



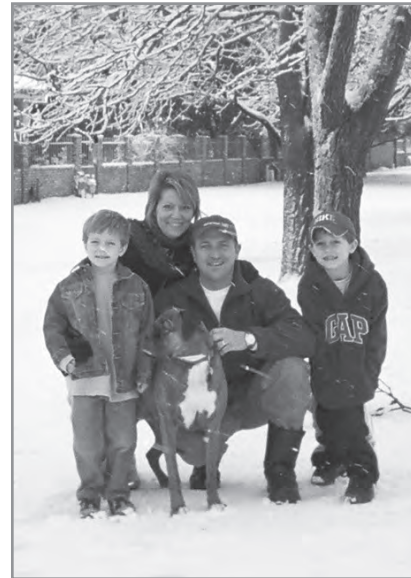
Spotlight On...

Helen McKibben, RDH (Hygiene Examiner from Texas)

I have been a (dental hygiene) examiner since: 1995. I began examining for WREB while living in New Mexico. I moved to Texas in 1999 where I was fortunate to be placed on the TSBDE "write in" examiner list. I was taken off that list when I was appointed to the TSBDE in 2003.

Most rewarding aspect of examining: Helping the candidates "from behind the curtains" and getting to know an incredible group of committed professionals from around the country.

Recall a memorable, humorous, or touching event at a WREB exam: I remember many, but two stand out in my mind. My first exam was the Albuquerque exam and my first patient check in tested everything I had spent the previous day going over. I spent too much time trying to find something that was just not there. The poor candidate didn't have a back up and ended up going home to a state far away without ever taking the WREB. I thought that it was brutal on both of us. The second memory is from the San Antonio exam



a few years back with the dark morning sky (full of tornadoes) and the after exam pool time examiner round table discussion that went on for hours.

What I do for fun: I am an avid gardener (past president of a garden club); love to spend time with my "boys" (husband and 2 sons) at our ranch on the river where we water or snow ski.

Associations, other activities in the dental field: I am currently serving a six-year appointment on the Texas State Board of Dental Examiners. I have served on the New Mexico Board of Dental Health Care/Dental Hygiene Committee. I have served on the WREB DH ERC and the DH sub-committee for the past three years. I also participate in the Examiner Performance Committee. As of this year, I will be the new Chair for the DH sub-committee.

Is there a slogan, mantra, or philosophy that guides you at work and at play? The Serenity Prayer.



WREB/A National Dental and Dental Hygiene Testing Agency

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Spring 2007

1st Annual David S. Low Service Awards

The first annual David S. Low Service Awards will be presented during the Dental ERC meeting this July 11th. Jerry Low, David Low's wife, will be the presenter. The Lows' three children and their spouses will also attend. The first recipient for the dental side will be Dr. Ed Carlson, Tucson, Arizona. Ed will be taking his award and flying immediately to France! On the hygiene side, the award will be given posthumously to Gretchen Hess, RDH of Pocatello, Idaho. Gretchen was Dr. Low's counterpart as the Chair of the DH-ERC. Her husband, Bill and daughter Whitney will be on hand to receive the award in her honor.

WREB is pleased to honor each year a dentist and a hygienist who contribute yeoman service to WREB and to their respective professions.



Dr. Ed Carlson reflects on the David S. Low award

Receiving the David S. Low award is a very special event for me, though I think others are equally deserving.

Dave and I always had a great working relationship, but even though I'm an easygoing guy, I've never been as diplomatic as he was. I remember the first exam in Loma Linda. I spent a very late night on the town with some examiners from Nevada and Montana, but arrived the next morning (on time mind you) and graded the candidates appropriately. As we started orientation at the next exam, Dave said to me, "Now, Ed, behave yourself." No further explanation needed. We could always count on each other.

I am proud of WREB and what we have managed to accomplish, and I am honored to be the first recipient of the David S. Low award. Dave's energy and commitment to WREB set an example for all of us.

