



UNIVERSITY of MARYLAND  
SCHOOL OF DENTISTRY

# Scholarship Luncheon

Tuesday, April 16,  
2024  
Westminster Hall





“This generous scholarship has helped me by providing financial support to attend Maryland, positioned me to work with some of the best faculty in the country, and has enabled me to concentrate on my residency without the financial burden that many residents in our field have. To that end, thank you. I sincerely appreciate your kindness and am grateful to be the recipient of your scholarship.”

- Lindsay Diaz, DDS '21, Third-year Orthodontics postgraduate





“I am deeply grateful to the generous donors of the Dr. Charles W. Hennesey Scholarship Fund for their dedication to supporting aspiring students like myself in pursuing their educational dreams. This scholarship aid will significantly alleviate the financial burden of dental school, allowing me to fully immerse myself in my studies and clinical work, ultimately shaping my path toward a successful career in dentistry. Your invaluable contribution will not only impact my education but also inspire me to make a positive difference in the dental profession and beyond.”

– Abdullah Senjab, DDS Class of 2025



“I’m taking out loans to pay for my education and living expenses on my own, so this scholarship really means a lot to me. I’m so grateful for your generous donation as it will help me pay for some of my educational expenses. I hope to one day specialize as an oral surgeon or a periodontist as I am passionate about dental surgery. One day, I hope to give back to my community and donate to students who are walking a similar path as me.”

- Nauera Abou Abdou, DDS Class of 2027





“Thank you for awarding me with the Thomas E. Wolf, DDS Scholarship!”

-Shereese Bell, DDS Class of 2024



“Thank you, donors, for creating the many scholarships that are available to students as they continue their education. The opportunity to receive a scholarship award alleviates some financial burden so I can focus on my studies. This allows me to achieve my academic goals. The investment you provided for my education makes a difference in my life and motivates me to give back to the community while striving for excellence.”

– Meagan Harrison, DDS Class of 2027





“Donors, your generosity eases some of the financial challenges associated with pursuing higher education, and moreover, it encourages me to stay dedicated to my studies and to keep pushing toward my goal to become the best dentist for my community.”

- Milee Makwana, DDS Class of 2027



“I want to express my deep appreciation for the Dennis M. Thome Memorial Scholarship Endowment, as it will significantly reduce my student loans after dental school and provide the financial stability necessary to establish a dental nonprofit post-graduation. Your generous support not only alleviates my financial burden but also empowers me to pursue my passion for serving underserved communities through dentistry without financial constraints.”

- Marina Fileva , DDS Class of 2026





“Scholarships not only alleviate the financial burden of education on students but also serve as motivation for individuals striving to achieve their dreams. Thank you for your commitment to empowering students and for making a positive difference in the lives of so many. Your efforts are deeply appreciated and have a lasting impact that extends far beyond the classroom!”

- Jamie Derkasch, DDS Class of 2027



“Thank you so much for being such a great support to my education. Moments like this serve as a reminder of why giving is so important and how it can make such a big difference to anyone’s life.”

- Oluwatosin Bello, DDS Class of 2025





“Scholarship aid continues to greatly ease the financial strain of professional school, which, for many of us, may look like placing a higher priority on our well-being and fully dedicating ourselves to our educational endeavors. With this invaluable support, we are empowered to persistently pursue our aspirations, unlock our fullest potential, and make substantial contributions to the field of dentistry. I am deeply grateful for the generosity of our scholarship donors, and their unwavering faith in our potential.”

- Rewa Hazim, DDS Class of 2026



“I extend my heartfelt gratitude for your generous contribution in providing this scholarship opportunity. Your commitment to supporting students like myself speaks volumes about your dedication to education and empowering future leaders. I am extremely grateful for this award and honored to be recognized by the two of you!”

- Vincent Sturniolo, DDS Class of 2027





“Thank you so much to the Carl H. and Etta C. Stoetzer Dental Education Fund for their generous scholarship. This aid is much appreciated by me and my family, as I am actually one of three daughters pursuing a doctorate degree this year! Your kind gift has helped bring me closer to my dream of becoming the 4th Dr. Vailoces in my family.”

- Vanessa Mae Vailoces, DDS Class of 2026



“I would like to sincerely thank my donors for their support. It is an honor to be recognized by people who believe in me and want to see me succeed in dental school and beyond. I am so appreciative to have the financial burden of school lightened. Your support means more to me than you know. Thank you!”

