

The MULTICULTURAL MIRROR

One School  Many Cultures



Photo: Per Kjeldsen

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editor

Welcome!

Meet The Dental School Class of 2019

by Shivani Rai Sharma, B.D.S.

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As we welcomed the dental school class of 2019 during orientation in July 2015, we surveyed the students in order to explore the diverse interests, experiences, and backgrounds of the new dental class. We asked them about their families, their relatives working in healthcare, how they spend their free time, the reasons they decided to pursue dentistry, their best travel experiences and interesting information about themselves. Eighty out of the one hundred and nine students responded to our short survey.

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**SCHOOL OF
DENTISTRY**

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Meet The Dental School Class of 2019

by Shivani Rai Sharma, B.D.S. Photos by Per Kjeldsen

Family

Eight of the 80 students are married or have partners and three have children. One of the students has one child; another has two and one student has three children. Forty students reported having a family member working in the dental profession or other healthcare field. Twenty students have one of their parents who is either in the dental profession or other healthcare field. Others have their grandparent, uncle, aunt, brother, sister or cousins associated with the healthcare field. Nine students have dentists in their family, one has a periodontist in the family and four students have a dental hygienist family member. One student mentioned being a dental hygienist and an alum of the University of Michigan dental hygiene program. Other healthcare fields mentioned by the students are doctor, nurse, pharmacist, chiropractor, and radiology scheduler.

Choosing the Field

Sixty students of the new dental school class had decided to pursue dentistry as their career by the age of 18, indicating that they had made their decision by the end of high school. The range of the age varies greatly, one person decided at a very young age of two and another decided at age twenty seven.

Wide ranging responses were received when asked about what attracted them to the field of dentistry, Forty seven students responded that they wanted to help people and serve the community. Several students want to make a difference in underserved communities. Eighteen mentioned they liked interacting and working with people. One of the students' reported "The ability to instantaneously heal someone is what got me intrigued about dentistry" and another student wrote "I wanted to be involved in a profession that has skills which can be used to better people's lives and health." Several students mentioned how a dentist could build relationships with patients and help them restore their smile and making them more confident. Some students want to help people by making dental care affordable and alleviating the access to care issue.

Twenty four students like the hands-on work required in dentistry. Eleven students chose dentistry because of their interest in healthcare. Seventeen students liked dentistry because of the lifestyle it offers which includes autonomy, socializing and good work/life balance. Seven students like the entrepreneurship opportunity dentistry has to offer. Some simply were interested in oral health sciences and others wanted to be associated with esthetics. An interest in research and teaching also motivated some students to choose this profession.

Seven students were inspired by personal experiences with either receiving dental treatment or being a part of a dental team delivering treatment. For example, one student was born without two teeth and wrote "I dealt with it my whole life which led

me to an interest in dentistry." Another student whose dentist helped him with his self-esteem stated that "I want to help patients improve their self-esteem like my dentist did for me." One of them worked as a dental assistant which inspired him to pursue dentistry and another was a part of internship program in a dental office. A student with past experiences with dentistry wrote "Prior experience in dentistry lead me to love all the great qualities of dentistry including providing for patients while working with my hands".

A lot of students wrote that they chose dentistry because it is a combination of various disciplines such as science, art, service and business. For example, one student said "It is a dynamic career that incorporates science, art and business. It also allows me the privilege to help people and form relationships with my patients." Another student described dentistry as "A scientific field that delivers a service". For one of the students, the continued challenges and technology advances in dentistry promise to be a source of enthusiasm for dentistry.

Free Time Activities

When asked about their free time, 75 students mentioned some sort of sports, physical activities or exercise which included playing basketball, tennis, golf, Lacrosse, ping-pong, archery, lifting weights, running, swimming, workout, yoga, figure skating and even dancing. These activities might be one starting point for the new students to bond and socialize with each other as well as with the dental school community. In addition, 28 mentioned that they liked outdoor activities such as to hike, snowboard, ski, fishing, boating, sailing, kayaking, camping, mountain biking, rock climbing and scuba dive.

