

Centric Relations

Marquette's ASDA Newsletter



In This Issue...

D1 Class of 2025

p. 2



MUSoD welcomes the Navy Scrubs!

Event Recaps

p. 5



Posing at the District 7 Meeting in Indianapolis

Committee Columns

p. 10



ASDA's annual music video

Faculty spotlights

p. 13



cont'd p.9



Hanfrey Deng

The goal for this newsletter was to focus on the variety of events that has impacted so many ASDA members.

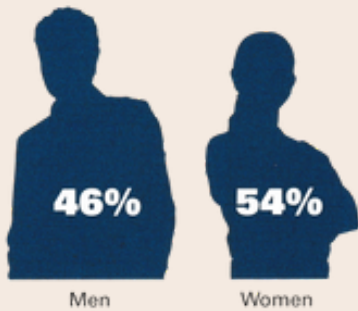


Austin Davies

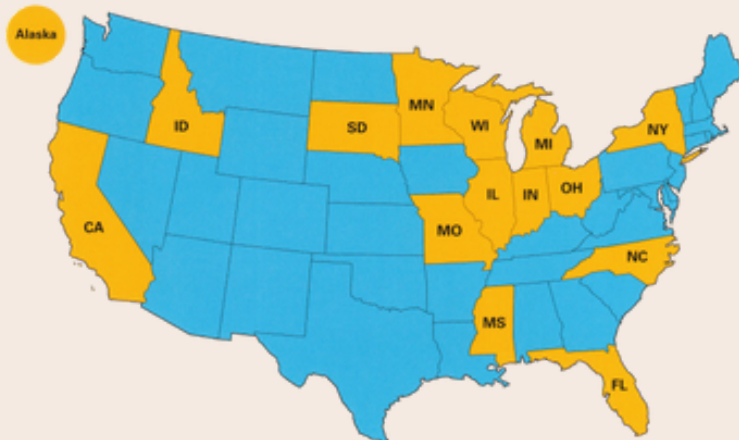
Additionally, peruse the insights offered in the Committee Columns and Faculty Spotlights that shine a greater light on Marquette as a whole.

LETTER FROM THE NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE

MARQUETTE UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF DENTISTRY CLASS OF 2025 PROFILE (incoming Class of 2021)



FROM THESE STATES



OVERALL GPA
3.64

OVERALL SCIENCE GPA
3.55

DAT SCORES

Academic Average
20.39

PAT Average
20.98

AGE RANGE
21-27

AVERAGE AGE
23

UNDERREPRESENTED MINORITIES
15%

(URM) Hispanic, African American, Native American

Incoming students are graduates of the following colleges and universities:

- Augustana College (IL)
- Benedictine College
- Benedictine University-Lisle
- Butler University
- Cedarville University
- DePaul University
- Florida Atlantic University
- Hofstra University
- Lake Forest College
- Lindenwood University
- Loyola University-Chicago
- Michigan State University-East Lansing
- North Dakota State University-Main Campus
- Northern Michigan University
- Ohio State University
- Truman State University

- Tulane University
- University of California-Davis
- University of California-Riverside
- University of Dayton
- University of Florida
- University of Illinois-Chicago
- University of Illinois-Urbana / Champaign
- University of Michigan-Ann Arbor
- University of Minnesota-Duluth
- University of Minnesota-Twin Cities
- University of Mississippi
- University of St. Thomas (MN)
- Utah State University
- Wake Forest University
- Xavier University of Louisiana

FROM WISCONSIN

- Marquette University
- Carthage College
- St. Norbert College
- University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire
- University of Wisconsin-Green Bay
- University of Wisconsin-La Crosse
- University of Wisconsin-Madison
- University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee
- University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh
- University of Wisconsin-Platteville
- University of Wisconsin-Whitewater

A word from some DIs...

ALEXANDRA GELIN

Hi everyone! My name is Alexandra Gelin, and I am a first-generation Haitian American dental student. I am from Long Island, New York, and have been part of the Marquette University community for two years now. For the past year, I have been working as a researcher with Dr. Tayebi focusing on tissue regeneration.