Thanks in large part to his leadership, WREB has become the benchmark against which all other exams are measured. We set the standard for validity and reliability. We also have a record of innovation. WREB was the first to give exams prior to graduation, the first to do 3-D computer prosthetics, and the first to do endodontic procedures.

I see great things ahead for WREB, and this wouldn't surprise Dave. WREB's vitality and continued growth are an important part of his legacy.

Recently, your editor had a lovely phone conversation with Jerry Low, Dave Low's wife of 49 years. She had this to say about the upcoming David Low award presentation:

I'm honored to think that WREB would do this in David's memory. It seems almost above and beyond the call of duty. It's wonderful. The whole family is honored. The emotions involved will make it even more profound. We've always known that his honesty and integrity was a way of life for David. It wasn't just on Sundays, it

was part of his everyday life. It was just the way David was. I saw him do some things unknown even to the parties involved, but done with the idea that it was the right thing to do, what his Heavenly Father would want him to do; not necessarily the most expedient or the less costly thing to do. I always admired that about him. No second thoughts, it is just who he was. To have this award perpetuate that memory means so much. When we found out about the award, one of the first things that my son said to me

was, 'I hope you plan on going down there for that!' I hadn't thought about it. 'Well Mom, Dad would want you to.' Then WREB invited me to present this year's awards and the kids were overjoyed. Without hesitation, all the kids said, 'We're going!' I miss him very much. His first granddaughter was born the Monday after David died on a Friday. I like to think that they escorted each other into and out of heaven. I look forward to being with David's friends and colleagues at the presentation.

Note From Bill Hess

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Western Regional Examining Board for awarding the David S. Low Service Award to my late wife, Gretchen Hess.

The contributions mentioned in your letter do exemplify what WREB meant to her. But more importantly, the field of Dental Hygiene was an important part of her life. Working for WREB was only one of the ways that she pushed the advancement of her profession. Serving on the Idaho State Board of Dentistry and being on the clinical faculty at Idaho State University also served to advance the field of Dental Hygiene. Her overwhelming commitment to patient care was embodied in her professional life. That single fact was the engine that drove her service to WREB as well as her other professional endeavors.

As a family we are very proud to accept this honor. And are very pleased that her contribution to the field of Dental Hygiene will be kept alive by receiving this award.

Keep Smiling and Keep Flossing
Bill Hess



Gretchen Hess

Beyond WREB Dr. Ed Carlson, Tucson, Arizona

Tell us about your family. Do you have an anecdote to share about family life?

Life has treated me well. I've been married for 36 years to a very understanding, patient, and creative wife. Dawn and I work together (she's a hygienist). We also share an appreciation for the arts. Dawn is an accomplished painter, and the two of us enjoy attending performances of the Tucson Symphony and our local opera company.

Our two married children and two wonderful grandchildren have made my life complete. Our daughter, Moriah, a clothing designer with the label Feral Childe, lives near my childhood home in New York with her artist husband, Peter Bonner.

Dawn and I visit our grandchildren, Patrick, 5, and Sean, 1, in Denver on a regular basis. (As a bonus, we also get to see their parents - our son Cary, a stay-at-home dad, and his wife, Christina, who is the controller for a national restaurant chain.)

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

When the weekend weather's good (which is most of the time in Tucson), you'll often find me out on my road bike. If I'm at the gym, I'm still on a bike in a spin class, or I might lift a few weights.

Last year, my son, Cary, and I were riding bikes in Denver near the Platte River. Just on the other side of the river was an amusement park, with a roller coaster. We were tooling along at about 18 mph. And I was watching the roller coaster, which was going up, up, up... Just as it was about to go over the top, I looked ahead of

me -- and saw the path turn. It went left, I went straight -- crashing onto a railroad track. Luckily, there were no trains, and, though I messed up my clothes, no broken bones.

Describe your position(s) with WREB and how long you have been involved with WREB. Do you have a comment about or experience with WREB to share with the readership?

I've been part of WREB since 1984 and have been involved in just about every aspect of the organization. I was Operative Committee Chairman in 1985, Prosthetics Committee Chair 1986-87, and a Consultant to that committee 1991-2000. From 1990-97, I was Representative to DISC Board of Directors. I served on the Appeals Committee 1988-96, was a member of the Committee on Exam Innovation 2000-2001, and of the Long Range Planning Committee 1999-2002.

