**15863, Amir Lamei**

Good Evening Ladies and Gentlemen,

Tonight is a very important night for me. After much hard work I am finally graduating from my orthodontic residency. Like anything of importance I could not have accomplished this without the love and support of those around us. Tonight I want to take a little time to thank everyone who has been instrumental in my success.

I want to thank the orthodontic program director, Dr. DeLeon. He is a full time faculty member and the president of the American Board of Orthodontics. I consider him to be a great leader, mentor, and teacher. I also want to thank a few members of the faculty. Dr. Fortson is a full time faculty member who is dedicated to teaching us great orthodontics. He was a little bit quirky. He is a lover of words and is always teaching us new vocabulary words, and he always brings us McDonalds for breakfast. Dr. Levy is a full time faculty member who is very passionate when he teaches us orthodontics. I’ll always remember that he brought us donuts for breakfast. Dr. High is one of six part-time faculty members. I’ll always remember Dr. High’s kindness, and that he is an excellent clinician. We always appreciated that he brought cases he had treated in the past to help teach us. He always treated us to lunch at the S&S cafeteria when he came to teach.

Office staff can go unnoticed, but our Staff Secretary Pam keeps us all in line and makes sure we do what we need to for the department to run smoothly. In our clinical staff we have assistants that help us with our patients, a scheduler who schedules our patients and a supply manager who makes sure we have what we need. Our thanks go out to you because we couldn’t stay organized without you.

I also want to thank my co-residents. There are 9 residents in total for the 30 month program. I am graduating with 2 other guys (Joseph and Patrick), and we have spent every day together for the last 30 months so we have gotten to know each other very well.

Most importantly I want to thank my family. My wife Lisa is the sweetest, most beautiful, kind hearted, selfless, patient, caring woman on earth. We have a 13 month old son, Kian. Lisa has been my rock and stuck by my side supporting me from day one for 11 years, 2.5 of which we have been married. She has supported me and helped me through all of my schooling (7 years of undergrad, 4 years of dental school, and 30 months of residency). Honey I couldn’t have done this without you.

I also want to thank my parents, who have always been there to help and support me my whole life. They were there to make sure I was able to accomplish my goals for any area of interest. I also want to thank my brother and sister who were there to help me growing up. They always supported me and helped me with anything I needed along the way. They provided moral support, financial support and were my cheer leaders. Since they are 8 and 9 years older so they were like another parent figure for me, but now we have grown to become best friends. Thanks also to my mother-in-law and her husband for their encouragement.

Tonight culminates so much hard work and I am very excited to step out into a new season of life.

Thank you all.