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# FINDING COMMON GROUND

by Lorin D. Peterson D.D.S., 2005 WREB President

The various parties of the dental profession share one common goal: the development of a national dental examination. The examining community, the ADA, ADEA, and ASDA have all publicly stated their desire for one national examination. The AADE formed the American Dental Licensing Examination Committee (ADLEC) to pursue this goal, but the ADLEC has failed to gain broad base support throughout the dental profession. The ADA has questioned the ADLEC process, ADEA has formally opposed it, and WREB withdrew from ADLEC last September.



Some in the examining community have argued that it is a conflict of interest for the ADA, ADEA, or ASDA to be involved in the development of a national exam. I have a core, philosophical difference of opinion regarding this issue. I feel it is absolutely appropriate for all parties in the dental profession to provide input into exam development. The stage where you avoid a conflict of interest (or the perception of a conflict of interest) is during the candidate assessment; this is when an independent third party should be the key component. The various stakeholders all have valid and important input to give. This input is essential to developing the best examination possible. It has been stated that ADEA is not willing to work with examiners. If you read ADEA's statements carefully, they state that they will work with those in the examining community who are willing to develop

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# 2005 Western Conference Preview

by Dr. Phyllis Pendergrast, President, Western Conference of Dental Examiners and Dental School Deans

Have you ever wondered why dental and dental hygiene schools teach what they teach? How do they decide when a student is competent to become a professional?



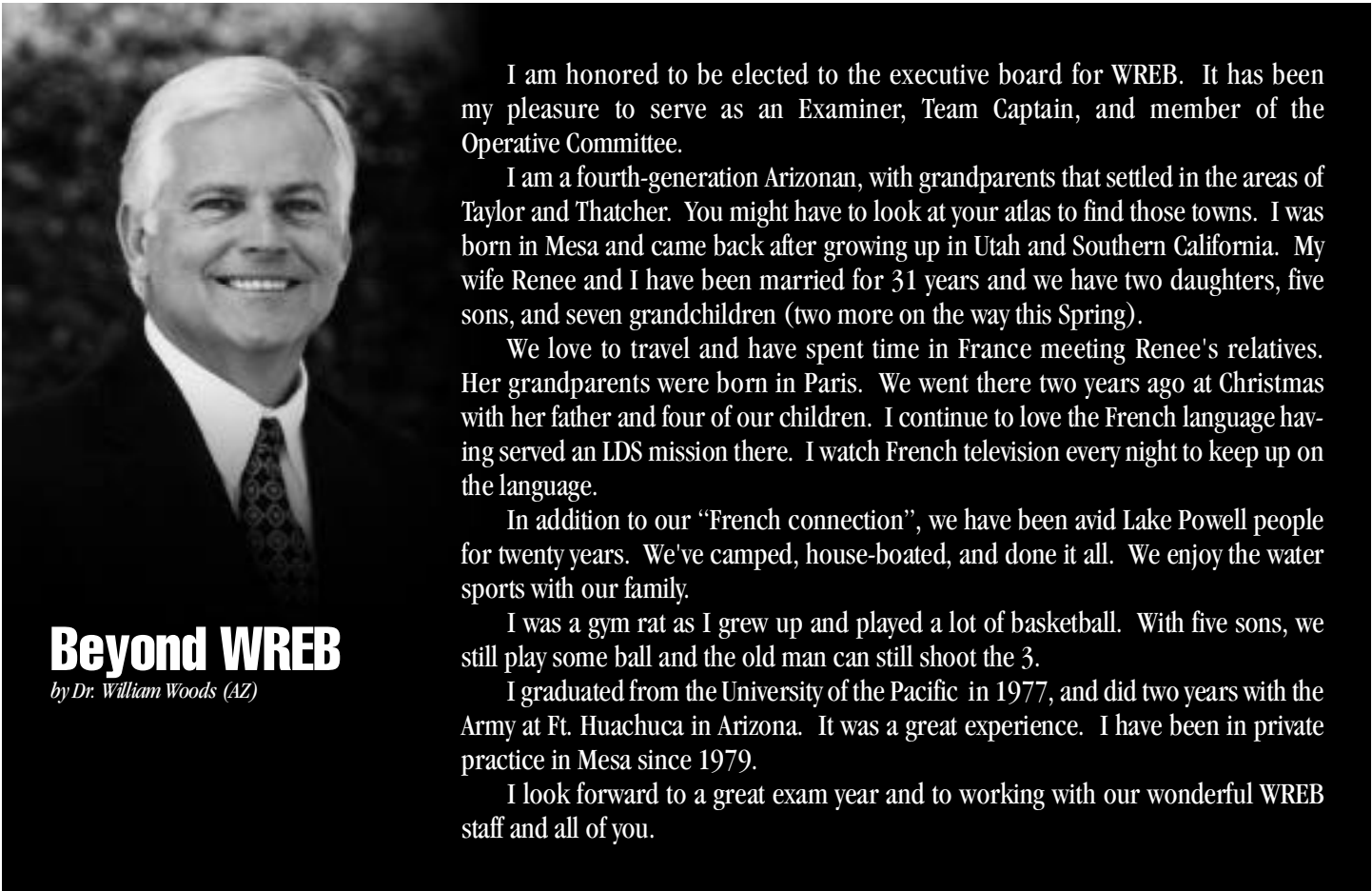
What do testing agencies mean by the terms validity, reliability and fidelity and how do such concepts affect the content of an examination?