- Natalie Gochar, DDS Class of 2026





“I am profoundly grateful for the honor of receiving this award, which not only recognizes my academic dedication but also supports my journey through dental school. With a background deeply rooted in both art and science, I am committed to integrating these passions into my pursuit of orthodontics, where I aim to make a transformative impact on the lives of my future patients. Thank you so much for providing finances that make me fully focus on my studies and clinical training without worry.”

- Raheel Raad, DDS Class of 2026



“Thank you so much for supporting our studies by rewarding us with these scholarships. Your donation helps us pay for equipment and materials needed in classes like our simulation laboratories.”

- Melanie Izaguirre, DDS Class of 2027

“Scholarships made a huge difference in my life, enabling me to attend conferences and community service trips to widen my perspective as a dentist. Thank you for your generous gift!”

- Brandon Shim, DDS Class of 2024



“Receiving this scholarship has given me pride in all the hard work that has brought me here, confidence in my abilities, and hope that all my dental aspirations are within my grasp. Thank you so much for your support, everything that I accomplish from this time forward will be due in part to your generosity and kindness.”

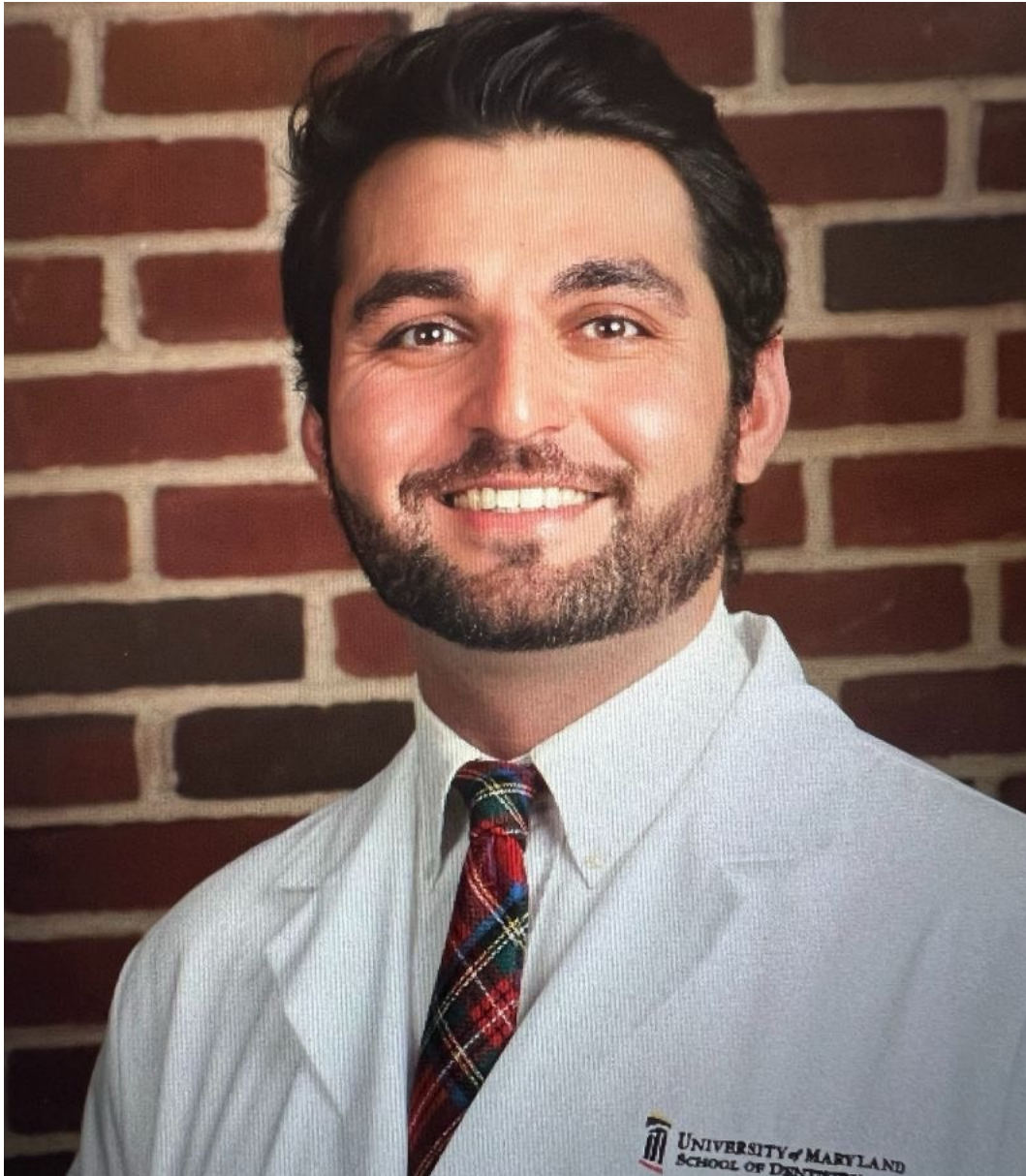
- Gabrielle Howell, DDS Class of 2027



“I feel very honored to be receiving the Keeler Family Scholarship! Your family's generosity will not only be helping me but also my children; Anna, who is attending UC Davis, and Nathan, who is a Junior attending Mt. Hebron.”

- Sarah Ermoshkin, DDS '16,  
Second-Year Endodontics  
postgraduate





“I want to express my sincere gratitude for the support you all have provided through this award. My post-grad goals are to complete a 1-year GPR at the Washington DC VA, enter private practice, and eventually return to academic dentistry. This award puts me one step closer to reaching all of these future goals — and for that, I am immensely grateful.”

- Justin Tabatabai, DDS Class of 2024



“Thank you so much to the donors for creating scholarship opportunities for us students! Your generosity is truly appreciated and will be immensely beneficial!”

- Tri Le, DDS '22, Second-Year Orthodontics postgraduate





“Thank you all for your generous donations and for creating scholarships for the students in need of some extra financial help. Scholarships can help students like myself to focus more on their education instead of having to worry about finances.”

- Ashleigh Alexander, DDS Class of 2024