Additionally, I was also able to join the initiative and become a contact tracer to help stop the spread of COVID. As much as I love NY, I am excited to call Marquette University School of Dentistry my home for the next 4 years! So far, my favorite food places are the Public Market for a lobster roll, Lucky Ginger for pad thai, and Serenitea for bubble tea. I also love hot yoga and adventurous walks. I can't wait to meet everyone in August!



ALIA SONDALLE

Hello Everyone! :) I am Alia Sondalle, I will be attending MUSOD this coming fall as a DI! I am excited to immerse and apply myself in the dental profession, learn about the different specialties, and make connections with new people. I have been involved with the Pre-Dental Organization as VP and President, the first and second MU Global Dental Brigades Program as a member and then leader, working at the Dental Store at MUSOD, etc. as an undergraduate, so I'm eager to continue my involvement with programs, especially for MUSOD! I chose MUSOD because I've seen first-hand the dedication and determination of staff and students at MUSOD that truly makes Marquette the difference, which is something I want to continue being a part of.

I have lived in WI my entire life, and my favorite place in WI is Three Lakes, where my family's cabin is! It's the most beautiful in the Summer, with boating, tubing, jet-skiing, surfing, sunshine, with a cute little ice cream shop called Lick-A-Dee Splitz! I have a free-roam bunny named Willow, and a Bernese Mountain Dog named Diesel, that also enjoys the cabin. :) I can't wait to continue my journey in the dental profession, to know students and staff better, and to see where these next years take me.



A word from some DIs...

I'm Jamie Weinhold and I'm from Random Lake Wisconsin. The most common reaction I get when I tell people I grew up in Random Lake Wisconsin is, "wow that's random." However, I completely own it because I'm a proud Wisconsinite and I feel like that word random sort of encapsulates me in a lot of ways. I'm the second oldest of five siblings, I spent the last four years at school in Ohio, my parents are both veterinarians, and in high school I exhausted every art class that was offered. One thing however that isn't random is the fact that I will be attending Marquette's School of Dentistry this fall joining the incoming class of 2025! Growing up in Wisconsin, Marquette has always been my dream dental school! The large diverse patient population found in the Milwaukee area and the well-established legacy of Marquette dental school is super attractive to me.

In the future I seek to utilize my vocation in a way that incorporates cross cultural interactions whether it be short term mission trips, serving rural populations, or providing dental care to inner city communities. I am passionate about prioritizing these opportunities because I value the way they challenge me to grow as a person. During my time serving communities in the Dominican Republic and Peru on short term mission trips I have learned to see the broken parts of this world as something to commit to rather than escape or push aside. I am a huge fan of how service and outreach is built into the fabric of what it means to be a dental student at Marquette. I think it's super unique that Marquette provides students with the tools and resources to give back to the community so early in our journey of becoming dentists!

JAMIE WEINHOLD



TANYA RASHA



Hello! My name is Tanya Rasha, and I will be a DI student in the fall at Marquette University School of Dentistry. I chose Marquette University School of Dentistry due to the school's sense of community, especially the imitation of real-world care delivery in a supportive clinic setting. During Marquette University Information Sessions, the overall attitude and information the faculty give always resonates with me. The faculty members are friendly and keen on guiding students on their educational and career paths. Additionally, the faculty has broadened my views regarding volunteering and the usefulness of sophisticated technology in maintaining relationships with patients. In the past, I have put much emphasis on helping others within and outside of the country.

Therefore, when I heard the faculty's perspective on volunteering, it reminded me of how communities in our own area need a helping hand as well. The realization of the efficiency of volunteering compelled me to participate in community matters and offer help when necessary. Therefore, it is my goal to help underserved communities as a dental student at Marquette University in order to be reminded of my beginnings in the cycle of helping others within my community. Additionally, the school utilizes student-centered approaches that allow for students' academic and professional growth. Therefore, the hands-on experiences provided by the institution will be instrumental in my future practice. Ultimately, studying at Marquette University School of Dentistry will be useful in impacting my community while also transforming my society and bettering the lives of the underprivileged.

EVENT RECAP

District 7 Meeting

Indianapolis, November 2021



Janelle Weinman

A group of about 25 MUSoD students were able to attend the ASDA District 7 Meeting in November 2021 in Indianapolis, IN. We listened to presentations on content that we don't talk about much in school, networked with vendors, and socialized with students from the other schools in our district (UIC, Midwestern Chicago, Indiana, SIU, Kentucky, and Louisville). Some highlights for me are presentations from Dr. David Rice from IgniteDDS and an evening together at a comedy club. Marquette was recognized in the D7 Ace Awards as the chapter with the most innovative fundraising, best diversity, equity, and inclusion initiative, and best website and social media and one of our students, Zoya Shams, was recognized as the D7 student with the most ASDA fever.



