“It will be sad to see the burnished President’s Trophy lose its perch in my waiting room, but I’m honored for my name to be alongside so many other great dentists and past presidents who have contributed to our society.”

Dr. Joe Laborde

UPCOMING COURSES AND EVENTS

MAY 10, 2018
Installation of Officers
Colonial Country Club
3735 Country Club Drive

MAY 18, 2018
Annual Shred-A-Thon
Spring

JUNE 15, 2018
New Dentist Symposium
Tarrant County Medical Society
555 Hemphill St.

SEPTEMBER 21, 2018
Annual Shred-A-Thon
Fall

Register online @ www.fwdds.org
ON THE CALENDAR

2018

Did you know that if you come to just 5 monthly meetings, the FWDDS OSHA Course each January, and the all day CE Course each year, you will have met more than your CE requirements for the year without any travel expense? Plus, it is a good chance to network with your colleagues. Mark your calendars and plan to come!

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS & MEETINGS

May 10, 2018
Installation of Officers
Colonial Country Club

May 18, 2018
Annual Shred-A-Thon Spring

June 15, 2018
New Dentist Symposium
Tarrant County Medical Society

September 21, 2018
Annual Shred-A-Thon Fall

October 26, 2018
Clay Shoot

December 14, 2018
Christmas Party
Colonial Country Club

CHECK THE WEBSITE FOR DETAILS AT FWDDS.ORG

NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to FWDDS! We are thrilled to have you as new members. Please join us at our next monthly dinner meeting.

SALMA SIDDIQUI

IRISH ABIGAIL M. TONGCO

VIJITHA VASANThA

Welcome!
It will be sad to see the burnished President’s Trophy lose its perch in my waiting room, but I’m honored for my name to be alongside so many other great dentists and past presidents who have contributed to our society. It has been a privilege to serve as “the second youngest” President of the Fort Worth District Dental Society. I was excited to carry on the “year of firsts” following our first woman president, the wonderful Dr. Amy Bender, until I was made aware on my first day that actually Dr. Irad Cochran (1949-50) was indeed younger. Nonetheless, it has been my pleasure to serve the society members, board of directors and our community during my term.

Sitting on the board early on in my career hasn’t been without its challenges. This is definitely one of the busier periods in my life and finding the time to commit to all of my roles and responsibilities is a daily struggle. Would I have accepted the position had I known that I would be having twins at the end of my first of the five-year commitment? The answer is still yes. Despite the logistics, I’m grateful for the experiences that serving on the board has provided. I’m proud to have served as the leader of a board made up of colleagues whom I revere. I have also had the unique opportunity to see the importance of our society as it relates to my own practice that has come of age during my time of service to FWDDS. From serving with an outstanding group of dentists and executive directors, I’ve learned many valuable lessons that I have been able to implement on a personal and professional level. It was sad to have Cindy Hood resign during my presidency, but I certainly benefited from and credit her for the immense effort it took of leaving our society a far better organization than she inherited. I also want to express my gratitude for the executive committee, and the help of their loved ones, tasked with hiring a new executive director. I honestly don’t think we could have hired a more formidable candidate than Cindy Farris who has brought a wealth of knowledge, creativity and experience needed bring our society to the next level.

We spend a lot of time at board meetings discussing “member benefits” and ways to recruit new dentists or bring back individuals that haven’t renewed. Becoming a member is an investment and it is understandable for a dentist to consider the benefits prior to parting with their hard-earned income. I think membership benefits can be different for different people as we all have our unique needs and voids that the organization can help fill.

