Dean’s Message

There was frequent attention to and enthusiastic celebration surrounding the graduation of the inaugural class in May of 2013. With all the attentiveness paid to our first graduating class and a full family of classes in all four years of the program, the DMD 2014 students are in many ways comparable to the middle child in the family.

According to The Secret Power of Middle Children by Dr. Catherine Salmon and Katrine Schumann, “middleborns” have many strong assets that are often overlooked. They tend to make friends more easily, demonstrate stable relationships, are skilled mediators and channel their energy to rise above and beyond.

As we look back, the Class of 2014 have definitively shaped the culture of the College through their active engagement in a wide variety of projects, groups and events. It is obvious from the accomplishments of the DMD Class of 2014 that they are definitely rising above and beyond. A small sampling of their accomplishments includes:

Organized the Oral Surgery Interest Group (Pasha Mostowfi); Started the ADEA Student Group and developed the DMD Pre-Applicant Prep Program (Pasha Mostowfi, Scott Peterson, Mojdeh Roboubi and Nissa Ophaso); Initiated the college’s first Greek organization, Delta Sigma Delta (Michael Sychrava, Lawrence Ebel, Patrick Vuong and Pasha Mostowfi); Supported the CDM Dental Camp aimed at introducing dental careers to elementary and junior high school students (Wade Banner); Student Coordinator for Special Olympics (Ryan McGary); Student Coordinator for Regional Center Desensitization (Tim Seo); Student Coordinator for Regional Center Screenings (Wade Banner); Student Coordinator for Desert Friends of the Developmentally Disabled (Kendall Saffner); First 5 LA OHN Project: Assisted Dr. Watanabe with the School Based Oral Health Center Operations Manual and startup of equipment ordering and inventory at the Durfee School Based Oral Health Center (Samuel Lee); Initiated and opened the doors of the College of Dental Medicine to International Externships and Exchanges (Pasha Mostowfi and Mojdeh Roboubi); Helped their Girl Scout troop sell $4,000 worth of cookies (AAWD); Created “Why Choose WU” and multiple videos used by the College (Josh Pham); Soroptimist Health professions scholarship 2013 and the Girl scouts Appreciation Pin, in recognition of her outstanding contributions to Girl Scouts of Greater Los Angeles (Allison Baylis); ADEA Colgate Preventive Scholarship (Samuel Lee); 2011 California Dental Association Foundation Latino Dental Career Scholarship (Javier De La Cruz); Established the Student Research Group that evolved to become the student chapter of the AADR (Melissa Khrusasany); First CDM student researcher to be an author on a research publication (Melissa Khrusasany).

As can be seen, the Class of 2014 has established a remarkable track record of success and accomplishments. The Class of 2014 is well prepared to become “the best class ever” when they graduate on May 14, 2014. Good luck to everyone.

Steven W. Friedrichsen, DDS
Dean, College of Dental Medicine
Graduate Profiles

Nader Abu-Seraj
Memorable Moment: My most memorable moment at the College of Dental Medicine was during my 4th year in clinic. A 4-year-old patient stopped me while I was performing a comprehensive oral exam and asked me why I had a big nose. I tried hard not to laugh and simply answered her because I was older, and that she too will have a big nose one day!

Maryam Afifi
Memorable Moment: Busy days…long nights…Where is the beach? Are we there yet?
Future Plans: I plan to practice general dentistry in the Los Angeles area. My future plans are to pursue academic research.
Announcements: “Thank you mom for your relentless support and patience. I finally see the light at the end of the tunnel!”
I would like to give special thanks to Dr. Henson, Dr. Tjahjono, and Dr. Hong for upholding the highest standards of professionalism and integrity. You always made me feel welcome. Thank you!

Antonio Alfonso
Memorable Moment: My most memorable moment will be graduation day. It will be the moment when I have fulfilled and accomplished my promise to my late sister dentist who passed away in 2008 to cancer. It will also be a day that I know will make my parents very happy and very proud. At the same time it will be a sad moment because I will greatly miss my many dear and wonderful friends that I have made at WesternU: students, faculty and staff.
Future Plans: My plan after graduation is to work in private practice; part time as an associate for a personal friend dentist who will mentor me and part time as the owner dentist at my sister’s dental office. Most importantly, I plan to do part time ministry at my church and be involved in dental missionary and charitable projects.
Announcements: My deepest gratitude and thanks to the exceptional and brilliant faculty and staff at WesternU. May WesternU continue to grow and advance to be among the finest dental institutions in the world. To the class of 2014, congratulations and best wishes to your bright futures! I will miss you all very much!

Wade Banner
Memorable Moment: I’ve enjoyed working with the Special Needs patients in the clinic and community. One of my favorite patients always made me laugh — he had the loudest laugh and a yawn that could be heard clear across the clinic floor. He would say hi to everyone that passed by. He made clinic that much more enjoyable.
Future Plans: Work as an associate for a couple years before opening up a private practice. Later, I would like to open up a larger group practice with multiple dentists and specialists.

