

## Michigan Dental Foundation Awards Eight New Scholarships

Each year the Michigan Dental Foundation awards student scholarships to dental, dental hygiene and dental assisting students, through the generous donations of individuals and partner organizations.

The Foundation awards money through its Robert D. Mitus, John G. Nolen, George Bletsas and Bill Schumann/MDA Insurance & Financial Group scholarships. Since the scholarships began in 1999, approximately 84 scholarships have been given, for a total of \$108,000.

**The Michigan Dental Foundation Robert D. Mitus Scholarship** recipients for the academic year 2008-2009 are: dental students Anthony Fasi and Jane Steiber from the University of Michigan School of Dentistry, and David DeHaan from the University of Detroit Mercy School of Dentistry; dental hygiene students Erin Huber from the University of Detroit Mercy and Andrea Krum from Baker College of Port Huron.

**The Michigan Dental Foundation John G. Nolen Scholarship** is given to a third-year dental student at the

University of Michigan. The recipient for the academic year 2008-2009 is Matthew Ora.

**The Michigan Dental Foundation George Bletsas Scholarship** is awarded to a third-year dental student at the University of Detroit Mercy Dental School. The recipient for the academic year 2008-2009 is Nashwa Azia.

**The MDA Insurance & Financial Group Scholarship** is awarded annually to a fourth-year dental student at the University of Michigan School of Dentistry. The recipient for 2008-2009 is Catherine Cho.

The Michigan Dental Foundation is pleased to present its scholarship recipients for the academic year 2008-2009. Congratulations to all the students! They will be assets to the profession of dentistry.

If you are interested in setting up a scholarship program to assist future dental professionals in the state of Michigan, please contact the Michigan Dental Foundation's Lori Kleinfelt at (800) 589-2632, ext. 406.

See below for more on our scholarship winners . ✧

## Meet the 2008-2009 MDF Scholarship Winners

Each year the Michigan Dental Foundation makes an investment in the future of Michigan dentistry by awarding scholarships to outstanding dental, dental hygiene and dental assisting students at schools in our state. Here's a quick look at this year's scholarship awardees.



**Catherine Cho (MDA Insurance & Financial Group Scholarship)** is a senior dental student at University of Michigan School at Dentistry. A native of Ann Arbor with a bachelor's degree from U-M, she worked in a dental office while in undergrad and found that dentistry fulfilled her desire to help others. She names Dr. Don Heys, an instructor at the dental school, as her mentor.

As Catherine says, "The best advice I was given was 'work hard, play hard.' I truly believe that that hard work pays off as long as you find time to enjoy yourself at the same time." She also offers this advice to anyone thinking about dentistry as a profession: "Seek it out and explore dentistry as much as you can. The more you immerse yourself in something, the more you'll be able to know if it's right for you." Catherine will be pursuing an orthodontic residency after graduation and looks forward to opening her own practice.



**Matthew Ora (John G. Nolen Scholarship)** is a junior dental student at the University of Michigan, having earned a B.S. in brain behavior and cognitive science from U-M in 2006. He's currently the vice president of the Alpha Omega Dental Fraternity.

Matthew was exposed to dentistry very early on, watching his father, Dr. Dennis Ora, in his hometown of Hartland. He saw first hand that dentistry was a rewarding profession and how it truly makes a difference in the lives of others. Matthew also attributes his love for dentistry to the excellent instructors at the University of Michigan.

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Matthew says, "Many people told me that dental school would be hard, but that if it was truly what I wanted to do, then I would be able to do it. I enjoy the clinical aspect of dentistry and how dentistry allows you to be creative with your hands while providing a great service to the patient."

He adds, "Winning the Michigan Dental Foundation John G. Nolen Scholarship has definitely helped me put a dent in the loans that I have had to take out for tuition and living expenses. I am very grateful. I hope to pursue an AEGD or GPR after graduation prior to joining my father in Hartland."



**Nashwa Azia (George Bletsas Scholarship)** is a third-year dental student at the University of Detroit Mercy. Before entering UDM, she earned a B.S. degree in nutritional science from Michigan State University. She has also taken part in two study-abroad programs at the American University in Cairo and the University of London.

Nashwa says, "I have many reasons why I wanted to become a dentist, but one very personal one comes to mind. Back in elementary school, kids teased me by calling me 'Gap.' They were referring to the large diastemas present in my anterior teeth, to use the proper dental terminology. I can't explain how much pain and anxiety this caused me. By the time I reached middle school, I was conscious of these gaps to the point where I had no desire to smile. Prior to college, I was blessed with the opportunity to have my smile corrected. Ever since then, I have had a constant smile. Dental treatment was a gift to me, and I want to be able to provide these gifts to others."

"Being a recipient of the Michigan Dental Foundation has contributed to reducing my loan debt and has reduced the stress of taking additional loans to fund my dental education." Nashwa is also the Second Delegate of the American Student Dental Association.



**D. Andrew DeHaan (Robert D. Mitus Scholarship)** is a third-year dental student at the University of Detroit Mercy Dental School, originally from Shelby Township. He pursued dentistry because it was the perfect fit with the combination of biological science, intricate work and patient interactions. David firmly believes dentistry is a great profession, despite the hard work to get into it and get through dental school.

"One thing I truly enjoy is seeing the changes we can make," he says. "For example, a patient of mine made some mistakes with her oral health in the past. But now, after seeing me for the past six months, she is maintaining unremarkable oral health and is going to be able to save her teeth. This experience was beneficial for her and rewarding for me."

