Dean’s Message

This issue of The College of Dental Medicine Bridge is dedicated to the Class of 2013. As the Inaugural Class, you will automatically hold a place in the history of the College of Dental Medicine. Thanks to your pioneering spirit and enduring contributions, your legacy will include a culture of student engagement and commitment to the College’s Vision and Mission. It is fitting that this issue is crafted using your own words and thoughts alongside the reflections of the founding faculty and staff.

Many of you arrived at our door as traditional students while others came from previous occupations such as teachers, a USN rescue swimmer, police officer, musician and professional dog handler. Even though you came from a variety of backgrounds, you quickly became a cohesive class. The memories you hold in common include the early days in the temporary facility of “CDM East,” your first patient care experiences and a perennial favorite among students – your first administration of local anesthetic.

From the very outset, you have been intrepid pioneers. You have provided constructive feedback and positive suggestions that helped improve the curriculum for those who will follow in your footsteps. At every step and with every turn, you have also helped to craft a culture of student involvement and engagement.

You have established chapters of ASDA, AAWD, ADEA and conducted a very successful Ethics Week. Not content with just establishing these organizations, you have been fully engaged in our Vision to become a premier dental education program. This can be readily seen in your accomplishments: two years as a Gold Crown ASDA Chapter, the election of CDM students to regional and national offices, hosting regional meetings, ADEA Chapter awards, and the inaugural AAWD chapter in a California dental school. Those are outstanding achievements for established schools, let alone one of the newest dental schools in the nation.

You have also supported our Mission through very tangible and essential contributions of your precious time and newly acquired skills. Collectively, you spent thousands of hours contributing to service projects such as Special Smiles, LA Cares, dozens of health fairs, and establishing the dental clinic of the Riverside Student-Run Clinic. Your dedication to providing care for those in need is a concrete demonstration that you live the core values of Western University and the College.

On behalf of the entire faculty, staff and administration, please accept our sincere thanks for your contributions to the Western University of Health Sciences College of Dental Medicine. You should be justifiably proud of the spirit and culture that you leave as a legacy to the College.

Steven W. Friedrichsen, DDS
Dean, College of Dental Medicine
Hopefully, Othman, Dr. G and I will open a combined practice.

**Nikki Ahrendson**
Memorable Moment: Playing dodgeball and kickball with my classmates.
Future Plans: General Practice Residency in NYC, wherever the wind blows me after that.

**Farnaz Amini**
Memorable Moment: In an offsite free clinic I recall making a 60 yr old homeless man dentures. He was terrified of the dentist but was ready for the planned treatment. After delivery the dentures, I handed him a mirror; he then shook my gloved hand with both of his, smiled with eyes full of tears and said, “You have no idea! I can now apply for a job!”

**Khan Askarzoi**
Memorable Moment: The most memorable moment with the COM was when I delivered my 6 anterior veneers to my patient. To see her joy was a phenomenal experience I will always remember.
Future Plans: Work in Temecula or move out of state to start working as an associate.

**Kareen Balian**
Memorable Moment: Our white coat ceremony, because I shared it with both my parents.
Future Plans: I plan to begin my own dental practice in Southern California.

**Josh Carpenter**
Memorable Moment: The first day of clinic was pretty memorable. My first patient experience was a tooth #12 MOD Composite. I was so nervous that I stabbed my patient in the lip with the syringe!
Future Plans: I will be serving as a dentist in the United States Army. I have been selected and will attend one of their AEGD programs.

**Ann Dokoupi**
Memorable Moment: Every dentist recalls the first time they gave an injection and I’m no different. I will never forget my first Inferior Alveolar Nerve block and the look on my friend’s face as she felt my needle “sound bone.” Even more memorable however, is the time eggs began falling out of a patient’s pockets and onto the floor, making it a very interesting and comedic extraction.
Future Plans: I plan to partner up and open a private practice in the very near future.

**Soo Chang**
Memorable Moment: Our White Coat ceremony.
Future Plans: I will be heading into Advanced Prosthodontics residency program at UCLA School of Dentistry.