Summit Conference

Chicago, November 2021



Suzanne Kukec

This past November, Marquette ASDA brought 10 members to The Summit in Chicago. This 3-day conference was organized by national ASDA leaders and students from every dental school in the U.S. attended. The purpose of this annual event is to provide students the opportunity to enhance their education by participating in CE courses that will help them grow professionally. The event also allows students to make nationwide connections through networking at fun social events. This was my first time attending The Summit (previously known as National Leadership Conference), and I'm so grateful for my experience! One of the best aspects about this event is that attendees could create their own schedule. The sessions I chose to attend were on topics such as: preventing burnout, contract negotiations, dental photography, public speaking, unconscious bias, opioid abuse, and emotional intelligence. It was a weekend I'll never forget and I would encourage anyone to attend this event in the future!





Loupes Fair

September 2021



Shuchi Patel

Our annual Loupes Fair allows students to meet with loupes vendors, try on the product, ask questions, and buy a pair of their very own loupes. Along with the fair, we host a panel of students beforehand to allow DIs to better understand what to look for in their first set of loupes. The fair this year went extremely well. We were able to bring all of our vendors to campus. We have even decided to add a Spring Loupes Fair due to the success from the fall semester.

Vendor Fair

November 2021



Shuchi Patel

The annual Vendor Fair is an event that allows various vendors to meet with students. Students are able to form connections that can be carried out after dental school. Students are able to visit all the vendors, learn more about their company or product, and even pick up some freebies! Once they've visited the booths, students enter their stamp sheets, signed by the vendors, into our raffle. This year, we were able to host the first Vendor Fair since COVID; bringing in 37 vendors and raising over \$30,000 for our ASDA chapter. Our raffle was also a huge hit! We gave away a TV, AirPods, and Apple Watch, countless gift cards, and many more prizes! It was great to see everyone back to enjoy the event after a year's hiatus and it was a very rewarding experience to put together.



Free Food and Fluoride

October 2021



Drake Lindholm



November is ASDA’s national advocacy month, where political advocacy on behalf of dentistry is spotlighted. One of Marquette ASDA legislative committees main advocacy month events in 2021 was called “Free Food and Fluoride.” At this event students enjoyed dinner while Dr. Russell Dunkel put on a presentation about how dentists can advocate for community water fluoridation, and why it is necessary to do so. Dr. Dunkel is Wisconsin’s state dental director, and was generous enough to take time from his busy schedule to be with us. He has a wealth of knowledge and experience when it comes to advocating for community water fluoridation as a public health measure to fight caries. Students really enjoyed the chance to speak candidly with Dr. Dunkel in a small group setting. And, of course, who doesn’t love free food.

Practice Management Podcast Meeting

October 2021



India Martin

Starting in the Summer and continuing through the Fall semester of 2021, the Practice Management committee hosted “How Tooth-Pick Your Future” once every 2-3 weeks. This recurring event gathered students interested in discussing the different aspects of practice management. Students were asked to listen to two pre-selected podcast episodes that were then discussed in small groups.

Participation in each event varied ranging from 8-30 students on any given day. Students from all different backgrounds and experience levels shared their thoughts/ideas on each topic. Discussions lasted approximately one hour each session. Students were excited to learn from their peers, develop different perspectives, and collaborate on different thought experiments. “How Tooth-Pick Your Future” remains to be a desired event and will continue through the Spring semester of 2022.





Sunset Yoga

September 2021



Sadie Kroll, Sophie Altenburg

During Wellness Month, the Health and Wellness team wanted to offer our fellow members a wide array of activities that promote the different dimensions of wellness. We had such a great time doing sunset yoga at Atwater Beach in Shorewood. There's no better way to enjoy the beautiful Lake Michigan while moving our bodies and calming our minds. It was very relaxing listening to the waves crash on the shore as we found our rhythm in a vinyasa flow led by our instructor, Lindsay Berman. It was the best way to relax after a busy day of dental school!

