What do you celebrate???

The time between Halloween (October 31st) and the vernal equinox – the first day of spring (March 20, 2015) has many holidays for many people.

We asked the School of Dentistry community to share their traditions—what holidays they celebrate and how they celebrate them.

We thank those who shared, and have the results on page 6 of *The Multicultural Mirror*.

To aid in our planning for next year, we also asked what we should celebrate at the School of Dentistry. The best answer we got: “Everything!”
It can be agreed that great food is one of the best ways to bring people together. Every culture and background possesses foods with unique recipes, meals, tastes, and histories. The University of Michigan School of Dentistry's 2014 Taste of Culture event on September 30th, hosted by the Multicultural Affairs Committee, was an exciting opportunity for such an experience.

With great school-wide participation, faculty, staff, and students alike were present either providing food or simply stopping by for a taste. Those who stopped by for the event could enjoy main courses or light bites, such as vegan chili, egg rolls, and traditional Indian dishes or desserts such as peach cobbler and Danish Dream cake. Every dish was anonymously judged by a panel of taste judges to determine the best tasting dish.

The 2014 Taste of Culture Best Dishes were prepared by:

- Shelly Bedayse (D4 - 2Green) for best entrée - Curried Goat
- Soumya Pal (Dr. Jacques Nor's lab) for best side dish - Coconut Rice with lentils
- Valerie Etchison (Patient Services) a repeat winner from 2013 for best dessert - Banana Pudding

At the event, the School of Dentistry also took the time to honor our own Dr. Kenneth May as he stepped down from his long standing role of Director of Multicultural Affairs. For many years Dr. May has been a pillar of unwavering dedication, support, and leadership for multicultural affairs at the dental school. This was showcased by Dr. May's many plaques and awards and also the heartfelt speeches delivered by students Saliah Miles and Karra Evans, and Dr. Todd Ester. Taste of Culture 2014 was a very successful event, and a wonderful reminder of what those around us have to offer and share. It also motivates us to sustain an environment of inclusion and diversity in which everybody is given their chance to shine.

DeAngelo Webster
Celebrating our Veterans

Each November 11th, we stop to thank veterans for their service to our country. This year, the program opened with everyone standing in silence honoring the flag as The Star Spangled Banner played.

Dean McCauley began her inspiring remarks honoring our dental school veterans. She asked for a moment of silence for those who gave their lives in service to our country, then recited a "Roll Call" of all the SOD veteran's names, shaking the hands of those present.

Paul Blackford told of how his father, Sam Blackford, and the crew of a B-17 bomber Ye Olde Pub, earned the Silver Star for bravery on a 1943 bombing mission during WWII.

When Dean McCauley asked if there were any veterans in the room that were not on the list, Dr. Gilbert Kleif came forward. He served in the USAir Force’s Dental Corp, in the Strategic Air Command stationed in Nebraska from 1962-1964. He’s now officially added to our list!

See the next page for more pictures of School of Dentistry veterans from their service days.

Some you will recognize - others are more difficult to identify!
“Thank you for your service”
What do you celebrate???

When talking about which holidays to celebrate, some would answer “just the traditional ones,” but within the School of Dentistry community, the “traditional” are certainly varied. With many nationalities and cultures, everyone doesn’t celebrate the same holidays; even those we have in common can be celebrated differently. While it is impossible to have activities inclusive of every holiday, we want to acknowledge and be respectful of the various ways to celebrate them. The Multicultural Affairs Committee put together a short survey and asked: What holidays do you celebrate and how do you celebrate them?

The survey responses showed that Halloween (October 31) is a day of creativity, fun and candy for many, as witnessed by the very creatively costumed folks around our building on Halloween. For others, October 31st is Samhain or All Souls Day, a day of remembrance of the dead and our ancestors.

Thanksgiving Day is turkey dinner with all the trimmings, pumpkin pie, football and leftovers for many. Others create their own spin on the day, which may be their “family of choice,” for those who are very close but not related by blood to gather and celebrate all the things they’re thankful for, especially their friendship. Some use this holiday to share an “American” experience with international students or folks that have no family in the area.

Food is the feature of Thanksgiving. Many families bring their “special” side dish to the feast, as this may be the only time during the year to experience Grandma’s green bean casserole! A twist on the occasion can be having invitees bring their cultural food favorites to the table too—for a truly international event.

For some families, Thanksgiving is also the official beginning of Christmas shopping, as all the children come with their Wish List to share with the aunts, uncles and grandparents. Many use the long weekend to put up a tree and decorate their home.

There are many ways Christmas is celebrated; for many it is an important religious holiday. Whether it is Christian Christmas (December 25th) or Orthodox Christmas (January 7th); many traditions include church services on Christmas Eve and/or Christmas Day. St. Nicholas or Santa Claus is most often part of the celebration too. It’s a time of year to reconnect with family and friends, which many accomplish through annual Christmas cards and family newsletters.

Christmas also has its food traditions too. The seasonal goodies before the actual holiday, like cookies and gingerbread houses, Christmas Eve brings traditions of no meat for some, thus seafood chowder or salted cod, tortielle (meat pies) on Christmas morning, with turkey or ham for dinner. Many bring their heritage to the table too, and use family recipes to bring international flavor and represent our personal histories.

New Year’s Day—again has various iterations: January 1st, or perhaps Orthodox New Year (January 14) or Lunar New Year/Chinese New Year (February 19). Have you ever wondered how Chinese New Year is celebrated? One respondent said in their home it was like the American

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**Staff Service Award**

**Recipients**

- 45 Years
  - Evangeline Bingham
- 30 Years
  - Daniel Bruey
  - Judy Craft
  - Wanda Snyder
- 20 Years
  - Sywe-Ren Chang
  - Thomas Davis
  - Cheri Hogan
  - Amy Koh
  - Deanna Nellis
  - Kristi Ocenasek
  - Vernon Rife
- 10 Years
  - Lisa Blumenauer
  - Kevin Borowski
  - Roger Gillie
  - Takayuki Hayami
  - Nancy Lako
  - Tammy Leffler
  - Caroline Phelan
  - Hilye Pittman
  - Carrie Towns

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**Getting to Know You**

**Brown Bag Series**

**Bring your lunch and learn more about your colleagues!**

**January 21**
- Dental service trips to Guyana, South America
  - Dr. Scott Hodges, UoFM alumnus
  - Student service trips to other countries

**February 2**
- University of Michigan Dental students in Brazil
  - Dr. Scott Hodges, UoFM alumnus

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**The University of Michigan School of Dentistry**
Upcoming Events

Monday, January 19, 2015
Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day Celebration & Ida Gray Diversity Awards
March, 2015 (day tbd)
Celebration of Women’s Awareness Month Women’s Tea

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