**William Chiueh**
Memorable Moment: My most memorable moment with the College of Dental Medicine was the ASDA kickball tournament. It was an event that brought many members of COM together for a day of carefree fun and exercise. Plus, it was fun seeing everybody dressed casually for once and having a good time.
Future Plans: I am going into a General Practice Residency at Harbor-UCLA Medical Center. Then I plan to either pursue a specialty or work as an associate as I prepare to open my own practice.

**Debra Church**
Memorable Moment: CSL fourth year student rotations.
Future Plans: Army AEGD

**Michael Ciccarelli**
Memorable Moment: The first session in the simulation laboratory.
Future Plans: The plans are to work in a private practice.

**Chris Dudzik**
Memorable Moment: My most memorable moment was providing care at the Toyable Indian Health Clinic in Bishop, CA. It was a unique opportunity to work in a community clinic where all procedures were free to Native American patients. It allowed me to experience a wide range of procedures, including work with children under oral and nitrous sedation as well as with adults doing Cerec Crowns. Working at this clinic allowed me to visit Mammoth, CA and go hiking on many trails in the area.
Future Plans: I plan work as an Associate in California for the next couple years gaining real world experience and learning from both the positives and negatives. After 3-5 years of being an associate, I plan to own a dental practice and combine my passion of business and the health profession.

**Ahmad Eltejaye**
Memorable Moment: I’m not sure I can come up with one single moment, but rather the entire four years have been memorable thanks to the great faculty, administrative staff, patient care staff, and my classmates at WUCDM.
Future Plans: Complete a general practice residency program and

**Chad Gage**
Memorable Moment: Walking into the Dental Care Center for the first time.
Future Plans: Complete a post-graduate specialty program in Orthodontics and a Doctorate of Health Education at A.T. Still University, Arizona Campus.
Announcements: We’re expecting a baby girl due 2 weeks after graduation!

**Harsirat Gondora**
Memorable Moment: The memorable times in my life vary from being the best times in my life and some being the worst. The best day of my life was definitely the day when I joined Western U Dental School. This day is one of the most memorable because of the feelings I had from the opportunities that were opened up for growth in so many areas of my life. The worst times is the feeling of being away from my kids and husband. Either way these times have become milestones that will be remembered forever.
Future Plans: I am excited to find a full-time associate position and I plan to stay involved professionally in many ways as I can.

**Angela Hastings**
Memorable Moment: Putting together a Kickball team made of 2013s and 2014s for a local kickball league during the end of our second year, resulting in winning our way to the championship game was very memorable for me. Not only was it a nice break from studying for NBDE part 1, but also a great interprofessional experience both Dr. Rudik and Dr. Yvonn made guest appearances on our team. Go THUNDER POUNDER!!
Future Plans: I’m moving back to Minnesota to work part-time at Children’s Dental Services (an FQHC) and part-time as an associate in a private practice. I also plan on earning a postgraduate Certificate in Contemporary Restorative and Esthetic Dentistry from the University of Minnesota over the next year.

**Marjan Hessamian**
Memorable Moment: The day I gave my first local anesthesia injection on a patient, my hand was so shaky that I literally had to reach over with my other hand to stabilize it!
Future Plans: I plan to build a career in private practice. I hope to start out as an associate for a senior dentist in order to further develop my clinical skills and eventually open my own practice.
Elmer Hilo
Memorable Moment: The most memorable moment at the College of Dental Medicine is during our dance at the banquet at the end of our first year. We gave Randall a Michael Jackson solo, in which to this day, Randall still cannot perform the dance correctly. The dance is supposed to represent an eagle, but to Randy, looks like he’s taking out the rug.

Future Plans: Attend UCLA’s AEGD Program with possibility of entering a specialty field. I also plan to work with Dr. Martinez in organizing community clinics and eventually help organize my father’s private practice. I would like to keep in touch with SRIC Riverside and other community clinics.

Announcements: I hope to find a wife some day.

