

# FINDING JOY IN THE JOURNEY

By Stacey Schewaga, Leadership Giving and Donor Relations Officer

All journeys start somewhere. They take you places you want to go. Or places you have never been. And sometimes they even take you places you weren't planning on going. The journey is always interesting and usually best when taken with a friend. You, my friend, are always by our side for the ride here at the College of Dentistry and this year, you made it unforgettable.

best interest. You give your knowledge, experience, wealth, and most of all, time—that makes you truly extraordinary!

When asking part-time faculty why they do it, one replied, "This is my way of giving back. I love it!" Another faculty member stated, "When I retired, I thought I was done with the profession but then I decided to come here and help. If someone told me I would have a skip in my step and be smiling all the way here, I would have said they were crazy. I love working with the students and this has renewed my love for dentistry."

The feeling is mutual because students love having the part-time faculty around. "We couldn't do this without them," said a second-year student. "Having more people to ask questions of and learn from is better than anything in a textbook," exclaimed another. The people who give of themselves day after day to assist in the students' journey are like an evening sunset, beautiful souls that take our breath away. Your generosity is noticed and appreciated more than you know.

## The Essentials

This journey started with the help of amazing supporters, like you, to enhance the care of patients and student learning. In March 2015, a celebration was held to honour donors and their special impact on our college.

When Richard entered the clinic at the start of third year, he was lucky enough to have a brand new ADEC cart. He knew from previous experience assisting some upper years that they were using magnets to attach their high volume and saliva ejector to their cart, so he knew the new cart was a great improvement.

As happy as he was to have a brand new ADEC cart, he was faced with a different challenge when treating patients. Unfortunately, he had a non-locking dental chair with a light that had a mind of its own. The chair itself took up the majority of the space in the cubicle when the patient was reclined. If he turned to face his cubicle desk to choose an instrument from our new sterilization cassettes, the chair would rotate on him. Therefore, to stabilize the chair he would hold it between his knees while pressing the rheostat. The overhead light attached to the chair meanwhile would rotate in the opposite direction to the chair, requiring him to take frequent breaks to adjust its position.

Because of the generosity of our friends and alumni, Richard is now the proud owner of an ADEC 500 dental chair. Now he never misses an opportunity to sing the praises of all those who made this possible. Richard is grateful for a light that is stable, very bright and focused, which allows improved ability to visualize his operative field. He is appreciative of the locking mechanism of the chair, which also gives him better ergonomics. Even the patients praise how much more comfortable the new dental chair is now.

But his favourite experience with the new dental chair is when

younger pediatric patients open their eyes wide in disbelief when he reclines the chair "with no hands or feet" (presets)! While Richard's young patients think the reclining chair is magic, we know this enchantment was made possible through your gifts of support and care. Thirteen new dental chairs and lights sparkle in the student dental clinic and they are just one of the memorable memories you gave us on this journey last year.



Richard Andrews and a ADEC 500 chair in the student clinic.

## The Currency

Did you know there are 114 students filling the halls of the College of Dentistry and there are over 65 awards that are handed out annually to some of these promising new dentists? Over \$58,000 in awards is spread among hard-working students, providing a bit of relief and a little less stress. New this year, your generosity bestowed 10 \$1,000 Opportunity Awards to first-year and second-year students through the Annual Campaign for Students. Our alumni and friends gave gifts from \$20 to \$1,000+ annually to this campaign, which helps lighten the financial load for a student. In the past, other gifts have enhanced student learning through new equipment, programming and infrastructure.

Thank you to everyone who supports the Annual Campaign for Students, the Dr. Kirk Johnston Spirit Memorial Award, the Dr. George Peacock Award, and so many more. Student awards bring excitement every year, but their gratitude continues all the way through their studies.



International College of Dentists scholarship to Joshua Marshall.

## The Gastronomy

There is always a stop for food along the way on any journey. In August 2015, dental students welcomed a specific group of donors, all from Saskatchewan, for lunch and the opportunity to share their gratitude. The event took place in the new Health Sciences D-Wing, which is attached to the B-wing where first- and second-year students spend most of their academic time. The students shared their experiences and appreciation for what others have done for them. During the lunch, one scholarship recipient expressed her gratitude for having someone believe in her and allowing her to reach her dreams. Additionally, a third-year student shared her first-time experience using the TRIOS machine, donated by the class of '77, and how it promoted determination in perfecting and learning a new skill. These experiences and gifts change and enrich the student voyage, and this was a great way to celebrate and thank our donors.

## The Camaraderie

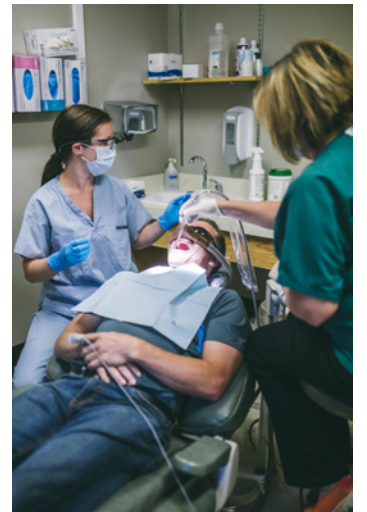


Students share lunch and conversation with donors.

Think of those you travel with on a journey. Maybe it's your favourite companion, a friend or family member or a group of wonderful people. The people who share their time and knowledge with the students at the College of Dentistry are among the students' favourite friends. Lifesavers in every way! The college is privileged to have 59 fabulous part-time faculty companions. Other special friends including guest lectures, over 50 volunteers who help with admissions annually and those within the college who work and volunteer for the students'

## The Reflection ... and Plans for the Next Journey!

As we wind down our trek, we start to plan for the next journey, and 2016 has the potential to be an amazing expedition as you continue to make a difference in the lives of the students. Our plans begin with having a space for the vulnerable people in our community—those too sick to get treatment anywhere else, and the physically challenged. The new General Practice Residency clinic will begin to take form in summer 2016 and your support will help provide a space for much-needed services for patients in our community. This journey just beginning, let's see where it goes in 2016.



For 2015, the journey comes to an end, and we reflect and celebrate you. It is wonderful to revisit and go on the journey again. Come by and meet the students; you are always welcome at the College of Dentistry! Thank you for making a profound difference for our students. You continue to do great things both in for your profession and beyond. Our students couldn't do it without you.

To learn more on how you can make a difference in the lives of dental students, call me, email me or stop by my office. If you are celebrating a milestone reunion or a class get together, contact us so we can assist and celebrate with you.

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