

WREB

A National Dental/Dental Hygiene Testing Agency

www.wreb.org

Winter 2007

WREB 2007 State of the Union *by Dr. Bill Woods, 2007 WREB President*

I happened to glance at my calendar on the wall and four bold numbers jumped out at me: 2007. It seems like only yesterday that we were all waiting with guarded anticipation for the turn of the century, Y2K. Seven years have come and gone since that time, and WREB has made great progress and has had many successes.

We have expanded, and are recognized as a national testing agency. We administered thirty exams in 2006, from the West to the East coast.

Through the hard work and sacrifice of many, the innovations of the CSW prosthodontics and periodontics exams have come to fruition. This gives state boards valued information and allows candidates a more stress-free way to be evaluated.

We have a competency exam that state boards can use to reassess practitioners after action has been taken on their license. This exam will be useful as the area of continuing competency receives attention.

We continue to refine and improve our calibration materials with new photos and materials employing technology. Our committee structure ensures input from examiners and educators alike.

We completed a task analysis study and the report will soon be available. This study ensures that our exam has fidelity. Based on this study, we continue to improve and develop our exam on sound principles of testing.

Innovation and test development continue to be important to WREB. The board of directors has approved within the budget \$250,000 for test development. There are three projects that are being worked on as of this writing.

First, there is the PATP (patient assessment and treatment planning) exam that will assess a candidate's critical thinking ability. Given patient information and records, the candidate will develop a treatment plan. This will not be a multiple-choice exam.

Second, we are field-testing a crown preparation in a school setting. This is to be done on the candidate's patients of record in sequence of treatment. This would have great fidelity as we test the candidate's competency in crown and bridge.

Third, as part of the hygiene examination, our hygiene committee is developing a hygiene patient assessment examination that will be accomplished on the computer. This will be done much like the CSW periodontal assessment exam.

As an organization, we should be proud of what we have accomplished and what we are doing to "protect the public", enhance the health and welfare of each patient, fairly examine licensure candidates, and ensure the progress of the profession of dentistry.

I am proud to be part of a group of dedicated people that come together so well for a common good; a group of people that shares, serves, and supports each other. I am impressed with the efforts of our staff, the executive board, the board of directors, the committees, site staffs, examiners, and exam coordinators that make this work. A special thanks goes to Dr. Paul Sims for his excellent leadership as president this year. I have been impressed with the concern and support that each of you gives to the other in a personal way. The one-on-one talk about practice, family, and life makes us feel like a family.

We lost a great friend and colleague,

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Retiring President Bids Farewell! *by Dr. Paul Sims, 2006 WREB President*



At the WREB Board of Directors in early January, the reins were changed and I am now a 'hb/pp' (has been/past president). Bill Woods is valiantly leading the organization. I think this sort of change is good for the WREB and good for all of us. I would like to spend a few moments talking about last year. I know Bill presented an overview of where we have been and where we may go, but I want to say a few specific things.

One of the defining moments of the past year was the untimely loss of our beloved Dave Low. This entire organization mourns the loss of this giant of a man. His

devotion to WREB was tireless. He was a true friend to us all. His charming personality and quick wit, combined with a wonderful sense of humor will be missed by all the examining community. I wish once again to offer my condolences to his family.

I want to thank all the individuals involved with our exam. This includes the WREB staff all around the country that contributes so much to help us perform our jobs for the state boards all over this country. I thank all our examiners that so unselfishly contribute their time to help us evaluate the clinical skills of our candidates.

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Beyond WREB *by Janet Ingrao, RDH*

I started my career in dentistry in Southern California a very long time ago! I had decided early to pursue dental hygiene but at age 18 I had been invited to join a ballet company in France, and made one of those impulsive decisions that delayed that education. I needed money to get back to Europe ASAP and so I attended a dental assisting course at U.C.L.A for six months, thinking that I could get out in the work force much quicker and back to dancing.

But romance intervened when I met and fell in love with my husband of 38 years, Joe. So I went to work as a dental assistant in an ortho office in Los Angeles. I took a break after our daughter, Stephanie and our son, Christian were born and then returned at age 28 to my original goal of dental hygiene.

Two years after graduation from Pasadena City College, we moved to Boise, Idaho to raise our kids in a slower, more relaxed lifestyle. I became active in the fledgling Idaho Dental Hygienists' Association, eventually serving as Vice President, President and Past President. That service led me to other opportunities such as the Oral-B Dental Hygiene Advisory Board, and the Dental Hygiene Advisory Board for Idaho State University, where I met the late Gretchen Hess. Gretchen was the most wonderful mentor, as many of you know firsthand. She was such an encouragement to me and I learned so much from her. I am blessed to have had her as a friend and miss her very much.