Interestingly, D. Andrew has twice gone to Honduras on a mission trip. "Serving these people with dental care was an experience I will forever remember. A layperson might not realize how blessed we are to have access to dental care. After seeing the extreme oral problems that these people had and how we could help them, I knew dentistry was the right choice."

"Winning the Michigan Dental Foundation Scholarship is a reward financially, but it also inspires me to work harder, knowing that my hard work thus far has been rewarded."



**Jane Stieber (Robert D. Mitus Scholarship)** graduated from Northern Michigan University in Marquette Michigan with a B.A. in biology. She's from Boyne City originally and has wanted to become a dental professional so that she could support herself and provide a health care service while living anywhere in the world.

Right now she's involved with research at the University of Michigan and working on a project titled "Survival Protein Expression in Vascular Endothelial Cells Is a Predictor of Tumor Progression." Jane's goal is to balance teaching, research and clinical care when she's finished with her training. She is passionate in her service to others and enjoys empowering and inspiring others to achieve their goals. She'll be presenting her research at the IADR meeting in the spring.

"Winning the Michigan Dental foundation scholarship has helped my finances and self-confidence. I am honored that experienced dentists have sufficient confidence in me to fund my education," Jane says.



**Anthony Fasi (Robert D. Mitus Scholarship)** is a third-year dental student at the University of Michigan, with a bachelor's degree in human biology from Michigan State University. He's a native of Traverse City. He says he wanted to pursue a career in dentistry because it's a perfect fit between his professional and personal goals. He explains: "I've always wanted to work independently,, own a business, to practice medicine and still have the time and flexibility to raise a family."

He says the best advice he's been given was to "Find a career that makes you happy, and all the other things fill follow." He adds, "The advice I would give to students pursuing a career in dentistry is to do



as much as you can to be sure of your path. Volunteer with local dentists, join pre-dental societies, call up dental students and ask questions, come spend a day at the dental school. It's a long road, but it's well worth it if you are certain that it's the path for you."

Anthony plans on owning his own practice, and hopes to spend one month a year traveling around the world providing care to underserved countries through dental mission work. In fact, he's trying to learn Spanish specifically for this purpose. Already thinking ahead, he says he'd love to participate in organized dentistry when he graduates, most likely at the state level. Specifically, he'd like to help affect changes to dental policy that could streamline some of the insurance issues we face today.



**Erin Huber (Robert D. Mitus Scholarship)** is a senior dental hygiene student at the University of Detroit Mercy School of Dentistry. A Livonia native, she earned an associates of science degree at Schoolcraft College. With her love of science, she decided to choose dental hygiene as a career.

She cites Jane Halaris, an instructor at UDM, as someone who has really inspired her. "Ms. Halaris has mentored me, and I truly feel that she has inspired me to always strive to be my best." She adds, "I'm inspired daily by my professors and classmates. Being around these strong, independent people is an inspiration in itself. I also have great friends and family that believe in me."

As the president of SADHA (the Student American Dental Hygiene Association), she's already had the chance to give back to the Detroit community. She loves educating children, and helping those who need it the most. In fact, she loves every aspect about dentistry, and is truly happy with her career choice.

Erin adds: "I could see myself continuing on into dental school, and establishing my own practice, or I could also see myself obtaining my master's, and teaching in dental hygiene. I guess time will tell!"



**Andrea Krum (Robert D. Mitus Scholarship)** is a senior dental hygiene student at Baker College of Port Huron, and a native of Algonac. She has always loved the idea that you can make a difference in someone's life, especially because many people do not understand the correlation between oral health and their overall health. That's what drew her to dental hygiene. And right since the very beginning of making her choice of dental hygiene she knew it was the right career path for her.

"The Michigan Dental Foundation Scholarship will help to cover my last quarter of school, which is great," Andrea says. "I hope to be able to find a job in Michigan after graduation to stay close to my family and work on completing my bachelor's degree. I would love to teach in a dental hygiene program. There are many options available to me, for which I am grateful." ✨

## Foundation Donates 500 Oral Health Kits

The Michigan Dental Foundation recently distributed more than 500 oral health kits to youngsters in need. The kits include a child's toothbrush, tooth paste, oral health tips, and technique bookmarks, all packaged in a durable, plastic zippered case.

- The Foundation donated more than 300 oral health kits at the annual Give Kids a Smile Day at the University of Detroit Mercy and the University of Michigan dental schools.
- The Foundation also donated more than 200 of the oral health kits to the Wayne County Medical Society Foundation. ✨

*Dr. Mike Jennings,  
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**Board of Trustees** established the **Michigan Dental Foundation** in 1998 to serve as the MDA's philanthropic arm. The Foundation is also supported by the **Michigan Dental Assistants Association** and the **Michigan Dental Hygienists' Association**.

*Highlights is published three times a year by the Michigan Dental Foundation.*

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# Thank you!

## Generous Inner Circle Leadership Donors

The Michigan Dental Foundation would like to thank the Inner Circle Leadership Donors for 2008. They have all been very generous in supporting the Foundation and its projects, which continue to impact the future of Michigan dentistry. The Michigan Dental Foundation relies largely on the contributions of Michigan dental professionals for funding to carry out its mission. These leaders in dentistry have answered the call and been very generous. We applaud all of you.

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