Joseph Barker
Memorable Moment: My most memorable moment, undoubtedly, was receiving an injection of local anesthetic from a classmate who had never given an injection. As he raised his hand to deliver the anesthetic, I could see his entire arm shaking, but I hoped that his preparation would allow for a painless experience. It did not.
Future Plans: My wife and I will be moving back to our hometown in central Washington upon graduation. I have accepted a job as an associate in a private practice and look forward to serving the community in which I was raised.

Allison Baylis
Memorable Moment: Working at the We Care Dental Clinic in Rancho Mirage and all of the fun we had there. Starting a Girl Scout Troop at WesternU and selling over 1400 boxes of cookies in our first cookie season.
Future Plans: I will be completing my General Practice Residency at St. Francis Hospital in Hartford, CT next year.
Elena Bedilo
Memorable Moment: Before I was a dental student I used to hate the sound of the “dental drill.” I had to get over that really quickly on the first day in simlab when all 75 handpieces were going at the same time!
Future Plans: I am looking forward to owning my own private practice.

James Bell
Memorable Moment: Coming home every night to the most amazing wife, Joni, and kids; Kaitlyn, Ella, and Andrew. Group 3’s burrito baby showers and awesome faculty. Tuan Tran’s good-morning hugs. Being around Travis Bellicchi during a full moon. Corey Pham’s free-food-finding ability. Sam Lee’s awesome magic skills. Gary McRyan, a.k.a. Spanish translator. Being friends with Karla for 4 years and never knowing her real last name. Jed Burton’s awesome nun-chuck and cooking skills. Beating Tony Alfonso for the ping pong scholarship.
Future Plans: I’d like to get a job. I have no experience but I’m a big fan of money. I like it, I use it, and I have very little of it. I keep it in a jar on top of my refrigerator. I’d like to put more in that jar. That’s where a job comes in.

Travis Bellicchi
Memorable Moment: My marriage proposal to my fiancée in Dr Henson’s lab.
Future Plans: Prosthodontic Specialty program at Indiana University with a fellowship in Maxillofacial Prosthodontics.

Maria Fatima Bisquera
Memorable Moment: All the fun times with my bests: studying, “studying,” and not studying.
Future Plans: Get married, move to Phoenix, and watch the A’s win a World Series.

Buki Boluro-Ajayi
Memorable Moment: Going out on external rotations and getting a true sense of what it’s like to practice dentistry.
Future Plans: I plan on spending time with my family and putting my license to good use.
Announcements: I would like to thank all the people who have made these past 4 years a pleasant experience for me. I thank every faculty member who selflessly taught me and saw me through every step of the way.

Shyam Brahmbhatt
Memorable Moment: Losing my mind making crown provisional for Dr.Ywom’s FPD module.
Future Plans: To stay in Southern California and develop a private practice along with providing dental care on an international level.
Announcements: Thank you to the entire faculty who have pushed me to become a better dentist, and to all the staff who worked in the clinic to make our days easier as well as helping us at our lowest moments.

Matthew Burns
Memorable Moment: My first day in clinic, I had a surprise emergency patient—a 60-something biker, complete with tattoos. He had a toothache and was telling me to, “just yank it out already!” We never did pull that tooth after all, after a lot of heated discussion with the patient and faculty. That’s when I realized there’s a lot more to dentistry than the drill in the hand.
Future Plans: Air Force AEGD in Washington D.C., using a lot of amalgam and learning how to do pushups along the way.
Announcements: Thanks to my wife Molly for all of your love and support over the past four years. I couldn’t have done it without you!

Jedediah Burton
Memorable Moment: Long nights with no sleep, studying in the HEC with Tyler, Elena, Nataliya, Cristian, and Javier sharing whatever food we all brought.
Future Plans: Find an associateship / Mentorship or a job in public health in an area where I can raise my family (my wife and 4 kids). Hopefully there will be an ocean and fishing involved somehow as well.
Tzu-fei Chang
Memorable Moment: WREB
Future Plans: Working in a private office.

Harpreet Singh Chauhan
Memorable Moment: My most memorable moment during my 4 years of dental school was placing an implant on one of my patients with Dr. Kim. This was something I was very excited to learn about and perform.
Future Plans: I plan to work in private practice in Yuba City, California. This is the city I grew up in and this would be a fantastic opportunity to give back to the community.
Announcements: The 2014 class has a unique personality with the various backgrounds of students and I am proud to graduate with all my 2014 classmates and pave the road for this new dental school. I will truly cherish the memories made here at WesternU. Cheers and congratulations!

Peter Chung
Memorable Moment: When Dr. Andrews called me with an acceptance to start Dental school in the Fall.
Future Plans: Work as an associate and open a practice soon afterwards.

Jeffrey Clawson
Memorable Moment: Witnessing the birth of my son and then rushing to the school to take the IDIT final exam the same morning.
Future Plans: Private practice baby!
Announcements: My beautiful wife just turned 31, my oldest son just turned 3, and my 8 months old twins are teething!

Javier De La Cruz
Memorable Moment: The call from Dr. Andrews on December 1st, 2009 telling me I was accepted into the program. It changed my life. But I think the memorable moment was yesterday when I finally understood how AXIUM works.
Future Plans: AEGD program in Florida.
Announcements: I would like to announce that the football world cup (the one actually played with your feet) is starting soon! Ohhh… and thank you all, it has been 4 great years.

