



WHITE COAT CEREMONY

Year 2 **IDDP**
Class of 2027 **Class of 2026**

CONVOCATION HALL
FRIDAY, JANUARY 10, 2025
2:00 PM



UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN
College of Dentistry
DENTISTRY.USASK.CA

The University of Saskatchewan Senate approved the establishment of a College of Dentistry on March 4, 1965. The first USask dean of dentistry, Dr. K.J. Paynter, was appointed in 1966 and was joined by new staff members to officially begin college duties on July 1, 1967. In September 1968, 10 students began the first classes of the Doctor of Dental Medicine program in Ellis Hall and ushered in the beginning of what was the ninth dental school in Canada.

The USask College of Dentistry offers a fully accredited dental program with a proud tradition of excellence in providing high-quality, oral health-care education. Founded with a vision to be a leader in dental education, research, community outreach, engagement and professional support, the college graduates more than three dozen qualified dentists each year.

Most of Saskatchewan's general and specialist dentists receive their undergraduate education at the College of Dentistry. Many of the college's students are residents of the province, however cultural and geographic diversity is an integral component of the student community. The student body includes students from across Canada and throughout the world who have chosen USask for their dental education.

A teaching emphasis that reflects the changing needs in dental practice enriches the student experience. The college believes in a holistic, student centered approach to learning. It is committed to student engagement, well-being and providing a clinical experience that is among the best in Canada.

The college is looking to its future. Our clinic and preclinic spaces will undergo an historic \$23.6-million renovation thus continuing the College of Dentistry's reputation as a leader in dental education. An investment in digital dentistry and the addition of state-of-the-art training technology including virtual simulators, intra-oral cameras and scanners will strengthen student education and support the future of the dental profession. The patient treatment clinic will continue the college's commitment to providing an excellent environment for both patients and students during the clinical training phase of the program.

For more than 50 years, students, faculty and staff from the USask College of Dentistry have made positive contributions to the quality of oral health education and patient care available in Saskatchewan, Canada and beyond.



**Code of
Professional Conduct**
College of Dentistry

I will uphold both the spirit and the letter of this code. As a member of the dental community:

- I will practice personal and academic integrity.
- I will respect the rights and dignity of patients, students, faculty and support staff and treat all persons with honesty, respect, fairness and compassion.
- I will avoid making disparaging remarks about students, faculty or support staff, or their work.
- I will place the well-being of patients ahead of personal advancement.
- I will set patient care as the highest priority in the clinical setting.
- I will maintain patient confidentiality and will limit discussions of patients to appropriate settings.
- I will maintain high standards of ethical behaviour and conduct myself in a manner befitting my profession at all times.



WHITE COAT CEREMONY

MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN



Welcome to the University of Saskatchewan College of Dentistry's White Coat Ceremony! This momentous occasion marks a significant milestone in your dental education journey as you transition from the pre-clinical phase to the clinical phase. We gather here to celebrate your dedication, hard work, and the incredible journey that lies ahead.

As Dean of the College of Dentistry, I am immensely proud of your accomplishments thus far. You are privileged to be part of a college with the highest clinical experience in any Canadian dental school. Our faculty members and staff bring a wealth of knowledge and practical expertise to guide you through your clinical training.

This White Coat Ceremony signifies your commitment to the values of professionalism, compassion, and excellence that are the foundation of our profession. As you don your white coats, you accept the responsibility to care for patients with the highest standard of ethics, skill, and empathy. These coats represent not just a uniform, but a symbol of trust and integrity, embodying the commitment to provide the best possible dental care to your future patients.

Embrace this new phase of your education with enthusiasm, curiosity, and a dedication to lifelong learning. Your journey into clinical practice will be both challenging and rewarding, and I have no doubt that you will excel. Remember that you have a supportive community here at the College of Dentistry, and we are here to guide and nurture your growth as future dentist in Canada.

As Dean, and on behalf of all College of Dentistry, staff and faculty members, I wish you all the best on this remarkable journey, and I am excited to see the incredible dentists you will become. Congratulations on reaching this significant milestone in your dental education.

Dr. Walter Siqueira, DDS, MBA, PhD, FCAHS

**Dean and Professor
IADR Distinguished Scientist**

MESSAGE FROM THE INTERIM ASSOCIATE DEAN, ACADEMIC



The College of Dentistry holds the White Coat Ceremony each year to celebrate the transition of dental students from preclinical studies to clinical care. This is the point in our students' careers where they are entrusted with providing care to patients. White is traditionally the colour of purity, and the White Coat is a symbol of the purity of purpose being affirmed in becoming a health care professional. As part of this transition, students accept the ethical responsibility and professional integrity that is the foundation of health care and specifically, our profession. This ceremony affirms that students do not become members of the dental profession only upon graduation, but as students. The dentist-patient relationship is based trust, honesty, compassion and a commitment to patient well-being. Being cloaked in a White Coat and reciting the Oath of Professional Conduct reinforces the acceptance of professional responsibility, the cornerstone of our profession. Welcome to the parents, family members and friends in attendance and congratulations on your part in bringing your loved one to this important point in their lives. You should take pride in witnessing this important milestone in your son, daughter, partner, special friend or family member's professional journey. The support of family will continue to be important as students continue their clinical education. I know I speak for all faculty and staff when I say we are delighted to participate in your family member's, our students', growth to this point, and we look forward to supporting their journey in clinical education.

Dr. Peter Doig, DMD, MBA.