When I consider the importance of membership, I tend to reflect on how organized dentistry has helped make it possible for me to practice in a manner that I choose best for my patients and myself.
It takes a lot of hard work to go through dental school and training and I’m very grateful for the things that dentistry has given me. I have the opportunity to provide a service that is both rewarding and challenging. I love talking to my patients about dentistry and helping them feel informed and comfortable with their decisions about treatment. The equally rewarding part is getting to know my patients and the conversations we have about “life.” Rarely does a day go by where I don’t learn something fascinating, feel moved while listening to a patient recount an important life experience or feel humbled when a patient makes a sincere gesture of gratitude for how he or she was treated. Taking the time to make personal connections has become the foundational to my practice as it has taken shape over the last four years. I mention this because I see this aspect of dentistry being at risk with the rapidly changing landscape of our profession. The fear of losing this part of my practice is one of my strongest motivators for being involved in organized dentistry. I have to be realistic about the future of private practice, but that doesn’t mean I will remain complacent. I will refrain from using bombastic rhetoric, we get enough of that in our daily lives, but dentistry is facing challenges that could ultimately affect how all of us practice. Aside from my personal testimony, I see two main reasons that dentists should join; fellowship at the local level (FWDDS) and advocacy at the state and national levels (ADA and TDA).

At the local level, I believe there is enormous value in belonging to a network of your peers. Yes, we provide continuing education and I’ve found many of our programs to be outstanding. The social aspect may be equally valuable. I want the society to be a relaxed venue for social interaction without pretenses or ego, where dentists can have real conversations and sometimes commiserate about the challenges of practice. It doesn’t take much observation to realize that many of us suffer in silence about the same issues. Talking through the struggles of practice with someone who shares your perspective or someone that has already worked through a comparable situation can be very helpful and even therapeutic! I truly value and rely on the relationships that I have developed through the dental society.

While the ADA and TDA are not without their flaws, their ultimate mission of advocacy for the practicing dentist is worthy of our support. When I serve as a TDA delegate or go to state meetings I get inspired by the people I meet. Yes there are a lot of “old white guys” at the meetings but the demographics of people in leadership positions are becoming more reflective of dentistry as a whole. At the TDA leadership conference last summer I was honestly surprised and encouraged to see the makeup of the other local society presidents. At least half would qualify for the “new dentist” category, several were women and multiple ethnicities were represented. These are individuals who understand the plight of the recent graduate who faces mounting student debt, growing competition and reluctance to take on additional loans to start or buy a practice. And while no one has all the answers there is a palpable energy of comradery shared through all the generations represented. Yes, the TDA and ADA are large multifaceted organizations that can be frustrating at times. However, they are largely made up of people that have devoted enormous amounts of time and resources to preserve and improve our profession and livelihood.

While I am looking forward to stepping back from a leadership position to devote more time to my family and practice, I will maintain an active role in our society. Like anything else that you care about or hold dear, dentistry has to be continually nurtured and protected for our careers and future generations.
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HPV: HAVE “THE TALK” WITH YOUR DENTIST

By Marcelo Araujo, Vice President Science Institute at American Dental Association

Recent news stories in the Daily Mail, New York Post, Men’s Health and Fox News suggest your dentist may start asking about your sex life. Why? Because transmission of two strains of Human Papilloma Virus (HPV-16 and/or HPV-18) through intimate contact may lead to the development of oropharyngeal cancer (OPC). This type of cancer occurs at the back of the mouth/top of the throat, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention indicates the numbers are on the rise. According to the American Cancer Society, an estimated 50,000 cancers of the oral cavity and pharynx will be diagnosed this year in the U.S.

A study in the January 2018 Journal of the American Dental Association evaluated dentists’ level of knowledge and willingness to talk with patients about HPV-associated Oropharyngeal Cancer (OPC) and finds that more dentists need to prepare to have “the talk” with their patients.

As a dentist, and as the head of the American Dental Association’s Science Institute, I couldn’t agree more that dentists and patients should have “the talk”—but that talk should be about OPC prevention. The HPV vaccine was originally developed for prevention of cervical cancer, yet the oropharynx (back of the mouth/top of the throat) is actually the most common site for HPV-associated cancers. All of the available HPV vaccines protect against HPV-16 and HPV-18, which are the estimated cause of 60% of oropharyngeal cancer currently diagnosed.