Lily Hoang
Memorable Moment: I can’t just pinpoint one memorable moment but two memories really stick out. One is when I danced to Beyoncé’s “Single Ladies” during the 2nd year banquet. The other one occurred after a long night of studying. Tammy and I came back to our apartment after trying to memorize every muscle there is, and what did we find at our door? Trash and dead roses. Of course we were super confused, asking ourselves who would leave such things at our door. And the next day we found out the culprit — lo and behold it was Michael Ortega!

Future Plans: Planning a 2014 wedding while attending AEGD program at Lutheran Medical Center in Brooklyn, NY and then working as an associate for a couple of years where we started.

Tea Hoang
Memorable Moment: My most memorable moment was my first time being in the dental clinic at PCC. I was so worried about my first encounter with the patient in the clinic that I couldn’t sleep the day before. I remembered I was very nervous, anxious, and worried to see my first patient. I had butterflies in my stomach, sweat on my palms, and my head constantly thinking of what to do. I couldn’t believe I was actually doing diagnosis and treatment on a real patient for the first time.

Future Plans: My first plan after graduation is to find a job and pay off my big chunk of loan. But for future plans, I wanted to practice in a family oriented office and learn everything that I haven’t had a chance to learn in school. Hopefully, I gain enough experiences and down the road I hope to open my own practice.

Announcements: I wanted to take this opportunity to thank my wonderful family for all of their support throughout my education at WesternU. A big shout out to my dad up above “I did it Daddy! I kept my promise to you. I hope you’re proud of me above. We miss you and love you very much.” Also a special thank to all the friends that made this journey of mine very meaningful, full of excitement and adventurous. Cheeeeeeerrios!!!!!

Tammy Huang
Memorable Moment: My most memorable moment was seeing my first patient at DCC.

Future Plans: My future plans include working at a community clinic serving the underserved population, going on medical/dental mission in other countries and promoting public health dentistry.

George Ibrahim
Memorable Moment: Most memorable moment is the first day I walked into clinic and saw my first patient. It was on that day that I felt all my hard work during my pre-clinical years finally begin to pay off.

Future Plans: After I graduate dental school, I plan on working as a general dentist in the LA area.

Jonathan Kahn
Memorable Moment: My most memorable moment with the CDM was the first day of patient care in the PCC.

Future Plans: Next year I will be completing an AEGD in Los Angeles. Following my AEGD, I am not sure where I will head next.

Announcements: My wife and I just had our first child in January 2013.

Gagandeep Kandola
Memorable Moment: My most memorable moment was the first day of orientation week that’s when we all met for the first time.

Future Plans: My future plan is to work and own a practice.

Nicholas Khoury
Memorable Moment: Learning how to properly anesthetize on my classmate

Future Plans: Owning a successful dental practice.

Charles Kim
Memorable Moment: How much CDM is in love with giving us PIZZA for every meal.

Future Plans: Finding a job and getting married!

Announcements: Congrats to everyone! It’s been a crazy 4 years.

Michelle Meador
Memorable Moment: ASDA kick ball tournament in 2012. It was a memorable moment of classmate bonding!

Future Plans: I am planning to open a private practice in San Francisco, Marin County where my friends, mentors, and family have lived for more than 10 years. My future plan is to open a dental health practice, and someday I would like to have a dental corporation to provide services in different locations. At age 60, I would like to travel to other places in the world such as Nepal to provide dental care and introduce the importance of oral hygiene.

Sora Ellen Moon
Memorable Moment: The most memorable moment with the CDM is SGA funded DMD BBQ.

Future Plans: Working as an associate.

Victoria Mouradian
Memorable Moment: Our first CDM BBQ safe we had on campus. Everyone in the CDM family came and supported our event.

Future Plans: Go back as an Associate Dentist to the private practice that I worked for 10 years before starting dental school.

Emilyann Nguyen
Memorable Moment: My most memorable moment was having to give a greater palatine (painful) injection to a patient on our very first meeting.