Gretchen is the one who invited me to be a WREB examiner and I served the first year as an anesthesia examiner. The last nine years, I have been privileged to be a dental hygiene examiner, the last four years as Team Captain. I have loved ALMOST every minute! The interaction with colleagues and the friendships I have made have so enriched my life! I learn from every exam and have many cherished memories.



I've even learned to speak a bit of "Texan"-such important phrases as "big ol' and "all y'all"!

My husband, Joe, is a Pastor on staff at the Vineyard Christian Fellowship of Boise and as a pastor's wife I am very involved with the church. One of my roles that has recently brought us so much joy is that of Ministry Director for a recovery program called Celebrate Recovery. This is a program that is offered in churches both nationally and internationally for recovery from "hurts, habits and hang-ups". Although many of the participants in this program are recovering from drug and alcohol abuse, there are folks working through various other issues

such as grief, depression, anger, sexual addiction, food addiction and codependence. We have been blessed to see many people walk out of the hurts of the past and self-defeating behaviors as they are offered hope and healing, and purpose through the love of God.

We have a precious four-year old granddaughter, Emma Sue and in May we were blessed with our grandson, Jake. One of our recovery participants needed to give her baby up for adoption and our daughter and son-in-law adopted him. He is a tangible miracle, healthy and adorable! We love being Nana and Papa Joe--the absolute best roles in the world! Our son, Chris is married and living in Salt Lake City where his wife is finishing her residency in Pediatrics. We're patiently waiting for more grandchildren when she finishes!

If I ever have spare time (it seems to get filled up!), I love to travel and cook-- and I try to follow advice given by a respected counselor and author, Dr Henry Cloud. "In order to be a good leader one must have three things: 1) competency, 2) the ability to build healthy alliances, and 3) the character to not screw it up." My service with WREB has helped me to continue to pursue all three. Thank you all!

State of the Union *continued from page 1*

Dave Low, this year. He may have been short of stature, but he had a big heart with a great capacity to love and care. He will truly be missed, but his great legacy of care and concern is an example for all of us to follow.

My hope for this year is not only that we will continue to give our best efforts to the task at hand, but that we will also make the time to relish the friendships and associations that make WREB a great place to be. There is a song that says:

"Time flies on wings of lightning;
We cannot call it back.
It comes then passes forward,
Along its onward track.
And if we are not mindful,
The chance will fade away.
For life is quick in passing
'Tis as a single day."

Tomorrow, or it will seem, I will look at my calendar and it will say 2008, but I will have had many great times with my friends at WREB.

Retiring President *continued from page 1*

Finally, I want to thank and offer special recognition to all the Dental and Dental Hygiene candidates we examine each year. You are the reason we exist and consider you among our most important clients.

I have enjoyed working with all of you and it is with a sad heart I pass the wand/gavel/bullwhip to Bill Woods. I know he will provide excellent leadership and insight to this wonderful organization. I have worked with the executive committee and know they will represent the entire community well.

We have two old and trusted friends working with WREB that will provide seasoned and sage advice to us. Gerald Woodworth and Charlie Broadbent will help lead us into the future, while remembering our achievements in the past.

I especially want to thank Linda Paul for all she does for us. During this time of uncertainty with the loss of the guidance of Dave, Linda has done an outstanding job keeping us focused and moving forward. I hope she knows how special she is to us all.

As a 'hb/pp' I am still available for special projects and will do everything I can to help WREB. I want the new leadership to know I am in full support of them and wish them the very best in 2007.

Dr. Jeff Lunday—our man in Iraq!

Below is what could be called our “news from the field”. Jeff is a dental examiner from Weatherford, Oklahoma who has been very far from home. Here is his report:

The time had come for me to pay my dues before I was too old. I had tried 3 or 4 times to deploy to OIF/OEF with the Air National Guard/Air Force Reserve. All I received was a big let down or a short U.S. tour. Then, when it looked like I would go to Afghanistan, I was told I would not be allowed outside wire. I wanted a line assignment, a combat medical team. On April 28, 2005, I swore in to the Army and was on my way to Ft. Bliss. In June 2005, I jumped off the Blackhawk at FoB Kalsu, Iraq (named after an OU All-American who gave his life, up North near Cambodia in 1969). I got all that I asked for and more. I was mortared the first day. The heat in Al Anbar Province was incredible. 130+ degrees for June, July, and August. You wore 80+ pounds of body armor/helmet, weapon, rounds, medical gear. It is incredible that a human can tolerate that environment, let alone fight a war in it!



