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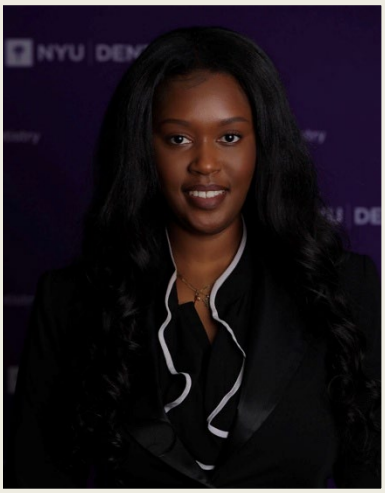
Akosua Afriyie



Akosua Afriyie is currently a third-year dental student at the Arizona School of Dentistry and Oral Health (ASDOH) in Mesa, AZ. She was born in Dallas, TX, but was raised in New Jersey, which she considers home. Her family is originally from Ghana, West Africa. She earned her bachelor's degree in biology from Rider University in 2021. Throughout her journey to becoming a dentist, she's come to appreciate the importance of staying grounded in her values and identity, especially through service to others. This is important to her because she has realized the impact she can have on others when they can relate or feel heard. As a first-generation college graduate and Doctor of Dental Medicine student, Akosua is incredibly grateful for the opportunity to pursue a career she is passionate about, despite the challenges she has faced along the way. Currently, she serves as president of her school's chapter of the Student National Dental Association (SNDA), where they focus on mentorship, promoting diversity, and creating an inclusive environment for all members. She has also been involved in community dentistry, volunteering at clinics in Phoenix that provide care for refugees and underserved populations. In her free time, she enjoys staying active, working out, and connecting with family. She also loves travelling and exploring different cultures. contribution in both the field of dentistry and public health, addressing inequalities and improving access to quality oral healthcare.

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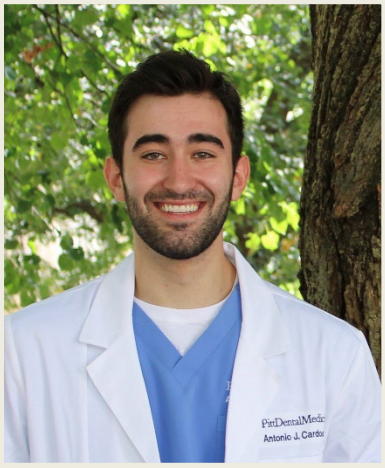
Antonio Cardoso



Antonio Cardoso is a current fourth-year dental student at the University of Pittsburgh School of Dental Medicine. He earned his Bachelor of Science in Psychology with a minor in Spanish from the University of Richmond. Antonio is passionate about using his Spanish-language skills to help break down language barriers and ensure Spanish-speaking communities receive equitable access to quality dental and medical care. Recently, Antonio had the privilege of participating in a dental mission trip to Honduras, where he and his classmates provided free dental care to approximately 1,400 individuals with limited access to oral healthcare. Antonio is actively involved in the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry, Pitt Student Chapter, as well as the Hispanic Student Dental Association. He has also been involved in the Street Dentistry Club and volunteered at Special Olympics events. For the past three years, Antonio has contributed to research investigating the potential anatomical risk factors for cleft lip and palate. He aspires to pursue a career in pediatric dentistry, with a particular interest in treating children with cleft and craniofacial differences. Outside of the clinic, Antonio enjoys going to the gym, spending time with friends, and exploring new restaurants throughout the Pittsburgh area.

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Ayato Shigihara

Ayato Shigihara is a third-year student at the UCLA School of Dentistry. She graduated summa cum laude from Wellesley College with a Bachelor of Arts in Biological Sciences and a minor in Education Studies. She was inducted into Phi Beta Kappa in recognition of her academic achievement. While at Wellesley, Ayato worked as a teaching assistant, which sparked her interest in mentorship and teaching. That interest has continued to grow throughout dental school, where she is involved in a variety of student initiatives focused on class leadership, peer support, and wellness. She is especially interested in how academic dentistry can help create engaging learning environments that build confidence, foster curiosity, and inspire lifelong learning. These experiences have strengthened her goal of pursuing a career in dental education. Outside of school, Ayato finds balance by spending time in nature. She enjoys running, hiking, and exploring new places with her family and friends. Ayato would like to thank the ICD-WUDAA Scholarship Committee for their generous support and for encouraging students to grow as future leaders in the dental profession.