Interim Associate Dean, and Assistant Professor

MESSAGE FROM THE ASSOCIATE DEAN, RESEARCH



Welcome to the clinical world of Dentistry! We are excited to see you enter a new phase of your professional road that brings you closer to pursuing your dream. You will soon be immersed in a clinical realm where you will be able to make a real difference in your patients' lives and contribute to their health and wellbeing. In the next few years, you will be able to gain an enormous amount of knowledge, and I urge you to take advantage of every day, every hour, every minute and every second of this journey.

The more knowledge you will gain, the better you will be equipped for your lifelong professional journey. Be curious, question every step of the way, question your steps, question us, your instructors and professors, and always, always, ask 'why!' By asking 'why' for every step we take, for each individual patient, we can dramatically enhance our understanding of the nature of the disease, the treatment we offer, and provide better service to our patients' population. Promise yourself that you will never stop learning, reading, asking, and practicing. Our profession is rapidly changing and the best way for you to keep yourself up to date in the future is by learning how to constantly learn. We are thrilled to see you making your first steps as clinicians with this new white coat and looking forward in anticipation to see you with a black graduation gown soon.

Dr. Liran Levin, DMD, FRCD(C), FIADT, FICD Professor of Periodontology.

Associate Dean for Research & Graduate Studies

MESSAGE FROM THE INTERIM ASSISTANT DEAN, CLINICS



The College of Dentistry's white coat ceremony celebrates a significant milestone for the class of 2027. This marks your transition in year two from classroom to clinical care and, more importantly, it represents your acceptance of the responsibility to uphold and guarantee the importance of the dentist-patient relationship. Your white coats signify your official entrance into the dental profession. This symbolic cloaking bestowed upon you signifies that you have assumed the responsibilities of a dental professional.

Society will expect you to exhibit and adhere to high standards. You must uphold and live by the code of ethics you will recite today. This code of professional ethics are the principles that will govern your behavior providing you with guidance to live by throughout your professional life.

Throughout your clinical journey, faculty will teach, guide and mentor you. Embrace this new phase of your education with enthusiasm and dedicate yourselves to lifelong learning.

THIS IS A MOMENTOUS EVENT for the class of 2027, which we are happy to celebrate with family, friends, faculty, staff and members of the dental profession.

Congratulations on this great achievement.

Dr. Greg Kost, BSc, DMD,

Interim Assistant Dean, Clinics, Special Lecturer

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT - COLLEGE OF DENTAL SURGEONS OF SASKATCHEWAN



Today is a day of celebration. A day to celebrate your achievements thus far on your journey to become a proficient health care provider, a respected leader in your community, a dentist.

Your journey began many years ago. As dentists we can all recall the days of our pre-dentistry studies; each prerequisite, dental aptitude test, and admissions interview presented challenges on our path toward this lofty goal, but you are now one step closer. There will be more challenges ahead but take pause today to look back on how far you have come.

The next two and a half years of dental education will provide you with the foundation to be competent in the art and science of dentistry. The education and experience that you accrue in the years that follow graduation will determine the overall success of your career. Build a strong foundation of knowledge and experience now, so that you may continue to build on it once you convocate. You currently have access to a vast resource of experience and information on a scale that you will never have access to again - your professors, instructors, and clinical supervisors. Respect them, give them your full attention, and treat each day as a learning opportunity that you may never experience again.

As Sir William Osler, a Canadian physician and co-founder of Johns Hopkins Hospital once said, "The good physician treats the disease; the great physician treats the patient who has the disease."

Dr. Derek Thiessen, DMD

President, CDSS

PROGRAM

PROCESSION

Dr. Greg Kost, Interim Assistant Dean, Clinics

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

ELDER GREETING

Elder Norman Fleury

GREETINGS FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF SASKATCHEWAN

Racquel Hilbert, MLA for Humboldt Watrous

GREETINGS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN

Chancellor Grit McCreath

GREETINGS FROM THE COLLEGE

Dr. Walter Siqueira, Dean

MESSAGE FROM THE COLLEGE OF DENTAL SURGEONS OF SASKATCHEWAN

Dr. Derek Thiessen, President

MESSAGE FROM YEAR 2 STUDENTS

Shahzaib Fida, Year 2 Class Representative

MUSICAL INTERLUDE

Promi Paul, Class of 2027

CLOAKING CEREMONY

Dr. Peter Doig, Interim Associate Dean, Academic

RECITATION OF THE CODE OF PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT

DISMISSAL

RECEPTION

Louis Loft

Thank you to the College of Dental Surgeons of Saskatchewan
for its donation of the white coats.

CLASS OF 2027

**Tala Abou Dayya
Hassan Barola
Madison Blore
Habiba Elakrat
Shahzaib Fida
Aisha Fozdar
Chang Ge
Maria Haneef
Noah Hoffart
Karma Ibrahim
Natasha Iluk
Carter Inman
Ramit Kapoor
Maria Khan
Ryan Kuhn
Anne-Florence Lambert
Hayley Yeji Lee
Nicolas Macri**

**Ahmad Nami Marachli
Tanzeel Nasir
Brady Nelson
Promi Paul
Carol Ragheb
Mustafa Shahbaz
Jiaqi Shang
Haobo Shao
Iraj Shareef
Stanislav Sheshnev
Sahejpreet Singh
Sarah Son
Sion Song
Jacqueline Tkachuk
Jaxson Toly
Lauren Williams
Anna Wolitski
Joel Zimroz**