Seven students like to play an instrument during their free time like guitar, piano and violin. We hope that they will contribute their talent to the Fall talent show. Several students draw, paint, craft and also work with ceramics. Some like to cook, bake, and work in the garden. Others like to read, play video games, build computers and watch T.V./Movies.

Many students like to spend time with their family and friends by going out to a concert, to a theatre, shopping, exploring new restaurants or simply hanging out. Some of students like to travel to different places.

Travel

The new D1s seems to be a very well-travelled group according to the responses we got to this question. Twenty seven students have mentioned travel experience here in the U.S. They travelled to places like New York, Montana, Colorado, Utah, Wyoming, Florida, California, Michigan, Minnesota, Alaska, Boston and Washington D.C. and saw wonderful sights such as

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Photos by Per Kjeldsen

the Grand Canyon National Park. One of the interesting travel experiences included camping in the Arctic circle of Alaska for 10 days with the father and recharging in nature. Another interesting experience was “Going on a month long camping trip in summer to all over Michigan, starting on the east side of the state and travelling along the coast up north and then back down on the west side of the state”. One of the students’ best experiences was going to the Stratford Shakespeare festival in Canada where she got engaged.

Other best travel experiences included travels outside of the U.S. Many students travelled to places like South Africa, Australia, New Zealand, Paris, Germany, Turkey, Rome, Spain, France, London, Wales, Italy, Israel, Lebanon, Ghana and Egypt. Most students mentioned that they had their best experiences in these places because they got a chance to learn and experience a new culture and languages. In addition, the beautiful sights these places had to offer made these trips memorable. For example, one student wrote “Two years ago, I travelled to Turkey and absolutely fell in love with the country’s rich history and culture”. Some of the students visited their family in these foreign countries and enjoyed the culture their families are a part of. One student visited Egypt and Kuwait and reported that it was an eye opening experience to see how people live in extreme poverty.

Many of the students went for mission trips to Costa Rica, Honduras, Guatemala, Peru, Guyana, Tanzania, Panama, Dominican Republic and India. These trips impressed the students very much. One student wrote “It reinforced my desire to help others” and another student reported “Helping people is an amazing experience, especially in an area that was severely underserved”.

Many students took trips to places such as Isle Royale, Mexico, Florida, Colorado and Michigan U.P. and enjoyed many activities there such as backpacking, hiking, zip-lining, rock climbing, horseback riding, etc. Some students even enjoyed going on dental school trips with their friends.

Interesting Facts

The question about interesting facts that makes the students unique received many fascinating answers. Fourteen students’ responses were related to sports and included activities like Running 5K/10K races, having a black belt in Taekwondo, Martial arts, Yoga and Fishing. One student was the Captain of the University of Michigan track team for two years, another was a volunteer coach of the MSU women’s varsity tennis team, and one qualified for 4 consecutive ski national championships. Two students are certified scuba divers. One of the students responded that he jumped out of a plane at 15,000 feet in the air in Dubai.



Seven students wrote about their special interest in music such as playing guitar, clarinet and piano. One mentioned that he is learning ukulele and another is a Dance minor. Other interesting talents of our new D1s are photography, watchmaking, collecting and restoring old radios, designing and styling clothes, and making the best guacamole ever. One of the students has rebuilt a 1990 Chevrolet Camaro.

Some other interesting facts mentioned are being able to wiggle one’s ears, having been bitten by a rattle snake, being afraid of bees, hating roller coasters, and having been married by “Elvis” in Las Vegas. One of the students mentioned having broken his front tooth six times. Some students talked about speaking several languages and having travelled to different countries. For example, one student travelled to 43 countries up to now and another went to high school in the United Arab Emirates.

We look very much forward to getting to know you all in the upcoming years!

Welcome to the University of Michigan!

Go Blue!