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Brendan Tuholski

Brendan Tuholski is from Lafayette, California and is currently a second-year dental student at the University of the Pacific, Arthur A. Dugoni School of Dentistry in San Francisco, California. He previously attended De La Salle High School in Concord, CA, where he played varsity football and then attended UC Davis for undergrad, where he majored in Biological Sciences.

In his free time, he enjoys hiking outdoors, listening to country music, and watching/playing sports. He believes in his calling to be a dentist because he loves to work hands-on with patients, build trusting relationships, and perform high-quality, detailed work upon those he cares for. He wants to hold himself to a high standard of integrity, attention to detail, and accuracy so that he can be a lifelong advocate for his patients. He is extremely grateful, as the Dugoni School community has given him a high-quality education and a place that feels like home.

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Bushra Tahir Khan

Born and raised in a small town in Kashmir, Pakistan, Bushra Tahir Khan earned her bachelor's in dental surgery with a heart full of ambition and a suitcase always half-packed. After moving to the US, she pursued a master's in public health at Baylor University, Texas and is currently enrolled in the DMD program at A.T. Still University, Missouri, through the Advanced Standing for International Dentists track. Over time, she has found herself drawn to the delicate balance of precision and patient care. Bushra is eager to specialize in Endodontics, where meticulous skill and quiet resilience come together to save every tooth's tale. There's something compelling about the precision it demands and the fulfilment that comes with preserving natural teeth. It's a space she feels most aligned with. Beyond the clinic, she is often chasing new horizons — whether that means hopping on a last-minute trip, planning the next adventure, or getting completely absorbed in a good book with a cup of tea by her side. She loves exploring new cuisines, wandering through local markets, and collecting stories (and fridge magnets) along the way. Her bookshelf is a mix of fiction, autobiographies, popular science, and the occasional mystery — perfect companions for long flights or lazy weekends.

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Catie Pentlarge

Catie Pentlarge is currently a second-year student at the University of Nebraska Medical Center College of Dentistry. She is from San Diego, California and graduated from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln as a student athlete with a B.S. in Nutrition Health Sciences and a minor in Biochemistry. Catie is a passionate and driven individual whose life reflects a strong commitment to health, community, and personal growth. One of Catie's favorite memories as a D1 was participating in Dental Day, where her school treated around 200 children from impoverished communities in Nebraska. As a former NCAA Division I swimmer, she developed discipline and perseverance through years of rigorous training and competition. She was a multiple-time B1G Distinguished Scholar as well as Academic All Big Ten recipient, and was a part of several leadership groups within the athletic department, such as the Student Athlete Advisory Committee, Tom Osborne Citizenship Team, and Inner Circle. Her experience as a student-athlete not only honed her time management and leadership skills but also instilled in her a lasting love for maintaining an active lifestyle. Beyond the pool, Catie is deeply engaged in volunteer work. She values giving back to her community, which reflects her compassionate nature and her belief in the power of service to create meaningful change. She has served on multiple mission trips in underserved communities in Panama and Mexico and will always cherish these experiences.

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Ethan Nettler

Ethan Nettler, originally from St. Louis, Missouri, graduated from Truman State University in 2019 with a Bachelor of Science in Biology. He is currently a third-year dental student at the University of Missouri–Kansas City School of Dentistry. Throughout his dental education, Ethan has demonstrated a strong commitment to leadership and academic excellence. He serves as a lab assistant for the Digital Dentistry Lab Curriculum, a senator in the Student Government Association, the academic chair of Xi Psi Phi, and the service chair for the Oral Surgery Club. With a particular interest in surgical care, Ethan aspires to pursue a residency in Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery upon completion of dental school. His professional goals are guided by a dedication to advancing patient care through both clinical expertise and service. Outside of his academic and professional commitments, Ethan maintains a well-rounded lifestyle. He is an avid golfer and fly fisherman, enjoys cooking, and actively competes in local sand volleyball tournaments. He is also deeply committed to community service and seeks opportunities to give back through volunteer work.

