

WREB

A National Dental/Dental Hygiene Testing Agency

www.wreb.org

Winter/Spring 2009

David S. Low Service Award Recipient Named for 2009



Anna Policelli, RDH has been named as the recipient of the David S. Low Service Award for 2009. The Executive Committee annually selects either a dentist or a hygienist, on a rotating basis from among the WREB examiners who exemplify the many outstanding qualities exhibited by Dr. Low over his years of service to WREB.

Anna is to receive her award at the July meeting of the Dental Hygiene Exam Review Committee

from Dr. Bruce Horn, WREB's president. This is the largest group of WREB hygienists to assemble over the course of the year, so it will allow Anna to be truly celebrated by her peers, which she deserves.

Anna Policelli, RDH, has been a WREB examiner since 1996, has served on the Local Anesthesia Committee and is currently the Chair of this committee. Anna is also a member of the

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Letter from the President

I am deeply honored to represent WREB as its president during the coming year. I am preceded by dedicated and selfless stewards of great heart and mind. We are truly fortunate to have the consistent involvement and sacrifice of time from family and practice that is typical of our examiners. Their immersion in purpose is expressed in tireless committee involvement, examination and calibration preparation at home, and travel to and from exam sites. This labor of love is silently shared by all of us. I don't think thank you can be said too often!

Change and the need for course adjustment are inherent in clinical licensure testing. The responsibility and challenge of each newly elected leadership of WREB is to rebalance

examination content and make evidence based changes in our testing mechanism. Fluctuations in the licensure testing environment of both dental and dental hygiene agencies of late will produce ripple effects on our shores. Making use of specific new technology in expediting candidate applications, scoring and near real time result reporting will provide an enhanced dimension of service for candidates taking this high stakes examination. Of course efficient information technology can produce impersonal and frustrating linkages to any system. We are all too aware of the downside to the automated response. WREB is committed to incorporating innovative candidate friendly interfaces, both electronic and voice that

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Electronic Scoring Update

The new electronic scoring system for dental hygiene, now dubbed "ESS", is well into development. The ESS Work Group recently held their first ONLINE meeting to review the work done to date on the test administration, site coordination, calibration, check-in and patient submission modules. During the meeting, all the participants were simultaneously on a conference call and logged into Livemeeting.com and they viewed a live demonstration of the completed modules, facilitated by Tom Van Stiphout, from Kinetik IT, our software development partner.

Reaction from the examiners on the committee was: COOL! The process is very intuitive and similar to the paper process now used so that it should be a relatively easy transition to the new system, even for those who may not be as comfortable with technology.

Watch for more information on continuing development, beta testing and demos of ESS. Development of the grading module is the next step.

Thanks to work group members: Janet Ingrao, RDH, Mary Davidson, RDH, Becky Howard, RDH, Dr. Robert Giannini, Kelly Reich, RDH, Robin Krych and Radley Masinelli for their continued input into the development of this sophisticated new technology.

Letter from the President *continued from page 1*

take into account the apprehension and concerns of candidates.

It is our responsibility, to the states that use our results, for us to provide a valid and reliable skills assessment examination. These results are used by its licensing body to identify competent, safe and effective practice by dental hygienists and the newly licensed general dentist practicing independently. It is to this purpose that the WREB will

include only necessary assessments that have fidelity to the clinical practice of dentistry. Certainly not lost on us is the respect and professionalism due to the candidates as they successfully move through the examination process. Many have incurred great debt and sacrifice in an effort to become our colleagues. They will very soon replace us in writing these messages!

I have had the great fortune to be

married for the last 30 years to a person of true love, support and counsel. Nina and I have 3 adult children. Ryan, Mona and Maggie are pursuing their careers in education, speech pathology and physical therapy respectively. Our 2 grandchildren Nick and Emma remind us of the joy and interest in the simple things that too often go unnoticed in our busy world.



Bruce Horn completed his D.D.S. at the University of Oklahoma in 1981. He maintains a general dental practice in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Dr. Horn is serving his third elected term on the Oklahoma Board of Dentistry, and has been presiding officer for the last three years.

