I always enjoyed making jewelry & doing detailed work. Dentistry allows me to use the skills I enjoy while also helping my community;" "I enjoy working with my hands and I like the sciences so it seemed to be a perfect fit;" or "Work with my hands & have the intellectual stimulation & people contact/care") or interests ("Interest in science, clinical nature of profession;" "always had an interest in healthcare"). Others gave lifestyle-related reasons such as the flexibility of the job, that they can own their own business, and that it is a fiscally stable profession. The fact that dentistry offers an opportunity to use science, interact with patients, and work with one's hands was mentioned by several students as well. Overall, it was great to read how enthusiastic the students were about their chosen field. The words "love" and "passion" were used by quite a number of students in connection with dentistry, and one student summed up his or her reasons for going into dentistry with the sentence: "Teeth are cooler than the rest of the body!"

### Free Time Fun

In order to get to know our new D1s a little better, we also asked the students about what they like to do in their free time. We found out that a huge majority of the students - 52 of the 66 students who responded to our survey – love sports such as basketball, biking, roller skating, riding horses, surfing, soccer, tennis, playing disc golf, fishing, boating, Brazilian jiu-jitsu, golf, wakeboarding, snowboarding, snowmobiling, working out / exercising, and all kinds of outdoor activities. In addition to doing sports, watching sports such as football was also mentioned by quite a number of students. The second most frequently mentioned

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## D1 Student Notes (continued)

activity was hanging out with friends and spending time with family members. Going to the movies or shows, watching TV or playing video games, reading, listening to or making music were also reported by several students. Several other students described hands-on activities they like to do in their free time such as baking, cooking, making jewelry, knitting, taking pictures, or working on cars. We hope that there will be enough time during the next four years that our D1s can continue to do sports and have fun.

## Travel Time

One other question we asked was to tell us about the best travel experience they have ever had and to explain why this was such a great experience. The answers showed that even by looking only at the answers of these 66 D1s who responded to our survey, we already pretty much cover traveling to every corner of the US and even the world. It seemed as if these students visited every single state in the US (such as camping in California, Utah, and Montana, visiting New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina, visiting Florida for Spring Break or the Cheesecake Factory in Chicago, being on a cruise in Alaska, visiting the Grand Canyon, Las Vegas, or having a honeymoon in Hawaii).

They have also visited Europe (Italy, Greece, France, Hungary, England, Ireland, Poland, Denmark, Sweden, Germany, Austria, Czech Republic, Slovakia,

Switzerland, The Netherlands, Spain, Romania, Croatia) and covered a substantial number of other countries such as Egypt, Pakistan, Malaysia, Indonesia, China, Africa, Singapore, Uganda, India, Jamaica, Western Australia, Guatemala, Korea, making a pilgrimage to Mecca & Medina in Saudi Arabia, or visiting Canada, Mexico, Thailand, Morocco, Turkey, or hiking the Machu Picchu in Peru.

Some students travelled alone or even lived in some of these countries for an extended time period; others loved their travels because they had time with their families or friends or travelled with a group of friends such as their basketball team, the Michigan football team, or the Michigan Men's Glee Club. Many D1s described that they enjoyed their travels because they could learn about different cultures and found the history of the countries and the cultural differences interesting. Having an exhibition of photos from all these travels would be quite educational and entertaining.

## Interesting Tidbits

The last question we asked was to tell us one interesting fact about themselves. The answers to this question were amazingly diverse and made us look through the class photos, contemplating who might have given some of these answers such as "I can suck my upper lip into my nose." The answers showed also how different the lives of the D1s have been. While one student wrote "Moving to A<sup>2</sup> was the first time I've ever moved in my life,"

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## A WORLD OF HOLIDAYS

## September

First Monday – [Labor / Labour Day](#) – US and Canada

Sunday after Labor / Labour Day – [National Grandparents Day](#) – US & Canada

Third Monday – [Respect for the Aged Day](#) - Japan

Sept. 5 – [Teachers' Day](#) – India

Sept. 7 – [Independence Day](#) – Brazil

Sept. 8 – [Lailat al Qadr](#) - Islam

Sept. 8-10 – [Rosh HaShanah](#) - Judaism

Sept. 10 – [Eid ul Fitr](#) - Islam

Sept. 15–Oct. 15 – [Hispanic Heritage Month](#) – US

Sept. 16 – [Independence Day](#) – Mexico

Sept. 18 – [Independence Day](#) – Chile

Sept. 18 – [Yom Kippur](#) - Judaism

Sept. 18–Oct. 4 – [Oktoberfest](#) – Germany

Sept. 19 – [International Talk Like a Pirate Day](#)