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Gabriella Ward

Gabriella (Gabby) Ward is a fourth-year dental student at UT Health San Antonio. Originally from Chicago, Illinois, she completed her Bachelor of Science at Illinois State University in 2022, graduating summa cum laude with a degree in pre-veterinary medicine. Service has always been at the heart of her dental journey. She participated in a pediatric dental mission trip to Guatemala and developed a local initiative to improve oral health education for refugee families in collaboration with the San Antonio Refugee Health Clinic. Gabby also had the privilege of working with patients with special healthcare needs, which has further inspired her passion for inclusive, patient-centered care. Outside of school, she enjoys spending time with her fiancé, Michael, and their two cats, Star and Moon. She also loves playing and watching any sport, exploring new coffee shops, and having girls' nights watching reality TV. She hopes to continue her academic journey in a pediatric dental residency where she can further develop her clinical skills, grow as a leader, and continue serving diverse communities. Gabby is incredibly honored to be recognized by the International College of Dentists. The ICD's mission to advance excellence, leadership, and service in dentistry deeply resonates with her, and she looks forward to a future dedicated to compassionate care and meaningful impact.

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Grace Martin

Grace Martin is a third-year dental student at the University of Washington School of Dentistry and a proud participant in the RIDE (Regional Initiatives in Dental Education) program. Originally from Spokane, Washington, she earned her Bachelor of Science in Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences from the University of Washington. Her interest in public health and healthcare equity led her to dentistry, where she's focused on community-driven care and rural health access. As part of her commitment to underserved communities, Grace is an AHEC (Area Health Education Center) scholar and currently serves as both the UW ASDA (American Student Dental Association) Advocacy Chair and the UW AAWD (American Association of Women Dentists) Social Chair. Beyond her academic and leadership commitments, Grace leads an active and well-balanced life. She's a certified Lagree Pilates instructor and finds purpose in helping others build strength and confidence through mindful movement. A true Pacific Northwesterner, she's most at peace when she's outside—skiing, hiking, backpacking, or enjoying any activity on the water. Grace also enjoys the slower moments: baking in the kitchen, trying new recipes, reading a good book, or playing card games with friends and family. She's happiest away from screens, favoring conversation and connection over television. Her two dogs are constant companions, often joining her on long walks and outdoor adventures. Grace brings authenticity, curiosity, and compassion into every part of her life.

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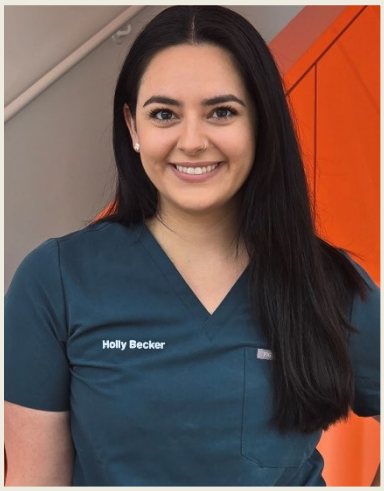
Holly Becker



Holly Becker, originally from DeMotte, Indiana, is a third-year dental student at Tufts University School of Dental Medicine. She earned her Bachelor of Science in Biology from the University of Southern Indiana and went on to complete a Master of Biomedical Sciences at Tufts University School of Medicine. Her strong academic background and passion for healthcare led her to pursue dentistry, where she combines scientific knowledge with a deep commitment to patient care and community service. Holly is the proud recipient of the ICD-WUDAA Scholarship, awarded in recognition of her leadership, service, and dedication to the field of dentistry. At Tufts, she has distinguished herself through academic excellence, clinical growth, and involvement in outreach efforts to improve oral health access. Holly hopes to pursue a career as a general dentist, where she can build long-term relationships with patients and provide comprehensive, compassionate care to individuals and families in need.

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Jaclyn Montag

Jaclyn Montag is a fourth-year dental student at West Virginia University School of Dentistry. She completed her undergraduate degree at WVU, majoring in Exercise Physiology with an emphasis in Health Professions. Her background in human physiology sparked an early interest in healthcare and laid the groundwork for her path into dentistry. Before starting dental school, Jaclyn spent three gap years gaining valuable life and work experience. She worked as a medical scribe in the emergency department as well as an orthopaedic hand and upper extremity clinic, cared for children as a full-time nanny, and later trained as an orthodontic assistant. These roles gave her a deeper appreciation for patient care and helped confirm her desire to pursue a career in dentistry. As an undergraduate, Jaclyn conducted clinical research exploring the cardiovascular effects of vaping on rats and their offspring; an experience that strengthened her interest in preventive care and evidence-based practice. In dental school, she has been actively involved in organized dentistry and leadership. She served two years on the American Student Dental Association (ASDA) executive council at her school and currently represents two districts nationally as a Legislative Coordinator. She enjoys making policy topics easier to understand and more fun for students to engage with. She's helped with state-level events, led presentations on key issues, and met with lawmakers to advocate for the dental profession.