The ADA has teamed up with the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center to help increase HPV vaccination rates and eliminate tobacco use to reduce cancer. The HPV vaccine can be administered to males and females and is recommended by both the CDC and the American Academy of Pediatrics. Specific vaccination recommendations are provided by the CDC. For adult patients who are not eligible to receive the HPV vaccine, dentists can raise awareness of the risk of mouth and throat cancers associated with HPV-16 and/or HPV-18 transmitted through oral sex.

Dentists want to help their patients prevent mouth and throat cancer, and they are also on the front lines of noting potentially malignant lesions. Dentists periodically examine patients’ mouths and feel for lumps or other abnormalities along the neck, jaw and lymph nodes, referring patients to specialists for diagnosis. This can lead to earlier and potentially life-saving treatment. Now more than ever before it’s important that we all realize that oral health is integral to overall health.
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8:00am  Welcome & Registration
9:00am  Introductions & Fundamentals
10:00am Break
10:15am 3 Categories of Patients
12:15pm Lunch & The Vineyard
1:00pm Resolution Strategies beyond appliance therapy
3:00pm Wine Tasting!
3:30pm Roundtable Q&A

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Airway! Are you TREATING it or IGNORING it?!
The ideal goal for a restorative dentist is to return a patient to normal contour, comfort, function, esthetics, speech, and health of the stomatognathic system.

In the treatment of edentulous patients, effective relocation of anterior artificial teeth in pre-existing position is of utmost importance[1]. Prosthodontists agree upon the fact that dental prosthesis should represent approximately same amount of hard and soft tissues in same position from where it was lost, in order to improve prosthesis functional stability and esthetic viability [2], therefore while prosthesis restoration treatment, dentists endeavor to establish a relationship between the prosthesis being manufactured, and the craniometrical and facial ratios of the patients being prosthetically rehabilitated, with a view to the achievement of functional and esthetic harmony in oral rehabilitation[3]. Many planes and points of the skull can be used as references for the confection of dental prostheses, including the Camper Plane, Frankfurt Plane, and the orbital (both pupils)[4].

Anatomical landmarks such as maxillary labial vestibule, incisive papilla, mandibular labial vestibule, retromolar pad and palatal gingival margin effectively help to achieve this purpose [5]. Frush and Fisher stated that the “smiling line” helped determine the vertical position of the maxillary teeth in complete dentures[6]. They observed that the central incisors were longer than the other maxillary teeth, and the curvature of the maxillary teeth followed the curve of the upper border of the lower lip during smiling. Others authors have used phonetic guidelines to establish the vertical maxillary incisal edge position in the fabrication of maxillary dentures. For example, Payne used phonetics to determine the position of the maxillary anterior teeth using the sounds “S,” “Z,” and “C”[7] reporting that if the vertical positions of the teeth were too low, the teeth would “click” together. Boucher observed that the vertical positions of the maxillary anterior teeth were determined by phonetics, especially with labiodental sounds [7]. He noted that the maxillary central and lateral incisors touched the lower lip during pronunciation of the letters “F” and “V.” He also noted that when the maxillary lip was at rest, the incisal edges of the maxillary teeth were usually visible.

Unfortunately, there is not a single universally accepted or completely accurate method. Therefore, many authors have recommended the use of pre-extraction records for determining the vertical dimension of occlusion of the edentulous patient [8].

The aim of this case report was to restore the complete edentulous patient in a fashion similar to patient’s natural arrangement as possible to his/her original dentition.

MATERIALS AND METHODS
Patients in need of an implant-retained complete arch prosthesis in the maxilla or mandible were screened and treated at the Center of Maxillofacial Prosthodontics Clinic, Department of Oral Maxillofacial Surgery at Texas A&M College of Dentistry in Dallas, TX.

The inclusion criteria included patients diagnosed with terminal dentition with no need to increase vertical dimension of occlusion and no reestablishment for the incisal edge position.

