

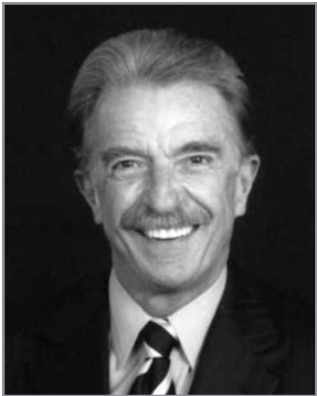
# WREB

## A National Dental/Dental Hygiene Testing Agency

[www.wreb.org](http://www.wreb.org)

Summer 2008

### Paul E. Stubbs, DDS takes office as WREB President



Dr. Paul Stubbs of Austin, TX was elected President of WREB at the January meeting of the Board of Directors. Dr. Stubbs has been active with WREB for over ten years. He has served as an examiner at both dental hygiene and dental exams. He has recently served as Secretary-Treasurer, and President Elect. In addition to his activities with WREB, he is in private practice in dentistry in Georgetown, Texas.

Dr. Stubbs has a long history of involvement in the profession of dentistry,

including serving as a delegate to the ADA, serving in various capacities, including President, of the Texas Dental Association and the Tenth District Dental Society.

He is active in community service as well, volunteering in his church, local children's theater and community health fairs.

He is married to his high school sweetheart, Jena and they have three adult children. Of late, when he isn't engaged in the business of WREB, he is particularly enjoying spending time with his first grandson, Lucian.

### 2008 David S. Low Service Award Recipients Named

Dr. Mark Christensen and Royann Royer, RDH have been named as the recipients of the David S. Low Service Awards for 2008. The Executive Committee annually selects a dentist and a hygienist from among the WREB examiners who exemplifies the many outstanding qualities exhibited by Dr. Low over his years of service to WREB.

Dr. Mark Christensen has been a WREB examiner for over 20 years. He has served on nearly every committee and in every office that is available for a dental examiner. He has established himself as a creative, outside the box thinker and is always called upon when WREB is developing a new section of the exam. He was instrumental in developing the recently implemented Patient Assessment and Treatment Planning section of the dental examination. He continues to serve as an exam coordinator and provide valuable input and innovation in each and every assignment that he accepts. Last year the award was presented at the July Board meeting, however, Dr. Christensen has a family wedding at that time this year. Dr. Christensen received his award from Dr. Paul Stubbs in January at the Exam Coordinators and Team Captains Meeting held at the WREB office. A large group of dentists and hygienists attending meetings at the WREB office were in attendance to congratulate Dr. Christensen.

In the words of one of the many nominations received, "Dr. Christensen exemplifies the professional and human qualities of one deserving this honor."

*Dr. Mark Christensen - continued on page 2*

Royann Royer, RDH has been a WREB hygiene examiner since 1992. She has served on all of the hygiene committees and is currently the Chair of the Dental Hygiene Computer Simulation Committee. Her nomination stated that "her contributions to WREB and to the profession of Dental Hygiene are many. Royann has great leadership qualities, a professional commitment to WREB and the profession of dentistry, is well-respected among the examiners and staff at WREB."



Aside from her involvement with WREB, she is a faculty member at the the University of Alaska, Anchorage involved in teaching local anesthesia, Nitrous Oxide Sedation, and Dental Assisting .

Royann is also a practicing dental hygienist with the Southcentral Foundation in Anchorage, Alaska. She is passionate about hygiene issues. She recently worked tirelessly to get a bill passed in Alaska to expand RDH duties.

She is also an author, and involved in numerous public health activities including the Alaska State Oral Health Coalition and the

*Royann Royer, RDH - continued on page 2*

## **Dr. Mark Christensen's Comments at the Awards Presentation**

I am deeply honored to be a recipient of the David S. Low Service Award. David was a mentor for me . . . for many of us. He was unassuming. He was tireless. He was constant and reliable. He never seemed to age. His hairline, stature and energy remained the same until very near the end of his life. His practical, down-to-earth, "let's get real", no-nonsense, get-the-job-done attitude frequently refocused discussion and facilitated progress. In national meetings David was sometimes referred to as "WREB"; no one objected. He was involved from the inception of WREB and was constantly devoted to the quality and fairness of WREB's examinations. No one ever doubted the integrity of his intention; he had no personal agenda. And he was respectful and considerate, even of those that disagreed with him. As a result he was genuinely respected by all who knew him, including those whose testing agencies competed with or were challenged by WREB.