“Thank you so much for donating to make UMSOD scholarships possible. I am determined to make the most of this opportunity and to pay it forward by making a meaningful impact in the lives of others, just as you have done for me.”

- Allison Orlosky, DDS Class of 2024







“Thank you once again for your generosity and for believing in my potential. I am truly honored and humbled to be a recipient of this scholarship.”

- Brianna Garcia, DDS Class of 2027



“Thank you to all the donors for their contributions to student scholarships! Receiving a scholarship helps us in so many ways! It helps to relieve some of the financial stress of our student loans, allows us to pursue further academic endeavors, and even gives us the possibility to participate in hobbies! Thank you again!”

- Kevin Barnes, DDS '21, Third-Year Orthodontics postgraduate





“Receiving this support enables me to dedicate myself fully to my studies, clinical training, and research in dentistry, enhancing my abilities to become a skilled and empathetic dental practitioner. With this generous contribution alleviating financial concerns, I can pursue my passion for dentistry wholeheartedly, ensuring unwavering dedication to serving my future patients and community.”

- Keon Manesh, DDS Class of 2025



“Please extend my heartfelt gratitude to all those involved in the administration of the Dr. Henry S. Hohouser Memorial Scholarship. Your support is not just an investment in my future—it inspires me to make a meaningful difference in the lives of others, much as Dr. Hohouser’s legacy has made a difference to students like me.”

- Wynnanne Walters, DDS Class of 2025





“Pursuing higher education in dentistry has always been my passion. Financial constraints created obstacles to achieving my dreams as a lifelong learning professional. I was on the verge of making my professional career decisions based on my financial situation, but scholarship opportunities not only helped me financially but also motivated me to pursue my educational career knowing that generous donors like Drs. Trung and Tien Ho and many more continue to support and help individuals like me. I hope to give back to the community and school that has given me these valuable learning experiences by teaching at the University in the future.”

- Vinay Kumar Madavan, DDS, Third-Year Prosthodontics postgraduate



“I would like to extend my warmest gratitude towards our donors for giving students like myself and my colleagues opportunities to expand our education and experiences. We hope to make you all proud!”

- Hebah Abu Shakra , DDS Class of 2024





“Thanks to all the donors that make trying to raise a family while in school easier. Since having our son, for the time being, my wife has become a stay-at-home mom. Receiving the scholarships takes a lot of the financial stress away.”