Free CE courses
September 2015 to June 2016
“Providing care for patients with special health care needs”

Sept. 15, 2015 **Room: G322**
John Girdwood - Dr. Fontana Research Group
“Providing care for patients who experience/d homelessness”

Oct. 5, 2015 **Room: G322**
Dr. Anne Koch:
“Providing care for transgender patients - A dental specialist's perspective”

Oct 6, 2015 **Room: G322**
Dr. Anne Koch:
“Interactions with transgender students, staff and faculty members - An insider's perspective”



In August, our new dental hygiene students came to an orientation session and all 32 of them were willing to respond to our *"Getting to know you"* survey. Their answers allow us to get to know them a little and learn about their families, interests, and experiences. Six of them told us that they have a spouse/partner, but nobody has any children so far. Six students have a family member who is a dentist or dental hygienist. Two have fathers, 3 have uncles and two have a brother or cousin who are dentists/dental hygienists.

Choosing Dental Hygiene

Almost all students decided to pursue a dental hygiene degree by age 22. There is one student who already knew that dental hygiene would be her career when she was only 8 years old. In response to the question, why they choose dental hygiene as their career, 8 did so because they want to help and work with people. For example, one student wrote that she chose dental hygiene "to help people feel more confident about their smile" and another stated "to help people cope with their fear of going to the dentist". Six students were inspired by their experiences shadowing and working as assistants with dentists or dental hygienists. One of them stated "I shadowed a few dentists and fell in love with the atmosphere and the field." Two of them got interested in becoming dental hygienists while they themselves received dental treatment. Two students took a class or program in high school which motivated them to pursue a dental hygiene career. Six students described that they like the "hands-on" aspect of dental hygiene, three were interested to become a part of a health care team that promotes health and wellness, and one student mentioned that she likes the dynamic nature of the profession, stating that "there is always something new to learn about".

Free Time Activities

During their free time, almost all new dental hygiene students enjoy being active either by playing sports like golf, tennis, volleyball or being involved with outdoor activities like walking, running, biking, snowboarding, kayaking, fishing, riding, swimming or even working out and dancing. These joint interests could be a wonderful opportunity to make friends with each other and the rest of our dental school community. Many of them also like to spend time with their family and friends such as going out to concerts or watching a Tigers' game. Some of them like to read, draw/paint, listen to music, cook, photography, watch television or travel.

Travel Experiences

When we asked the new dental hygiene students which favorite travel experiences they had, we found out that many DH2s have enjoyed travelling with their family and friends across many states in the U.S, from California to New York and from Michigan to Florida. Highpoints were travelling to Niagara Falls or Mackinac Island, Las Vegas, or visiting Nashville because of the love of music. Several students enjoyed these trips with their families or friends. One student described having a great time at her grandparents' 60th anniversary that was celebrated with going on an Alaskan cruise. Another student's favorite place has been Mackinac Island for the past 20 years. Three students had visited countries in Europe such as Germany, Ukraine and Belgium. They wrote that the chance to experience new cultures and languages made

these trips memorable for them. Five had life changing experiences on mission trips to Vietnam, Philippines, Cambodia, Haiti, Punta Cana and Peru. One of the students stated "Mission Trip to Guatemala: First-hand experience in helping those in need; it was very humbling and such a wonderful experience. It was very amazing to be immersed into a completely different lifestyle and culture." Another student went to Punta Cana which made this person more aware and thankful as expressed in the following statement: "I learned that a toothbrush and running water are hard to come by in these areas. In America we tend to take advantage of the small things".

Six of the students enjoyed travelling to various islands like Puerto Rico, Bahamas, Aruba and Punta Cana with family and friends. Learning about a new culture and seeing amazing views made these trips memorable. One student went on a cruise to 3 different islands and experienced zip-lining and another student travelled to the Middle East to visit family.

Interesting Facts

The new class of dental hygiene students shared a wide array of interesting facts about themselves with us. Eight of the responses were related to sports. One student loves snowmobiling; another likes to play golf and was on a high school team all 4 years in high school; one played soccer and torn both knees; one wrestled and ranked 3rd in the state of Florida; another student rides a bike with no handle bars; and one student is training for a half marathon.