IDDP CLASS OF 2026

**Nkoyiren Ajie
Gurpreet Bedi
Sheyla Bravo Jaimes
Uyiosa Erejie
Gundeep Makkad**

**Jakes Mammen
Sadiq Momin
Brijesh Patel
Chirag Semrani
Harshita Tiwari
Satya Yalamolu**

FOURTH-YEAR STUDENT CLOAKERS

**Ameer Awad
Sydney Berreth
Mateo Buitrago Ordonez
Hunter Charters
Jashanjit Dhillon
Kristen Diakow
Elijah Egarhos
Balpreet Hans
Logan Henriksen
Asmaa Hussein
Valerian Igbelina
Sona Kamala Kunnel Stanly
Amolak Kang
Srinidhi Kannan
Mandeep Kaur
Garrett Kawa
Liam Kerr
Neelam Khalia
Mohammad Khawer
Judy Kim
Joyce Lee
Jennifer Liu
Kaitlin Lockert**

**Munaf Maknoja
Vivian Mark
Rajat Mehndiratta
Neha Miglani
Timothy Miller
Sagun Mishra
Maryam Mohamadi
Brant Morrow
Karlee Nash
Sydney Patel
Stephen Perverseff
Annie Pham
Omar Salama
Venkata Bharath Sappidi
Monika Sharma
Karanbir Sidhu
Quinn Sully
Connor Sych
Cascilla Taillon
Kirandeep Tiwana
Robyn Trann
Justus Tremblay
Liam Zimmer**

CLASS OF 2026



Tala About Dayya

Mississauga, ON

Tala was born in Beirut, Lebanon. Her journey through life has been enriched by the diverse cultures she has encountered. Growing up, she lived in Egypt, Pakistan, Lebanon, and Saudi Arabia before moving to Canada at the age of 12. These experiences gave her a deep appreciation for the variety of perspectives and traditions she was exposed to. In 2023, Tala achieved a major academic milestone by graduating from the University of Guelph, where she majored in Biological Sciences. She has a passion for painting and playing the guitar. Her studies reflect her curiosity about the natural world. She is very grateful for the unwavering support of her family, who have been a constant source of encouragement throughout her life.



Hassan Barola

Saskatoon, SK

Hassan was born in Pakistan and grew up in Saskatoon. After completing high school, he went on to receive his Bachelor of Science in Kinesiology at the University of Saskatchewan. In his spare time, Hassan likes climbing mountains, setting the pull-up record at his gym, and being the best sibling out of his brother and sister. He will forever express his gratitude towards his family for supporting him throughout the years.



Madison Blore

Lloydminster, AB

Madison was born and raised in Lloydminster, Alberta. She graduated from Holy Rosary High School in 2020 and pursued her post-secondary education at Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario. Madison completed a three-year General Health Sciences Degree with distinction.

In May 2023, she travelled to Mombasa, Kenya for a four-week dental internship, shadowing local dentists at Coast General Teaching and Referral Hospital. This experience gave her a deeper appreciation of dentistry and healthcare from a new perspective.

Madison enjoys traveling, hiking, and spending quality time with her friends, family, and her puppy, Chewie. She extends her heartfelt gratitude to her incredible parents, Darla and Graham, and her brother, Boston for their unwavering love and support. She would also like to give a special thanks to all those who have supported her on this journey.



Habiba Elakrat

Milton, ON

Habiba was born in Cairo, Egypt, and moved to Milton, Ontario in 2008. This was a change that shaped her journey both personally and academically. She went on to earn a Bachelor of Science in Biology from McMaster University.

Outside of her academic pursuits, Habiba enjoys traveling with her family, photographing beautiful scenery alongside her father, and going on spontaneous adventures with her friends. She would like to express her deep gratitude to her parents, Ahmed and Eman, as well as her brother, Abdulrahman, for their unwavering support, love, and sacrifices. Their constant encouragement has been central to her achievements. She is incredibly thankful for both her family and friends' continued support in her journey.



Shahzaib Fida

Regina, SK

Shahzaib was born in Islamabad, Pakistan and moved to Saskatchewan in 2000. He graduated from Campbell Collegiate in Regina in 2015. He obtained a degree in Physiology and Pharmacology along with a second degree from the College of Pharmacy.

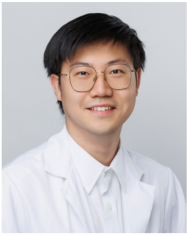
Outside of school, Shahzaib enjoys playing soccer, tennis, and bingeing TV series with his wife. Shahzaib would like to show his immense appreciation for his parents, Fida and Safina, and his best friend Siham. This privileged position would not be possible without their sacrifices and Shahzaib wants to thank everyone who has helped mold him into the person he is today - and that this is their accomplishment just as much as his.



Aisha Fozdar

Mississauga, ON

Aisha was born and raised in Mississauga, ON. She earned a Bachelor of Science from Wilfrid Laurier University. Beyond her academic achievements, Aisha finds joy in exploring the world through travel and cherishing moments with her loved ones. Her journey has been shaped by the unwavering support of her mother, Hanila, to whom she attributes much of her success and growth. Aisha is deeply grateful for her brothers, Ahmed and Sahil, whose steadfast encouragement has been a constant source of strength. She also extends heartfelt thanks to her friends, who have stood by her side, offering motivation and inspiration throughout every step of her journey.