- Jarric Weber, DDS Class of 2025



“I am sincerely grateful for your generosity in supporting students like myself through the Edward S. Gaylord Scholarship. Your dedication and investment in aspiring dentists are inspiring. Receiving this scholarship aid will not only alleviate the financial burdens of my dental education but also push me to focus more on my studies and make a difference at UMSOD. Your contribution will undoubtedly make a difference in my education, and I am deeply thankful for your support. Thank you!”

- Alexandra Kinder, DDS Class of 2027





“Receiving this scholarship is not only financial relief but also a significant recognition of my hard work and dedication to my academic and personal pursuits. I am truly grateful for your generous contributions. Thank you so much!”

- Queen Ralph, DDS Class of 2025



“As someone who has faced significant life challenges, this scholarship represents more than just financial support... it symbolizes recognition, encouragement, and a renewed sense of purpose. I am committed to making the most of this opportunity and to pay it forward by using my education and experiences to make a positive difference in the lives of others.”

- Elvia Jimenez Ciriaco, DDS Class of 2025







“I am sincerely grateful for your generous contribution towards the Edward S. Gaylord Scholarship Fund. Your dedication to supporting students like myself in pursuing higher education is truly commendable, and I cannot thank you enough for investing in my future. This scholarship aid will significantly alleviate the financial burden of my education, allowing me to focus more on my studies and achieve my academic and career goals.”

- Hana Velecina, DDS Class of 2027



“I really love doing dentistry and being a force for good in my patients’ lives, and I am truly grateful that you have helped enable me to do so without having to worry as much about my family’s financial future. So, sincerely, from the bottom of my heart, thank you for your generosity.”

- Travis Fernald, DMD, Second-year  
Prosthodontics Postgraduate



“This scholarship will provide me with the essential resources needed to enhance my dental education, including vital equipment such as loupes and additional lab practice materials. With these tools at my disposal, I will have more opportunities to refine my skills and deepen my understanding of dentistry, ultimately preparing me for a successful career. Additionally, the support from this scholarship will enable me to attend a Botox seminar in NYC during the summer, allowing me to further expand my knowledge and expertise in the field of dentistry.”

- Dong ‘Kevin’ Kim, DDS Class of 2026

“The scholarship not only alleviates the financial burden for my family, but also motivates me to continue serving my community.”

– Longhui Gao, DDS Class of 2025





“I am so grateful for those who generously choose to give back to students pursuing dentistry. Receiving a scholarship is a tremendous aid to covering expenses associated with this incredible journey we are all on and is a great motivator in continuing to strive for excellence in the field of dentistry. I hope to one day reward future dentists for their hard work, just as I have been rewarded.”

- Ramin Avin, DDS Class of 2027

“With immense gratitude, I extend my heartfelt appreciation to the esteemed scholarship donors whose selfless generosity has illuminated the path of my educational journey. Your benevolent support not only symbolizes a beacon of hope but also reaffirms the profound impact of selfless giving on the aspirations of diligent students like myself. Through the invaluable gift of scholarship aid, you have not only lightened the financial burden but have also ignited a flame of possibility, empowering me to pursue my academic endeavors with unwavering fervor.”

- Christopher Cruz, DDS '22, Second-Year Periodontics Postgraduate







"I am deeply thankful to the donor of the Patricia G. Stearns Scholarship. Facing financial difficulties, I feared I might have to drop out of this semester. This scholarship is a lifeline for me, and I am immensely grateful for the support. Thank you."

- Khanh Mai, Dental Hygiene Class of 2024

“I am incredibly grateful to the generous scholarship donors for their invaluable support and commitment to empowering students like myself. Their dedication to investing in education not only provides financial assistance but also fosters a sense of encouragement and belief in our potential, enabling us to pursue our academic aspirations with greater confidence and determination. Receiving this scholarship aid will alleviate the financial burden of tuition fees and expenses, allowing me to fully focus on my studies and explore opportunities that will shape my future positively.”

- Deanna Ajaj, DDS Class of 2027







“Thank you to all the incredible donors who are generously supporting each of our educational journeys. We greatly appreciate you for recognizing our potential and for enabling us to seize the enriching opportunities that are available to us at UMSOD.”