Every student comes from a unique background. One lives on a dairy farm; another is the 1st in the family to go to a university; one lived in 3 different states in 2.5 years and another has 3 younger brothers. One of them talked about being American Indian and having the name "Biidobinockue". One new student owns 4 horses and shows horses at horse shows at a national level. Two students mentioned that they had interesting talents: one has been a part of films and commercials; and another has danced from elementary school through high schools. We hope these students will share their talents with us during the next 3 years.

We want to thank our new dental hygiene students for sharing this information with us and look very much forward to getting to know you all in the upcoming years!

Welcome to the University of Michigan!

Getting to Know Our New Faculty & Staff

Biologic & Materials Sciences welcomes:

Connor Ray Research Lab Tech Intermediate
Chunhua Zeng Research Lab Technician Lead



The Department of Biologic & Materials Sciences welcomes **Dr. Isabelle Lombaert** as a new Faculty Member. Dr. Lombaert has a long-standing interest in the regeneration of irradiated salivary glands by stem cell therapy. Her passion for this research started in The Netherlands where she graduated with a PhD in Medical Sciences. Then she continued her endeavors at the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research (NIDCR, NIH) in Bethesda, MD where she has been awarded a Young Investigator K99/R00 grant. She looks forward to meeting you all at the UMich-related activities.

Cariology, Restorative Sciences & Endodontics welcomes:

Kelli Kanemaru-Takeuchi Adjunct Clin Asst Professor
Samuel Kerk Research Lab Tech Intermediate

John Girdwood is excited that his current UMSoD project, the Michigan Caries Prevention Program with Dr. Margherita Fontana, shines more light on at-risk and under-served youth (MiTeeth.org). The program also builds connections between the dental and medical communities especially through referrals to dentists from pediatricians and more fluid electronic communication (e.g. potentially integrated EHR).



John is currently completing a PhD in Sociology at Michigan State University focused on homelessness. "My primary qualitative methods include visual and auto-ethnography which means I've stayed a few weeks in homeless shelters to better understand the experience I'm studying. Ann Arbor has plenty of friendly homeless individuals on the city streets and I encourage you to buy the Groundcover News from them and get to know them better! Tell them John said hello!"

Clinical Operations welcomes:

Romesh Nalliah Director of Predoc Clinic Operations

Community Dental Clinic welcomes:

Kristin Wilson Dental Hygienist
Janet Lubzik Patient Services Assistant

Dean's Office / Faculty Affairs welcomes:

Cindi Hartmann Administrative Assistant Intermediate

Development & Alumni Relations welcomes:

Gretchen Yankle Meeting/Special Event Planner

Dental Faculty Associates welcomes:

Shawna Stewart Patient Services Associate

HR Shared Service Center welcomes:

Monica Davis HR Generalist Associate

Informatics welcomes:

Phillip Kennedy Systems Administrator Inter
Kevin Perry Desktop Support Spec Inter

Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery/Hospital Dentistry welcomes:

Maria Amador Clinical Lecturer
Dana Chessor Dental Assistant Intermediate
Valerie Hawkins Patient Services Assistant
Jessica Hamden Patient Services Associate

Kimberly Bonner joins the the school in the Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery/Hospital Dentistry as an Administrative Assistant Intermediate. Kim supports the Administrative Manager, as well as Dr. Aronovich, Dr. Feinberg, Dr. Helman and Dr. Skouteris and "anyone else that needs assistance!" She has worked for the University of Michigan for 26 years in various positions. In her free time Kimberly likes spending time with her family, taking long walks, biking, reading, watching movies, traveling and managing a rental property.