He has been active in WREB for the past 7 years, serving on several test construction committees, and is a past chair of the operative committee. His examining assignments include the endodontic floor, team captain, and chief floor duties. Dr. Horn recently accepted the assignment of exam coordinator.

Dr. Horn currently represents the American Association of Dental Examiners (AADE) as a commissioner to the Joint Commission on National Dental Examinations (JCNDE), and

is an oversight committee member of the American Dental Educators Association Committee for Change and Innovation in dental education.(ADEA-CCI).

He is a participating advocate for volunteer dental services for the indigent and working poor through his involvement with the Neighbor for Neighbor clinic, and the developing Mother Theresa Dental Care Center in Tulsa.

Bruce enjoys many interests outside of dentistry. He holds the judo rank of Shodan, and a United States Coastguard master level license to operate a passenger vessel. The boat captain license feeds the offshore sport fishing habit on the Texas gulf coast, that he readily admits has him hooked.



In Honor of Dr. David Low

Dr. Low Service Award *continued from page 1*

DHERC. Anna has held many leadership positions in UDHA including Delegate to ADHA and State President of UDHA. She is currently the Chair of the Utah Board of Dentists and Dental Hygienists and is Board Liaison to AADE.

In a recent letter to WREB, sharing some of her personal interests and history, Anna stated that “grandchildren are an important aspect of my life. I am fortunate to have four active, talented and very busy grandsons, three living in Maryland and one here in Holladay, Utah. Other activities include exercising, which often presents a dilemma in keeping to a regular gym schedule, and using my home computer which is also a challenge, but one I keep trying.

Dr. Low was extremely dedicated to dentistry and to WREB, and I am very honored to be the recipient of this year’s David S. Low Service Award. I was fortunate to work

as a Hygienist for Dr. Low in the early 1990’s. A temporary injury due to an auto accident forced me to reduce my clinical schedule and necessitated my leaving Dr. Low’s practice. He and I remained in close contact and continued our friendship.

I have been very fortunate in my professional life to have been employed and mentored by some truly incredible people – Dr. David S. Low, Dr. Richard Ellis (WREB Examiner), Dr. Michael Rasch, and Dr. Gerald Summerhays. Also, my colleagues including Barbara Dixon, Ermelinda Baca and Kelly Reich are examples of leaders that help to guide many of us to greater accomplishments. The staff at WREB are exceptional in their dedication to quality work and are a great asset.

Again, thank you for the honor of being chosen for this David S. Low Service Award.”

BEYOND WREB: Dr. Michael Moriarty

1) Describe your position(s) with WREB and how long you have been involved with WREB.

Currently – Chief Floor Examiner and in the past have been Grading Examiner, Endo Floor Examiner, Floor Examiner. I don't know how long I've been doing this – longer than my marriage! Past perpetual member of the Endo Committee when we changed from the block to the mannequin.

2) What is your primary career?

Displaced farmer in a General Dentist's body.

3) Tell us about your family.

Spouse – Maya Moriarty for 10 years now. She has been the driving force behind the success of our practice. She is the Office Manager and still finds time for community projects as well as shuttling the kids to and fro. Daughter Maille – 9 yrs – is in 3rd grade. John – 7 yrs – is in 1st grade. Both are involved in basketball, Little League, Swim Club and love to fish, hike and can't wait to start hunting! Of course there are my two pointing labs, Asia and Sugar. Both have excellent pedigrees and join me in pheasant hunting every fall. Asia is a certified pointing lab and Jr. Hunter. Sugar is currently getting "papered" up.



4) Do you have an anecdote to share about family life?

My wife always tells me that if she's happy, that I'll be happy. Go figure! We also tell our kids to "Always do your best!" and "You can do anything if you try hard enough!"

5) Tell us about your hobbies and something interesting that happened while engaging in your pastime.

