

THROUGH THE LOUPES



ODA volunteers give countless hours, contributing their expertise to help better the ODA, the community, and the profession of dentistry.

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Educator



Specialist



OBD Examiner

How does the ODA support you, your practice and your patients?

I have been a member of the ODA since I came back to Oregon from my four year residencies in prosthodontics and maxillofacial prosthetics at the Indiana University Medical Center. I count on the ODA to support me by protecting me and my colleagues from those factions that would like to take dentistry or parts of dentistry as we know it away from us. The ODA, through very strong legislative lobbying, has protected the interests of dentistry very well over many years and they continue to do so. This has protected my practice, and in doing so also protected the patient-doctor relationship that is so vital to me and other dentists.

What do you enjoy most about dentistry?

I enjoy the direct patient care in the diagnosis, treatment planning, and treatment of my patients. We have such fantastic patients in my practice. It's really a joy to come to work and to treat them and get to know them over their many visits. I also enjoy the dentists that I work with on a daily basis. I am extremely fortunate to work with a great group of generalists and specialists alike. They have become my friends over the past 24 years and it's very evident these professionals want the best for the patient.

If you could part any wisdom to new dentists what would it be?

I would tell any new dentist to become immediately involved with organized dentistry.

There are many things that organized dentistry, including the ADA and the ODA, and the local societies do for new dentists. These organizations can assist them with transitioning to a private practice they have purchased, help them get established as an associate, meet other dentists in the community, and have access to retirement and insurance plans, just to name a few.

What does organized dentistry mean to you?

Organized dentistry is the epitome of a true profession where we all help each other and we want what is best for the patient. The organization, in our case the ODA, is behind us and supports us in those goals and promotes the highest level of ethics. To me that is the most important part of our profession.

What would your colleagues be surprised to learn about you?

I am a huge college baseball fan and have been fortunate to attend three college world series.

What is your greatest life lesson?

How precious life is and how important my family is to me. We are all mortal. I am reminded of that on a regular basis while treating our head and neck cancer patients.

Favorite dental procedure?

I would name two procedures. One is sculpting and coloring facial prostheses, and the other is preparing $\frac{3}{4}$ gold crown preparations.

Why do you love dentistry?

It is a profession that allows me to use my hands to treat each patient, while developing relationships with those patients is equally rewarding.

What is the most valuable thing you did to enhance your career?

The most valuable thing was completing my residencies in prosthodontics and maxillofacial prosthetics at Indiana.

What discourages/encourages you about where dentistry is headed?

I do not want our profession to lose its professionalism. I want us to always be thought of as true professionals with unquestionable integrity and ethics, where the patient is treated with utmost respect and the best treatment is provided to the patient. I don't like the educational debt that our new graduates are encountering, which is a huge burden for them that we didn't have when I graduated in 1985. I believe this financial burden is preventing many of them from transitioning into private practice. This is one of the main reasons that corporate dentistry has become so strong, so quickly. Dentistry and medicine are two professions where we have very intimate relationships with our patients. This is a great privilege that will continue indefinitely. The patients' need for the vast spectrum of dentistry's services will continue for many years as well. 🇺🇸