Chang Ge

Hefei, Anhui province, China

Chang was born in Hefei, Anhui province, China, and relocated to Oakville, Ontario in 2016, where he attended Garth Webb Secondary School. He earned an Honors Bachelor of Science in Anatomy and Cell Biology from McGill University.

In his personal life, Chang enjoys a variety of activities, including playing badminton with friends, engaging in video games, card games, collecting Pokémon figures, and binge-watching Netflix shows.

Chang is deeply grateful to his parents, who have been his greatest role models, exemplifying integrity, resilience, perseverance, and compassion. Their unwavering support, love, and sacrifices have granted him the opportunities he cherishes today. He also wishes to extend his sincere appreciation to his grandparents for their ongoing love and encouragement throughout his journey.

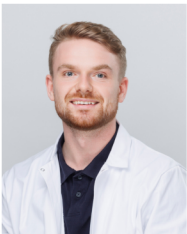


Maria Haneef

Saskatoon, SK

Maria was born in Abu Dhabi, U.A.E and raised in Mississauga Ontario. She completed her B.A. & Sc. Honours in Health Studies & Minor in Sociology from the USask in 2023.

She deeply values the wellness of her peers and is passionately engaged in an ongoing initiative advocating for prayer spaces on campus. She finds joy in meaningful conversations over coffee while exploring new cafés and loves hiking during her travel pursuits. Maria would like to express her profound gratitude to her parents, Haneef and Salma, for their unconditional love, guidance, and sacrifices throughout this journey. She is sincerely grateful for her family and friends for their unwavering support that has kept her smiling through life's highs and lows.



Noah Hoffart

Regina, SK

Noah grew up in Regina, Saskatchewan along with his brother. He attended the University of Regina and completed bachelor's degrees in Kinesiology majoring in Human Kinetics and Biochemistry. In his free time, he likes to work out, run, watch football, and cook. Noah would like to thank his parents and brother for their sacrifices and unconditional support, acknowledging that he wouldn't be here without them.



Karma Ibrahim

Mississauga, ON

Karma was born in Cairo, Egypt, and grew up in Mississauga, Ontario. She earned her Honours Bachelor of Science in Kinesiology from McMaster University. Outside of her academic pursuits, she finds joy in baking for loved ones, taking walks with her dog, travelling, and cherishing every moment spent with family and friends. Karma attributes her success to the unwavering support of her family and friends. Her deepest gratitude goes to her parents, Tamer and Rania, whose sacrifices and love have been the foundation of her journey to dental school. Their belief in her has been her greatest inspiration.



Natasha Iluk

RM of Chester, SK

Natasha grew up on a grain farm in the RM of Chester in Southeast Saskatchewan. In 2018, she relocated to Saskatoon and subsequently completed a Bachelor of Science in Anatomy and Cell Biology.

When Natasha isn't studying or attending a college social events, she can be found taking care of her many tropical plants, reading a book, or enjoying a local coffee spot. She would like to express her gratitude to her parents, sisters, and grandma for all their unwavering love and support. She also recognizes how important her friends have been to her throughout this journey. Additionally, she would like to give special thanks to her mom, Karen, for being her inspiration to pursue a career in healthcare.



Carter Inman

Prince Albert, SK

Carter was born and raised in Prince Albert, Saskatchewan. After graduating from high school, he moved to Saskatoon to pursue an undergraduate degree in Physiology and Pharmacology at the University of Saskatchewan.

In his downtime, Carter enjoys spending time with friends and family, and would like to express his immense gratitude for their unwavering love, support and encouragement.



Ramit Kapoor

Saskatoon, SK

Ramit grew up in the heart of Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. At a young age, he always knew he wanted to leave a lasting impact on people's lives. Nothing made him happier than seeing those around him shine bright with happiness. Ever since, he set out on a journey to fulfill his lifelong commitment by signing his life away to dentistry - he has had no regrets since.

In his free time, Ramit likes to go hiking, rock climbing, swimming, walk by the river, and spend time with his friends. Sometimes he'll even attempt cooking which ends well around half the time. Most importantly, he'd like to thank his parents for their unconditional love and support in keeping him well-fed and cared for throughout his journey. Even if he doesn't say it often, he wouldn't have made it this far without them.

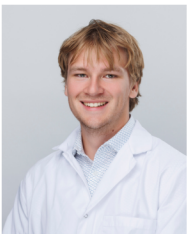


Maria Khan

Saskatoon, SK

Maria was born in Pakistan and moved to Ottawa in 2003, where she spent her childhood before being raised in Saskatoon, SK. She graduated with an Honours Degree in Kinesiology from the University of Saskatchewan before starting dentistry. She aspires to advocate for equitable access to oral health care for children globally, focusing on the early prevention and treatment of oral diseases.

Outside of dentistry pursuits, Maria enjoys painting Arabic calligraphy, climbing mountains, and cherishing time with her family and friends. Maria would like to express her immense appreciation to her family for their sacrifices, guidance, and support. She would not be where she is today without the unconditional love and encouragement from her parents, Arif and Shahzadi, as well as her four siblings and nephew.



Ryan Kuhn

Regina, SK

Ryan was born and raised in the iconic and majestic city of Regina. He attended the University of Regina, where he obtained a Bachelor of Science in Psychology.

In his free time, he enjoys golfing, tennis, and skiing. He would like to thank his parents and cat for their continuous support.