I was assigned as administrative officer/3rd officer to a medical company of the 11th cavalry.

What a dedicated group of medics and doctors, active and reserve, who would brave anything for their fellow



Photos left to right: New Chair, Karbala, Camp Phoenix



troops. We were in one of the most dangerous areas of Iraq; Sunni insurgents seemingly everywhere and Al Sadr's Mahdi Shi'ites to the West. Mortared or IED'd almost everyday. It was truly hell at times. The maneuver battalion had 10% casualties with 85 Purple Hearts awarded. My dental clinic was a sandbagged bunker, as was my tent/sleeping quarters. Both were hit by mortar rounds on separate occasions. I treated over 750 U. S. troops, some 300 Iraqis and went outside the wire on 12 different medical or humanitarian missions during my six-month tour. The Shia welcomed us and the Sunnis tried to kill us. You can't tell them apart until they shoot at you. I am very proud of my tour in Iraq and was decorated for my combat medical service. I was home for Christmas in 2005 and knew I had one good tour left in me. I volunteered for the 34th Brigade combat team and it's on to Afghanistan. I squared things with my very understanding practice partner. I called Linda Paul at WREB to say I would be available for exams. After practicing a little and doing 5 or 6 exams, I reported to Ft. Benning.

With current paperwork, I landed in Kandahar, Afghanistan—home of opium and the Taliban--in mid-June 2006. I worked my way up to Kabul, to Camp Phoenix, a composite unit of the 41st Brigade (Oregon) and the 45th Brigade (Oklahoma). The mission here is more humanitarian than combat medical. I had a fixed/hard clinic and lived in a trailer-like building called a can. I was on a NATO base with troops from 17 different countries. I provided comprehensive dental care to U.S./coalition personnel and DoD, KBR personnel. I also treated any Afghan child I could who could pass through the gate. On the weekends, I flew to remote bases to provide emergency care to those troops or assisted at the Afghan National Army hospitals and clinics. I had three Afghan dentists who are my students; we are currently exploring new territory called endodontics. Iraq is violence and death; Afghanistan is disease and despair. They are struggling to build a nation from ruins despite the resurging Taliban and merciless drug lords.

I am humbled and honored to be able to do what I have done on these tours. I thank those of you who have corresponded with and supported me. I hope to see my friends at WREB soon. I'll close with this: It feels so much better to be decorated for saving a life rather than taking one. By no means am I any notion of a hero, but I knew a few of the 2,600 who were.

Calendar Update

AADE Mid-year Meeting	March 25-26	Chicago
Executive Committee	June 15-16	Phoenix
Dental Hygiene Exam Review	July 10	Napa Valley, CA
Dental Exam Review Committee.	July 11	Napa Valley, CA
Board of Directors	July 12	Napa Valley, CA
Western Conference of Dental Examiner & Dental Deans	July 13-14.	Napa Valley, CA
AADE Annual Meeting	Sept. 26-27	San Francisco

Educator Forums Keep Faculty in the Loop

This year, both the Dental and Dental Hygiene departments hosted an educators' forum.

The WREB Dental Educators' Forum was held at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas School of Dental Medicine on Saturday, January 20, 2007. The forum was attended by approximately 30 dental educators from schools around the country. Dr. Bruce Horn, Chair of the WREB Operative Committee and Dr. Charles Broadbent, Director of Exam Development for WREB collaborated on presentations for the attendees.

Those in attendance were

brought up to date on the changes for the WREB exam for 2007. After presentations, Drs. Horn and Broadbent were available to answer questions posed by the educators to help them prepare their students for the WREB.

WREB wishes to extend appreciation to UNLV, Dr. Leslie Karns and Dr. Wendy Woodall for their efforts in making the Forum a success.

The Dental Hygiene Forum attracted well over 50 participants. It was held on Friday, February 2nd at the Tempe, Arizona campus of Rio Salado Community College. Barbara Dixon, RDH and Kelly Reich, RDH led the event. Liz Kaz, Director of

the Program at Rio was our site facilitator. The Forums not only allow faculty to better prepare their students for the WREB exams, but allow a back and forth between examiners and faculty that can only enhance the exam process and keeps the communication lines open and active. Faculty get to have some hands-on with some of the calibration materials, see parts of our calibration CDs, and this year, participated in a roundtable discussion that was open-ended.

WREB enjoys hosting these gatherings and the feedback we receive tells us that the faculty are appreciative of these efforts.