In order to be licensed in Utah I had to take the WREB examination. I took the exam in Portland and David was there on the clinic floor supervising my examination. Meeting Dr. Low in this context didn't mean much to

me at the time. Then, five years later at Loma Linda when I participated in my first exam, David was there again to orient me in my role as an examiner. Actually, he was personally present at pretty much every dental exam WREB conducted during its first two decades, and he served as chairman of the Exam Review Committee or its equivalent for something like thirty years. Through it all, he remained unassuming, respectful of others, visionary, flexible, encouraging, and sincerely committed to examination relevance and fairness.

David nurtured the people he worked with in WREB. His perspective and influence over so many years imbued WREB with a culture—a culture comprised of many persons with similar dedication: people ready to do what needed to be done, people accustomed to honest cooperation, people willing to set aside ego in service to the organization in order to constantly improve the quality of WREB's products and processes.

I count myself lucky to have been exposed to this culture, to have known David personally and to have worked with him for so many years. The experience continues to fuel my willingness to be involved in service to WREB and to my profession.

May we continue to engender and pass on to those who follow the example and culture David left with us. Surely, to the extent we are able to do this WREB will remain in good hands.

*Mark Christensen, DDS*

Mark Christensen completed his DDS at University of the Pacific in 1980 and an MBA at the University of Utah in 1986. He served as a member of the state board in Utah for eleven years from 1985 through 1996.

Dr. Christensen has served as an examiner or member of WREB since 1985 and served as president of WREB in 1991. He has served WREB repeatedly on strategic planning committees, and numerous test construction subcommittees. He has represented WREB and the Western region on various national committees and projects,

including the American Association of Dental Examiners (AADE) Committee on Continuing Competency (In-office Audit Subcommittee), AADE Committee on Access to Care and AADE Committee on Guidelines on Unprofessional Conduct Involving Sexual Boundary Violations. He has also served as a member of the Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) (1997-2003) and as a member of the Appeals Committee for CODA.

Dr. Christensen currently serves as a member of the Joint Commission on National Dental Examinations (JCND E) for which he has chaired

both the Committee on Research and Development and Committee on Administration, is a member of ADA's Task Force on CODA, is a life member of AADE, is a member of WREB's Patient Assessment and Treatment Planning (PATP) and Curriculum Integrated Crown Preparation (CICP) committees, and serves as an Exam Coordinator for WREB.

Dr. Christensen is in general practice in Salt Lake City. His wife, Lorraine, and he have three daughters, three grandsons, and many interests, most notable of which currently is Argentine tango.

## **Royann Royer** *continued from page 1*

Indian Health Service.

In her spare time she enjoys jogging with her 12 year old black lab, canoeing, kayaking, mountain biking and hiking. She also enjoys Seaplane trips with her husband Tom to their remote cabin on Lake Iliamna in Bush, Alaska. Aside from her daughter Michala, who she loves to spend time with, she also mentors two foster children: a 13 year old Native girl in Anchorage and a 19 year old girl from Viet Nam.

Royann is also legal guardian and part time caretaker for the quadriplegic father of her 13 year old foster child..

When she feels the need to escape from the dark winters in Alaska, she loves to travel especially to Mexico during the dark Alaskan winters. One last, little known fact: Royann LOVES black licorice and continues to travel the world in search of the best available.

Congratulations Royann!

# Kansas Board Reverses Decision to Apply 75% to All Sections of the WREB Exam

In 2007, the Kansas Dental Board made the decision to require all candidates who took the WREB exam to obtain a 75% on each section of the exam in order to qualify for licensure. The impact of this decision became apparent in May of this year, after the dental exam at UMKC, when their graduates began the process of applying for licensure and many found that when Kansas applied the 75% rule they were not eligible for licensure.

