



Guatemala Global Service Trip

Reaching the Community of Xenocoj

Ruth Rauca DDS 2025 and Jane Yu DDS 2025

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Acknowledgments

Our D2 Trip Leaders



Ruth Rauca



Jane Yu

OUR TEAM



Faculty: Dr. Crum (Oral Surgery)
Dr. Stevenson (Endo)
Dr. Khalil (Restorative)
Dr. Dhamorikar (Restorative)

D3 Trip Lead: Kayla Hunt

Trip Participants: Aayushma Hamal
Andrew Lee
Arlene Martinez
Fareen Baloch
Francesca Trofimov
Majeed Hettini
Pauline Tran
Shawn Dagar
Vidhi Bhuvu

The Clinic



- We had 6 chairs
 - 1 Endo chair
 - 1 Prophy Chair
 - 4 Oral surgery / Restorative chairs
- We had 2 X-Ray units available
- We had 1 patient waiting area

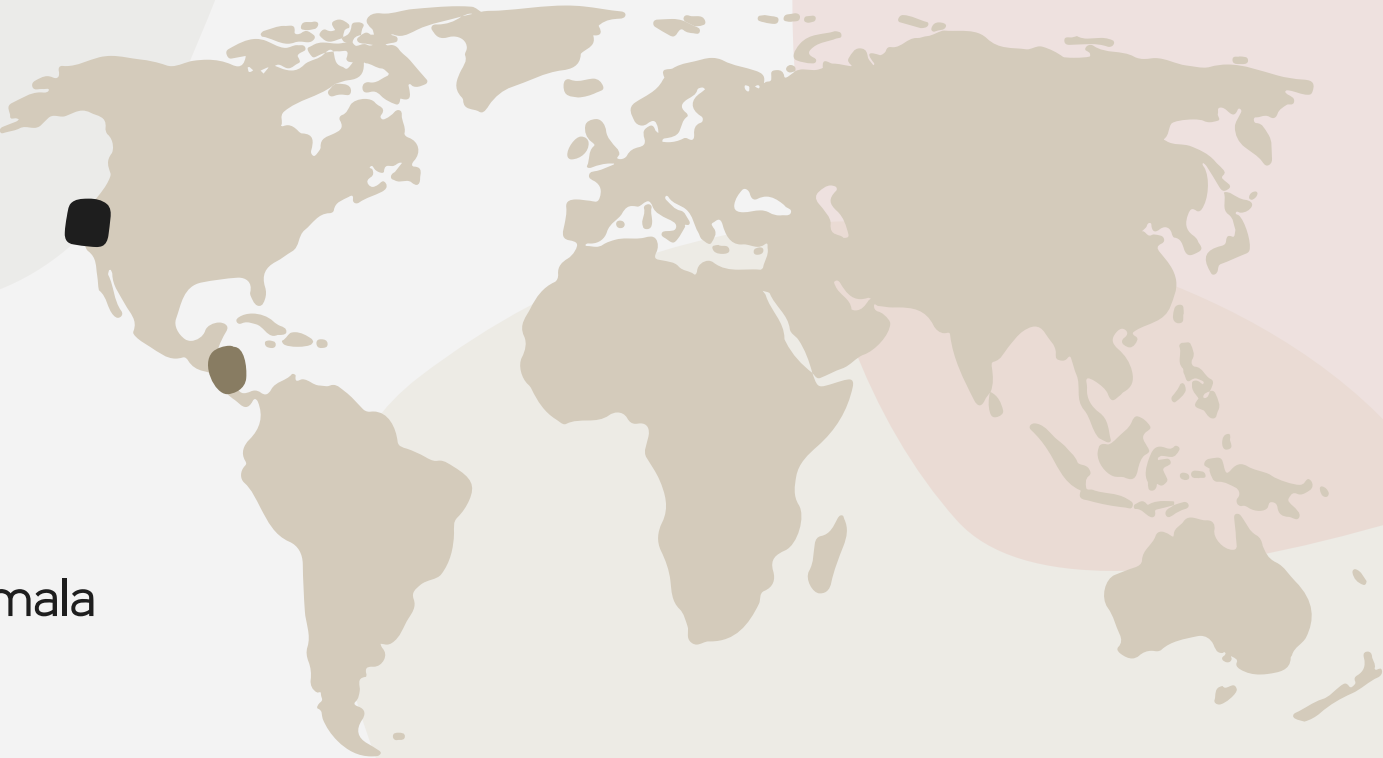


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The Clinic



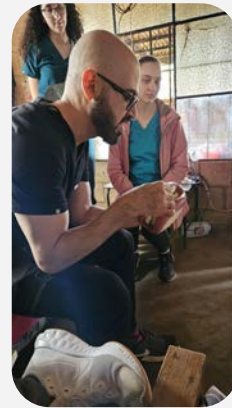
The Location



-  UOP
-  Guatemala



OHI Outreach



Procedures Completed

9

Endo Procedures

56


Extractions

114

Fillings

34

Prophys



100 +

Patient Received Treatment

Reflection and Significance

Jane



This dental service trip to Guatemala was truly a humbling experience that opened my eyes to the profound impact that accessible dental care can have on underserved populations. The gratitude and relief on patients' faces as we alleviated their dental pain was incredibly rewarding and motivated me to continue my growth as a dental student so that I would be able to continue to provide the best quality care possible.

Throughout the trip, not only did I recognize the luxury of dental care, but I also had the privilege of working alongside dedicated dental professionals and students to provide the essential treatment and education to individuals who may have not had access to dental care. This experience gave me the opportunity to learn new skills, be creative, and challenged my knowledge in a new environment.

Additionally, this trip allowed me to immerse myself in the Guatemalan culture, fostering connections with the community outside of the dental clinic. I gained a deeper appreciation for the culture and will hold dear the memories made here. Despite the language barrier and slow interactions, I was reminded of the value of human interaction through empathy, care, and patience.

This experience ignited a passion for global oral health care and services. It inspired me to continue to seek opportunities to further my skills and contribute to improving access to healthcare wherever I am.

Reflection and Significance