I was President for two consecutive years: 1988 and 1989. I did this two-year stint because we were putting together a long-range plan, and I wanted to see it through to completion.

My current WREB activities include Exam Coordinator (since 1995), Continued Competency (since 2003), and Patient Assessment and Treatment Planning (since 2005). I'm also the chair of the Curriculum Integrated Patient Crown operative sub-committee.

When I first became involved with WREB, we gave two exams each year -- total-- and had less than a handful of states. This year, we'll do 30 examinations across the country, and our exam is accepted in 38 states. We've grown because of committed people who saw what needed to be



Dr. Carlson with grandchildren Patrick and Sean.

done and did it.

I've put some time into WREB, but I've received a great deal in return. No matter how busy a dental practice, our profession is, at its core, one on one. My work with WREB expands my horizons and has been complementary to my service to my patients. Our collaborative efforts have let me have a hand in shaping the future of dentistry by helping ensure excellence and consistency from practice to practice and state to state.

What is your primary career?

I'm a general dentist, in practice for 36 years in Tucson, Arizona.

What else tells us something important about who you are?

I started my practice of dentistry in the Indian Health Service before going into private practice in 1976. When I was Dental Chief for the Indian Health Service at Shiprock, New Mexico, we had four dentists -- and were responsible for 28,000 people! We saw every child each year from preschool through sixth grade.

WREB'S TAKE ON DENTAL EXAM COMPONENTS

A few states from regions outside of WREB have recently rescinded acceptance of the WREB dental exam for licensure in those states. The reason cited is that WREB does not have an "indirect restoration" on our examination. These states will no longer accept WREB results without a crown preparation. The Executive Committee and Board of Directors have discussed the situation in great detail.

WREB has a typodont crown preparation examination prepared and ready to implement. Last summer the Operative Committee began developing a patient based crown preparation concept that could be administered as part of the dental school curriculum. The WREB Board of Directors voted unanimously in January to concentrate all efforts on developing and field testing this patient based crown preparation rather than diluting our resources by implementing a typodont procedure, which the officers and directors feel would not provide the fidelity necessary to be a worthwhile addition to our exam.

WREB has been unable to find any data showing a correlation between crown preparations on patients and on plastic teeth. Without that data, it is unknown whether the typodont exam will add value to the exam. WREB is unwilling to add procedures to the exam that will not provide useful data regarding the ability of a dentist to work safely on patients.

Any clinical exam is only a sampling of the procedures performed in practice. For logistical, financial and/or ethical reasons there are a number of procedures that are not tested on the

clinical exam. The crown preparation is a commonly performed procedure that WREB wants to evaluate. Doing an indirect crown preparation and finish on a patient in a 2 1/2 day exam poses concerns: reliance on outside laboratories; time restrictions to prepare proper restorations; limitations on patient preferences; financial impact; etc. A typodont preparation on plastic teeth is relatively easy and inexpensive to implement, but may not provide useful data on a dentist's ability to practice safely on a patient.

WREB is aware of the severe limitations on dental schools to cover as much as possible in a four-year schedule. The final semester of a student's curriculum is the time when the student should be perfecting skills on patients. To reduce the number of patient based procedures during the final semester in order to reacquaint students with the skill of cutting plastic teeth seems intuitively counterproductive and not in the interest of improving patient safety.

While WREB has chosen not to add a typodont preparation to the exam, we are confident that the majority of the elements of the crown preparation are being tested on the two direct procedures that are currently on the WREB exam. WREB does allow those candidates who wish to do an indirect procedure on the exam to choose a gold casting. This should meet the requirements of any state that requires an indirect procedure. Meanwhile, WREB will continue working diligently to develop and field test a crown preparation exam on a patient that will resolve the current concerns and provide a valuable addition to the WREB exam which will improve validity.