Candidates from UMKC, the UMKC dental school administration, members of the dental community in Kansas and WREB worked together to develop a thorough explanation of the WREB scoring methodology to present to the Board.

Dr. Charles Broadbent made a personal appearance at an emergency meeting of the Kansas Board to explain the WREB scoring system, answer questions and concerns of the dental board members and emphasize the importance of accepting a testing agency's scoring system as designed. After hearing testimony from all interested parties, the board voted unanimously to reverse their decision to require a 75% on each section of the exam and accept WREB's standards for passing the exam.

For more information on the WREB scoring, please see current publications on the WREB website or feel free to contact the WREB office.

## WREB's Policy on Caries Remaining

WREB has been asked by a number of state dental boards to explain our policy of caries remaining. There are questions about the categories of Caries Remaining, Affected Dentin and Penetrable demineralized tooth structure. These definitions and the policies regarding the carious process were taken from Sturdevant's Zones of Dental Caries. This marks an advance in the definition of caries and represents the current state of dental practice.

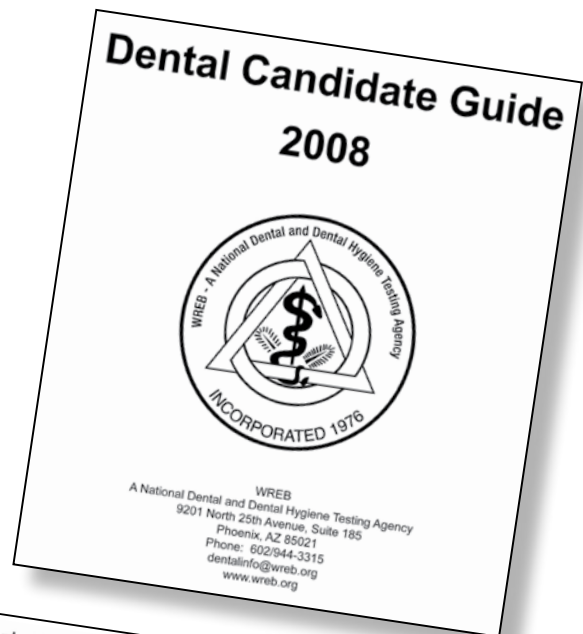
The definitions of each of the three categories are found in the WREB Candidate Guide, which is given to each individual before their exam.

**Caries Remaining** - is a clinical diagnosis of soft infected dentin made by tactile sensation using light pressure on an explorer and encountering dentin with a soft sticky penetrable base. It has definite resistance to the perpendicular withdrawal of the explorer and may have a dry leathery appearance.

**Affected Dentin** - is a clinical diagnosis made by tactile sensation using light pressure with an explorer encountering dentin that is slightly penetrable in a perpendicular direction to the lesion. It has slight resistance to withdrawal of the explorer. WREB considers dentin clinically found to be less than hard and dense, but without the clinical tactile diagnosis of Caries Remaining, to be considered Affected Dentin.

**Demineralization** - is a loss or decrease of the mineral constituents of enamel and can have an appearance from chalky white to a darkened stained coloring. It may be penetrable and may provide resistance to the perpendicular withdrawal of the explorer.

These definitions and degrees of demineralization have been established using peer reviewed publications and represent the state of art in caries detection.



**CARIES REMAINING:** A clinical diagnosis of soft infected dentin made by tactile sensation using light pressure on an explorer and encountering dentin with a soft sticky penetrable base. It has definite resistance to the perpendicular withdrawal of the explorer and may have a dry leathery appearance.

**Caries Remaining** (other than the 0.5 mm of caries left for an indirect pulp cap) validated by two or more Grading Examiners is an automatic failure of the exam. You will be required to remove the caries. You may finish the restoration, although no points will be earned, or you may place a temporary and have the patient contact the dentist on the Follow Up Care form for completion of the restoration. If you choose to finish the restoration, the Floor Examiner will check the final restoration. If remaining caries is identified by only one Grading Examiner you will be instructed to remove the caries, but since the finding was not validated by a second Grading Examiner, you will be allowed to finish the restoration for grading.