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Jiahe He

Jiahe (Dylan) He was born and raised in Shunde, Foshan, Guangdong, China. He completed 10th grade at Lee Shau Kee High School in 2015 before continuing his education at the International School of Minnesota, where he graduated with honors in 2018. He went on to earn a Bachelor of Science in Chemistry, graduating summa cum laude with distinction from the University of Minnesota Twin Cities in 2022. Motivated to reduce disparities in access to oral health care between urban and rural communities, Dylan is currently pursuing a Doctor of Dental Surgery degree at the University of Minnesota School of Dentistry (UMNSOD), with an expected graduation in May 2026. Aside from clinical care, Dylan's passion for research began early during his undergraduate years at the Minnesota Dental Research Center for Biomaterials and Biomechanics (MDRCBB), where he co-authored two publications and earned third place in the 2021 Paffenbarger Award at the Academy of Dental Materials Annual Meeting. In dental school, he continued his research through the 2023 UMN Summer Research Fellowship and was selected to represent UMNSOD in the 2024 Dentsply Sirona Student Competition for Advancing Dental Research and its Application (SCADA) at the IADR/AADOCR annual meeting in New Orleans. Committed to public health, Dylan teamed up with his dental peers and established dental services at the student-run, interprofessional Phillips Neighborhood Clinic.

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John Button

John Button is a fourth-year dental student at the University of Pennsylvania School of Dental Medicine in Philadelphia, PA. Originally from East Brookfield, MA, John graduated from Tufts University in 2022 with a Bachelor of Science in biochemistry and French. In May 2025, John became the inaugural graduate of the Master of Science in Oral and Population Health (MOPH) program through the Center for Integrative Global Oral Health at Penn Dental Medicine. His thesis, "Noma (Cancrum Oris) Risk Factors: Feasibility of an Individual Patient Data Meta-Analysis and the Development of a Data Collection Tool for Noma Studies", explores the gaps in our understanding of the disease and proffers a standardized tool to study them. John's main research interests are epidemiology and surgical reconstruction for noma, a devastating oro-facial gangrene. In 2023, John partnered with South African epidemiologist Elise Farley and British microbiologist Stuart Ainsworth to found the International Noma Network, a consortium of noma and (oral) health researchers from around the globe. The Network now comprises over 300 members and hosts monthly webinars to promote noma awareness and foster collaboration. John is currently pursuing a career in oral and maxillofacial surgery, where he hopes to combine his epidemiology and research methods training with direct patient care to see an end to noma. Outside of academics, John enjoys cooking, running, and swimming, having run both an Olympic triathlon and the Philadelphia marathon.

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Katelyn Whitlatch

During dental school, Katelyn Whitlatch developed a strong passion for outreach, public health, and pediatric dentistry. She worked with peers to reactivate The Ohio State student chapter of the American Association of Public Health Dentistry and currently serves as its president. One of the most impactful experiences of her dental school career was serving as Community Outreach Co-Chair for the Ohio State Chapter of the American Student Dental Association, where she helped plan an international service trip to Xenacoj, Guatemala. This initiative is now being integrated into The Ohio State College of Dentistry's new Global Initiatives Program, launching in 2026 and will allow students to provide hands-on care and oral health education at a year-round clinic. In addition to coordinating international outreach, she has volunteered in several local service efforts, including Smiles for Schools, Give Kids a Smile, Ohio Special Olympics, and Central Ohio Girls on the Run. These opportunities have allowed her to connect with her community and reaffirmed her goal of expanding access to care, particularly for underserved children and families. Her interest in public health also led her to pursue research focused on nationwide variation in Medicaid reimbursement rates for pediatric dental procedures. This work has broadened her understanding of systemic barriers in care delivery and strengthened her belief in the importance of policy-informed, evidence-based practice.

