McGill Faculty of Dentistry

New Facility Announcement Event, October 18th, 2013
Speech by Sina Hashemi, Dental Students Society President

Merci, D’Allison. Je suis très heureux d’être ici aujourd’hui et d’avoir la chance de parler au nom de mes camarades en ces temps de grands changements pour la Faculté de médecine dentaire.

Transformation is at the heart of our experience as dental students. Throughout our training, we grow a great deal with the help of our Faculty. On one hand, we grow as students. We all enter the program very keen to embark on the path of becoming dentists. We also grow as student-practitioners.

As we are introduced to patient management, over time, we consolidate all our knowledge and apply our clinical skills through actual treatments. Like a sculptor, our Faculty slowly shapes us, chisels away at our imperfections and brings forth our individual skills and talent. We are slowly made into future dentists and given a solid foundation to keep evolving as true leaders in our profession.

Our Faculty instills many values in us as part of our training. First and foremost is integrity. We are trained to be honest and truthful in our words, in our actions and in our interactions. Not only with our patients, but with our peers, with our professors, and most importantly with ourselves. We are taught to practice with compassion and kindness, traits that are especially cultivated through our participation in various community outreach programs.

Ma décision de venir étudier à McGill était un choix mûrement réfléchi. Bien sûr, je connaissais la réputation de McGill en tant que chef de file dans le domaine universitaire, donc je savais que j’allais y recevoir une formation de grande qualité, mais j’étais aussi séduit par l’engagement de la Faculté auprès de la collectivité. Je me souviens qu’en furetant sur la page Web de la Faculté, j’ai découvert le programme d’action communautaire et toutes ses
 initiatives. J’ai été épaté par l’importance accordée au soutien aux personnes défavorisées. Aujourd’hui encore, et plus que jamais, j’ai la certitude d’avoir choisi le meilleur programme de dentisterie, et je suis convaincu que ces nouvelles installations rendront l’expérience d’apprentissage encore plus enrichissante.

En plus de me permettre d’acquérir les meilleures compétences possible, ma formation à McGill m’a également ouvert les yeux sur la réalité des groupes vulnérables et mal desservis de notre société. J’ai appris à quel point il était à la fois important et gratifiant de leur prêter main-forte, de leur fournir des soins et de leur transmettre des renseignements essentiels au sujet de la santé dentaire ce qui, ultimement, a des répercussions sur leur état de santé général. Ma formation en dentisterie à McGill m’a profondément marqué, tant sur le plan humain que professionnel. L’engagement envers la communauté sera une partie intégrante de ma pratique, et de celle de plusieurs de mes pairs, j’en suis certain.

Today, three years later, as I begin my final year of the program, I realize the high standard of education I’ve been offered in these very formative years of my life and what I’ve gained beyond the classroom. We are not merely trained to be skilled practitioners. We are trained to be aware of our community and understand the full scope and impact of our work. We are trained to promote health and prevent disease not just at an oral health level, or an individual level but at a community level. The Faculty of dentistry understands this spirit of community, already being small in size- we truly are a community. Thanks to this new facility, students will benefit even more from this feeling of being one family, now under one roof.

I feel privileged to be a part of the faculty and to be part of this special moment. I am excited for my fellow colleagues who will experience the new facility and even if I am graduating and will not be practicing in the new clinic as a student, I look forward to continuing to contribute in years to come and to help guide students the same way I was guided.

After being part of McGill’s Faculty of Dentistry for 4 years, you become attached to it, you become proud of it and it is part of you as well. On behalf of all dental students, I want to
thank all the people who are giving towards this project. I hope you know how truly transformative your support is and how grateful we all are for it.