Future Plans: I plan to work in private practice as an associate for a couple of years and then start up a new dental practice soon after.

Anamaria Muresan
Memorable Moment: My early memorable moments were my 1st and 2nd year trips to Trona Elementary School of San Bernardino County. We were able to bring free dental services to children in rural desert communities. To my surprise, some of the kids did not have a TV nor heard about Disneyland. It was a memorable experience to see how much we have helped the children in these communities.

The next memorable moment was the time of my illness, when I was compelled to recognize that I live not alone but surrounded by special kind, supportive people. They taught me that there are many places to stop along the way and get nourishment – I just have to be willing to stop and feed my faith in order to starve my fears.

Future Plans: Practice General Dentistry.

Ian Murray
Memorable Moment: My most memorable moment was the first day I sat down with a patient in the PCC.

Future Plans: After graduation I will be heading back to San Diego to work as an associate in a private office.

Brian Nguyen
Memorable Moment: CDM East. Those that lived it know what I’m talking about. Before the HEC building and PCC clinic were complete, CDM East was a center where we had lecture, simulation clinic, and could even do a little shopping… all in the same building! The PCC was a huge upgrade from where we started.

Future Plans: I plan to work right after graduation and possibly start a private practice in the near future.

Announcements: Planning on getting marry in a year or so.

Emilyann Nguyen
Memorable Moment: My most memorable moment was having to give a greater palatine (painful) injection to a patient on our very first meeting.

Future Plans: I plan to work in private practice as an associate for a couple of years and then start up a new dental practice soon after.
Paul Nguyen
Memorable Moment: There were many, but the most memorable moment had to be when Randall Sagisi was pranked into believing that he was going to receive a special award from the Dean for achieving the highest NBDE I score in the class. He was convinced to the point that he actually worried about what he should wear in order to look presentable during the “special award ceremony” that was to be held in his honor. That’s our friend Randy.

Future Plans: My future plans are undecided at the moment, but they include working at a Federally Qualified Health Center, working in a group practice, or performing dentistry at a community clinic.

Kyle Nishimura
Memorable Moment: When we would go off campus to our temporary simulation clinic, which was conveniently located in a mall. I remember when CDM had only a handful of faculty and to see how much it’s grown in just four short years is nothing short from amazing!

Future Plans: I hope to find a job as an associate in a private practice and further my experience in general dentistry. I’m open to going to our dental practice with my wife. Second, find ways to get involved with local organizations and to see how much it’s grown in just four short years is nothing short from amazing!

Michael Ortega
Memorable Moment: When Dr. Henson called me right after my interview for an acceptance. Performing a dance routine with my colleagues during the annual banquets. Endodontic competency with Dr. Katib :) Future Plans: Take my sons to Legoland and hopefully paying off all my loans.

Rachel Paik
Memorable Moment: When our class took a moment of silence to pray for Anamaria’s health.

Future Plans: 1 year AEGD residency at the University of the Pacific.

Neena Patel
Memorable Moment: I will never forget our White Coat ceremony – everyone’s eyes full of excitement and big smiles. It was one of the most proud days for my parents and a day to celebrate my achievements.

Future Plans: Apart from working part-time in different dental clinics, I plan to volunteer in a clinic that provides dental care for the underserved communities at least once a week.

Announcements: Congratulations to my brother, Nadir Patel, and sister-in-law, Zena Patel, on your wedding! A big heartfelt Thank You to my loving parents, Nizar and Julie Patel, my brother, Nadir Patel, and my love, Shehzad Huda, for supporting me throughout my life!

Erik Pleitez
Memorable Moment: The White Coat ceremony was the most memorable moment with the College of Dental Medicine. My family was proud of me since I am the first of my family to have a bachelors degree and pursing a doctoral degree. After countless hours of hard work, my dream had become a reality. Now, I am closer to the finish line by the grace of God !!!!

Future Plans: There are many plans in my mind. First, I will start working ASAP at our dental practice with my wife. Second, find ways to get involved with local organizations on how I can provide basic dental needs for my community in conjunction with local organizations and WesternU CDM. Finally, continue the story of the good Samaritan in every person that I care for, ministering each life with faith, love and hope.