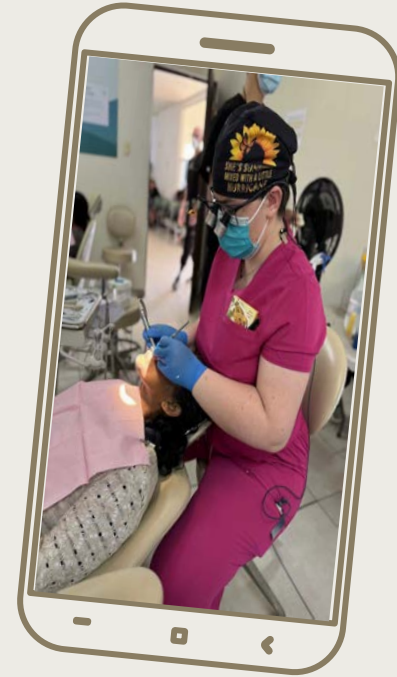
Ruth

Participating in the trip to Guatemala was a transformative experience that left an indelible mark on my journey as a dental student. It wasn't just an excursion; it was a profound immersion into a world where dental care is a luxury rather than a readily accessible necessity. Reflecting on this experience, I've come to realize the depth of privilege I hold as a student in a developed nation and the immense responsibility that comes with it.

Engaging directly with patients in Guatemala, many of whom had never received dental care before, was a humbling experience. I witnessed firsthand the impact of untreated dental disease on overall health and quality of life. From children with severe decay to adults enduring chronic pain, each encounter reinforced the importance of preventive care and education. Moreover, it challenged me to adapt my clinical skills to diverse settings and collaborate effectively with limited resources.

Beyond the clinical aspect, the trip fostered personal growth and cultural understanding. Immersing myself in the local community allowed me to appreciate the rich tapestry of Guatemalan culture and gain insight into the socioeconomic factors influencing oral health disparities. Interacting with patients through translators also taught me the value of empathy and effective communication, transcending language barriers to deliver compassionate care.

Returning home, I carry with me not only memories but also a renewed sense of purpose and responsibility. The experience has ignited a passion for global health and inspired me to advocate for equitable access to dental care, both locally and internationally. As I continue my journey in dentistry, I am committed to leveraging my privilege and skills to make a tangible difference in the lives of underserved communities, guided by the lessons learned in Guatemala.



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- Dr. Rodrigo
- Hilda

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- Dr. Mark Stevenson
- Dr. Aniket Dhamorikar
- Dr. Eric Crum

- **UOP Administration**

- Eve Cuny
- Janelle Palomares

- **Henry Schein Dental**

- Provided a grant for clinical supplies

THANK YOU

Questions?



OKU Sutro Excellence Day Project Cover Sheet

Project Title

Full name(s) and class year(s) of all project collaborators

Example: Jane Smith, DDS 2022; John Smith, DDS 2022

Project Category

Enter your abstract text here (max 300 words)