The David Low Service Award

The David Low Service Award, created in 2006, is bestowed upon those who give truly noteworthy and extraordinary service to WREB. It is intended to memorialize the 26 years of exceptional leadership that Dr. Low gave to WREB. It is to be given annually to one dentist and one dental hygienist. This award, WREB's highest commendation, recognizes the invaluable contributions that an outstanding dentist and dental hygienist render to the examining community. They must demonstrate the highest level of commitment, dedication and innovation. In addition, they must possess a genuine compassion for candidates, patients, fellow examiners, and staff. In the spirit of the award's namesake, they must also conduct themselves with the utmost professionalism, possess an open mind and an innate sense of humor.

Nominations for the first award may be submitted to the Executive Committee for consideration no later than March 15th. The award will be conferred at the July Board meeting. The recipient will receive a plaque. A plaque will also be placed in the Conference Room at the WREB office, indicating the names of all recipients (to be updated annually).



Restructuring Continues

With the untimely passing of Dr. David Low, WREB not only mourned him but worried about how to replace him! While he can never be replaced, there has been a determination of how to move forward. The yeoman's work that Dave performed will now be sub-divided into two positions. Dr. Charles Broadbent has accepted the position of Director of Dental Examination Development. Dr. Gerald Woodworth has accepted the position of Director of Dental Examination Administration.

Dr. Gerald Woodworth has been a WREB dental examiner and has served on the Board as President in 1996. He resides in Rupert, Idaho.

Dr. Charles Broadbent has been both a dental and dental hygiene examiner and has served on the Board as President in 2004. He resides in Queen Creek, Arizona.

The Director of Dental Exam Development will work with all of the dental committees as they construct each year's examination. The Director of Examination Administration will work with the examiners themselves in training and evaluation.

We are grateful for their willingness to step into the breach to continue WREB's long-standing tradition of being the top-quality testing agency.

Flo Monroe, our versatile employee

Many of you know Flo Monroe from her time as Dental Hygiene Exam Coordinator. Flo has also served us as Application Specialist and for a brief time she worked as a Dental Exam Coordinator. I have often joked that our Executive Director should watch her back. Flo hasn't tried that job yet! Flo has now assumed the position of Administrative Assistant for all things financial here at WREB. She is replacing Paula Rundgren who moved to

Colorado to be closer to family (and has been shoveling snow ever since!).

In her new position, Flo is responsible for candidate payments, examiner reimbursements, credit card issues, and working with Linda and Beth on budgets. As examiners, your questions about reimbursements should be directed to Flo as the exam coordinators wouldn't have your answers! Flo's e-mail is: fmonroe@wreb.org



Dental Department Welcomes New Staff

In previous issues, we have introduced you to two of our new dental team members, Cheri Watson and Jennifer Dahl. In this issue, we welcome Evonne LaVigne and Denise Ramos.

Evonne decided to join WREB because of the people and positive work environment. Prior to her position here, she worked in a family practice office. A Chicago native, Evonne is married to husband Scott and has two sons, Nicholas, 13 and Markus, 11. When not at work, she enjoys video and board games and reading.

Evonne is primarily responsible for committee oversight, but will be involved in all aspects of producing the dental exams.

Welcome, Evonne.

Denise came to WREB from a business appraisal firm where she was an administrative assistant. She worked from home, but WREB is only about a block from her house, so she's almost still working from home! She joined WREB because she was attracted by the opportunity to manage her own projects and knew that this would be a place where she could grow professionally.

Denise was born and reared in El Paso, Texas. She is married, with two "beautiful" children (twins) and "the cutest dog in the world". She describes herself as a "neat freak". She lives in Phoenix but loves coffee and rain. We're glad to have her on the team anyway!

By the way, Cheri has just returned to work after delivering a healthy baby girl, named Ascia Kay. This is her third child.



Denise (left), Evonne (right)

Turn the page to discover which examiner owns these animals!



Spotlight On...

Faye Kirkendall, Washington State Dental Hygiene Examiner

I have been a dental hygiene examiner since:
1991 in Washington and then with WREB since 1995.

Most rewarding aspect of examining:
The people I meet through WREB who are all really interested in their profession.

Recall a memorable, humorous, or touching event at a WREB exam:
They are all memorable.

What I do for fun:
Dressage with horses. Skiing with my husband Chris. My two Jack Russell Terriers, Pearl and Wart.

Associations, other activities in the dental field:
I have served on the Washington State Dental Hygiene Committee and the Oral-B Advisory Board.

Is there a slogan, mantra, or philosophy that guides you at work and at play?
I am convinced that life is 10% what happens to me and 90% how I react to it. Always think positive!



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