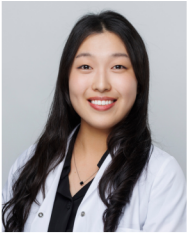
Anne-Florence Lambert

Ottawa, ON

Anne Florence was born in Winnipeg and raised in Halifax. At the age of five, she moved to Ottawa where she later graduated from Franco-Cité High School in 2019. She earned her Bachelor of Biomedical Sciences from the University of Ottawa in 2023.

Anne-Florence enjoys teaching music, singing, and playing badminton. She is deeply grateful to her parents, Josianne and Jean-François, for modelling perseverance and resilience, values that continue to inspire her to chase her dreams. She also extends her thanks to her brother William for his unwavering support as a tutor and mentor through difficult times.

Anne-Florence looks forward to using her future dental expertise to contribute to Canada and beyond as a Canadian Armed Forces dentist.



Hayley Yeji Lee

Calgary, AB

Hayley was born in South Korea and moved to Calgary, Canada, with her family at the age of ten. Her interest in science led her to study Biomedical Sciences at the University of Ottawa in 2018. Her lifelong passion for crafts, combined with her interest in science, inspired her to pursue dentistry.

Outside of her studies, Hayley enjoys spending time with friends, exploring new places, and trying new foods. It is her goal to travel as much as possible with her loved ones. She is deeply grateful to her parents, sister Nancy, brother Brian, and her best friends Raina, Daeun, Rachel, and Hayeon for their support throughout her journey.



Nicolas Macri

Vaughan, ON

Nicolas was born and raised in Vaughan, Ontario. After completing high school, he pursued a degree in neuroscience and physiology at the University of Toronto.

In his spare time, he enjoys skiing, traveling, and spending time with friends. He is deeply grateful to his parents, brother, and grandparents for their unwavering support throughout his journey.



Nami Marachli

Aleppo, Syria

Nami was born in Aleppo, Syria, and moved to Mississauga, Ontario, in 2017. He graduated from John Fraser Secondary School in 2019 and pursued his post-secondary education at the University of Guelph. In 2023, he completed his Honours Bachelor of Science degree in Life Sciences with distinction. Beyond dentistry, Nami enjoys playing and watching soccer, staying fit, and spending time with family and friends. He would like to thank his family and friends for their unwavering support in helping him achieve this significant milestone and hopes to continue sharing his future successes with them.



Tanzeel Nasir

Saskatoon, SK

Tanzeel was born in Pakistan and grew up in Saskatoon. He graduated from Walter Murray Collegiate followed by 3 years of Physiology & Pharmacology studies at the University of Saskatchewan.

In his free time, Tanzeel likes to explore Saskatchewan and be active. He would like to express his appreciation to his parents and his three siblings for their endless support. He has promised them free dental care for life!



Brady Nelson

Lethbridge, AB

Brady grew up in Lethbridge, Alberta, and graduated from Lethbridge Collegiate Institute in 2016. After graduation, he served a two-year mission in London, England. Upon returning, Brady relocated to Saskatoon, where he completed a bachelor's degree in cellular physiology and pharmacology. In his spare time, he enjoys camping, being outdoors, spending time with family, and playing sports.

Brady would like to express his deepest gratitude to his parents, Jared and Wendy, for their unwavering support, and to his in-laws, Lars and Jette, for their constant encouragement. Finally, he would like to thank his wife, Anna, and his daughter, Ella, for bringing joy to his life throughout this shared academic journey.



Promi Paul

Sarnia, ON

Promi spent her early years in Sarnia, Edmonton, and Calgary before moving to the nations capital in 2018 to attend the University of Ottawa. There, she earned an Honours Bachelor of Biomedical Sciences with a minor in Psychology, which fueled her passion for health sciences and her desire to make a positive impact on others' well-being. After graduating in 2022, she gained valuable experience working at a community pharmacy and shadowing local dentists before being accepted into the College of Dentistry.

Outside of academics, Promi enjoys staying active and creative through various hobbies, including dance, playing music, exercising, and travelling. She is deeply grateful to her mother, Pratima, and partner, Michael, for their constant support throughout her journey.



Carol Ragheb

Mississauga, ON

Carol was born in Cairo, Egypt, and moved to Mississauga, Ontario, in 2009 where she attended St. Aloysius Gonzaga Secondary School. Her interest in healthcare led her to Wilfrid Laurier University in Kitchener, Ontario, where she earned an Honours Bachelor's degree in Health Sciences with a minor in Chemistry and Biology in 2023.

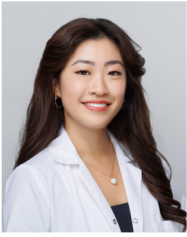
Carol would like to express her gratitude to her parents, Antoine and Dalia, and her brother Pierre, whose unwavering support and encouragement have been a cornerstone of her success. She also appreciates her friends, who have stood by her throughout her journey. Their support has been influential in helping her continue her education at the College of Dentistry at the University of Saskatchewan.



Mustafa Shahbaz

Milton, ON

Mustafa was born in Mississauga, Ontario, and spent his early years there before moving to Milton, Ontario, where he now resides. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree with Honours in Kinesiology from the University of Saskatchewan before pursuing Dentistry. Outside of academics, Mustafa stays active by playing sports, exploring new cultures through travel, and enjoying late-night drives with his close friends. He is deeply grateful to his parents, siblings, cat, and energetic nieces and nephews for their unwavering love and support, which have been a constant source of encouragement throughout his journey.”