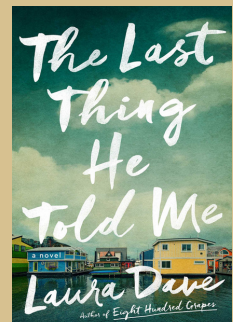
Book Club

"The Last Thing He Told Me"

January 2022



Sofia Enea, Jenna Guernsey



At the beginning of January the ASDA book club met up to discuss our fall read, "The Last Thing He Told Me" by Laura Dave. Our meet up included winter drinks, a discussion about our fall book, announcing our fall bingo winner and voting for our spring read book. The winning book was, "The Guest List," by Lucy Foley! Our club is a way for dental students to bond over their love for reading! It is also a stress free event where we can forget about school for the evening, and find things in common with other dental students. We had a great turnout at our January event and got great feedback from our members. It was great to see everyone after winter break, we can't wait to meet up later this semester! Let us know if you want to be added to the Groupme for updates.





Stache Bash

November 2021



Mitchell Piacsek



Right before Thanksgiving break last fall, the ASDA events committee hosted our annual Stache Bash event! Twelve dental school guys grew out their best facial hair (N-95 approved, of course) through the month of November and all attendees to the event at Buckhead Saloon were able to vote for the winners of four categories. Our winners this year were Cam Young for Most Creative, Matthew White for Hairiest, Griffin Swenson for Dirtiest, and Garrett Jones for Mr. Movember. With free food and drinks, music and dancing, and tons of crazy fake mustaches, the night was an absolute blast! Better yet, all \$750 in ticket sales were donated to the Movember Foundation, which funds research and projects to improve men's health. Make sure not to miss this unforgettable event next year!

ASDA Music video

December 2021



Francesca Malensek

MUSoD's ASDA chapter started making music videos in 2014 and they have garnered thousands of views on YouTube! With a year hiatus because of COVID protocols, the music video committee got creative with how to pull together a music video this year! We chose the song Blinding Lights by the Weeknd and the main prop for the music video was all of the lights in a dental office - head lights, Loupes lights, and our handheld curing lights! The music video committee had meetings before each filming day to plan out choreography and videography. Outside of the three filming dates for students, one day was spent asking faculty to be involved and see how they got creative for their shining moments! After hours of planning, filming, and editing, the music video made its debut at the Christmas Party!!





COMMITTEE COLUMNS

EVENTS COMMITTEE

Milwaukee Eateries

Hello Marquette Dental! Here is an article for those of you who eat food and drink drinks! We've put together a list of our favorite restaurants, coffee shops, and bars so you can give 'em a try. First off, there are so many great restaurants to indulge in this great city of Milwaukee. If you're looking for some classic bar food, head over to AJ Bombers, Milwaukee Ale House, or Olydia's. Looking for the best Dim Sum in town? Dan Dan is the place for you! If you're craving tacos on Tuesdays or Thursdays, Vagabond and Kompali are both great options. Milwaukee Sail Loft and Barnacle Bud's serve delicious seafood and are both located right on the river. If barbeque gets you steamed up, Smoke Shack is a glorious place to get in touch with your Southern side. Two great options on Brady Street are La Masa for empanadas and Thainamite for, you guessed it, Thai food. Finally, if you are bad at making decisions, then make it a one-stop shop at the Milwaukee Public Market where everyone can find something they like.

Now I'm sure that made you thirsty for something to wash that food down with, so we've got the perfect solution...Bottomless Mimosas! These places all include a great bottomless mimosa deal during their Saturday and Sunday brunch hours. First off, our favorite spot is Oak Barrel on 3rd street. The Garage and Dorsia both will supply you with as many mimosas as you can handle while spending time on Brady Street. Toast serves five flavors of specialty mimosas so get there early and try them all! Last but not least, SportClub is centered square in the middle of downtown and they will not send you home thirsty.

Finally, when the Sunday scaries have finally hit, here are our favorite coffee shops to fuel up on caffeine and grind out some studying. Check out Kickapoo in the Third Ward or the Stone Creek Headquarters by the train station. Rochambo Coffee and Tea House is a great setting for a relaxing morning on Brady Street. Lastly, Colectivo Coffee has locations all over Milwaukee and they are always packed for a reason. Head over there on a walk and enjoy the outdoor seating while the weather permits!

