

Mr. Seth Griffin
University of Detroit Mercy School of Dentistry
2011 Tanaka Student Humanitarian Award



Dr. Robert Ramus, Executive Director presents Mr. Seth Griffin with the Tanaka Student Humanitarian Award.

University of Detroit Mercy School of Dentistry submitted Seth Griffin for his continued volunteering since entering dental school. Seth has been especially committed to the Christian Dental Association (CDA) chapter. In cooperation with the CDA, Seth has annually travelled to Honduras and treated needy residents who have no access to dental care. Seth has not only used his training to treat, but has stepped up to organizing financing, securing donations of supplies, and arranging travel plans. These trips also provide an opportunity to partner with Honduran dentists and emphasize the importance of continued preventative dentistry and follow-up care.

Seth shows his commitment to giving back at home as well as abroad. He volunteers with Elevate Ministry putting on barbeques every weekend for the homeless of Detroit, specifically the Cass Corridor region. With the Kairos Group (of Woodside Bible Church), he has participated in several service projects. Most recently the group volunteered at World Medical relief preparing donated medical equipment to be shipped overseas. Seth provides free dental care at the UDM's Annual Give Kids a Smile Day; provides free dental screenings at Angel House and help present a workshop to Boy Scout troops learning fundamental dental knowledge to help the boys earn their Dental Merit Badge.

Seth is involved in organized dentistry as a student leader. He is active in Christian Dental Association serving as a Class Representative, Vice-President, On-Campus Ministry Leader and currently serves as their President. He is a member of the AAPD's Pediatric Dental Club, currently serving as its President; American Student Dental Association and Delta Sigma Delta. He is a student member of the American Dental Association, Academy of General Dentistry and the Michigan Dental Association. Seth serves as a UDM Student Consultant serving on both Peer Review committees of Ethics and Care and Well Being.

Dr. Divesh Byrappagari, Asst. Professor at UDM nominated Seth for the ADI award stating, "Seth has been an outstanding ambassador for UDM and the dental community. He exemplifies the dental community's professional goal to provide excellent care on an international level for patients in need."

Seth has also been recognized and honored with membership in Alpha Sigma Nu. AΣN is the honor society of Jesuit institutions of higher education recognizing those students who distinguished themselves in scholarship, loyalty and service. AΣN encourages its members to a lifetime pursuit of intellectual development, deepening Christian spirituality, service to others and a commitment to the core principles of Jesuit education.

Seth is a 2003 graduate of Coloma High School. He then attended Taylor University receiving his Bachelor of Science in Biology and graduating Cum Laude. Seth then attended Trinity International University attaining his Master of Arts in Bioethics again graduation Cum Laude. He is now a Senior Dental Student at the University of Detroit Mercy School of Dentistry anticipating graduation this coming May. Seth is the son of proud parents Keith and Jan Griffin.