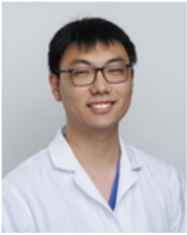


Jiaqi Shang

Saskatoon, SK

Jiaqi was born in Changchun, China, and spent part of her childhood in Montreal before moving to Saskatoon, where she completed her elementary and high school education. In 2023, she graduated from the University of Saskatchewan with a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology and a minor in Studio Art before her acceptance into the College of Dentistry.

Outside of her studies, Jiaqi loves to sketch and paint, read books, and scroll endlessly on Pinterest. You may also catch her at spin classes, working at the museum, or enjoying time with friends. Jiaqi expresses her heartfelt gratitude to her parents and brother for their unwavering support and constant encouragement and a special thank you to her dog, Mr. Bean for all the cuddles.



Haobo Shao

Hangzhou, China

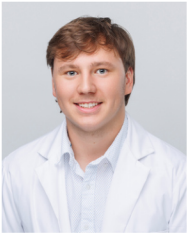
Haobo was born and raised in Hangzhou, China. He graduated with Bachelor of Science in Biology and double minor in Chemistry and Math from Rhodes College in Memphis, Tennessee. After his graduation, he seeks opportunities in dental fields. He moved to Orlando Florida in 2021 and worked as a dental assistant in Orlando for a year. After that, he returned to China and continued his work as a dental assistant in Hangzhou for another year prior to his acceptance to the College of Dentistry. In leisure time, Haobo enjoys reading and cooking. He is always open to new books and new foods. He'd like to express his appreciation to his parents for all the support so far.



Iraj Shareef

Regina, SK

Iraj Shareef was born in South Africa and shortly after moved with her family to Regina, SK. After obtaining a Bachelor's degree in Psychology from the University of Regina, she now channels her passion for understanding people into a career in dentistry. Outside of academia, Iraj is an avid traveler, eager to explore new cultures, savor unique foods, and discover hidden gems in cozy cafes. She credits her parents, Shazia and Mohammad, along with her grandmother Saleha, for their unwavering support, and her sisters, Raiha and Anum, for being constant sources of encouragement along the way.



Stanislav Sheshnev

Indian Head, SK

Stanislav was born in Russia and grew up in Indian Head, Saskatchewan. He attended Indian Head High School and upon graduation, he completed three years of studies in Kinesiology. In his free time, he enjoys watching movies, playing sports, and hanging out with friends. Stan would like to express his appreciation to his family, friends, and girlfriend for unwavering support and encouragement that has enabled him to reach this point in his life.



Sahejpreet Singh

Saskatoon, SK

Sahej was born in New Delhi, India and was raised in Dubai before finally settling in Saskatoon. He went on to study Kinesiology at the University of Saskatchewan before being accepted into the College of Dentistry in 2023. He enjoys staying physically active by participating in various sports and playing chess. Sahej would like to thank his family for being here for this special and significant occasion.



Sarah Son

New York City, USA

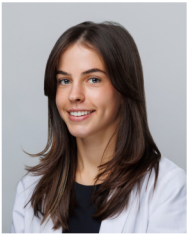
Sarah was born in New York City, which allowed her to encounter diversity through her surroundings. In 2021, she graduated Cum Laude and received her Bachelor of Science in Health Sciences and minor in Exercise Science at Drexel University. She worked as a dental assistant for three years during her gap years. After graduating, she had a chance to serve her community locally and abroad through a Christian mission organization. Traveling gave her a deeper connection to different cultures, and it sparked a passion for photography. Capturing raw, unfiltered moments made her realize that pictures speak volumes without words. Above all, she cherished spending quality time with her beloved family and friends. She would like to thank her parents, Seunghyon and Sukkeom, brother, Eric, and her community in her journey for their unwavering support, unconditional love, and sacrifices throughout the years. She wouldn't be here without their support.



Sion Song

New Jersey, USA

Sion Song was born in South Korea and moved to New York before eventually settling in New Jersey. She earned a Bachelor of Science in Neuropsychology from Pennsylvania State University in 2017, followed by post-baccalaureate training in Pre-health, completed in 2019 at Northwestern Health Sciences University in Minnesota. In her free time, Sion enjoys listening to music, traveling, and spending time with her cat. She is deeply grateful for the unwavering support of her family and friends, especially her mother, her late father, and her brother Jaan, who have encouraged her at every stage of her journey.



Jacqueline Tkachuk

Toronto, ON

Jackie grew up in Toronto, Ontario, along with her sister. After graduating from high school, she earned her Bachelor's Degree in Life Sciences at Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario. In her free time, she enjoys spending time outdoors with her friends and family. She would like to thank her parents, Jennifer and Douglas, and her sister, Elizabeth, for their support, patience, and encouragement.



Jaxson Toly

Lethbridge, AB

Raised in Lethbridge, Alberta, Jaxson graduated with a degree in Neuroscience from the University of Lethbridge. Jaxson enjoys staying active, spending time outdoors, and occasionally binge-watching unhealthy amounts of TV shows. He is the proud father of two children—Laney (almost 3) and Rhodes (almost 1)—whom he loves taking to the zoo, reading with, and pretending to be an imaginary horse (complete with sound effects). Jaxson would like to thank his family for their time and support, including his parents Lance and Shelly, and his in-laws. An extra special thanks goes to his wife Lexie for her support, selflessness, and belief in him.