These questions are sure to generate interesting and lively discussions at this summer's Western Conference of Dental Examiners and Dental School Deans. The meeting will be held July 22-24, 2005 at "The Resort at the Mountain" in Welches, Oregon. The conference provides an opportunity for an open exchange of ideas and concerns between the dental and hygiene educators and the examining community.

The Resort at the Mountain is just 45 minutes from the Portland International Airport. It is located at the western base of beautiful Mt. Hood, next to the Huckleberry Wilderness Area. If you want to preview the amenities, their web site address is: www.TheResort.com.

In addition to a great meeting and gourmet restaurants, plan to enjoy such things as: hiking, biking, tennis, croquet, lawn bowling, wine tasting, Scottish High Tea and of course, one of the best golf experiences in the Northwest. This could be one of the best meeting locations we have enjoyed in many years.

Additional information will be available later this Spring.



## Beyond WREB

by Dr. William Woods (AZ)

I am honored to be elected to the executive board for WREB. It has been my pleasure to serve as an Examiner, Team Captain, and member of the Operative Committee.

I am a fourth-generation Arizonan, with grandparents that settled in the areas of Taylor and Thatcher. You might have to look at your atlas to find those towns. I was born in Mesa and came back after growing up in Utah and Southern California. My wife Renee and I have been married for 31 years and we have two daughters, five sons, and seven grandchildren (two more on the way this Spring).

We love to travel and have spent time in France meeting Renee's relatives. Her grandparents were born in Paris. We went there two years ago at Christmas with her father and four of our children. I continue to love the French language having served an LDS mission there. I watch French television every night to keep up on the language.

In addition to our "French connection", we have been avid Lake Powell people for twenty years. We've camped, house-boated, and done it all. We enjoy the water sports with our family.

I was a gym rat as I grew up and played a lot of basketball. With five sons, we still play some ball and the old man can still shoot the 3.

I graduated from the University of the Pacific in 1977, and did two years with the Army at Ft. Huachuca in Arizona. It was a great experience. I have been in private practice in Mesa since 1979.

I look forward to a great exam year and to working with our wonderful WREB staff and all of you.

### Finding Common Ground *(continued from page 1)*

an exam in a true, collaborative manner.

The ADA, ADEA, and ASDA have all expressed various concerns regarding the current examination process. Some of the challenges that candidates face include:

- patient procurement for the exam
- having to treat patients in an artificial sequence at times
- costs, regarding the exam fee, patients, assistants
- distortion of professional ethics; candidates having to sometimes place their needs above those of their patients.

The examining community has a unique opportunity to collaborate with others to address these concerns and still maintain the integrity of the examination process. WREB formed a Dental Exam Development Committee last fall to consider innovative concepts that could be implemented into our exam. The committee consists of examiners, educators and WREB staff. There have been two meetings, and the discussions have been frank, candid, and productive. The Dental Exam Development Committee has developed some creative concepts to address the concerns of the ADA, ADEA and ASDA. Although the exam concepts are still in a formative state, they are based on the common ground that the various stakeholders share. WREB has an excellent exam in its current form; these innovations will enable us to develop an even better exam.

The ADA supports the development of a national dental examination and it has formed the National Clinical Licensing Examination Consensus Committee to monitor the progress of a national exam effort. I will represent WREB at the ADA's Consensus Committee on February 11th.

I don't have a crystal ball to gaze into the future and see how the dental exam landscape will appear in three to five years, but I am quite confident that WREB will continue to be an integral part of the examining process. We are developing our exam on the common ground that we share with others in the profession. This common ground approach is essential to gaining broad base support throughout the profession. I feel any exam that is unable to gain this support is an exam that has a guarded prognosis.

WREB has made some difficult political decisions in the last six months, but they were absolutely the right decisions. We stand on very solid ground. We offer a quality product, we have bright and creative minds developing exam innovations, and we listen to the input from all aspects of our profession. I am very excited about the future of WREB.