Michael Drake
Memorable Moment: Attending ASDA National Lobby Day in Washington D.C.
Future Plans: Associate in Southern California and eventually set up my own private practice.

Kiranjot Dyal
Memorable Moment: Kickball!! Although we lost a hard battle during the WAKA league championship as the Thunder Pounders in the WAKA league, we became the first annual ASDA kickball tournament champions as “Dean-tinogenesis Perfect.” Making the shirts for our teammates with Kendall was the highlight of it all.
Future Plans: During the next school year, I will be completing my general practitioner residency at UCLA Harbor. After this I hope to move back to the Bay Area and work as an associate in private practice and, eventually travel to India to provide voluntary work for those with limited or no access to dental care.
Announcements: THANK YOU to my amazing family who have supported me since day one and were always there to push me through the tough times. I’m glad I made some awesome friends that are like family along the way and would like to wish all my classmates the best of luck in the future!

Dustin Kim and Russel Dasalla at the Community Health Fair, March 2012
**Lucas Ebaugh**  
Memorable Moment: A couple of memories: the smell of the anatomy lab. You don’t ever forget that. Also, my first patient in the DCC spoke no English and I speak very little Spanish. I believe I said “bathroom” at least 15-20 times on accident.

Future Plans: Private Practice

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**Lawrence Ebel**  
Memorable Moment: The chartering and initiation of the First Delta Sigma Delta chapter at WesternU

Future Plans: Vegas!

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**Brian Gradinger**  
Memorable Moment: Pulling all those teeth.

Future Plans: I plan on working in a private practice in the greater Los Angeles area.

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**Pamela Han**  
Memorable Moment: After years of studying Spanish from elementary school to college without achieving speaking fluency, discovering that I could converse and conduct a COE on my first patient in the clinic, primarily in Spanish.

Future Plans: UCSF General Practice Residency.

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**Danielle Hankins**  
Memorable Moment: The day we had to give each other injections. I was dreading that day from the moment I started dental school! Luckily, I had a very trusting partner, even though I’m sure my hands were shaking.

Future Plans: I will be attending the Loma Linda VA general practice residency program starting in July. From there, I hope to work in private practice somewhere in Southern California.

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**Lana Hoang**  
Memorable Moment: Giving my first injection on a classmate. I couldn’t stop shaking.

Future Plans: UCLA Venice AEGD.

Announcements: Congratulations Class of 2014!

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**Michael Hoang**  
Memorable Moment: My most memorable moment with CDM was participating in Care Harbor LA. It was a very intimidating and chaotic environment at first glance, but I was able to do my first extraction there and it’s an experience I cherish.

Future Plans: I am doing a 1 year AEGD in Downtown LA for Lutheran Medical Center. After completing that, I plan to go into private practice if the opportunity presents itself. I also want to do work in dental academia.

Announcements: I want to thank my family and friends for their continual and ongoing support during my journey through life, and through dental school. I also want to thank Drs. Tjahjono, Hong, Tram, Folmsbee, and Singh for their wonderful guidance and support throughout my dental education.

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**Melissa Khurasany**  
Memorable Moment: The most memorable moment for me was the White Coat Ceremony. I will never forget how we all felt holding our white coats, we were so proud and excited, smiling from ear to ear not knowing what awaits.

Future Plans: My future plans include a one year AEGD residency at APLA. I wish to come back to the Inland Empire and work as a general dentist. At some point, after gaining a significant amount of clinical experience, returning to academia and educating a new generation of future dentists.

Announcements: Engaged in 2013

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**Dustin Kim**  
Memorable Moment: I was thankful to see how many pessimistic patients became optimistic about getting dental treatments at WesternU. It was not just about restoring their smiles; it was about showing how much we care.

Future Plans: Practice dentistry in community or government organization.

Announcements: Wedding on May 16, 2014
Nataliya Knap
Memorable Moment: The completion of my first Implant Case.
Future Plans: PGY-1 at Woodhull Medical Center, NYC.
Announcements: 2 months until Graduation!

Samuel Lee
Memorable Moment: Receiving local anesthetic injections from my classmate, receiving free food at Lunch & Learns, losing precious hours of sleep to study, and making new long-lasting friends.
Future Plans: My future plans are to finish a one year residency program and to hopefully start work somewhere in California!

Cherish Leung
Memorable Moment: Endless memories with my classmates — research, community service, health fairs, commuting to East L.A., eating adventures, drive-in movies, blackhole houses, and dress code! Also, study sessions, shopping, and forming friendships of a lifetime while learning the trade of our futures.
Future Plans: Heading to a GPR at Helen Hayes Hospital in Haverstraw, NY. We shall see where the winds take me after that!

Kurtis Louie
Memorable Moment: As we prepared to enter clinic, we had to undergo the injection module for local anesthesia. It was one of the more nervous times I have been in my life, knowing the first person I was injecting was my roommate, and if I messed up, he knew where I lived.
Future Plans: AEGD residency in Oakland, and hopefully open up my own office in the San Francisco Bay area within a few years
Announcements: Congratulations to the class of 2014! It has been a wild ride and couldn’t be prouder of our achievements!