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Katherine Vo

Katherine Vo will be a D3 at Western University College of Dental Medicine. She pursued a bachelor's degree in Ethnic Studies at UCLA and worked in academia before deciding to change her career. She then pursued a master's degree at USC in Global Medicine and spent this time working at a dental lab and volunteering at a clinic on Skid Row. As a dental student, she is involved in many different organizations on campus. Katherine is the curriculum representative of her dental class, the ADEA president, the Orthodontics Interest Group Co-President, and the ASDA Academic Liaison. She firmly believes in leaving a legacy wherever she goes and is aiming to do so by the variety of new events and curriculum changes that she's been advocating for at her school. When she's not studying or juggling her different academic commitments, she's likely taking her two golden retrievers to the park or on a hike! Katherine has been a big fan of the outdoors since her days in Girl Scouts and has been a Boy Scout leader for nearly a decade. She also really enjoys cooking and putting together wooden puzzles. A fun fact about her is that she knows how to play the Vietnamese dan Tranh and the Chinese guzheng! The pursuit of knowledge is important to Katherine, and she loves learning new things.

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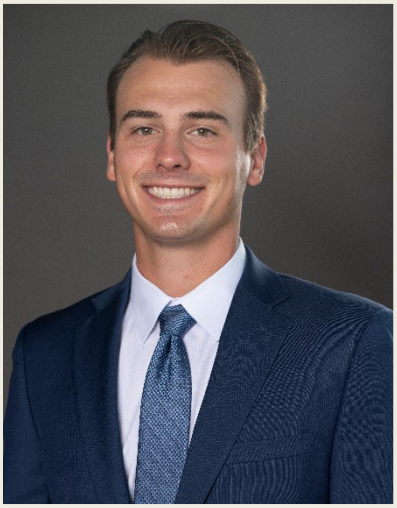
Max Meekin



Max Meekin is currently a second-year dental student at the University of Minnesota School of Dentistry. Max is originally from Minnesota, and he received a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration in economics from Creighton University. Max is a member of many clubs within the school of dentistry, and he serves as a class representative for the American Student Dental Association (ASDA). Through his involvement with ASDA, he attended the National Leadership Conference in 2024, where he learned from experienced dental professionals and leaders in the field. Max is eager to begin his career in dentistry to provide care and build meaningful relationships with patients. In his free time, Max likes to golf, try new recipes, and spend time with friends and family. He enjoys the four seasons offered in Minnesota and looks forward to warm summers on the lakes.

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Rebecca Odeh

Rebecca Odeh is currently a third-year dental student at Marquette University School of Dentistry. Her educational journey at Marquette began during her undergraduate years. She is a Pre-Dental Scholar majoring in Physiological Sciences with a minor in Business Administration. She is also enrolled in the STEM-MBA program, which allowed her to explore the intersection of science, healthcare, and business early on. She is now pursuing her MBA concurrently with dental school and is on track to graduate in May 2026 and 2027, respectively. Beyond the classroom and clinic, she is deeply passionate about making oral healthcare more accessible and inclusive. She currently serves as President of Marquette's Special Care Dental Association and Legislative Liaison for her chapter of the American Student Dental Association. Through these roles, Rebecca has had the opportunity to learn the best ways to promote greater access to care and has grown in her appreciation for how important advocacy is for patients and themselves. When she's not in the clinic or studying, you will find her playing tennis, cooking new recipes, taking care of plants, travelling, and hanging out with family and friends. She loves to embrace the spontaneity of life and strives to make every day as fun as it can be while being present in every moment, taking in all it has to offer her.

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Travis Truong

Travis Truong is a third-year dental student at Western University of Health Sciences College of Dental Medicine, Class of 2027. Born in Santa Clara, California and raised in Tavares, Florida, he is a proud first-generation Vietnamese American and the first in his family to pursue a graduate degree. He earned his Bachelor of Science in General Biology from the University of California, Santa Barbara, in 2018. As ASDA Chapter President, ADEA Director of Road to Residency and Interest Groups, and Vice President of the OMFS Specialty Interest Group, Travis has been deeply involved in leadership and service. Through these roles, he leads outreach efforts to make dentistry more inclusive and accessible, while also creating a sense of community among dental students and uplifting the spirit of his class. Mentorship and education are central to Travis's journey. He works as a preclinical tutor in pre-dental mentor, helping students build confidence in their skills and career paths. He is also actively involved in research focused on professionalism in dental education and the impact of systemic conditions on periodontal health. Travis plans to pursue a residency in Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery and hopes to serve in nonprofit clinics and safety-net hospitals before eventually returning to academia as a clinical faculty member.