Dr. Kumendran Pather (MS orthodontics 1999)

Dr. Kumendran Pather, who received his Master of Science degree in orthodontics from the University of Michigan School of Dentistry in 1999, passed away February 3 following a heart transplant a month earlier in Toronto, Canada. He was 42 years old.

His father, Radha, said, “Kumie loved his three years at Michigan where he developed strong relationships with his class, friends and teaching faculty. He often talked about Drs. Jim McNamara, Lysle Johnston and Richard Christiansen.”

One of Dr. Pather’s classmates, Dr. Paul Ward of Lansing, said, “Kumie was my favorite among my classmates. He was kind and well thought of. He easily made friends with everyone he came in contact with. I will always carry Kumie in my heart, my thoughts and in my prayers. Kumie was an excellent example of how one should live.”

Those sentiments were shared by others who said Kumie inspired others with his humility, humanity and joy for life.

Dr. James McNamara said, “Kumie was a wonderful person and a terrific resident. He had great clinical skills and was excellent at making his patients and their families happy.”

McNamara added, “My heart goes out to the Pather family during this time of sadness. I always will have wonderful memories of Kumi — a warm, caring and gentle individual who was taken away way too soon. My thoughts and prayers are with all of you.”