Two patients were included in this case report study; they were treated with one or two zirconia implant retained complete arch prosthesis (Prettau Zirconia, Zirkonzahn, Gais, Italy) by a single prosthodontist. All prostheses were fabricated as Zirkonzahn.
protocol by one laboratory technician as describe by Gonzalez et al [9].

**CASE 1**

A 38-year-old female patient was diagnosed with advanced Juvenal. She is seeking a recommendation for her advance bone loses and inevitable tooth lose. Upon clinical evaluation oral hygiene was found excellent; most of her dentition was intact and maintaining adequate DVO with acceptable esthetics. It was also found minor tooth crowding due to advanced periodontitis and posterior cross-bite jaw relationship.(Fig 1)

A diagnostic wax up was made with an improved tooth arrangement in mind (Fig 2) including; correction of minor tooth crowding and setting tooth #9 as the optimal incisal length, patient’s cross bite relationship was kept with no further correction.

Diagnostic wax up casts were scanned (Scanner S600 ARTI 120 V, Zirkonzahn) and data was manipulated with CAD program software (Modelier, Zirkonzahn) obtaining a stereolithic models (STL) for the teeth arrangement to be duplicated into a full PMMA frame (Fig 3).

Bilateral sinus lift and horizontal bone augmentation was performed prior to implant placement (BMP2 + Trinity). After 6 months of healing from the bone graft 10 dental implants Nobel Biocare were placed as “All on 6” for the maxilla and “All on 4” for the mandible protocol. Immediate dentures were then converted into temporary hybrid prosthesis and patient was let to heal for another 6 months. (Fig 4)

Final prostheses were done as described by Gonzalez et al [9] utilizing modified zirconia frameworks that allows limited amount of feldspathic porcelain on non-functional areas or where improved esthetics is desired (Fig 5).

CASE 2

A 72-year-old male patient presented concerned tooth mobility on his lower anterior teeth. Upon clinical and radiographic evaluation it was found severe bone loss from #22-27. His posterior occlusion was previously restored with dental implant bridges. Extraction of hopeless teeth was recommended in addition to two more dental implants and hybrid prosthesis to completely restore his mandible (Fig 6).

Patient expressed his concerns on inevitable multiple changes on contours and shapes for his lower dentition from this new treatment option, it was then advised to use his current dentition as a template for the construction of the final hybrid prosthesis.

Lower study cast was scanned (Scanner S600 ARTI 120 V, Zirkonzahn) and data was manipulated with CAD program software (Modelier, Zirkonzahn) to design temporary hybrid that resembles patient natural dentition and to mill a PMMA for immediate temporary hybrid prosthesis. New implants #23 and #27 were used. New maxilla hybrid framework was designed as a temporary prosthesis. Patient was let to heal for another 6 months. (Fig 7)

Continued on next page.
24 were immediately placed and loaded right after surgery by a direct pick up (Fig 7).

Patient was let heal evenly for approximately 3 months and temporary hybrid prosthesis was scanned to be used as blue print for definitive implant retained zirconia complete arch prosthesis (Fig 8 and 9).

CONCLUSIONS
The presented protocol will reduce the dentist’s chair side effort and patient’s time by allowing the dental laboratory technicians to reproduce the relationship established between the natural teeth and the orofacial tissues.

REFERENCES
NEW DENTIST SYMPOSIUM presented by TDA

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Time: 8am - Noon

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MEET THE 2018 – 2019 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Join us on May 10, 2018 to welcome the new board of directors for 2018-2019. They are a diverse and energetic group building on the vision for FWDDS. Below several of the officers and directors shared insights and thoughts with us so that we can get to know them a little better.

**Dr. John Boyd, President**

FWDDS: If you had not become a dentist, what profession would you have chosen?

