

# Expressing the Finesse in Tooth Morphology

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To some, dentistry is just a job. But to me, it means much more. I have always wanted to be a dentist and when I was accepted to the Herman Ostrow School of Dentistry of USC, everything seemed to fall into place.

The experience of learning from and working with Dr. Pascal Magne has exceeded my expectations. The DDS program was offering, for just the second time, the Dental Morphology, Function and Esthetics (DMFE) course; this uniquely structured module has allowed me and my colleagues to learn not only the “big picture,” but also the details and finesse that are the foundation of implant and esthetic dentistry.

The distinctive academic theory behind teaching tooth morphology in a “2D-3D-4D” approach was unlike anything I had ever experienced. Our first project was to create detailed 2D drawings of 3D teeth. The concept seemed strange at first, but as I started to sketch the unfamiliar objects, the drawings “came alive” on the page. In capturing the highlights that represent convex shapes and creating shadows to give the impression of concavities within a tooth structure, I was able to personally recognize and visualize the beauty behind dentistry.

As I progressed further into the DMFE module, I learned about crucial 3D and 4D concepts, priceless skills to have in the field of biomimetic and esthetic dentistry. I have always had a passion for the exquisiteness that underlies the profession of dentistry. The DMFE module has fostered in me an even stronger desire to learn, as well as be able to create beautiful smiles for patients that can emulate nature at its finest.

*The cover art was drawn by Xue Lily Du (Los Angeles, CA), a student at the Herman Ostrow School of Dentistry of USC, Class of 2017. The cover photograph was taken by Pascal Magne, DMD, PhD, Don and Sybil Harrington Foundation Professor of Esthetic Dentistry at the Herman Ostrow School of Dentistry, with a Nikon D800E camera.*

*For more about Xue Lily Du's learning experience in USC's Dental Morphology, Function and Esthetics course, please turn to page 28.*

