

# HOW I GOT TO DENTAL SCHOOL

ZANYAR DARVISHI, D.M.D.

Zanyar came to the United States on his own ten years ago from Iran. He learned English independently by attentively listening to his professors and peers while he was an undergraduate student at Portland Community College and Portland State University (PSU).

His father is his hero. Zanyar's mother passed away when he was 15 years old, and his father raised three children on his own. "He's my source of encouragement. His patience, understanding, and belief have shaped me into who I am today," said Zanyar.

Darvishi studied chemistry and biology at PSU. In Iran, students in their last year of high school take an exam to determine their area of study in college. When Zanyar took the exam, he was placed in a civil engineering program. Although he loves science and math, Zanyar wanted to be a dentist. He came to the United States to choose the direction of his life and have the opportunity to work hard to accomplish his personal and professional goals.

To Zanyar, dentistry is a combination of science, art, and helping people. He also enjoys working with his hands, which he says makes him unique in his family. His father worked for an administrative office, his one sister is an accountant, and the other has her Master's degree in English and teaches. He is excited about being the first dentist in his family.

When asked about the people who supported him at OHSU, Zanyar had this to say, "I would like to say thank you to all of



Pictured above: Dr. Zanyar Darvishi

my faculty over the past four years. I was lucky to have them as mentors, instructors, and true supporters. Thank you to Dr. Richard Knight and Dr. Franci Stavropoulos, for believing in me and encouraging me throughout the program. Also, I would like to give a special thank you to Dr. Rose McPharlin. As my group leader, she was amazing and inspired me."

After graduation, Zanyar will be a resident in OHSU's Advanced Education General Practice Residency Program. He is thrilled to be a part of the program and continue his career at OHSU. In the future, he plans to pursue a residency with an Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Program to become an Oral Surgeon.