**JB:** "If I had not become a dentist I would have gone to medical school. I worked in the OR during high school and summer breaks during college which allowed me to meet and see many talented and dedicated physicians in real time. However, if I had it to do today, I would buy a really tricked out food truck and make some great food for private parties."

FWDD: Tell us about something in your life that you wish more people knew about.

**JB:** "I feel so incredibly blessed beyond what I had ever imagined and I would love for everyone to feel that way too. Faith, hard work, perseverance and family have brought joy to my life."

FWDD: Share a great moment from your past.

**JB:** "Catching my first fish on a fly rod. Since I’m a late bloomer this didn’t happen until I was older. I had all new clothes, waders and gear. I was ‘Mr. Orvis.’ All the knuckleheads that I was with (including William Cook) made fun of me the entire time, but I didn’t care. I was having too much fun!"

FWDDS: What is your vision for the Fort Worth District Dental Society?

**JB:** "I would love for our dental society to be the voice of all of the dentists in our district. We have about 800 dentists in our district. If we had more of us (at least 150) at our meetings and programs we would be able to serve our members so much better which would ultimately allow us to serve our patients better. Every dentist that I know is smart, talented and caring. If we could bring all those qualities together for the benefit of our profession and our patients, we could make dentistry the most rewarding profession in the world."

**Dr. Tim Knight, President-Elect**

FWDDS: If you had not become a dentist, what profession would you have chosen?

**TK:** “If I had not become a dentist, I would have been either an architect/homebuilder, or a custom furniture builder. I love designing things then seeing the finished product with attention to detail. So you can see how dentistry is a ‘perfect fit’ for me."

FWDD: Tell us about something in your life that you wish more people knew about.

**TK:** "Well, I’d say that family is #1 in my life. I come from a family of seven, and my wife Kathleen comes from a family of ten. We all truly enjoy seeing and visiting with each other. I think it comes from knowing that whatever happens, we’ll always be there for each other."

FWDD: Share a great moment from your past.

**TK:** "I’ve been lucky to have traveled and have great experiences from all over but my favorite moments are from here at home. When my kids come over to visit my wife and me and we’re sitting around the fire pit late at night swapping stories new and old – well, it just doesn’t get any better than that!"

FWDDS: What is your vision for the Fort Worth District Dental Society?

**TK:** “The TDA has been great for organized dentistry here in Texas but I want our local society to continue to grow in what we can offer our members. From CE, to mentoring, to conflict resolution, to social events and more, I want the FWDDS to offer something of value to each of our members.”
Dr. Elizabeth Laborde, Secretary-Treasurer

FWDDS: If you had not become a dentist, what profession would you have chosen?

EL: “This is a hard one, because I set my cap on dentistry at a young age. However, I think I would have loved to learn about law and become a judge. Most of my aunts and uncles are attorneys in various aspects of law, and my grandfather was a public defender. It has always been a big aspect of our family gatherings, and it definitely taught me the importance of speaking up and making your point. I also appreciate the judicial process and the discipline it takes to learn precedents, as well as weigh and balance arguments.”

FWDD: Tell us about something in your life that you wish more people knew about.

EL: “I believe in the importance in advocating for women. I think all too often women, especially those with young families, tend to be counted out. There is an assumption that we may not want a leadership role, or we may not want to buy a practice or partner because we are too busy with our family duties. I’m here to tell you, that if you want something done, those are the very people you need to enlist. Many of us wake up in the early hours, get in a workout, a grocery store run, and get children up and ready for the day before we turn the key in the ignition to head to a regular day at work. Women tend to be excellent at balancing, delegating, and prioritizing, not to mention handling emergencies. We could all benefit from those qualities in our leadership!”

FWDDS: What is your vision for the Fort Worth District Dental Society?

EL: “I would like the dental society to be a place for fellowship and growth amongst my peers. We are hitting our stride as a strong institution to provide support to our members, and I would love for it to continue to be a place where we continue to be encouraged, empowered, and educated.”