WREB Welcomes Our New Receptionist

Danielle Lewis has joined WREB as our front desk secretary/receptionist. Danielle came to us because she wanted a new challenge and so far really enjoys her job and her fellow office employees! Before WREB, Danielle worked for a chiropractor who did practice management and coached a variety of doctors around the country.

An Arizona native, Danielle (along with most of us) doesn't really like the HOT summer weather but wouldn't move away if she could. Danielle has been married for one year so hasn't gotten around to children yet but has just become an aunt and has family in New York with whom she is in touch daily!

When not at work, Danielle and her husband love bowling, going to the Zoo, swimming, and just being outside or reading a book. Frequent trips to the lake with their dogs is one of their favorite outings. She loves to bake. "I'm usually a homebody". By her own description, Danielle loves life and tries to live it to the fullest every day. She is always smiling. We are so happy to have her smiling face greeting us and our visitors.

Welcome, Danielle.



WESTERN CONFERENCE TO ADDRESS DEVELOPMENTS IN PRACTICE by Kelly Reich, RDH



The 2007 Western Conference of Dental Examiners and Dental Deans will be held July 13th and 14th at the Hyatt Vineyard Creek Hotel and Spa. The program on Friday is titled "Collaboration among Dental Professionals." The speakers will discuss how educational models can be incorporated into the dental and dental hygiene curricula to teach students how to utilize a team approach while providing comprehensive oral health care to patients. Additional opportunities for graduating dental and dental hygiene students to work with other licensed professionals in alternative settings will also

be discussed.

On Saturday, "Changing Views in Oral Health Care" will center on evidence-based dentistry and advancements in the diagnosis and treatment of carious lesions. A review of oral pathology and current treatment of oral lesions will also be addressed. WREB will report the results of the dental school survey and discuss the progress of the WREB Dental Patient Assessment and Treatment Planning Committee.

Dental School and State Dental Board Reports will also be scheduled during the Friday and Saturday program. A reception and dinner will follow that evening. A Western Conference program and agenda will be available soon.

WESTERN CONFERENCE EDUCATORS' MEETING

As we have done in previous years, WREB is hosting an educators' meeting on Friday afternoon, July 13 at the Vineyard Creek Hotel to discuss issues of interest to educators and WREB. Topics scheduled for discussion include: Update on WREB's new Patient Assessment and Treatment Planning Exam; Update on the Class III Composite Restoration for 2008; WREB's philosophy regarding "Caries Remaining"; Update on the Dental Hygiene Computer Simulation Exam; How is WREB testing "critical thinking"?; Curriculum Integrated testing options; and an open forum. We invite all educators to attend. There is no required registration for the meeting. It would be helpful to contact Linda Paul at lpaul@wreb.org if you plan to attend, but it is not mandatory to do so.

Calendar Update

June 15, 2007.....Executive Committee Phoenix, AZ
July 10, 2007.....Dental Hygiene ERC. Santa Rosa, CA
July 11, 2007.....Dental ERC Santa Rosa, CA
July 12, 2007.....Board of Directors Santa Rosa, CA
July 13-14Western Conference of Dental Examiners
and Dental School Deans Santa Rosa, CA
Sept. 26-27, 2007.....AADE Annual Meeting. San Francisco, CA
Sept. 29, 2007.....Executive Committee San Francisco, CA
Jan. 4, 2008.....Executive Committee Phoenix, AZ
Jan. 5, 2008.....Board of Directors Phoenix, AZ

Educator Feedback

I want to thank you and all the WREB examiners for allowing me to observe the exam this past weekend at Baylor College of Dentistry in Dallas. It was very educational and insightful to see how the process works and to witness the great lengths that are taken to ensure the exam is objective and fair. Everyone was very gracious to allow me to observe them and share information to make my experience beneficial. The students and patients seemed quite at ease. I think that was due in large part to the atmosphere of caring, efficiency, and professionalism demonstrated by the entire WREB team (and the Baylor staff). Again, I appreciate the opportunity to have been a part of the process.

*Regards,
Kate Darnell, RDH, MS
Temple College Dental Hygiene Program*