Sept. 22 – [Autumnal/vernal equinox](#) – Worldwide

Sept. 23 – [Sukkot](#) – Judaism

## October

[Filipino American History Month](#) – US

[Breast Cancer Awareness Month](#) - US

[Italian American Heritage Month](#) – US

[Polish American Heritage Month](#) – US

Second Monday – [Thanksgiving Day](#) – Canada

Second Monday – [Health and Sports Day](#) – Japan

Second Monday – [Columbus Day](#) – Most of the Americas

Oct. 1 – [National Day](#) – China

Oct. 1 – [Simchat Torah](#) - Judaism

Oct. 2 – [International Day of Nonviolence](#)

Oct. 3 – [German Unity Day](#) – Germany

Oct. 3 – [Feast of St. Francis of Assisi](#) – Christian

Oct. 9 – [Leif Erickson Day](#) - US

Oct. 16 – [World Food Day](#) – worldwide

Oct. 23 – [Hungarian Revolution Remembrance](#) – Hungary

Oct. 24 – [United Nations Day](#)

Oct. 29 – [Republic Day](#) – Turkey

Oct. 31 – [Halloween](#) – Many countries

## D1 Student Notes (continued)

another D1 reported "I had moved 10 times by the time I was 10 years old." Students had amazing experiences such as "I played in the Final Four of the Women's Division III NCAA tournament in 2008," "I was on the alpine ski team in high school & still compete," "I served in the Korean Army for 2 years," "I have run 10 marathons," "I worked as an orderly at a state mental facility and on the state forensics unit," and "I can juggle."

The student who reported "I was stuck on a rollercoaster for 2 hours at Six Flags" might want to talk with the D1 who wrote "I hate roller coasters;" and the D1 who wrote "I have won a pie eating contest" should definitely find out who wrote "I make the most amazing carrot cake" or "I want to go to culinary school after dental school." Some students reported that they were born on Friday the 13<sup>th</sup>, on Leap Day, on

the 4<sup>th</sup> of July, in Japan, Iraq, or Romania. Others shared that they play the oboe, the piano, or guitar. One student wrote "I was inches away from dying when I went cliff diving in Canada." If you need a tennis instructor, or a person who can groom your dog, if you want to see a kung-fu movie, or see a collection of sports jerseys, if you need an interpreter to talk with a person in Portuguese or Romanian, or if you want to have the 50 US states named in numerical order, just ask the D1s, and you will find somebody who can help.

We hope that these short descriptions show you how diverse the members of this new D1 class are. We welcome you to our school and hope that you will share your talents and experiences with the rest of us.

- Marita Inglehart &  
Brittany Williams  
POM

### The Multicultural Affairs Committee

The Multicultural Affairs Committee (MAC) is a group of faculty members, staff members, and students that meets regularly to plan events for the School of Dentistry to help raise awareness of the challenges and joys that come with being in a diverse community.

Members at this time include faculty members Ninna Estrella, Marita Inglehart, Preetha Kanjirath, William Piskorowski, Helena Ritchie, and Henry Temple. (Kenneth May *ex officio*). Staff members on the committee include Judy Craft, Nancy Kelly, Diane Nixon, Tina Pryor, and Cheryl Quiney. Student members include Miran Forsyth (D3), Will Lay (D1), Evelyn Lucas-Perry (D4), and Ricardo Lugo (D3).

If you are interested in joining the MAC, please send an e-mail to [mri@umich.edu](mailto:mri@umich.edu) or [teeny@umich.edu](mailto:teeny@umich.edu). We are looking for new members and would love to hear from anyone who is interested.

*The Multicultural Mirror is produced by the Multicultural Affairs Committee of the School of Dentistry, University of Michigan, and is edited by [Elizabeth Rodriguez](#) in BMS.*

### November

[National Novel Writing Month](#) – US  
[November](#) (Moustache Growing for Charity Month) – Australia and elsewhere

Nov. 1 – [All Saints' Day](#) – W.Christian

Nov. 1 – [First Day of Winter](#) – Ireland

Nov. 2 – [All Souls' Day](#) – W. Christian

Nov. 2 – [Día de los Muertos \(Day of the Dead\)](#) – Mexico

Nov. 2 – [Election Day](#) – US

Nov. 5 – [Guy Fawkes Day](#) – Great Britain

Nov. 11 – [St. Martin's Day \(Martinmas\)](#) – Europe

Nov. 11– [Remembrance Day](#) – Europe and the [Commonwealth of Nations](#)  
Known as [Veterans' Day](#) in the US – and [Armistice Day](#) elsewhere