Dr. Russell Dix, Vice President

FWDDS: If you had not become a dentist, what profession would you have chosen?

RD: “If I had not become a dentist, I have NO idea what I would have become. I decided to be a dentist in my 8th grade ‘Occupation Investigation’ class, and have stuck with that path ever since. Maybe an attorney or something in real estate would interest me. But other than a professional athlete, this is all I ever want to be!”

FWDD: Share a great moment from your past.

RD: “I don’t know about ‘wish people knew,’ but I am a bit of a thrill seeker. I have been bungee jumping, sky diving, jumped off the Stratosphere, scuba diving, hang gliding, white water rafting, etc… I am usually up for any type of adventure, or something new to do or see. I haven’t been swimming with sharks yet, but I am not ruling it out!”

FWDD: Share a great moment from your past.

EL: “There are so many great memories, but one that I often think about is the reunion parade at my alma mater, Wellesley College. I appreciate the time I spent at Wellesley, although I didn’t always love it. It was hard. I struggled to balance the rigorous academic schedule, and I missed my family. I thought sometimes that I made a mistake and that I should have gone to a more “fun,” school, that college was supposed to be the time of my life. Instead I stayed up for days writing lab reports, rationing out Twizzlers and cafeteria snacks with my friends in the computer lab. What I didn’t realize at the time was that it isn’t always about feeling happy or having fun, but there is something in that effort we put forth to achieve, and the camaraderie that comes along with working hard. On the last day of our reunion weekend all of the women wear white and walk with our class in a parade. The younger classes start and then line the road as they finish to cheer on the classes from previous years. All of those years later, walking and standing with my friends I felt a profound sense of fullness. I remembered what it felt like to try and fail, and to get back up again and keep going. I thought about how it felt to succeed after failure. I had worked so hard to stand in that place as a dentist and a leader, and it was amazing to cheer on the women who had paved the way before me.”
RD: “I don’t feel like I have a singular great moment from my past – just a whole lot of really good moments. And, I have been ‘Blessed’ to have had virtually no really bad moments in my life.”

FWDDS: What is your vision for the Fort Worth District Dental Society?

RD: “My vision for FWDDS is to see younger dentists get involved. Young people are not only the future of this Society, but of the profession as a whole. I have been excited to see more young people coming to meetings, and even sticking around after and visiting with each other. I hope that will continue to grow, and that there will be more discussion between the ‘generations’ of dentists.”

Dr. Joe Laborde, Immediate Past-President

FWDDS: If you had not become a dentist, what profession would you have chosen?

JL: “I may have pursued art restoration. It’s a great blend of art and science. I love learning about art, and I believe it is one of the most important aspects to society and culture. It requires a great deal of skill and knowledge to appropriately care for and restore art of different mediums.”

FWDD: Tell us about something in your life that you wish more people knew about.

JL: “I’m fascinated with psychology and human behavior. I love learning about what motivates people and what they care deeply about. I also love learning new skills, especially ones with practical applications, like IT, electrical, plumbing, and acoustics.”

FWDD: Share a great moment from your past.

JL: “In the recent past (last week!) my two-year-old twin boys came up to visit me at the office with my wife, Elizabeth. I was in the middle of surgery, but Elizabeth quietly opened the door to the operatory so that the boys could see me working. It was a great moment. I felt proud to be doing what I was doing, and so happy to have my boys and amazing wife be in the office that we have worked so hard to build.”

FWDDS: What is your vision for the Fort Worth District Dental Society?

JL: “I hope that it can help to provide the direction that dentists need to feel more confident and fulfilled in their careers. I also want there to be a strong sense of community and a place for dentists to have an outlet for fun and fellowship outside of our individual offices.”

Dr. Sarah Morris, Director

FWDDS: If you had not become a dentist, what profession would you have chosen?

SM: “I definitely would have pursued teaching. Both my parents, grandmother, in-laws and several family members are all educators. I really value education and always feel there is so much more to learn.”