Derrick Low
Memorable Moment: Blasting through the Learn-A-Prep when I first touched the drill.
Future Plans: AEGD Residency at UOP.

Kimberly Malotky
Memorable Moments: My most memorable moment during the last four years cannot be pinpointed to one occasion but I will never forget late nights in the HEC, Group 4 buffets (they don’t know!), Bungalow nights, and the overall experience of surviving dental school with some pretty great people.
Future Plans: Private Practice.

Ryan McGary
Memorable Moment: One of my most memorable moments was when Dr. Kateb convinced me to be a patient for a Endo demonstration. She left out the part that she would be demonstrating the Electronic Pulp tester (EPT). She also left out that the dial was set at 6. Needless to say I jumped out of the dental chair. Now I always cringe whenever I get the Electric Pulp Tester out.
Future Plans: I am attending an AEGD Residency at Fort Carson in Colorado with the ARMY.
Announcements: I’m graduating!

Karen Mei
Memorable Moment: So many moments pop into my head, but my most memorable moment was drilling on a tooth and restoring it for the first time. It reminded me why I chose to pursue a career in dentistry.
Future Plans: Advanced Education in General Dentistry residency at UCLA Westwood.
Announcements: I feel blessed to have met so many wonderful people these past four years. I wish everyone the best of luck and success!

Pasha Mostowfi
Memorable Moment: The most memorable moment I had with the College of Dental Medicine was shared with my faculty member Dr. Harris. After a long day in clinic, tired and semi-defeated, she came up to me and said, “I know what your goals are. And you’re going to make it, it’s written all over you. I’m going to help you get there.” I’ll never forget that moment.
Future Plans: Apply for residencies in Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery.
Announcements: Congratulations to everyone for their hard work. I wish you all the best and feel lucky to have had you all as my classmates. Thanks for making these 4 years special to me.
Anh Thu Nguyen
Memorable Moment: One of my most memorable moments is when I met my first patient in clinic during my 3rd year. I was extremely nervous and tried my best not to show it, however I think my patient knew I was scared out of my mind. Thankfully, the patient was amazing and was excited to be my patient.

Future Plans: I hope to work as an associate dentist and then one day open my own private practice.

LanThi Nguyen
Memorable Moment: Something arrived in the mail—it was an ivory paper with the WesternU College of Dental Medicine seal elegantly embossed in gold, and within the fine black prints was the word “Congratulations.” It was an unforgettable moment when I held the acceptance letter of admissions in my hands. My life after that day changed. From then on, I embarked on a journey with other passionate people who became my good friends and colleagues to pursue our degrees in dentistry. I am honored to be guided by the best and most dedicated faculty and staff. The journey had its ups and downs, but looking back, every moment was indeed memorable and beautiful. Thank you College of Dental Medicine.

Future Plans: I plan on practicing dentistry and settling down to where that most needs me.

Tin Nguyen
Memorable Moment: My most memorable moments with the CDM are the FPD modules (ample of redo), the overall experiences at the Patient Care Center providing comprehensive care, and to build a provider-to-patient relationship.

Not to forget the infamous post exam dinners & birthday getaways with my extended family/friends and clinical off-site rotation, BISHOP!

Future Plans: Pay off my debt ASAP, potentially looking to start a family, and live a humble lifestyle.

Announcements: This is for you MOM & DAD.

Felix Onugebu
Memorable Moment: Getting to perform my first procedure on a patient gave me that feeling of, “At this moment, life has begun, from this moment on”. The procedure by itself was simple: tooth number 14 MOL restoration, but it wasn’t easy. I think I was the only one who felt the distress of “the first day at clinic’.“ It was one step towards the career set in my heart for many years.

Future Plans: First, I would like to practice dentistry as an associate, eventually owning my own dental practice.

Announcements: Here comes the end of fourth year in dental school.

Neil Patel
Memorable Moment: My most memorable moment of dental school has to be when I had two positive aspirations in a row while giving my first IAN block on Dr. Michael Drake.

Future Plans: My future plans are to own a private practice and complete the Spear Curriculum.

Announcements: My wife and I will finally be taking our long overdue honeymoon to Bora Bora following graduation.

Scott Peterson
Memorable Moment: It’s debatable…the day I got accepted into Ortho School was a great day, but so was the day we beat the 2013’s in football. I’ll never forget finishing our first gross anatomy test and having a huge BBQ at College Park.

Future Plans: I am going to orthodontics school at Loma Linda University for the next couple of years. After that I hope to eventually open up my own practice somewhere in the West.