Nov. 16 – [Eid al Adha](#) - Islam

Nov. 18– [Great American Smokeout](#)

Nov. 19 – [International Men's Day](#)

Nov. 20 – [Día de la Revolución](#) - Mexico

Nov. 24 – [Lahit Divas](#) – India

Nov. 25 – [Thanksgiving Day](#) – US and Puerto Rico

Nov. 28 – [Start of Advent](#) – Western Christian

Nov. 30 – [St. Andrew's Day](#) – Scotland and other parts of Europe

### December

Dec. 1 – [World AIDS Day](#)

Dec. 2 – [Hannukah](#) – Judaism

Dec. 5 – [Sinterklaas](#) – The Netherlands

Dec. 6 – [Independence Day](#) – Finland

Dec. 6 – [Constitution Day](#) – Spain

Dec. 7 – [Pearl Harbor Day](#) – US

Dec. 7 – [Islamic New Year](#) – Islam

Dec. 8 – [Feast of the Immaculate Conception](#) – Roman Catholic

Dec. 10 – [Human Rights Day](#) – worldwide

Dec. 10 – [Nobel Prizes Awarded](#)

Dec. 12 – [Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe](#) – Roman Catholic

Dec. 21 – [Winter Solstice](#)

Dec. 23 – [Emperor's Birthday](#) – Japan

Dec. 24 – [Christmas Eve](#) – Western Christianity

Dec. 25 – [Christmas](#) – Western Christianity

Dec. 28–Jan. 1 – [Kwanzaa](#) - US

Dec. 28 – [Proclamation Day](#) - Australia

Dec. 31 – [New Year's Eve](#)

## Meet the Dental Hygiene Class of 2013



Right after Labor Day, 27 female and 2 male new dental hygiene students – the Dental Hygiene Class of 2013 – arrived in our building. While most of them are from Michigan, four students came to us from out of state – some from as far away as Florida and even India. Six of these students have children, and eleven reported that one of their family members works in dentistry, dental hygiene, or another health related field.



### Why Dental Hygiene?

The reasons for joining the dental hygiene program were quite interesting. To start with, some of the students decided very early on – when they were only 11 years old – to become a dental hygienist. In response to the question why they chose dental hygiene as their career, we received many enthusiastic responses such as “I’ve always loved going to the dentist,” “Since I love to smile and have confidence about my teeth, I want to give someone else the same feeling!” and “It’s my passion, I love this field.” Most students decided to become a dental hygienist because they wanted to help patients in general or somebody in specific. For example, one student wrote that her dad and her boyfriend refuse to go to the dentist, and that she wants to make it easier for them. Many students wrote about what a great profession dental hygiene is and how much they want to “educate & help people understand the importance of dental health” and “educate people on the importance of proper dental hygiene.” The fact that dental hygienists work in a dental team was also mentioned by several

students as an important component of being a hygienist. For example, one student responded, “I love working with people in a motivated professional environment.”

### Free Time

When we asked the students what they liked doing in their free time, spending time with family and friends was the most frequent response. The next most frequent activities reported were related to sports such as exercising, camping, hunting, fishing, going for walks, swimming, golfing, kick boxing, running, playing tennis or water skiing and wakeboarding. Watching movies, reading, listening to music, and baking or cooking were some of the other favorite activities mentioned.

### Travel Time

The question about the students’ best travel experiences also received many interesting answers. We found out that the members of this class had travelled to many different places in and outside of the US. While we did not ask about which US states they had travelled to, it sounds as if these students covered all 50 states from Maine to Hawaii. Several students had vacationed in the Caribbean islands or travelled to Europe. One student was born and raised in Lagos, Nigeria; one student had lived in Jordan for five years, and another student had lived in Russia for a summer with a family that did not speak English. Visiting Colombia in South America, the Dominican Republic, and Egypt were some of the other travels mentioned. The

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### Dental Hygiene Students, continued

number one reason they enjoyed those trips so much was that they had fun with their friends or family.

### Interesting Information

The background of these students is quite interesting as well. One student worked as an automotive engineer for five years, and one student had attended dental school in India; one student is a certified massage therapist, and one student was the top seller for the G by Guess company nationally in sales and had sold 1.6 million dollars this past year. Other interesting facts that students in this class

shared with us were that one student came to the U of M dental clinic for cleanings when she was little, and that several students are the first in their families to go to college. One student reported that he or she "always wanted to join the circus" and another that he or she collects big sunglasses. One student shared with us that she will become a godmother/aunt for the first time in a few days.