# Dr. Paul Sims Receives the AAOMS 2007 Presidential Achievement Award

The American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons 2007 Presidential Achievement Award recognizes AAOMS fellows and members for long-standing contributions that benefit the specialty of oral and maxillofacial surgery through clinical and academic means, research or public service.

"Dr. Paul Sims' contributions in AAOMS, the American Dental Association, the American Association of Dental Examiners, the American

Dental Society of Anesthesiology, and as a member and president of the Montana Dental Licensing Board exemplify the qualities represented by this most prestigious award," said AAOMS President Dr. W. Mark Tucker. "He represents the type of leadership that every specialty needs."

Dr. Sims served as WREB's President in 2006. He is currently the Chair of the WREB Public Relations Committee and active as a Team Captain at exams.



## WREB DENTAL TEST SCORING

In recent months, WREB's dental examination and the methodology employed to score candidates have been questioned by other testing agencies and individuals with an incomplete understanding of our system and the test development decisions that have been made. The intent of this paper is to provide accurate information about the WREB scoring system and the basis for some of the test development decisions.

A two or three day clinical test will be unlikely to offer enough observations of candidate performance to provide good section score reliability in every section of the test. To overcome this problem, the AADE 2003 Guidance for Clinical Licensing Examinations in Dentistry (revised in 2004 and 2005) suggests the option of using a "hybrid" compensatory/conjunctive scoring system. WREB has used this AADE suggested scoring system since 2005 which follows the example provided in the "Guidance" document.

Trained WREB examiners use criteria (also called "rubrics"), developed by committees of experienced examiners and dental educators, to rate candidate work during the tests. This examiner training and scoring method are recommended in the 1999 Standards for Educational and Psychological Testing. The criteria define six levels of candidate performance and are used by examiners to assign ratings of "0" to "5". As recommended by the AADE "Guidance", ratings assigned to candidate work are based only upon criteria. The ratings represent the level of ability demonstrated by the work that candidates have completed. The lowest level of acceptable candidate performance satisfies the criteria for a rating of "3" and the candidate is awarded 75% of the points available for the work being rated. A performance slightly above the lowest acceptable level receives a "4" rating and results in the award of 88% of the available points. A performance slightly below the "3" level receives a "2" rating and results in the award of only 55% of the available

points. Consequently, the scores do not relate to a percentage of tasks completed correctly (as would usually be the case when reporting written test scores). This feature is intended to make it difficult for candidates to compensate for a performance that is slightly lower than desirable. In order to be successful on the test, a candidate must achieve a total overall score of 75% of the points available for the entire test. Candidates can be successful on the test overall if: (1) they are able to compensate for a marginal performance with several excellent performances; and (2) if no section score is less than 55% (slightly less than desired, but not likely to be damaging to patients); and (3) the composite score is 75% of the points available.

The AADE 2003 "Guidance" document also recommends annual reviews of testing results that include the computation of test reliability. WREB does this. The compensatory total score has a typical computed reliability coefficient of 0.90 annually (perfect reliability is 1.0). This high level of reliability helps to minimize the incorrect classification of candidates, i.e. granting licenses to unqualified candidates or refusing to license qualified candidates. The minimum section scores assure that candidates cannot be successful on the WREB licensing tests unless they demonstrate a minimum level of competence in each section.

As recommended in the AADE "Guidance", the WREB dental and dental hygiene tests have been periodically evaluated by external testing specialists. The most recent reports of evaluations commissioned by WREB include satisfactory validity studies, indicating that the WREB test results are valid for licensing candidates. They are posted on the [www.wreb.org](http://www.wreb.org) website. An additional successful evaluation was completed by a testing specialist commissioned by the state of California prior to California acceptance of the WREB dental test results.

A paper, providing greater detail of the WREB dental scoring system, is available at [www.wreb.org](http://www.wreb.org).