I am an avid hunter and fisherman and have also played recreational softball, basketball, and volleyball for many years as attested by my many knee surgeries. I've hunted moose, deer, Dall sheep, caribou, black bears, Kodiak brown bears,

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The Educator Forums Keep Faculty "in the Loop"

Both the Dental and Dental Hygiene departments hosted educators' forums in January. The purpose of these seminars is to provide updates and changes for the 2009 exam year and answer questions.

For geographic convenience, two Dental Educator's Forums were held this year. Dr. Charles Broadbent, Director of Exam Development for WREB, hosted the meeting at Case Western Reserve University on January 26, 2009.

Dr. Gerald Woodworth, Director of Dental Exam Administration, held a similar forum on the west coast at University of California at San Francisco on January 30th.

Those in attendance were brought up to date on the changes for the WREB exam for 2009. Topics included the Patient Assessment and Treatment Planning (PATP) going to computerized format, and the change from compensatory to conjunctive scoring. The progress of moving PATP to



computer was met with overall approval of this change. Scoring changes posed a few initial concerns by educators; however further explanation alleviated many questions.

WREB wishes to extend appreciation to both Case Western and UCSF for their efforts in making the Forums a success. WREB enjoys hosting these gatherings and the feedback we receive tells us that the faculties are appreciative of these efforts.

Clinical Skills Assessment Examination

At the request of several state boards, WREB has developed a Clinical Skills Assessment Examination to assess a licensed practitioner's clinical skills. The examination is designed for practitioners who have been absent from practice for a prolonged period of time, have completed treatment for drug or alcohol dependency, or are facing disciplinary action by their boards. Practitioners will take those sections of the examination that are required by their state boards. The exam tests basic clinical skills in situations where the full clinical exam is not appropriate. The examination consists of three parts:

Part I - Typodont Examination

Class II amalgam preparation and a cast gold full-crown preparation.

Part II - Patient-based Examination

Class II amalgam preparation and finish.

Part III - Optional Sections

Endo - Treatment of one anterior tooth and one posterior tooth, both mounted in a typodont.

Prosthetics - Computer simulation exam .

Perio Diagnosis and Treatment - Computer simulation exam

Patient Assessment and Treatment Planning

The Skills Assessment Examination is currently available. It will be administered in conjunction with the WREB clinical examinations, ensuring credibility, anonymity, and cost efficiency.

To make examination arrangements, or for more information, please call (602) 944-3315.

WREB Has A Specialty Exam?

You may have noticed from our website that WREB participates in an examination for specialty licensure in cooperation with the Northeast Regional Board for the benefit of WREB member states. Some states will accept this examination for specialty licensure, whereas some may accept the results for a general license. Other states may not accept these results at all. It is best for interested parties to contact the state in which they wish to be licensed to obtain their requirements. There are exams offered for each of the following specialties:

Prosthodontics

Oral Maxillofacial

Periodontics

Pediatrics

Orthodontics

Oral and Maxillofacial Radiology

Endodontics

An exam consists of a written portion and a presentation of case histories and verbal examination. The specialty exams are only given once a year. The 2009 exam will be held July 7 – 9 in Chicago, IL. Interested WREB member state candidates should contact the WREB office to request an enrollment packet for more information.

Dental Hygiene Computer Simulation Exam

A committee was developed three years ago to construct a computer based exam to complement the patient-based clinical dental hygiene examination. The intent of the computer examination is to follow candidates through all phases of dental hygiene care; through the health history assessment, care planning, disease classification, prognosis, patient evaluation, and outcomes phases of dental hygiene care.

Utilizing intra oral photos, dental radiographs, computer graphics, dental and periodontal chartings and video, the exam simulates a dental hygienist rendering comprehensive treatment to a patient in a practice setting.

Candidates will answer test items throughout the various phases of dental hygiene treatment and will gain access to additional information as treatment continues. The ability to access current state of the art software technology allows for increased reliability of the exam. This will provide a more consistent and objective evaluation of the candidate's knowledge by eliminating individual patient variables in areas like extra and intraoral assessment. As technology and the profession of dental hygiene advances, the exam will also evolve.

Stay tuned for updates in future newsletter and at www.wreb.org.

