



*Dr. Meena Na, Graduate Orthodontics class of 2016, is improving smiles and building ties to the community. She is the inaugural recipient of the **Dr. David C. Way Memorial Award**, which recognizes students who demonstrate academic achievement as well as community service.*

# Championing community ties

## Memorial award recognizes community-minded orthodontics students

For Dr. Meena Na, career and community are one and the same. “Orthodontics is a profession in service to others,” explains Dr. Na, Graduate Orthodontics class of 2016. “Being able to treat patients and build someone’s smile is a very uniquely challenging and rewarding career.”

From volunteer peer support during her studies to providing oral health care to underserved populations in Nicaragua, Dr. Na lives the Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry’s value of social responsibility, which she feels is an integral part of her profession.

And as the inaugural recipient of the **Dr. David C. Way Memorial Award**, her efforts have been recognized in memory of a like-minded individual.

The award is named for Dr. David Way, a London orthodontist and a founding member of the Graduate Orthodontics program at Western. He served as the program’s Clinical Director for 15 years, from 1973 until his retirement in 1988.

Dr. Way passed away in 2011 at the age of 86.

The resulting memorial gift established the Dr. David C. Way Memorial Award, a \$2,000 annual award for a student who demonstrates academic achievement and

community service.

The idea for the award came from Dr. Way’s wife, Mrs. Marjorie Way, who was determined to leave behind a legacy in her late husband’s memory and to see it established in her lifetime.

During his career, the respected orthodontist mentored students and young professionals in acquiring business and financial skills. Many of his former students credit his guidance and business acumen for their successful practices.

“My father believed in supporting others in the profession whenever possible,” says his son, Robert Way. “He spent countless hours helping other dentists and orthodontists get established, and learn how to save and invest in their practices.”

The award has created a special bond between Dr. Na and the late Dr. Way. “This award reminds me that community service is important and to continue building my contributions,” says Dr. Na. “I now want to inspire and mentor others as Dr. Way did.”

This is the legacy the Way family is investing in. “My mother wanted to pay tribute to my father’s love of teaching and helping others,” says Mr. Way. “We are pleased to leave something in his memory at the dental school to benefit students for the future.”

For Dr. Antonios Mamandras, chair, Division of Graduate Orthodontics, the gift celebrates both the 40-year history of the program and its future potential.

“Dr. Way was instrumental in bringing local community support to our program and recruiting the first clinical instructors,” says Dr. Mamandras. “I am happy the Way family is connected to our program with this award because they have contributed so much to our success.”

Dr. Na also appreciates the history she is now a part of. “Everyone who knew Dr. Way speaks of him highly, with such love and respect,” she says. “I am honoured and feel very privileged to receive this memorial award.”

The Way family’s gift will continue to support and inspire students like Dr. Na.

“The costs of education should never be an insurmountable barrier, and providing an award helps make sure the choice of an orthodontic education remains a possibility,” says Mr. Way.

For more information about the fundraising priorities of the Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry, please contact Tracey Rutledge, executive director, Development (519.661.2111, ext. 24290 or [tracey.rutledge@schulich.uwo.ca](mailto:tracey.rutledge@schulich.uwo.ca)).