We want to welcome all 29 members of the Dental Hygiene class of 2013 to our school and look forward to getting to know you and working with you in the next three years.

- Marita Inglehart &  
Brittany Williams  
POM

## Meet Some of our Graduate Students and Residents

Every year, we welcome a large group of well-qualified dentists who come to the University of Michigan School of Dentistry as residents to specialize in dentistry as well as to graduate students in Oral Health Sciences. We distributed Getting to Know You surveys to these new graduate students in late August and received nine surveys back, five from residents in pediatric dentistry, two from students in biomaterial sciences/engineering, and one each from a resident in the endodontics program and the AEGD program.

### Family Ties

Two of these nine graduate students reported that they had a spouse or partner, but nobody had a child yet. When asked if anybody in their family were a dentist, dental hygienist, or worked in a health care profession, five residents responded affirmatively. They reported that they had parents, siblings, and aunt/uncles who were dentists, and a wife who is a dental hygienist.

### Why Current Direction?

When asked when they decided to specialize and apply to a graduate program, some reported that they thought about it early on such as one resident who wrote, "I've been interested in pediatric dentistry since I was a dental assistant in high school and college." Others decided during their dental school experience when they were a D2 or D3 or even a D4. They chose their specialty because they love the field they entered. For example, one resident wrote, "I love pediatric dentistry because it's a wonderful and needed place to help children and their dental needs. I want to learn how to do this to the best of my abilities." Another student shared with us, "My undergrad major was chemical engineering & compared to the industrial side of Chemical E, research & BME just interested me more. Granted, I still like engineering so tissue



**Sudha Rajderkar**  
Oral Health Sciences Student

Faculty and staff photos by Elizabeth Rodriguez

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## Graduate Students and Residents (continued)

engineering allows me to apply engineering to a medical issue, which I really enjoy." It was great to see how positive these residents were about their chosen fields in remarks such as "Love kids," and "Passionate about it!" and how much they want to contribute with their future profession to the lives of others. For example, one resident wrote, "There is such a long waiting list of kids to get in to see a pediatric dentist where I lived, and I want to help improve that situation," and another wrote, "I enjoyed working with children and helping them. I appreciated that as a pediatric dentist I can change the patient's perspective towards getting dental treatment."

### Free Time

In response to the question regarding free time, several residents answered that they do not have much free time. But when they have free time, they like activities such as spending time outdoors, playing soccer, windsurfing, surfing, mountain biking, running, skiing, ice skating, fly fishing, lifting weights regularly, snowboarding, playing ultimate Frisbee, and exploring Ann Arbor. Spending time with family and friends comes in as a second most frequent answer. Other residents reported that they like to make music (play drums, guitar), watch movies or TV, and to cook or eat good food.

### Travel Time

This group of residents also described quite interesting travel experiences such as having visited New York, Portland, Seattle, Europe, New Zealand, India, Jamaica, Peru, Egypt, Japan, and climbing the Great Wall of China. They described how much they enjoyed their travels because they were with family members or friends and had a chance to get to know a different culture, to see a different standard of living, and to learn about history. One resident described, "After 8<sup>th</sup> grade, I went on a trip to Peru with a select soccer team; we stayed in Lima & Cuzco but traveled around playing 10 games in 14 days against teams from the slums to youth professional teams. Aside from being a

tourist & playing soccer, this was my first trip out of the country, to a 3<sup>rd</sup> world nation, without my parents. Even now, nearly 10 years later, I still have a greater appreciation for the luxuries in life stemming from that trip, & that is why it was such a great experience." Another student describes a dental trip experience, "The greatest travel experience was a dental trip to Jamaica in January 2009. We worked on locals and helped those in need. It made me appreciate what I do, showed a need in the world, and made me appreciate the United States."

### Interesting Information

When we asked the residents to tell us one interesting fact about themselves, we learned that one student loves Halloween and tries to create a new home-made costume every year. We will look for this costume on October 31<sup>st</sup>! One student wrote, "I'm Lebanese, witnessed 2 wars, speak 3 languages;" and another resident shared, "My sister and I are 4 years, 4 months, 4 days apart." While one resident wrote, "I've never broken a bone," another resident reported, "Before dental school I was scheduled to play college ice hockey but injured my shoulder and went to dental school instead." One resident stated, "I moved to the US when I was 14," and another student wrote, "I'm from New Jersey & proud of it!" One student has played the piano since age 6.

Welcome to all graduate students! We look forward to getting to know you better.