Two years ago, a fellow examiner shared some Texan humor with me. He asked, "Do you know what the plural of y'all is?" The answer, "All y'all." On that note, I would like to wish "All y'all" the very best in 2005.

## WREB's Believe It Or Not

Deana Standley has been a WREB dental hygiene examiner for the past several years. She hails from Great Falls, Montana. What many of us didn't know was that Deana is also an artist. She produces sculptures in clay, bronze, and acrylic. Her sculpted faces are "inspired by the Montana mountains and prairie. Original in nature, with fantasy and history coming together to create a unique representation of our primitive selves, no matter what Tribe we descend from." She elaborates, "The masks are fun for me because they allow more freedom with the medium. No two are alike and that I prefer. That is also the downside of bronze because in order to pay for the work you need to do a



series. Mine are only a series of 20."

Deana says she is looking forward to doing a sculpture of her granddaughter in the near future when time permits. "I do this out of a loving place in my soul, and I feel that each work must invite the hands to touch as well as the eyes to see."



*"Arab Dancer," 8 inches tall, bronze*



*"The Bride," 26 inches tall, bronze*

## 2005 Officers

WREB would like to announce our officers for 2005. Our President is Dr. Lorin Peterson from Cle Elum, Washington. Our President-Elect is Dr. Paul Sims from Butte, Montana. Our Secretary-Treasurer is Dr. Bill Woods of Mesa, Arizona. Barbara Dixon, RDH from Salt Lake City, Utah is the Dental Hygiene Director. Our officers work very hard each year on WREB's behalf and we salute them!

## Calendar of Events Update

March 21 . . . . .AADE Mid-Year Meeting . . . . .Chicago  
 June 25 . . . . .Joint CRDTS/SRTA/WREB . . . . .Salt Lake City  
 June 26 . . . . .Executive Committee . . . . .Salt Lake City  
 July 20 . . . . .Exam Review Committees . . . . .Portland, Oregon  
 July 21 . . . . .Board of Directors . . . . .Portland, Oregon  
 July 22-24 . . . . .Western Conference . . . . .Portland, Oregon  
 October 6-7 . . . . .AADE Annual Meeting . . . . .Philadelphia

## WREB Mission Statement

The mission of the Western Regional Examining Board is to be a leading developer and administrator of consistently valid, reliable, state-of-the-art competency assessments, administered with honesty, integrity, and appropriate technology via a collaborative effort of its administrative staff, educators, consultants, and examiners for Dental Health Care Providers and State Agencies that license dental professionals.



## Spotlight On...

# Carol Harvey, a WREB School Coordinator

### **I have been a school coordinator since:**

I've been a site coordinator at the University of Washington since 2000. I worked as a WREB auxiliary beginning in 1997 until 1999 when I became an assistant site coordinator.

### **Most rewarding aspect of this work:**

The most rewarding aspect is working with our WREB site team and hosting as stress-less an exam as possible. We take great pride in hosting an exam where candidates who are not familiar with our school, feel welcome and as comfortable as possible. The entire dental school community goes out of their way to be helpful and friendly to candidates, patients, and visitors to our school.

### **Recall a memorable, humorous, or touching event at a WREB exam:**

One of the candidates had given birth just prior to the exam and was just released from the hospital the day of orientation. She attended orientation in a wheelchair and we weren't certain if she would be able to complete the exam. She arrived on time, completed the exam and passed with flying colors! Never underestimate the power of a WREB dental candidate!

### **What I do for fun:**

I love to spend time with my family - husband, Larry and my sons - Michael (20) and Steven (16) and Charlie the dog. Watching them play their sports and cheering them on at the top of my lungs is my most favorite activity. For the past 5 years, I've been a season ticket holder at the 5th Avenue Theater here in Seattle. I love museums of all types - art, music, history, pop

culture - you name it! Listening to music of all genres - classical, country, rock, pop, and rap - I like it all! I love to read almost everything and get most of my reading times in on the bus commuting the hour + each way to work every day. I enjoy traveling to different places and creating scrapbooks of my adventures. One of my favorite trips was driving with mother from Northern Idaho to my sister's house in South Carolina.

### **Is there a slogan, mantra, or philosophy that guides you at work and at play?**

"Breathe"- in and out. When things are difficult or tense, a good deep breath goes along way.

"Live life fully while you're here. Experience everything. Take care of yourself and your friends. Have fun, be crazy, and be weird. Go out and screw up! You're going to anyway, so you might as well enjoy the process. Take the opportunity to learn from your mistakes: find the cause of your problem and eliminate it. Don't try to be perfect; just be an excellent example of being human." *Anthony Robbins*



## **Western Regional Examining Board**

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