Krystle Rapisura
Memorable Moment: Having our first Thanksgiving potluck at CDM East.

Future Plans: I will be attending NYU for pediatric dentistry!

Recently engaged December 2012 after being proposed to by “Mickey Mouse” :) Future Plans: Thank you to all the faculty and staff that have made the last four years possible.

Esther Rhee
Memorable Moment: Having our first Thanksgiving Luncheon together at CDM East.

Future Plans: I will be heading into oral and maxillofacial surgery residency at University of Minnesota for the next four years.

Brady Robles
Memorable Moment: Walking into class late the second day of our first year in shorts, a t-shirt and sandals with the whole class staring at me. I later found out they had just finished discussing the strictly enforced dress code before I walked in.

Future Plans: Finding a job near the beach.

Mike Saade
Memorable Moment: My fondest moment at WU-CDM was entering patient care and experiencing my first interaction with patients. The transition from simulation to the patient clinic is challenging and an experience I will never forget. My patient was calm and showed trust in my work. She was impressed and even asked me “how long have you been doing this?” It was a great beginning to my career and the encouragement I needed to succeed.

Future Plans: I am currently in my last year of the U.S. Navy Health Professions Scholarship Program. My plans include attending a one year Advanced Education General Dentistry Program at the U.S. Navy Hospital in San Diego, California. Once completed, I will work as a general dentist in the U.S Navy for four years as part of my scholarship commitment.

Randall Sagisi
Memorable Moment: The day I supposedly got a 94 on my Boards – top of the class for a day.

Future Plans: Possibly attend a GPR program then work in California or Hawaii.

Memorable Moment: Doing my first restoration, which was on my daughter.

Future Plans: I’m buying a practice in Washington State.

Announcements: Thank you to all the faculty and staff that have made the last four years possible.

Othman Siilamassi
Memorable Moment: Welcome week when I met all of my wonderful classmates and faculty

Future Plans: To become a very good general practitioner

Announcements: I would like to thank my family, my teachers and friends for making dental school a great experience for me

Ryan Simarro
Memorable Moment: My most memorable moments were going through each day with my classmates - knowing that they were going through the same experiences that I was, and has helped me get through each day.

Future Plans: I have accepted a job offer as an associate for a private practice in my home town in the Bay Area.

Luisa Snyder
Memorable Moment: A very special moment in dental school was when I entered the Simulation Clinic for the first time. I will never forget how it felt to be next to all my peers, getting familiar with the new equipment. These experiences are something I will always remember.

Future Plans: My husband, Nathan and I were accepted into the VA Greater Los Angeles General Practice Residency. We are very excited about graduating and are looking forward to beginning a new chapter in our lives. We are very grateful for all the support we have received during our dental school journey and during our residency application.
Memorable Moment: My most memorable moment must have been my first day as a dental student at WesternU. I remember walking into a classroom noticing an undertone of humming. It felt like as if I had been chosen to embark on this journey. I felt nervous, yet found ease in knowing that I had chosen to transition from my past to my future.

Future Plans: My future plans are to embrace the future. I want to be a lifelong learner and live life to the fullest. Dentistry is not only my profession but a passion that I chose to follow. I look forward to the many challenges and welcome them with open arms. Nothing worth achieving ever comes easy and I look to the future with sights of opportunity.

Announcements: I want to say thank you to my loving family. They have always been there for me and continue to support me every step of the way. To my wonderful mother, my amazing father and my incredible big brother - thank you for everything!

Stansilav Spasov
Memorable Moment: Orientation week and our initial welcome to the profession was a very memorable moment for many of us. In fact, it only seemed like yesterday when I got to meet my wonderful classmates and faculty.

Future Plans: Following graduation, balance life and continue my education as an associate. My goal is to eventually develop and maintain multiple dental practices within Southern California, while being involved in the public health arena community dentistry.