BOOK CLUB COMMITTEE

Top 5 must-reads

The following are leadership/nonfiction books that we thought would be helpful for dental students. Each book has information on different life skills that we can apply to dentistry! Inspired by our president, president-elect, and Marquette faculty. Keep your eyes open for their #1 picks! After hours of research, here are your book club co-chairs, Jenna Guernsey and Sofia Enea's, top 15! *In no particular order!

1. [7 Habits of Highly Effective People](#) by Stephen R Covey. The title for this book speaks for itself! The first 3 habits are: Be Proactive, Begin with the End in Mind, Put First Things First. Read the book to learn about the next four!
2. [Atomic Habits](#) by James Clear. Got any bad habits you are trying to break, such as obsessively flossing your teeth (ha ha). This book is the one for you! "Atomic Habits will reshape the way you think about progress and success, and give you the tools and strategies you need to transform your habits".
3. [Outliers](#) by Malcolm Gladwell. *Dr. Keesler Pick! A book about individuals that go beyond the realm of ordinary - uncover the secrets that separate the best from the rest.
4. [Emotional Intelligence](#) by Daniel Coleman. What matters more, emotional intelligence or IQ? Daniel Coleman makes the argument that emotional intelligence is just as important, if not more important, than IQ. Read the book to find out why!
5. [Greenlights](#) by Matthew McConaughey *Jenna and Sofia's number one want to read! Check out this memoir by the one and only, Matthew McConaughey (alright, alright, alright). As written in the description, "It's also a guide to catching more greenlights-and to realizing that the yellows and reds eventually turn green too."



HEALTH + WELLNESS COMMITTEE

Stretches for health

As dental students and future dental professionals, we are at risk of neck and back pain if we are not mindful of our posture and ergonomics. Stretching throughout the day can help alleviate this discomfort if done habitually. The following stretches should be held for three deep breaths and repeated on each side as needed.

Start with a gentle neck stretch by pulling your ear towards your shoulder. You can stop here or add a bit of rotation by directing your gaze upwards.

Next, a wrist stretch by raising your arm with your elbow and wrist extended and fingers spread wide. Using your other hand, bend at your wrist to pull your hand back toward yourself. You should feel a stretch under your wrist.

Then, a spinal twist by sitting tall and cross-legged on the floor with a gentle twist to one side, then the other. You can place your hands on your knees to help stabilize.

Next, Child's pose by lying face down with your arms extended out in front of you, palms down, and knees tucked under you with your toes together and knees apart. You should feel a stretch from your shoulders through your lower back.

Lastly, a chest opener stretch which can be done while sitting in a chair. Place both hands behind your head, inhale, and take both elbows backwards. You should feel a stretch in the front of your shoulders and chest.

These are just a few stretches to begin. There are many other beneficial stretches as well as strengthening exercises that can help keep your body healthy and comfortable while performing dental procedures.

PRE-DENTAL COMMITTEE

Guiding the Pre-Dents

Working with pre-dental students is very rewarding and exciting. We were all in their shoes and understand the road they are on. It is a stressful and long journey that hopefully pays off in the end. The Pre-Dental Committee tries to find ways to help out these students by providing guidance, offering advice, and hosting events for them to become acquainted with schools and the profession. So far this year, we have revived our Pre-Dental Partner Program in which a student is paired with a mentor who is a student in the dental school. They provide guidance and mentorship in any way the pre-dental student needs. In addition, they send monthly emails to their partner filled with info for students in every stage of the application and undergraduate process. It is through this communication that we are also able to advertise for our events. We hosted our first in-person event in quite some time in the beginning of November- the Wax and Relax. Pre-dental students got to try their hand at waxing a tooth and hang out with current dental students while doing so. It was great to have everyone join in a casual setting where mentors, mentees, and students could talk about all things dentistry while getting a taste of dental school. In the next few weeks, we are looking forward to meeting with pre-dental clubs at various colleges. We are very excited to be back to in-person events and are looking forward to further connecting with pre-dental students and providing them with a resource during this exciting, integral time in their education.