Announcements: The past 4 years have definitely had its ups and downs, and zigs and zags, but I think we can all look back and say that we have made some great memories and even better friendships.
Corey Pham
Memorable Moment: Being able to struggle, learn, laugh, and grow with some of the most wonderful people in the world. Thank you Christina Vu, Kiran, Shyam, Lana, Tuan, Matt, Lucas, Joe, Kendall, Derrick, Karen, Kurtis, Allison, Kim, Stella, Patrick, Drake, Sychrava, Neil, Brandon, Jeff, James Bell, Tony, Both Andy’s, Brian, Sam, Anh, Nigar, Dannielle, Cherish, Maria, Josh, Boyan, Harpreet, and even Larry. Thank you Drs. Stevenson, Pape, and Carpio. Thank you Patty. Thank you WesternU CDM.
Future Plans: Eating sushi every other day after work at my AEGD residency in Davis, CA, marrying my better half, Mel Layesen, opening a partnership practice with Kiran Dyal or Shyam Brahmbhatt, waking up on Sunset Boulevard, maxing out all my credit cards, living my own LA story, and living it up till the morning.
Announcements: Thanks mom! I couldn’t have done it without you!

Hoa Pham
Memorable Moment: When the class of 2014 beat the class of 2013 in the ASDA basketball tournament and I made the game winning shot.
Future Plans: I will be a resident dentist at the Cedars-Sinai Department of Surgery in Hollywood, CA.
Announcements: I will miss you all.

Mackenzie Porter
Memorable Moment: Seeing my 1st patient at the PCC
Future Plans: UNLV/VA Hospital of Las Vegas GPR
Announcements: Engagement

Thomas Randall
Memorable Moment: It’s hard to come up with just one memorable moment so here are my top 5: (5) Pomona YMCA pick up basketball games, RIP Pomona YMCA. (4) Group 2 huddles and cheers. (3) WesternU Montclair basketball league, we totally owned that 4-8 record! (2) Group 2 potlucks. Thank you Christian and Jed for amazing bbq skills. (1) My rotation in Victorville. I had an incredible experience and gained confidence and hand skills while on my 5 week rotation.
Future Plans: I’ve been accepted to a 1 year GPR program at the U.S. Naval Hospital in San Diego, CA. Since I am going to be owned by the United States Military for the next 4 years, I see a lot of push-ups, sit-ups, throwing up and amalgam fillings in my future. Once my commitment with the Navy is finished, I would like to eventually be in private practice, hopefully working alongside some of the great doctors I’ll be graduating with.

Mojdeh Roboubi
Memorable Moment: Thinking back on the past four years, there have been many memorable moments that came to mind, but amongst all I have to say the first day of orientation stands out. I enjoyed when I got to hear a sentence or two about each one of my classmates, knowing that they were going to be my second family for the next four years.
Future Plans: At this moment, my plan is to gain experience for a couple of years and from there decide to either specialize or go straight into building my own private practice. I also have a vision to conduct dental mission trips to other countries on a yearly basis.
Kendall Saffner
Memorable Moment: Getting an injection for the first time from my best friend who was giving an injection for the first time! Scary but we both survived!
Future Plans: I will be attending a General Practice Residency at Hackensack University Medical Center in New Jersey.

“Tim” Jeong Ho Seo
Memorable Moment: I had a special opportunity to work with the San Gabriel Pomona Regional Center, where I interacted with children with special needs. I developed a dental desensitization protocol and evaluation system to help children maintain better oral hygiene, encourage compliant behavior as dental patients, and avoid sedation or general anesthesia. I am fortunate to have had this special opportunity, and it has inspired me to devote myself to pediatric dentistry, including children with special needs.
Future Plans: Post-Graduate Program: UNLV, School of Dental Medicine Advanced Education Program in Pediatric Dentistry.

Christina Shaw "Freitas"
Memorable Moment: Celebrating milestones in my life, such as my wedding, with colleagues who will be lifelong friends
Future Plans: Moving to Austin, TX with my husband and finding a job in an office out that way.
Announcements: Go SF Giants!

Cristian Sierra
Memorable Moment: It’s all a blur of driving, studying, and coffee that I couldn’t have possibly done without the help of my wife and the fortification of lunches she packed me every morning.
Future Plans: I will be a resident at the Memphis VA’s GPR Program.
Announcements: I couldn’t have done this without the help and support of my friends and family who have not only encouraged me, but have sat in my chair and allowed me to practice dentistry. I value their trust in me and am very grateful.

James Stirland
Memorable Moment: Having a wonderful offsite rotation experience at Victorville. It allowed me to gain experience within another aspect of dentistry that further solidified my love for dentistry.
Future Plans: 2 year Comprehensive Dentistry program at Fort Hood Texas with the US Army
Announcements: Had 2 wonderful kids during dental school.

Boyan Todorov
Memorable Moment: Meeting with the Founding Dean of the College of Dental Medicine, Dr. James J. Koelbl, at the beginning of my “2nd year” as a dental student.
Future Plans: Have a blissful and fulfilling life.
Announcements: I’m going to buy a hairless cat.

Tyler Tomkinson
Memorable Moment: My most memorable moment at Western University was during the white coat ceremony. The harpist was playing the beautiful piece “Somewhere in Time.” As I approached the stage I became overwhelmed with joy. It was a moment of realization of the privilege I have to be a part of this wonderful profession.
Future Plans: My plans are to attend a one year GPR in Youngstown, Ohio. Afterwards I plan to apply for a residency position in Dental Anesthesia.
Announcements: When I started dental school my daughter Clara was only four months old. My son Gavin was born half way through dental school. Now Clara will be four years old while my son is two. I could not have done this without the support of my wife and kids. While there were many challenges during this process, we have grown so much through this experience.