Marita Inglehart  
Brittany Williams  
POM



Arb peony garden - 5/28 by  
Elizabeth Rodriguez



## Meet Some of Our Newest Faculty and Staff

Since about the beginning of the year, we have had a few new faculty members start working here in the school and several new staff members.

The faculty members include Cristiane Squarize and Rogerio Castilho in Periodontics and Oral Medicine (POM), Stacy Griffith and Jordan Gerster in Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery/Hospital Dentistry (OMS/HD), and Jian-Guo Geng in Biologic and Materials Sciences (BMS) (whose office and lab are in the Medical Science Research Building #3).

The new staff members include Andrei Taut and William Sadler, who work in research labs in POM; Jessica Revard, a dental assistant in Cariology, Restorative Sciences, and Endodontics (CRSE); Kellie Overbeck and Shannon Plate, who are patient services assistants in OMS/HD; and Kristine Lorbeske, a dental assistant in Orthodontics and Pediatric Dentistry (OPD). We also have new staff members Qing Cai, Rachel Milkovich, Sarah Hein, and Xixi Wang in BMS. Patient Services has welcomed new medical records clerks April Boudrie and Laura Hess, office assistant Deborah Keszler, dental hygienist Emily Comito, receptionists Joyce Abraham and Karen Skipper, and dental dispensing assistant Marilyn Wersen. The Clinic Billing Office now has Cheryl Lindemann serving as an office assistant, while the dean's office has been keeping Julie Kelley busy on the reorganization project. The very nice Kim Johnson is working in Academic Affairs as a student affairs program

specialist, and Thomas Nyongesa is a desktop support specialist in Informatics.

At the beginning of August we sent a survey to these folks and received surveys from three faculty and six staff members. The faculty members are all married and have a total of four children. They were in their 20s when they decided they wanted to become faculty members.



*Cristiane Squarize and Rogerio Castilho*

### Why Current Position?

Reasons for coming to the University and/or becoming scientists include a better research environment, enjoying the promotion of health, finding new discoveries and sharing those with others, and interacting with diverse groups of people. One faculty member mentioned that being a faculty member means being able to blend

research and clinical work.

### Free Time

In their free time, our faculty members like to play with their kids, watch war movies, travel, bike, kayak, and dream of becoming a soldier. One member stated, "I love research, and I do appreciate the opportunity to guide dental students into demonstrating interest in becoming a researcher."

### Family Ties

The staff members who responded are mostly unmarried/partnered and have a total of four children. Their health-care-oriented family members include a brother who is a biomedical technician, a cousin who is an RN, a mother who is an ultrasonographer, and a sister in medical school. They have family

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### Faculty and Staff, continued

members working at Eastern Michigan University and the University of Alabama.

#### Why the University of Michigan?

Their reasons for working at U-M include: One person has an interest in college access issues for low-income students, and this closely relates of the summer programs she coordinates. Another has been a patient at U-M for many years and wants to contribute to others having the same feeling of being taken care of with compassion and respect. One of our postdoctoral researchers while growing up would do lab "experiments" in his kitchen; he figured out in high school that biomedical engineering would combine his love of math and science with his desire to help people. Someone else worked in the dorms when she was a student here and liked the campus. Another staff member is interested in bone remodeling research and dentistry, so this seemed like a good fit.

One staff member has such an interesting story, I'll let her tell it: "I was home on maternity leave with my first son, and really wanted to find a part-time job. My friend, who worked [in a related job] also wanted to work part time. So we put our resumes together, and applied as a job-share team for a full time position. We didn't get that position, but a person on the search committee for that position called us for an open position at the business school, and we got that job. So I came to UM for work / life balance, and got it!"



*William Sadler*

#### Free Time

In their free time, our staff members again show their diversity: Rock climbing, bike touring through other countries, music (several mentioned music – performing and attending), yoga, gardening, watching movies, hanging out with friends, reading, cooking, building model rockets, play with the kids (and drive them places!), shopping, and exercise of various kinds.

#### Interesting Information

We asked them for one interesting fact about themselves. One staff member used to take rowing lessons.

Another was in the Army's military police and then was a 911 operator (police and fire dispatcher for over 10 years). We have a staff member who did home production of biodiesel from waste vegetable oil, and one who placed twice at the world championships of Soap Box Derby. We have a deaf staff member, and one who didn't realize that the family didn't have much money because the father was a mechanic for the airlines, and the family flew all over the US and to Europe for free.

Whew! Just reading through all of these surveys makes me want to go and have long conversations with these folks! I hope all of you go out of your way to help them feel a part of the School.

*Elizabeth Rodriguez  
BMS*