

Hello, my name is Kyle Bennett. I am honored to be here with you today, speaking on behalf of the University of Iowa College of Dentistry class of 2023.

Everyone in this class chose dentistry for one reason or another, but we all share a common purpose. We want to help people; we want to make people smile! There is something to be said about walking down the street and when you look up to see some kind soul with a nice smile on their face saying, "Good morning!" That smile just brightened your day! **(look up, Smile!)**

As future dentist, we will spend our days in very close proximity with our patients examining their teeth. Not just their teeth, but the head and neck as well. We owe it to our patients to have an intimate understanding of the human body.

Your loved ones gave us a gift; A gift worth more than any amount of money can buy... knowledge. No one can take it away. We are unwillingly to surrender what was given. They shared themselves with us in a way that paved the road to the rest of our careers. A foundation of irreplaceable importance. We eagerly respectfully soaked up every bit of information they provided to us.

The day you held your loved one's hand and said your goodbyes, you handed them to us, and we said our hello's. One by one, each of them held our hands and guided us through our studies. They held us up as we took our first steps. Something that we now share with some of you. It was not hard to think about the people they were. What kind of life did they live, what did they do for work, were they kind, what made them want to bless us with their bodies for our future? They must have had a heart of gold to selflessly give to another. I feel we all can learn from them here and now; Have more compassion for one another, show empathy to a stranger, be as selfless as they were in their final moments.

Words cannot express how thankful I am, and I personally will never forget to contribution your loved ones gracefully donated to our classes. It was an honor, a privilege to work side by side with them. From the dental class of 2023 as well as all past, present, and future classes... we thank you!!