- Emma O'Shea, DDS Class of 2026

“I’m incredibly grateful to the generous scholarship donors for their support and investment in my dental education. Receiving this scholarship helps alleviate financial burdens, reaffirms my efforts, and allows me to truly focus on my passions and educational goals. Your thoughtfulness has made a significant difference in my life; I am truly thankful for this opportunity you all have provided me.”

- Allison Keyes, DDS Class of 2024







“I am deeply thankful to the scholarship donors whose generosity has made it possible for me to pursue my educational aspirations. Receiving this scholarship aid is not just a financial relief, but a profound investment in my future. With your support, I am empowered to fully immerse myself in my studies as I pursue a residency in Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery. Your belief in my potential fuels my determination to succeed, and I am truly grateful for the transformative impact your contribution will have on my life and education.”

- Mahyar Abbariki, DDS Class of 2024

“I extend my heartfelt gratitude to the scholarship donors for their invaluable contribution. Your generosity empowers me to pursue my passion for providing quality dental care to children, ensuring brighter and healthier smiles for generations to come. Thank you for investing in my education and the well-being of future generations.”

- Anuradha Balaggan, DDS '22  
Second-Year Pediatric Postgraduate







“Thank you to the donors of the Dean’s Fund for Excellence for their generous contribution to my future and for the honor of choosing me as the recipient of their scholarship. This scholarship fund is empowering the next generation of dentists, and I am honored to be one.”

- Erica Dobrochowski, DDS Class of 2026

“Thank you to all the scholarship donors! I genuinely admire the kindness and thoughtfulness you all have in helping dental students, such as myself and everyone here, achieve their goals.”

- Rose Anne Dela Cerna, DDS Class of 2027







“Thank you so much for your generous contribution to the Dean’s Scholarship for Leadership and Excellence. It is deeply appreciated and greatly moving. Words cannot express how deeply grateful I am for your support. Thank you for believing in my potential as I work towards my dreams. Your kindness and contribution are truly inspirational.”

- Marilyn Okine, DDS Class of 2025

“Thank you, donors, for creating scholarships! This scholarship gives me the opportunity to focus on my academics without having to work multiple jobs to afford my tuition.”

- Erobomhan Agbonkhese, Dental Hygiene  
Class of 2025

“I greatly appreciate your generosity. I have wanted to pursue this career since I was a child, but recently the financial burden has become stressful. Your donation means more than you know.”

- Kristen Grabowski, DDS '21, Second-Year  
Pediatric Postgraduate



“I am immensely grateful for your generosity and support! It is because of donors like you that I am able to better focus on my education and engage in extracurricular activities that I'm passionate about. Thank you for believing in me and for choosing to invest in my future!”

- Katelyn Park, DDS Class of 2026





“Thank you for your support and also being great role models. Now, when my wife and I talk about our future, we see ourselves funding a scholarship for students like ourselves to achieve their own American Dream. We want to become role models for other immigrants like us.”

- Serge Kens, DDS Class of 2025



“I am immensely grateful to the generous donors who have made scholarships available for dental students like myself. Your support has not only eased the financial burden of my education but has also allowed me to continue dedicating my time to meaningful volunteer work with programs like the Cure Scholars Program. Your contribution has made a great difference in my ability to contribute positively to society and prepare for a specialty in Pediatric Dentistry and I am truly thankful for your investment in my education and future.”

- Leila Movahedi, DDS Class of 2026





“I want to express my heartfelt appreciation to the scholarship donors for their incredible kindness and support. Your investment in my education has provided me with the means to focus wholeheartedly on my studies, strengthening my skills, and preparing me to make a meaningful impact in the field of dentistry.”

- Jade Weatherington, DDS Class of 2026



“A scholarship is not only financial support, but also a gesture of social support. Thank you.”

- Helga Kens, DDS Class of 2027





“Receiving this scholarship is a tremendous honor, and I am deeply humbled by your belief in my potential. Your investment in my education is not just a financial contribution; it is a vote of confidence that motivates me to push myself further and strive for excellence in everything I do.

Please know that your kindness has made a tangible difference in my life, and I am profoundly grateful for your generosity. Your belief in me has inspired me to work harder, dream bigger, and never give up on my goals.”

- Lincoln McNish, DDS Class of 2025