Karla Torres Verzola
Memorable Moment: Getting accepted
Future Plans: Enjoy time with family, work and travel.
Tuan Tran
Memorable Moment: Learning impressions, probing, and anesthesia on each other was less fun than I was expecting.
Future Plans: Navy Dental Corp with my future ex-roommate Scott!
Announcements: It’s been the best and worst 4 years of my life. I will be sad to say goodbye to everyone, but excited to continue on to my next journey.

Janese Turla
Memorable Moment: Eating breakfast with Tuan and Tzu-Fei every morning during rotation.
Future Plans: Going into private practice.

Andy Uch
Memorable Moment: My most memorable moment was my first day in clinic and I saw my first patient. The patient came in as an emergency and he needed his wisdom tooth extracted because it was causing him a lot of pain. I was very nervous, but at the same time excited that I got to extract my first tooth.
Future Plans: Find a job and pay off student loans.
Announcements: Take a BIG vacation before I start working.

Christina Vu
Memorable Moment: Helping plan our first year CDM banquet at the beautiful Coco Palm Restaurant. It was a wonderful event shared with the 2013 and 2014 classes and CDM faculty and administration.
Future Plans: Moving to Texas to be closer to my family and working in a private practice.
Announcements: I’m going to Disneyland!!!

Patrick Vuong
Memorable Moment: The injection module has by far been the most memorable. It was one of those days we dreaded but couldn’t wait to tackle.
Future Plans: Become an associate back in my home town, Houston, Texas.

Brandon Wisely
Memorable Moment: My most memorable experience is the first time giving an injection to one of my peers. I remember the anxiety I had, and I can only imagine that my first patient shared the same anxiety.
Future Plans: Private practice
Announcements: My fiance and I will be getting married in June 2014.

Andrea Yaley
Memorable Moment: My most memorable moment was when I was working at an off-site clinic. I was working on an 8 year-old who was afraid of the dentist and needed an extraction. On her previous visit she had thrown up on a faculty member, and that day she was terrified and crying. After 45 minutes of working with her just to give the injection, I finally calmed her down enough to extract the tooth. A few seconds later I said, “We’re all done!” and she said, “That didn’t even hurt!” It was rewarding to change my patient’s perception of dentistry.
Future Plans: I plan on working when I graduate. I eventually want to own my own practice.

Nigar Yusifova
Memorable Moment: First day: everyone was so nice and welcoming!
Future Plans: Residency, practice, and academia.
As we transition into our fourth year of dental school, we begin to understand what the class of 2014 experienced last year; the excitement of graduating and entrusting us as their junior associates to take care of their most memorable patients. We begin to understand the role these individuals played in our success as clinicians. We also begin to understand how amazing these individuals were as our mentors.

Many of us would have been lost without their helping hands and advice as we entered clinic last summer. The protocols, axiUm, scheduling, and competencies were overwhelming to most. Learning patient management through the counsel of our Senior Associates has been beyond valuable. Their encouragement and positive words guided us through our NBDE Part 1. While many of us are still receiving advice, recommendations and study tips for the NBDE Part 2 coming this summer.

Most of us experienced WREB with our senior associates this year. The preparation process, the shared experience and their secret fears we will take with us as we prepare for the biggest exam of our careers. We shared with them the excitement and disappointment of applying for post-graduate programs. We enjoyed their excitement, experienced their stresses, and at moments were that shoulder they needed. We saw how they grew from student dentists to competent clinicians over this past year.

As we prepare to work with the Class of 2016 this summer, we hope to be as amazing as the 2014’s were for us. We will pass on the advice, the stories, and those useful clinical pearls. It has been an amazing year working side by side with the 2014’s and we hope they find happiness and success wherever it may lead them. From our class to the 2014’s, thank you! Thank you for your time, your patience, and your friendship.

Tiffany Brown
DMD 2015 Class President
Bertha Alarcon, DDS
Memorable Moment: I was asked to come and meet the team at WesternU CDM by Dr. Trombly. It was a rainy chilly morning in January. I showed up in a black turtleneck and a black leather jacket. We gathered at a table and one by one the then faculty walked in with a copy of my resume. It was indeed an interview!! Months later someone asked if I own a Harley : )

Everyday at WesternU CDM is memorable. I am a blessed and lucky woman. For the last 25 years I have been practicing what I wanted to do since I was 12. Coming to WesternU has added a rainbow of new colors to my life canvas. I am truly having the time of my life!

Advice to the Class of 2014: Dentistry is a long and continuous journey of learning. Do not ever compromise your happiness, your spirit, nor your ethics over more dollars. Balance your journey, take time to work, time to enjoy your loved ones, and time for yourself. You will always need a good CPA, a good attorney you can trust, and a good financial adviser!

Announcements: Congratulations 2014!!!!

Elizabeth Andrews, DDS
Memorable Moment: The most memorable moment with the college related to the DMD 2014 class was seeing their creativity. They took the lead on many fronts such as the creation of the AAWD Girl Scout Troop, and the ADEA Chapter, as well as creating the winning video showing their pride for CDM. They were not willing to stand in the shadow of the inaugural class, they were also trailblazers!