PERSONAL FINANCE COMMITTEE

Dental School Budgets

Dental school is expensive. It is a fact we all know and by which we have all been impacted. This can cause a lot of stress on students, but budgeting is a great tool to help! Students should know where their money is coming from as well as where it is going. This would include awareness of loan distributions (and their interest rates) in contrast to rent, monthly living expenses, mandatory spending, and a set of funds to have some fun with. Having a spreadsheet or other tool that keeps track of this information can make it easier to keep track of and ease some of the financial stress of being a student. There are even apps that do this for users, allowing them to securely link bank accounts, credit card accounts, and other mobile electronic saving and spending accounts. You can be as involved as you want, or the apps can do it for you! Dental students have enough to think about, and there are easy ways for anyone to start or continue to budget. Budgeting is so important and knowing how your money works for you can ease much stress and future financial anguish.

PRACTICE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Podcasts for thought

In the all-encompassing topic that is practice management it can be difficult to know where to start. We have a few favorite resources that are easy to comprehend and provide useful information regardless of your experience level.

Our top choice is “The Shared Practice” podcast which already has 6 seasons worth of advice and business strategy. Dr Richard Low, Dr George Hariri, and Dr Matt Guarino interview different doctors and specialists to answer the question on everyone’s mind: How do you create a successful practice? As they continue to produce more content, they dive deeper into more specific topics like case acceptance, human resources, location, acquisitions, etc.

Another favorite resource is Dr David Rice, the founder of the nation’s largest student and new dentist community, igniteDDS. He is a dynamic speaker, full of lots of advice, and genuinely cares about the success of students he meets. His Instagram is @igniteDDS if you want to see what he’s all about!

Our last top pick is Dr Eric Studley, founder of Eric Studley and Associates Inc – Insurance Planning for the Healthcare Professional. Dr Studley was a practicing dentist until a medical ailment forced him into an early retirement. He shifted gear into insurance planning teaching dental students at NYU for 33+ years and opening his insurance brokerage firm 28+ years ago. He is passionate and well versed in the world of insurance helping find the best plans for all that are interested in learning more. His website is drecicstudley.com and he can be reached via email at drecicstudley@drecicstudley.com.

SOCIAL MEDIA COMMITTEE

Harness your Public Image

Social media has a huge impact on dentistry and how you represent your company nowadays, especially when there are so many exceptional dentists for community members to choose from. Platforms like Instagram, Facebook and Twitter are viewed daily by community members, assuring that your information and content is seen. This is a great way to start building trust and confidence for your patients before they walk in the door. By posting previous treatment photos (ie. Before and after clinical photos WITH patient consent) and patient testimonials, viewers can see your quality work and be able to confidently make a decision. As such, social media can help your office gain new patients if they like what they see. Additionally, you can also post photos of your office and new technologies, as this might be another attractive source to lure viewers into their first comprehensive exam with you. To make your page more personable, try adding more than just clinical photos. Create content about you and your team, hobbies and community involvement- this will make your group seem more relatable and can highlight service work you do in the community. Another tip would be to engage with the viewers- show that you care. A way of doing this would be holding contests, interactive instagram stories and responding in a timely manner to all inquiries. Overall, social media, as long as it is accurate, is a great way to build your dental practice.

FACULTY SPOTLIGHTS ◀



Q: WHAT IS THE BIGGEST LESSON YOU LEARN FROM WORKING WITH STUDENTS?

I completed my DDS degree at Shahid Beheshti University of Medical Sciences, School of Dentistry in 2009, and worked as a general dentist for six years after graduation in my home country of Iran. Later, I was accepted to the Operative Dentistry Graduate Program at University of Iowa, College of Dentistry and received my certificate in Operative Dentistry and master of oral science in 2021.

Teaching experiences during my graduate program completely shifted my career path from private practice to full-time teaching, due to the enjoyment I got from interacting with students and being part of their journey. As a full-time faculty in MUSOD, I am involved with Operative Dentistry and cariology related courses and teach in the simulation lab, clinic, and classroom settings. Working with students who are fresh and always curious, is what drives me to improve my knowledge and skill, both as a dentist and an educator.