FWDD: Tell us about something in your life that you wish more people knew about.

SM: “My faith! Christ is my cornerstone and foundation. I want everyone who meets me to see the reflection of Him. I hope others know I want to treat them with love, respect, and excitement in experiencing this wonderful life together. I hope other know I aspire to walk right beside them, no matter what they are going through.”

FWDD: Share a great moment from your past.

SM: “Wow! Where do I start? Too many to tell! Professionally – I’m so honored to have received my Fellowship in AGD this past July. Personally – seeing the achievements of my 8 and 5 year olds makes my heart soar. Seeing their minds and hearts work towards a goal and complete it is so gratifying. Their hearts of determination make my momma heart so proud.”

FWDDS: What is your vision for the Fort Worth District Dental Society?

SM: “Dissemination of information coupled with advancing fellowship and a culture of support among members.”
Dr. Eric Wear, Director

FWDDS: If you had not become a dentist, what profession would you have chosen?

EW: “I think I would have done something like physical therapy. I enjoy working with people and helping them improve their health.”

FWDD: Tell us about something in your life that you wish more people knew about.

EW: “I have lived in Japan and Iceland. Fort Worth is still my favorite place though.”

FWDD: Share a great moment from your past.

EW: “My wife and I spent 2 weeks in Thailand. I really enjoy traveling so most of my favorite memories are from trips that I have taken.”

FWDDS: What is your vision for the Fort Worth District Dental Society?

EW: “I would like to see FWDDS grow and recruit more dentists. I am hoping we can attract new graduates that are moving to the area.”

Dr. Nathan Flesher, Director Under Ten Years

FWDDS: If you had not become a dentist, what profession would you have chosen?

NF: “I hate to admit it but there never really was a plan B! I was laser focused on dentistry from an early age because all of my parents’ friends were dentists. My parents were florists!”

FWDD: Tell us about something in your life that you wish more people knew about.

NF: “Call me cheesy but I absolutely love constantly learning how to improve the lives of those around me. As a dentist for hundreds of patients and leader of my team, so many people’s lives can benefit from the choices I make.”

FWDD: Share a great moment from your past.

NF: “Being interviewed on Inside Edition was a great moment. I had proposed to my wife, Becca, while we modeled in a local bridal fashion show. A wedding videographer filmed it and the local newspaper featured it! Before we knew it, Inside Edition tracked us down and limo’d us to the city for a video interview. The segment aired for a couple of years every time there was a wedding focused story!”

FWDDS: What is your vision for the Fort Worth District Dental Society?

NF: “My vision for the FWDDS is growth and camaraderie. We are part of an amazing profession with many challenges; physical, emotional, political….I could go on and on. Camaraderie and support are such an important part of interaction in a local dental society. To grow we need to overcome two major hurdles with our colleagues; pride and fear. Pride by being a cowboy doc that doesn’t need the support of their local colleagues; and fear of the competition presented by the doc across town. We all grow when we stand united!”
Dr. Amy Bender
(2013 – 2018)

"Amy has set the standard for board members. Throughout her time on the board she has thoughtfully carried out her duties and has participated in every function of the board. She has provided leadership for all of the board and has faced some tough issues. Amy has done all of this with a great sense of humor, a gracious attitude, and respect for everyone.”

Dr. John Boyd

“Amy has been such a wonderful contribution to the Fort Worth District Dental Society for so many years, but especially during her tenure within the leadership team. She is an inspiration and motivation through her genuine desire to encourage others to be better. You can always count on Amy to be there with a smiling face and words of affirmation. She has encouraged me to be more active within the Fort Worth District Dental Society, and shown me that there are ways that I can easily make an impact, without compromising time with my family. Her subtle encouragement turned into me being able to serve beside her. I’m so grateful for her and how she has the gift of making people feel welcomed and enough. Amy took the reins as president during a transitional period, and handled it with such grace. I know there were many changes at the board. She worked hard to advance the progress of this organization. She seems to make everything look so easy. I am so incredibly blessed to call Amy my friend! I am very thankful for her example. A wonderful job well done!”