Advice to the Class of 2014: Follow your dreams and live your life to its fullest. Take the time to enjoy your family as they are truly your legacy.

Linda Arbizo
Memorable Moment: There are many fond memories of the Class of 2014 that I have, from them taking their very first exam nervously, to seeing them transition to the clinic with such excitement but fear of the unexpected. I am excited to see them now graduate and start their new journeys. I couldn’t be more proud!

Advice to the Class of 2014: “Do not go where the path may lead, go instead where there is no path and leave a trail.” Ralph Waldo Emerson

Announcements: Wishing you the very best in your upcoming endeavors! Congratulations Class of 2014!

Keith Boyer, DDS
Memorable Moment: A student whom I helped prepare for the WREB came to my office during spring break to tell me he passed the exam.

Advice to the Class of 2014: Don’t let your financial situation (ie. student loans, overhead expense, etc.) keep you from doing what is in the best interest of your patients.

Brian Chui, DDS
Memorable Moment: Friendly staff and faculty

Advice to the Class of 2014: Try to maintain your ethics while practicing. It is way too easy to go into something you know it is not right.

Anna Enriquez
Memorable Moment: One of my most memorable moments with the College was during Welcome Week as the “2014’s” entered the Classroom for introductions during orientation. The class of 2014 is the first class that I have spent the entire 4 years with as part of the College of Dental Medicine. During Welcome Week, the sense of pride always sets heavily in your heart. This particular class stood out, they were extra special, each individual shined in their own special way on that day- this is one of my fondest memories. As I reflect, I recall thinking to myself, how proud I was going to be in four years, to have shared in that time with them. Those four years went quickly – graduation is here, and those 2014’s are shining even brighter than they were on that first day. DMD 2014!!!

Advice to the Class of 2014: Being positive in all aspects and helping others is the food of life, stay hungry!!!

Josephine Franc, RDH
Memorable Moment: I remember the students’ first day in clinic- beads of sweat on their eye-brows and forehead, and shaky hands while giving anesthesia. Two of the most memorable procedures were: 1) when Jed and I removed an abscess adjacent to a tooth we were scaling with a very deep pocket. 2) The second was when Nigar and I removed generalized gum ball size calculus from her patient. It was a first for the both of us.
Advice to the Class of 2014: My advice would be to pay attention to the little things in clinical care. It’s very easy to overlook areas of counseling and prevention. These things when missed can be a nightmare. It is imperative that you work collaboratively with the hygienist and staff in these areas. It will make you a better clinician, it fosters care, and consideration towards your patient’s needs. Collaborative teamwork with the staff and hygienist also helps patient and staff retention.

Joel Ladenbach, DMD

Memorable Moment: The day I learned about the CODA accreditation results was both a proud and memorable moment for me with the CDM.

Advice to the Class of 2014: Always treat your patients as you would a family member, take time to get to know your patients, and make sure to give them your undivided attention.

Announcements: Dr. Joel & Mrs. Jessica Loudenbach are proud to announce that Olivia Grace Loudenbach was born in Santa Monica, California on January 14, 2013. Joel, Jessica, Addison and Miles proudly celebrated Olivia’s first birthday in January 2014 and are truly enjoying the family expansion.

Alexander Lee, DMD

Memorable Moment: Opening The Dental Center to patient care. We had spent the past year setting up the facilities, building axiUm, ordering supplies, creating protocols, and addressing unexpected hurdles. When that first patient walked in the door, a switch flipped, transforming The Dental Center from an office space to a real clinic. It was like watching a snowball starting to roll down the mountain. I knew I was watching the genesis of something big.

Seeing the patient was memorable as well: despite all our preparations, we had forgotten to order hybrid composite. I remember going through the equipment with the assistants (“High-speed, burs, etch, bonding agent, flowable, composite... Composite? Where’s the composite?”), and then running over to the sim clinic to pilfer their stock of composite, which only came in A2 shade. Luckily the patient was an A2, so everything worked out.

Advice to the Class of 2014: Network. Having good connections will help you with everything from getting a job to maintaining your CE. Join the local dental society, look up some study clubs, volunteer at various events, and stop by surrounding specialists’ offices. The days of the solo practitioner cloistered in their practice are over, and you have to be active in the community to maximize your potential.

Jeffrey Lloyd, DDS

Memorable Moment: The one-on-one teaching moments where I got to share with you some of my "tips" and "tricks" to doing dentistry. Most of these took place during your first two years in the Simulation Clinic. Once you got to the clinic and started implementing some of these little gems, it made my day. It’s a bitter sweet to see you leave. I just want you to know how extremely proud I am of ALL of your accomplishments!

Advice to the Class of 2014: Keep an open mind. Never stop learning. Apply what you learned. Put your patient’s interest first, before your own. Commit to being the very best you can be. Don’t forget your roots at WesternU CDM. Welcome to the wonderful world of dentistry, my fellow colleagues!

Veronica Lozano, RDAEF, BS

Memorable Moment: First day we opened The Dental Center, a surge of excitement when I witnessed students’ first patient encounter. Students shuffled in and out of the rooms. A symphony of handpieces whirred around us. Harsh fluorescent lighting sparkled our world!