Announcements: Congratulations to my future colleagues. Commencement will bring forth an exciting stage in our lives after a hard fought four years.

Susan Taunton
Memorable Moment: My most memorable moment is the first time I picked up a handpiece and stepped on the pedal. It was the first moment of “Oh wow, I’m really in dental school and I’m really going to be a dentist.” We were using practice blocks with different shapes to work on our hand skills. I remember how hard it was for us to do a nice, smooth circle that first day. We’d all be pros now!

Future Plans: I am going to do a General Practice Residency in Asheville, NC and then head home to LaGrange, GA to practice. My plan is to be an associate for a few years and then buy the practice when the owner retires.

Oualid Tellissi
Memorable Moment: I have a few memorable moments with the College of Dental Medicine. First was receiving a phone call that I have been accepted, second was finishing my first root canal, and undoubtedly my most memorable moment will be when I pass the WREB exam and walk the stage on May, 15th 2013 to receive my DMD degree.

Future Plans: Open up my own dental practice and spend more quality time with my family.

Phung Tran
Memorable Moment: White Coat Ceremony
Future Plans: Private practice in Northern California

John Truong
Memorable Moment: My most memorable moment with the College of Dental Medicine was the first day of school when I realized that I was going to become a dentist in 4 years.

Future Plans: My future plan is to work for a dental practice for a few years where I will learn and understand the in and outs of dentistry. Eventually, I will have kids, my own practice, a home, and pay back all my loans. I have no idea in what order I will be able to do this.

Hasiang-hsin Tseng
Memorable Moment: The end of year party at the VFW after we finished 1st year dental school

Future Plans: Looking for an associate position with possibility of becoming owner in the near future. In the far future, maybe coming back to teach at Western U?

Jeffrey Tulett
Memorable Moment: Being in the inaugural class has provided for many memorable moments some not as good as others but memorable nonetheless. Something I’ll never forget is traveling to CDIM East for ECD. I remember getting our medical bags and having to do hearing, eye and cranial nerve, etc exams on each other. The end of year party after we finished first year was really special. That’s something I won’t forget. Best memory… getting into the clinic and treating patients and putting to good use everything we had learned.

Future Plans: I’m currently deciding whether or not to buy a practice right away or work as an associate first and then buy. I currently have opportunities for both. I will be leaving California and going back north to either Washington or Northern Virginia.

Announcements: In April I will become the proud father of our third child, a boy.

Dominick Ventresca
Memorable Moment: At the UCSF free clinic site: Samit, Phung, and I played a practical joke on Dr. Martinez. We had Phung hide in a box, then we asked Dr. M for help loading the box. When Dr. M got close, Phung jumped out of the box and everyone got a good laugh. The challenges and rewards that we felt at those first few clinical encounters out in the field is something I hope to always remember.

Future Plans: Find a job as an associate and continue learning in the profession.

Announcements: Thank you to all the students, faculty, friends, and advisors who helped me along the way through school.

Andrew Vu
Memorable Moment: The first time I had to administer anesthetic on my fellow classmates.

Future Plans: I plan to work in private practice.

Announcements: I’m getting married in June 2013.

Eric Walters
Memorable Moment: Participating in CareNow Los Angeles was an unforgettable experience.

Future Plans: I will be completing an AEGD residency in sunny Santa Barbara, CA!

Minh Truong
Memorable Moment: At the beginning of my interview into Western, I was interviewed by Dr. Andrews and Dr. Trombley. Both of them had already taken their seats. I was staring down at which chair to sit. Dr. Trombley smiles and asks, “which one do you choose?” I looked up, smiled, and referenced the Matrix movie. I said, “I choose the red pill.” The red pill is the one that reveals the truth. There was an awkward silence….

Future Plans: To have my money work for me while I travel the world

Announcements:

Nathan Snyder
Memorable Moment: During my time at dental school I have had many memorable moments. I can remember when we first started working with our typodonts in the Indian Hill building before the simulation clinic was built. It seems like yesterday that we were getting our white coats, and now we are in the dental clinic working on patients. I am looking forward to the future, but I will always remember the great times I had at WesternU.