GENERAL DENTIST

DR. MOHAMMAD TAJIK



My appointment at Marquette University SoD has been recent, but I have had the opportunity to work with students from across the pre-doc program in the simulation lab course as well as on the clinic floor. I think the biggest lesson I have learnt while working with students is to recognize the moments you get to share your knowledge and skill and to tailor your approach to individualize it based on the student's abilities. It's surprising how these moments can present themselves most unexpectedly or crop up in the most mundane interaction and may not be specific to the dental subject being discussed, but rather extend to a different topic altogether like patient management, and how the student can be more cognizant of the specific traits that patients present. Synonymous with Marquette and the Jesuit's tenet of 'Cura personalis', we strive to apply it to our students and help them extend it to their patients.

PROSTHODONTIST

DR. VIVIA SEQUEIRA



I was born and raised in the suburbs of Chicago and attended the University of Illinois at Chicago for my B.S. There, I majored in Biological Sciences, minored in Spanish and Studio Art and studied abroad in Florence, Italy for a semester. I graduated from the University of Pittsburgh with a dual degree, Doctor of Dental Medicine and Master of Public Health, in 2017. I currently work full time at a community health center providing essential dental services to individuals with limited access to care. This includes using a mobile unit to travel to local schools to treat children.

Starting in the fall of 2021, I began working in Clinic E on Tuesdays. The most rewarding part is witnessing the student's growth in confidence and competence each week. The greatest lesson that I have learned by working with them is that there are multiple perspectives on approaches as to how one can achieve the same goal: a happy and healthy smile.

GENERAL DENTIST

DR. SMRITI MADRECHA



My interactions with predoctoral students include teaching in lectures, planning and supervising periodontal and implant cases in the Graduate Periodontics Clinic. It has been almost 2 years since I taught in the predoctoral clinic and I miss it! Students have taught me how to be creative when connecting theory and practice. Sometimes applying periodontal concepts to establish a patient's diagnosis and treatment plan may seem complex. I learned how to explain a concept from scratch as if I am talking to someone with minimal periodontal background. Students feel comfortable and this starts very interesting conversations! On an informal note, I have received some of the best recommendations for cafes and restaurants from students!

PERIODONTIST

DR. VRISIIS KOFINA



DR. MARINA PROTOPOPOVA



Thank you for such an opportunity, I am very honored to be a part of your student life.

My background in a nutshell: I came to the U.S. from Russia in 2003 as a trained dentist already with additional paramedic experience prior to that. I wanted to go back to school in order to continue practicing as a dentist, here in the U.S.

But before that, I had a long road ahead: learning English, getting my Boards done prior to getting into the ISP program in Dental school. So, I had some time off to learn about this country. I took an Amtrak from San Francisco to Washington DC, I learned how to ski in Jackson Hole, WI, I adopted two adorable cats who are no longer with me, I ran a marathon for Lymphoma and Leukemia Society (raised money). I finally felt that I got a grasp of how to live in a foreign country that later on became my country, too.

After graduation from CO SODM, I proceeded with Periodontics Residency at the same Dental School. Right after graduation from residency I had an opportunity to practice in WI. I was a full-time periodontist in a group practice at that time and had an opportunity to join MU Dental School as a part time clinical professor, in 2017.

PERIODONTIST

At the interview for a faculty position, I was asked a question: "Do you like to teach?". I said: I do not know, and I do want to try. Well, ever since, I fell in love with it!

Teaching dental students is a whole new level of learning experience for me as well. It's a mutual education process.

I consult/evaluate/advise dental students at the clinical floors. My favorite and biggest lesson is how to communicate and how to deliver my knowledge to you in a short period of time and efficiently; and how to be in multiple places simultaneously :). You, on the other side, teach me how to be a better person, a better educator, a better student on my own. I learn from you how to make important decisions right in a short period of time. You all are so different and so great at the same time. I learn how to deliver to you the best education you can have to achieve the main goal in our professional life, which is to help our patients to be healthy.

I do believe that each of us wants to see a doctor who exceeded in their achievements and keep exceeding through their lives.

You do not even realize how great every one of you is and what a precious professional you are about to be."

DR. MOHAMED IBRAHIM



Tell me and I forget. Teach me and I remember. Involve me and I learn.
Benjamin Franklin

I am the Associate Professor of Endodontics, I work with the students in the capacity of the Director of the Predoctoral Endodontics. I am the course director of the introduction to endodontics course which involves the preclinical training part that exposes the students to the art and science of endodontics. The second course is related to clinical endodontics procedures which deals with clinical tips and tricks to polish the students' skills to provide the highest quality of patient care in the clinics. I also teach the endodontic part in multiple other courses. I also teach and supervise the grad endo residents.