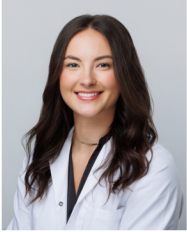


Lauren Williams

Prince Albert, SK

Lauren grew up in Prince Albert, Saskatchewan, and graduated from Carlton Comprehensive High School in 2020. She attended the University of Saskatchewan for three years studying Cellular, Physiological, and Pharmacological Sciences before being accepted into the College of Dentistry.

Outside of school, Lauren loves trying out different restaurants, cooking new recipes, baking muffins, and spending time with her friends. She would like to extend her gratitude to all the friends and family that have supported her endlessly, as well as her parents, who have encouraged her every step of the way.



Anna Wolitski

Wishart, SK

Anna was born and raised in the hamlet of Wishart, Saskatchewan, where she spent her childhood. She completed her elementary and secondary education in Wynyard, SK, before moving to Saskatoon to pursue a bachelor's degree in Health Studies. In her free time, Anna enjoys weightlifting, playing sports, and spending quality moments with family and friends. When she's not studying, she can often be found at Swirl World on 8th Street, sampling the latest flavors. Anna is grateful for the unwavering support and encouragement of her family, friends, classmates and teachers. She would like to extend special thanks to her parents, John and Tracy; her sister, Riss; her roommate and therapist, Jassy; and her lifelong friend, Mary. Without these individuals in her life, Anna believes she would not have been able to persevere and achieve all that has brought her to where she is today.



Joel Zimroz

Humboldt, SK

Joel Zimroz grew up in Humboldt, Saskatchewan where he lived with his parents (Debbie and Edward) and three brothers (Jonathan, Jacob, and Isaac). In between schoolwork and exams, he will often be back at his family grain farm and sheep ranch to help work.

Joel has studied at the University of Saskatchewan since 2018. He obtained a Physiology and Pharmacology Degree, in June of 2022. In 2023, Joel was accepted into the College of Dentistry and has enjoyed every aspect of learning and time spent with faculty and colleagues.

Joel would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to his entire family, girlfriend (Darcie), church leaders, and friends, whom without their prayers and support, would not be where he is on his journey today.

UNIVERSITY SASKATCHEWAN



IDDP CLASS OF 2026



Nkoyiren Ajie

Kaduna, Nigeria

Nkoyiren is a passionate dental professional originally from Kaduna, Nigeria. She earned her Bachelor of Dental Surgery from the prestigious University of Lagos before moving to Canada in 2022. Her dedication to dentistry has led her to gain valuable experience in various roles, including dental assisting and dental technology. Currently, she is enrolled in the International Dental Degree Program (IDDP) at the University of Saskatchewan, where she continues to pursue her dream of becoming a licensed dentist in Canada. She is deeply grateful to God and to her husband, Oluwatosin, for their unwavering support and encouragement throughout her journey.



Gurpreet Bedi

Amritsar, India

Gurpreet hails from Amritsar, India. Upon the completion of his bachelor's degree at CDC Ludhiana, he successfully established a dental practice in Mohali, India, dedicating nearly 8 years to his professional endeavors. He also attained a master's degree in Oral Medicine and Radiology. Gurpreet attributes his accomplishments to the sustained encouragement provided by his father-in-law throughout this journey. He expresses deep gratitude for the unwavering love and support extended by his family in Canada and his country of origin. Spending quality time with his family brings him solace and inspiration, fostering a positive and fulfilling outlook on life.



Sheyla Bravo Jaimes

Lima, Peru

Sheyla was born and raised in Lima, Peru. She completed her dental education at Universidad Nacional Mayor de San Marcos in 2016. After graduation, Sheyla practiced as a dentist in a private dental office for two years before moving to a rural community to serve as a community dentist. In 2019, she relocated to Canada to pursue a Master's in Public Health at the University of Saskatchewan. Sheyla worked as a health educator at the Battlefords Union Hospital for three years before being accepted into the College of Dentistry. Outside of dentistry, she enjoys travelling, cooking, baking, and practicing yoga. Sheyla would like to thank her parents, siblings and partner Kyle for their unconditional support and encouragement throughout her journey.



Uyiosa Eregie

Benin City, Nigeria

Uyiosa was born and raised in Benin City, Edo State, Nigeria. She graduated with a Bachelor of Dental Surgery in 2008 from the University of Benin, Nigeria. She did her post-graduation residency training in Prosthodontics and was inducted as a Fellow of the West African College of Surgeons (FWACS) in 2018. She has publications in various journals and has participated in National and International Dental Conferences.

Uyiosa worked as a Dental Receptionist and a Dental Assistant before being accepted at the University of Saskatchewan. She owes endless thanks to God Almighty, who is the source of her being, her amazing husband Edward, who has been a huge rock and support on this journey, her adorable daughters, Ehi, Efe and Zena and her wonderful parents and siblings. Beyond Dentistry, she loves spending time with her family, listening to good music and watching thriller movies. Uyiosa considers herself privileged to be pursuing her Doctor of Dental Medicine (DMD) at the University of Saskatchewan.



Gundeep Makkad

Bathinda, India

Gundeep was born and raised in Bathinda, India. She earned her Bachelor of Dental Surgery in 2012 and practiced as a general dentist for a year before relocating to Canada. Currently residing in Montreal, Quebec, she worked as a dental assistant, which provided her with invaluable experience but also intensified her passion for dentistry, ultimately leading to her acceptance at the University of Saskatchewan. Having experienced firsthand the negative impacts of bullying associated with needing orthodontic care, she found that receiving orthodontic treatment changed her perspective on life.