Future Plans: My wife, Luisa and I were accepted into the VA Greater Los Angeles General Practice Residency.

Henry Sobol
Memorable Moment: My most memorable moment has always been there for me and continue to support me every step of the way. To my wonderful mother, my amazing father and my incredible big brother - thank you for everything!

Future Plans: My future plans are to embrace the future. I want to be a lifelong learner and live life to the fullest. Dentistry is not only my profession but a passion that I chose to follow. I look forward to the many challenges and welcome them with open arms. Nothing worth achieving ever comes easy and I look to the future with sights of opportunity.

Announcements: I want to say thank you to my loving family. They have always been there for me and continue to support me every step of the way. To my wonderful mother, my amazing father and my incredible big brother - thank you for everything!

Stansilav Spasov
Memorable Moment: Orientation week and our initial welcome to the profession was a very memorable moment for many of us. In fact, it only seemed like yesterday when I got to meet my wonderful classmates and faculty.

Future Plans: Following graduation, balance life and continue my education as an associate. My goal is to eventually develop and maintain multiple dental practices within Southern California, while being involved in the public health arena community dentistry.

Announcements: Congratulations to my future colleagues. Commencement will bring forth an exciting stage in our lives after a hard fought four years.
Advice to Inaugural Class: Treasure your friends who you have made while here at WU and keep connected with them. It is easy to get caught up in your daily life and those few moments by phone, email, or Facebook will be refreshing and reinvigorating. The little things in life can bring much pleasure to you!

Announcements: I would love for the students to keep in touch and remember that we will be here for them in the future. It was a pleasure of planning the banquet with Charles Kim, Kristy Rapisura, and Michael Ortega. So much had happened during the year, it was great to plan an evening of celebration that commemorated the completion of the inaugural classes first year of dental school. That night everyone was happy and optimistic about the next three years.

Advice to Inaugural Class: Seek opportunity wherever it can be found. Don’t let uncertainty and unfamiliarity scare you.

Advice to Inaugural Class: Never stop learning. There is so much that you and I don’t know yet: new things to be discovered new techniques to master new mountains to climb. It is a great time to be a dentist. I hope that in ten years, none of you will be doing things the same way you are doing them now. And stay ethical!

Advice to Inaugural Class: Be humble and give back to the community.

Advice to Inaugural Class: Treasure your friends who you have made while here at WU and keep connected with them. It is easy to get caught up in your daily life and those few moments by phone, email, or Facebook will be refreshing and reinvigorating. The little things in life can bring much pleasure to you!

Advice to Inaugural Class: Never stop learning. There is so much that you and I don’t know yet: new things to be discovered new techniques to master new mountains to climb. It is a great time to be a dentist. I hope that in ten years, none of you will be doing things the same way you are doing them now. And stay ethical!

Advice to Inaugural Class: Be humble and give back to the community.

Advice to Inaugural Class: Never stop learning. There is so much that you and I don’t know yet: new things to be discovered new techniques to master new mountains to climb. It is a great time to be a dentist. I hope that in ten years, none of you will be doing things the same way you are doing them now. And stay ethical!

Advice to Inaugural Class: Be humble and give back to the community.

Advice to Inaugural Class: Treasure your friends who you have made while here at WU and keep connected with them. It is easy to get caught up in your daily life and those few moments by phone, email, or Facebook will be refreshing and reinvigorating. The little things in life can bring much pleasure to you!

Advice to Inaugural Class: Never stop learning. There is so much that you and I don’t know yet: new things to be discovered new techniques to master new mountains to climb. It is a great time to be a dentist. I hope that in ten years, none of you will be doing things the same way you are doing them now. And stay ethical!