I was just as nervous as the students, “thump, thump” of heart’s pumping at full capacity. Even after we had settled down into our places, from distress to reassurance we did not let anyone dull our sparkle.

Advice to the Class of 2014: Dentistry is about solving problems. Patience and a good attitude are little things that make a big difference.

Lisa Martin, RDA

Memorable Moment: I don’t have one memorable moment, I have several. Overall working with the students, watching them grow as student dentists, and knowing that I was a part of the whole experience.

Advice to the Class of 2014: Future dentist… respect and spoil your dental assistants. They will make sure you are taken care of.
Jerry Minsky, DDS

Memorable Moment: On the faculty/staff side, the ease and professionalism toward having a great educational/work environment, and our contributions to students success. On the student side, it’s wonderful seeing the students mature into critical thinking clinicians, and focused on great patient care with a positive patient experience.

Advice to the Class of 2014: Be passionate about your work and enjoy where you live. It’s must for happiness and satisfaction.

Announcements: If you are interested or have questions about opportunities in hospital dentistry, please contact me anytime.

Gary Pape, DDS, MA

Memorable Moment: Generational wake up call: at our weekly seminar session, I brought a mouse to use for the CDM laptop. It was an old Gateway mouse and I was surprised by the reaction of the students: “I have never seen one of these; I read about these once.” It was as if they were looking at a fossil. To add insult to injury, I stepped out for a minute and the students disassembled the mouse, and expressed much merriment as I fumbled with the disabled mouse. Note: I am close to finding out who the student was that disabled the mouse—and when I do...

Advice to the Class of 2014: Focus on quality of care, not speed. Speed will naturally occur—quality is intentional. Start to identify your strengths and limits, then make a 2 or 3 year plan to take CE courses that will improve your limits.

Ywen Peng, DMD

Memorable Moment: Thanksgiving dinner.

Advice to the Class of 2014: Patient first.

Georgina Perez, RDA

Memorable Moment: Working with our student doctors every day brings many memorable moments to me. Our student doctors have expressed their gratitude on how much they have learned from me. It is very rewarding to realize that I have a small part in their education.

Advice to the Class of 2014: Always keep in mind the importance of good documentation in your patient records. Your schedule will be filled with people, not squares in a puzzle, which should always be treated with respect and with a caring attitude. In return, you will be rewarded and be very successful.

Chonway Tram, DDS

Memorable Moment: Just watching them grow from D1 till now...I feel like a proud papa!

Advice to the Class of 2014: Work hard, but enjoy your life. You are more blessed than you know.

Jeffrey Turchi, DDS

Memorable Moment: Joining a great faculty in September of 2013.

Advice to the Class of 2014: Throughout your careers stay true to the principles you learned here at WesternU. They will always guide you to make good decisions, but it is equally important to crave knowledge and be a lifetime learner. Remember, it’s what you learn after you know it all, that really counts.

Cassie Wright, Jr.

Memorable Moment: The day the clinic opened and the students saw their first patients.

Advice to the Class of 2014: Go out and make the world a better place, one patient at a time.

James Ywom, DDS, MS

Memorable Moment: “Ywom Dreams of Crowns” parody video created by DMD 2014, Corey Pham.

Advice to the Class of 2014: “Spend more time planning than doing and the doing becomes easier.” Peter K. Thomas

Opposite page: (top left) James Striland with his daughter and patient, Adelaide, at Give Kids a Smile, February 2013; (top right) President Pumerantz and Wade Banner at the Ice Cream Social, August 2010; (middle right) Cherish Leung at the Community Health Fair, April 2011; (middle left) first meeting of the AAWD club, May 2011; (bottom left) ASDA District 11 meeting, October 2011; (bottom right) AAWD Allison Baylis and Karen Mei.
Charitable gifts make a critical difference in CDM’s ability to take advantage of unexpected opportunities as well as to fully realize its vision. Giving from diverse donors comes in a variety of forms including: the CDM Annual Fund, scholarships, naming of operatories and classrooms, as well as in honor/memoriam of important people and occasions.

If you are interested in learning about ways you can give to help CDM fulfill its mission, please visit our Giving page at www.westernu.edu/dentistry or contact our Development director Desiree Colly at dcolly@westernu.edu or (909) 706-3456.

“I give because there’s no better return on investment than our students’ future.”

Dr. Brent Fung, Associate Professor
CDM Dean’s Circle Donor and WesternU East West Scholarship Committee Member

“Thank you to the faculty and staff at WesternU. I am very proud to be a graduate of this program and I will continue to support its development in the future.”

Steve Shiflett, DMD ’13,
CDM Annual Fund Donor

Save the Date  Mark your calendars to join CDM at these events:

**CDA South Alumni Reception**
California Dental Association Conference in Anaheim, California:
May 17, 2014
3:00 to 5:00 p.m.
Hilton Anaheim, Vista Lounge

**ADA 2014 Alumni Reception**
American Dental Association Conference in San Antonio, Texas:
October 9-14, 2014
Details to be announced

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