Gundeep is profoundly grateful for this opportunity and for the unwavering love and support from her family and friends. She would especially like to thank her husband Ravneet, expressing her deep appreciation: "Thank you for being my rock and my greatest supporter. I couldn't have done this without your constant encouragement and love."

Outside of dentistry, Gundeep enjoys exploring new places and aspires to travel the world. Looking to the future, she is especially focused on regions with limited dental access and aims to make a meaningful contribution to the field.



Jakes Mammen

Kerala, India

Jakes grew up in Kerala, India, and graduated with a bachelor's in dental surgery from Christian Dental College in Ludhiana. After completing his degree in 2014, he pioneered the establishment of a dental unit in a mission hospital in rural Karnataka, serving as the Head Dentist for nearly three years and finding purpose in helping marginalized communities.

Jakes worked for four years in Dubai, where he further developed his expertise in a diverse and dynamic environment. He is passionate about dentistry, believing that every smile is an opportunity to brighten someone's day.

In his free time, Jakes enjoys playing sports, especially soccer, where he finds joy in teamwork and friendly competition. He is also passionate about the outdoors, enjoying activities like fishing, hiking, and exploring nature. Additionally, he loves dancing, showcasing his ability to bring rhythm to both the field and the dance floor, even if his moves sometimes resemble a giraffe on roller skates!

Jakes would like to express his heartfelt gratitude to his parents, in-laws, and his supportive brother and sister-in-law for their unwavering encouragement throughout his journey. Most importantly, he is profoundly thankful to his wonderful wife for her belief in him and her support during the toughest moments. Jakes feels truly blessed for all the guidance and blessings he has received as he continues to pursue his passion for helping others through dentistry—one smile at a time.



Sadiq Momin

Mumbai, India

Sadiq was born in Gujarat and raised in Mumbai, India. He completed his Bachelor of Dental Surgery (BDS) from Mumbai, India in 2008. After graduating he began his career as an associate dentist for an Endodontist. He began his own private practice in 2010, where he provided comprehensive dental care until moving to Canada in 2022 to pursue new opportunities.

Sadiq is extremely grateful and delighted for the opportunity of pursuing Doctor of Dental Medicine (DMD) at University of Saskatchewan. He would like to thank his wife, son, parents, brothers, grandparents and friends for immense love and support on his journey. Apart from dentistry he also enjoys cooking, travelling and music.



Brijesh Patel

Surat, India

Brijesh was born and raised in Surat, India. He completed his Bachelor's degree in dentistry from Sumandeep Vidyapeeth in 2012 and pursued a Master's in Prosthodontics from North Gujarat University in 2016. After dedicating six years to his practice in India, Brijesh moved to Canada with his family in 2022. Continuing his passion for the field, he was accepted into the International Dentist Degree Program (IDDP) at the University of Saskatchewan.

He enjoys learning about dentistry and, outside of his profession, loves traveling and spending quality time with his family and friends. Brijesh is deeply grateful to his family, friends, and teachers for their unwavering love and support throughout his journey.



Chirag Semrani

Mumbai, India

Chirag was born in Mumbai, India. Upon graduating from the Government Dental College and Hospital Mumbai in 2011, he practiced as a general dentist for seven years in various clinical settings, including as an independent practitioner. In 2019, he moved to Canada, where he began the dental equivalence process and worked for Molson and Coors in Toronto before accepting an offer at the University of Saskatchewan. He is grateful for this wonderful opportunity and extends his heartfelt thanks to his parents, Hasmukh and Veena, his brother Mayur, his sister-in-law Pooja and his cute little nephews Yunay and Vivam for their constant love, support and motivation. In his free time, Chirag enjoys hiking, thrill-seeking activities, traveling, cooking, dancing, and physical training.



Harshita Tiwari

Jaipur, India

Harshita Tiwari was born and raised in Jaipur, India. She graduated in 2016 with a Bachelor of Dental Surgery then established her own clinic in Jaipur.

She is immensely grateful for the unwavering support of her husband Prashant, In-laws, Parents, Siblings and her friends who have been her pillars of strength every step of the way, recognizing that her journey would not have been possible without their encouragement.

Harshita loves to travel with her husband, exploring new cultures. She enjoys dancing and believes in maintaining a healthy balance between her personal and professional lives, ensuring she thrives in all aspects. Harshita is excited to continue her journey in dentistry while cherishing the relationships that shape her life.



Satya Yalamolu

Narayanapuram, India

Satya Yalamolu was born and raised in Narayanapuram, India. She graduated with a bachelor's degree in Dentistry from Vishnu Dental College, India, in 2016. Satya then pursued a Master's degree in Prosthodontics, which she completed at the Lenora Institute of Dental Sciences, India, in 2020. Due to her academic achievements, she was offered a position as an Assistant Professor at the same college, where she worked before moving to Canada in 2022.

Satya would like to extend her heartfelt thanks to her parents, sister, in-laws, and friends for their unwavering support and encouragement throughout her journey to becoming a dentist in Canada. She is especially grateful to her husband, Satish, who never dreamed low about her. Satya enjoys drawing and spending quality moments with family and friends in her free time. She feels privileged to be pursuing her Doctor of Dental Medicine (DMD) degree at the University of Saskatchewan.



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