Advice to Inaugural Class: Be humble and give back to the community.
Scholarship Donors Celebrate Student Achievement

Scholarships that recognize student achievement are a celebrated component of the College of Dental Medicine giving program. Nowhere is this more evident than at special events held throughout the year, where recipients are able to meet and thank the donors. One such event is the East West Scholarship Dinner, held this year on April 13, 2013. There, benefactors Kon Leung, DDS and Josephine Yeong met three impressive CDM students and reflected on their commitment.

“We were very impressed by previous dinners that we attended, and by the generosity of the scholarship donors. That inspired us to establish our own scholarship fund. It is important to let students know that they have support from the community, that we value their academic accomplishment and want them to succeed,” said Dr. Leung.

Dr. Leung, a practicing dentist in Glendale, California, and a part-time faculty member at the College of Dental Medicine, and Josephine Yeong, a businesswoman, befriended the college early on. “When Dr. Pumerantz described his vision for the new college and patient care center a few years ago, we could see ourselves involved somehow. This scholarship is one way we can help,” said Ms. Yeong.

The Clinical Excellence Scholarship, which is awarded to promising second and third year student dentists who have demonstrated aptitude in clinical dentistry and patient care, joins the small but growing list of funds donated specifically to provide student support. Scholarships are crucial to the College of Dental Medicine, as they assure our ability to attract promising students to the profession by defraying some of the cost of high quality dental education, according to Dean Steven W. Friedrichsen.

Inaugural Donors Help Steer Course to Success

Thanks to these generous donors who have contributed to the success of the College of Dental Medicine. A full listing will appear in a future issue of The Bridge. For information on ways you may give, please contact the CDM Development Office at 909-706-3456 or dcolly@westernu.edu

Acadental Inc.
A-dec Inc.
Elizabeth Andrews, DDS, MS
Bruno Azevedo, DDS, MS
Jasmine Barga
Mr. C.M. Brahmbhatt
Brett D. Naylor, DDS, PA
Jerry M. Butto, DO ’95 and Cynthia Butto
California Dental Association
California Society of Pediatric Dentistry
Hubert K. Chan, DDS
Anonymous
Joori Cho, DDS
Sam Cho, DDS
Gary and Sharon Church
Mike and Connie Clawson
Colgate-Palmolive Company
Desiree A. Colly
Columbia Dental Clinic, LLC
Columbia Dentiform Corp
Tony Daher, DDS, MSED, FACP
Dental Health Foundation
Dentsply North America
Sandra Farah-Francisco, DDS
Diana Folmbee, DDS
Steven Friedrichsen, DDS and Susan Friedrichsen
Brent Fung, DDS
G. Hartzell & Sons
Glidewell Laboratories
Debbie Hartman, RDHAP
Darrell and Carla Haskin
Henry Schein, Inc.
Bradley S. Henson, DDS, PhD
Jamshid and Shari’S Hessamian
Khang Hoang, DO ’89 and Phuoc Hoang
Josh Hostetler, MSW
Johnson & Johnson
Gary R. Johnston, DVM, MS & Shirley Johnston, DVM, PhD
Sharon Kasper
Mary Ann Keck
James J. Koebel, DDS, MS, MJ and Joan Sandell, DMD
Cynthia Kudlik, DDS
David Lazarchik, DMD
Veronica Lozano, RDAEF, BS
Timothy S. Martinez, DMD
Dan McClendon
John T. McGwire, DDS and Ginger McGuire
Gail McKenzie
Krishan Mittal, MDS
Rosemary Morehen, MS
Dr. Allen Murray
Long Nguyen
Northwest Endodontics, PC
OnDemand 3D Technology, Inc.
John Ozbardakci, DDS
Pacific Dental Services
Patterson Foundation
Yawen Peng, DMD
Mr. Andrew Rhee
Bruce Schutte, DDS
Kevin & Renette Shaw
Sirosa Dental System, LLC
Monty Selin Supreno, DDS
The Ahmanson Foundation
The Dentists Insurance Company
The Medical Protective Company
Jenny Sun Tjahjono, DMD
Mr. Chuong Tran
Viade Products, Inc.
Mr. Thai Vu
Patricia Walker
Vicki Wedel, PhD