Beyond WREB: Dr. Moriarty *continued from page 3*

pheasant, and squirrels that try to eat my roof. The funniest thing that happened to me was on a Kodiak brown bear hunt and I had a tooth blow up on me. I always bring an emergency kit but I didn't have enough anesthetic and had to first teach my hunting buddy how and where to give me a shot and then ration out the medicine. I was in need of a root canal for 10 long days which hurt me worse than when I broke both my wrists as a sophomore in dental school. We were in the middle of nowhere. From that experience I try to get all toothache patients seen the same day they call in.

6) Do you have a comment about or interesting experience with WREB to share with the readership?

One day I came off break and found a blood trail and followed it, being the true hunter that I was. I found an Idaho examiner hiding in a break room attending to his bloody nose. He had tried to remove a cotton roll from his pencil holder with a double ended explorer and poked himself in the end of his nose.

7) What else tells us something important about who you are?

I am humbled and honored to be a part of WREB for as long as I've been. It has given me the opportunity to make many strong friendships with other examiners. I've learned more from being around so many "wet fingered" dentists and discussing "shop" than any CE. My position now exposes me directly with the students and I think I'm able to instill a sense of excellence and ethics in those taking the exams. I believe in WREB and its mission and believe that we are heading in the right direction. Remember the Golden Rule: Treat others as you would have them treat you.



“Winning” the White Rock Half-Marathon

by Tammy R. Fisher, R.D.H.

On December 9, 2007, I crossed the finish line in Dallas a winner. I didn't finish first in my age group or anywhere close, but I did run 13.1 miles without stopping. As my two running buddies and I ran across the finish line with our hands clasped and arms raised, you would have thought we had just won the gold medal at the Olympic Games!

I was not the athletic type in high school or college, and had never attempted such a difficult athletic pursuit. I became intrigued by the idea after hearing my WREB colleague, Royann Royer, tell of her triathlon experiences. I was not convinced something like this was possible for me because I typically did not run at all — not even the short distance to my mailbox! Two of my patients encouraged me to participate in a walk-to-run program that promises to take a “couch potato” to a marathon. I had never run around the block, much less 13.1 miles.

I did participate in this excellent year-long program at Luke's Locker, a local running store. The basic elements of this program can be helpful in achieving success in many challenging arenas, whether it be running or completing a difficult professional degree and board exam.

1. Have a good coach or mentor. A life-long mentor with experience at success can prove valuable to your career.
2. Train with a buddy who will hold you accountable to a diligent training schedule along the way. Plus, it is much more fun with a friend.
3. Be prepared with the appropriate gear. Think through every possible scenario and prepare for it.
4. On the big day, dress for success. You will feel more confident.
5. Prepare your physical body with proper sleep and nutrition.
6. Keep a positive attitude and have confidence in your long hours of training.
7. Celebrate with friends and family when it is all over.

As a Chief Examiner since 1995, I have seen these principles at work time after time with successful candidates. 2007 was a long year of new challenges for me, but the discipline that this experience built into my life will remain with me forever. I will never be a fast, elite runner, but that was never my goal. It is the small daily goals and successes that continue to thrill me every time I cross a finish line.

Calendar Update

- March 6 Operative Committee
- March 7 Computer Simulation Committee
- May 8-9 Crown Integrated Prep Committee
- May 15-16 Endodontic Committee
- June 4-7 Dental Hygiene Subcommittee Meeting
- June 14-15 Anesthesia Committee Meeting
- June 19-20 PATP Committee
- June 26-27 Executive Committee
- July 14..... DHERC Meeting, San Diego, CA
- July 15..... DERC, San Diego
- July 16..... Board of Directors, San Diego
- July 17-18 Western Conference, San Diego
- Sept 11-12 Restorative Committee
- Sept 17-19 Dental Hygiene Committee
- Sept 29..... Executive Committee
- Sept 30-Oct 1..... AADE Meeting, Hawaii
- October 1..... AADE Meeting, Hawaii
- October 2..... (Tentative) Dental Hygiene Performance Committee



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