Periodontics & Oral Medicine welcomes:

Juan Rodriguez Adjunct Clin Asst Professor
Cheryl Henschel Dental Assistant Intermediate

Dr. Sindhura Allareddy is a Clinical Assistant Professor in the Department of Periodontics and Oral Medicine. She obtained a Master's degree in Stomatology and completed her Residency training in Oral and Maxillofacial Radiology at The University of Iowa. She is board certified by the American Board of Oral and Maxillofacial Radiology. Dr. Allareddy's research focuses on the disease manifestations and anatomical variants in CBCT's. She will be teaching radiology to the undergraduate and graduate dental students, while pursuing her research interests and DFA practice. Personally, she loves great food and enjoys cooking different cuisines and spends time reading leisure books and

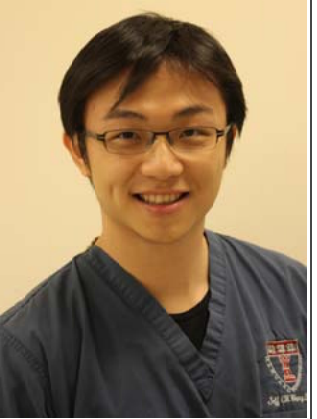


Dr. Yu Leo Lei is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Periodontics and Oral Medicine at the University of Michigan School of Dentistry. He holds adjunct affiliation with the Department of Otolaryngology, Translational Oncology Program, and the Distributed Health Technologies program at NCRC. He is a board certified oral and maxillofacial pathologist, and serves on the editorial board of the triple O (Oral Surgery, Oral Medicine, Oral Pathology, Oral Radiology) journal. He is a recipient of the Leon Barnes award from the United States and Canadian Academy of Pathology. After receiving his PhD at the Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center, UNC-Chapel Hill, and residency training at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center, he completed a National Cancer Institute sponsored head and neck oncology research fellowship (T32).



Leo is currently supported by a NIH/NIDCR dentist-scientist pathway to independence award (K99/R00). His long term research interests are the precision molecular diagnosis of oral and maxillofacial lesions and the identification of novel molecules that shape oral cancer cells plasticity to immunotherapy. During his free time, he enjoys hiking and photography - his passion of taking pictures extends from histology to landscape.

My name is **Chin-Wei (Jeff) Wang**. I received my DDS degree from Taipei Medical University in Taiwan and completed a two-years advanced education in general dentistry program. Before coming to the United States, I also served in the marine as a medical officer second lieutenant for one year. This summer, I just moved from Boston where I finished my residency in Periodontology and earned a Doctor of Medical Science (DMSc) degree at Harvard School of Dental Medicine (HSDM).



At the University of Michigan, I joined the Department of Periodontics and Oral Medicine as a Clinical Assistant Professor. I will be teaching mostly on the third floor starting this fall semester and also in some didactic and preclinical courses. In addition to education, I am also interested in clinical and translational studies as well as multidisciplinary patient care.

Personally, I am exploring and enjoying what Ann Arbor has to offer! I used to play basketball and softball. These days, I like traveling, swimming, hiking, food and movies. Additionally, I really love to Go BLUE now!

Orthodontics & Pediatric Dentistry welcomes:

Thomas Gebeck, Jr Adjunct Clin Asst Professor
Naoko Sakagami Research Fellow

Academic Affairs welcomes:

Katherine Planchak Student Admin Assistant Associate

Patient Services welcomes:

Mary Katherine Burr Dental Dispensing Assistant
James Jennings Dental Dispensing Assistant
Cinque Cummings Dental Dispensing Assistant
Kelly Waltz Guest Services Specialist
Daniel Evans Instrument & Sterilization Processor
Ladrina Adams Instrument & Sterilization Processor
Siobhan Folk Dental Assistant Associate

Photos provided by faculty and staff members

Upcoming Events

October 2015	Taste of Culture
November 11, 2015	Veteran's Day Observance
January 18, 2016	MLK Day
March 2016	Women's History Month Tea

Multicultural Affairs Committee

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

Alexandria Schultz	Amir Aryaan
Assal Aslani	Bonita Neighbors
Cheryl Quiney	Dan Bair
DeAngelo Webster	Elliott Hill
Gail Oljace	Guneet Kohli
Helena Ritchie	Henry Temple
JJ Sae-ung	John Squires
Judy Craft	Ken May
Kikki Marti	Marita Inglehart
Martha McComas	Mary Jo Gray
Milad Karim	My Yang
Patrick Johnson	Rogério Castilho
Wassim ElAwadi	Todd Ester
Sue Payeur Koehler	



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