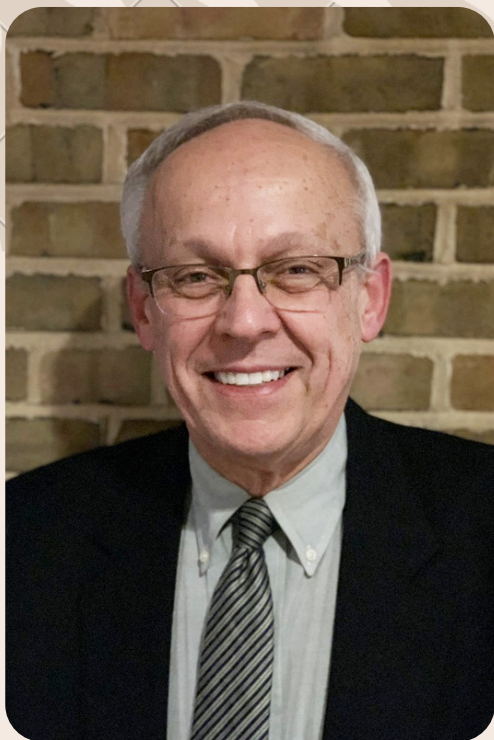
The biggest lesson I learned from working with students is to believe in them, that education is not a one size-fits-all experience. All students have different needs and abilities; they learn in their own way and in their own space. My goal is to identify these differences from the start and determine different learning styles of my students and develop different teaching strategies to fit their needs and skill levels.

ENDODONTIST

I recognize that my students bring unique strengths to the classroom, and I see my role as designing a pathway for each of them to succeed. I strive to create the most fitting path for my students to ensure their success in dental school and beyond.

I do believe that all students are created equally but differently. Every student wants to succeed, so failure is not an option. It is my total responsibility to guide, instruct and monitor their paths to the right way during their journey to achieve their goals. Not only developing the best teaching modality is important, but also developing innovative methods for assessments. Assessment is an essential component of the teaching and learning cycle. During and after each course, I ask myself three questions: How many students met the learning outcomes? Should I provide an additional explanation or opportunity? How can I modify the presentation of the material? Effective assessment of learning enables the educator to monitor student learning throughout the course and gives the ability to make necessary adjustments to improve learning.

DR. CHRISTOPHER DIX



One thing that has never ceased to amaze me is that the most unexpected and rewarding change can occur in the most unexpected way as a result of the most unexpected series of events. Late in 1996, I found out, quite by accident, the building I leased and where I practiced dentistry for nineteen years was scheduled to be demolished. The end result of the next eleven tumultuous and stressful months was my own new building having multiple tenants including new space for my continued dental practice. In 2008 I began part-time at the dental school resulting from my daughter's request, then a new undergrad freshman starting a summer Organic Chemistry course. Her reasoning: I could "Take her to Lunch" on Fridays. In 2016 one of my sons left a position at a company where it became clear he would not be promoted despite his wealth of personal knowledge and MBA background. Traits his employer simply did not value; ignoring the multiple positive contributions he had made toward the company's success. As a result, I had the opportunity to interact with him pursuing his passion for automotive innovation learning more about him and his unique qualities as a person.

GROUP LEADER

In May 2010, I became a Group Leader in Clinic C, replacing Dr. Richard Hagner. As a Part-time Faculty for two years prior to that, I had become comfortable working with students giving them practical clinical direction for patient care. As a Group Leader my role expanded to being responsible for tracking the clinical progress for my ten students from each class and many of their peers; all completing their formal progress towards their professional careers. One of the biggest challenges I face is having students appreciate the Global Picture in treatment planning and patient care. Most students are so intensely focused on performing specific treatment they often minimize the need to pre-plan the patient's situation on a comprehensive scale. Students are often so focused on performing the awesome procedures we "can" do in dentistry; they lose track of the planning required to answer whether we "should" provide a given treatment for a particular patient. The most important experience I've had as a Group Leader working with students is; no matter the student's background at the start of their dental education, virtually all navigate this educational journey successfully. They just progress at different rates but each one achieves a solid clinical background driven by self awareness and self-evaluation.

Respectfully,
Dr. Christopher Dix