### References

American Association of Dental Examiners (2005). Guidance for clinical licensure examinations in dentistry. Chicago: Author.  
American Educational Research Association, American Psychological Association. National Council on Measurement in Education. (1999). Standards for Educational and Psychological Testing. Washington, DC: American Educational Research Association.

## New WREB Team Members

### Police Officer, Home Designer, and Plane Crash Survivor... but is she ready for WREB?

For Joani Feathers, WREB offers an interesting career re-direction after many years in homebuilding and interior design. "The multi-tasking and tracking skills involved in putting a model home together for a deadline model opening has prepared me well for the multitude of Dental Exam details," she said.

Joani's life is movie-worthy. After growing up in Phoenix, she attended and graduated from the Phoenix Police Academy, becoming one of the first female police officers (7th). Some highlights were an opportunity to serve as 1st official Hostess of the National Police Olympics, first female officer to direct

traffic in Phoenix, and first officer to represent the



department in the Ms. City of Phoenix pageant (didn't win, but happily came in second and retired her tiara back for the badge). After a few years, marriage and family became a priority and she left the department for California - and a new, much safer career in interior design.

Joani recently relocated from Vero Beach, Florida where she managed an interior design studio for new home construction. Managing through several scary hurricane seasons and dripping humidity certainly made her homesick for the Southwest and the more stable Arizona weather.

When not working at WREB, Joani enjoys weekends with her daughter, son-in-law and 3 year old grandson. Her sister, Gigi, has been her roommate for the past two years and they are looking forward to upcoming travel adventures in the future. Joani has many diverse interests including painting, arts and crafts, deep sea fishing (caught 2 sailfish but still waiting for the marlin), golf, boating, as well as staying active in church activities.

Not for those of you faint-hearted frequent flyers, if you google "1977 Canary Islands Airplane Crash" - you will learn that jumping out of a burning plane and living to tell about it can also be listed in her credits. This was the subject of a National Geographic television special last year, entitled *Seconds to Disaster*. Joani's mantra, "My faith and obvious good fortune are catalysts for living a very grateful life."

### WREB Technology Contractor Says, "I've had enough and I want IN."

After seven years as a technology contractor for WREB, Rad Masinelli has joined our team full-time. In 2001, Rad was given the responsibility of updating and maintaining WREB's training CD's. This work later grew into web site enhancements and on-site training.

Raised in central Illinois, Rad worked in the graphic design/multimedia field until relocating to Arizona in 1996. As a founding member of a multimedia firm in Scottsdale, Arizona, Rad worked with healthcare clients to create interactive training and tradeshow content. He struck out on his own in 2001 and WREB became one of his preferred clients.

In addition to supporting his clients, Rad and wife Kim were married in 2002 and he became a stay-at-home dad when their son was born in 2005. After almost 3 years and the

birth of their daughter, he decided to re-enter the full-time working world with an Information Technology position with WREB.

"I was impressed with the fun and respectful environment at the WREB office," said Rad. "It seemed like the kind of team I had been looking for since moving to Arizona."

Now full-time at WREB, Rad is looking at a long list of "to do's" and goals for technology, including a web site redesign, examiner training CD upgrades and business continuity planning.

While he has many interests outside of the office, including movies, creative projects, and martial arts, Rad's time is invested chasing Owen and Kylie around the house or park.



# Calendar Update

- June 27 - 28 .....Executive Committee - Phoenix
- July 8.....Dental Hygiene Exam Review Committee - Big Sky, Montana
- July 9.....Dental Exam Review Committee - Big Sky, Montana
- July 10.....Board of Directors - Big Sky, Montana
- July 11 - 12 .....Western Conference of Dental Examiners & Dental School Deans -  
Big Sky, Montana
- August 22 - 23 .....PATP & Endodontics Committee Meetings - Phoenix, Arizona
- September 5 - 6.....Operative Committee - Phoenix, Arizona
- October 13 - 14 .....AADE Annual Meeting - San Antonio , Texas
- October 14.....Executive Committee Meeting - San Antonio , Texas
- January 9, 2009.....Executive Committee Meeting - Austin, Texas
- January 10, 2009.....Board Meeting - Austin, Texas



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