Dr. Elizabeth Laborde

Dr. Tim Knight

“Amy is one of the most intelligent and resourceful people I have ever met. She has demonstrated excellent leadership throughout her term of dedicated service to the FWDDS. Her creativity and solution-oriented approach has been essential to overcoming certain challenges the Society has faced over the course of the last several years. Overall, Amy is a great ambassador for the FWDDS as she continues to welcome and encourage the growth of our society through her work with new members.”

Dr. William Ralstin
(2016 – 2018)

Bill Ralston has been an energetic contributor to the board as a whole and in particular to the Membership Committee. Bill helped to resurrect and organize the golf tournament and clay shoot. He was always willing to go the extra mile from holding committee meetings at his office after work to personally shopping for event prizes.

Dr. John Boyd

“Need someone to be on your membership committee – Bill Ralston’s there. Need someone to help with the golf tournament – no problem, Bill will help. Need a volunteer to help organize the clay shoot – Bill’s there ready and willing to lend a hand. Need a delegate to the TDA meetings – yep, Bill’s there. While his unwavering dependability was appreciated, it was his quiet...
“Bill’s friendly and easy-going demeanor was a welcome addition to the board. He is hard working and thoughtful; always willing to help our events run smoothly by ensuring specific aspects have been assessed and completed. His attention to detail has been indispensable throughout his term on the board. He has done great work with the Membership Committee, which is imperative not just to our own component society, but also to the integrity of organized dentistry as a whole.”

Dr. Elizabeth Laborde

“Dr. Ralstin has been such a wonderful colleague from whom to learn from and serve with. I’m always amazed at Dr. Ralstin’s level of humility. He has always exhibited a willingness to help in any situation, and such a selfless desire to help the purpose of the district dental society. He has helped numerous activities throughout the years of his tenure-largely the successful golf tournaments and skeet shoots. These promoted such a wonderful experience for the current members and instilled such a value within membership programs of the Fort Worth District Dental Society. Thank you for being an example and all of your efforts that made so many members experiences wonderful.”

Dr. Sarah Morris

“_bill is a dedicated and talented person whose commitment to membership helped the society move forward in this important area. He worked tirelessly to help the society meet targets and goals for events, all the while maintaining his natural, easy-going demeanor. He remains an invaluable asset to our organization and we are in a better place because of his efforts.”

Dr. Joseph Laborde

Dr. James Fischer
(2017 – 2018)

“As the Director under 10 Years
James Fischer represented his group extremely well. James was able to communicate to the more seasoned board members what was important to new dentists. He was able to organize very effective and fun events for our new dentist group.”

Dr. John Boyd

“I am so thankful for James Fischer and all that he has been able to accomplish within his time on the board heading up the new dentist committee. He always comes with such innovative ideas to expand the membership and enrich the experience of the younger dentist. It is so refreshing to see his willingness coupled with such a genuine desire to help his colleagues. He’s such a brilliant profit-honest! I am grateful to have gotten to work beside him and see his humility and servant heart. The advances in the new dentist program, put in place and initiated by Dr. Fisher, will truly pave the way for the next generation of dentist that serve beside us. Creating an experience of fellowship, coupled with mentorship, and acceptance, I’m excited to see what the future holds. Thank you James for all that you have done and continue to do.”

Dr. Sarah Morris

“James went above and beyond with his efforts as the Director Under 10 Years. Balancing a young practice and young family is no easy feat, and James managed to do so gracefully with the added commitment of his Board position. He provided creative input and perspective, not to mention organized fun, successful events for our members.”

Dr. Joe Laborde
Dr. William Cook's team WON!

Other winners:
Closest to the Pin - Ken Nicholson & Michael McMillan
Longest drive - Tim Wollenman
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