2016 NADL VISION 21 MEETING

ADAPTING TO CHANGING REALITIES

NADL ANNUAL AWARDS

FRIDAY, JANUARY 22, 2016

THE MIRAGE • LAS VEGAS
Congratulations to all of the 2016 NADL award winners. There are few greater honors than to be recognized by your peers for achievements in the profession that has meant so much to your life.

Presented by 2015 President Harold Burdette, Jr., CDT and 2016 President Dena Lanier

Friday, January 22, 2016
The Mirage • Las Vegas

2016 NADL President

Dena Lanier

Dena Lanier is President and Owner of The Lab 2000, Inc., a Certified Dental Laboratory (CDL) serving a national market out of Columbus, Georgia.

She started her career in the dental field in 1980 with dentures and partials before opening her own crown and bridge laboratory. She has grown The Lab 2000, Inc., CDL, into one of the largest female-owned laboratories in the country.

Dena has served on the NADL Board of Directors since 2007, as well as serving as President of the Georgia Dental Laboratory Association and the Southeastern Conference of Dental Laboratories. She is now a member of the NADL Budget Committee and has served on the JDT Advisory Committee and the Public Awareness Committee.
S A F E L I N K C O N S U L T I N G , I N C.

SafeLink Consulting, Inc., out of Atlanta, Georgia, has been in operation for over 20 years. With five current full-time employees, SafeLink educates and prepares its clients for the everyday safety and quality requirements of OSHA and FDA as well as DAMAS Certification and ISO registration.

SafeLink is active in the dental laboratory technology community, participating at tradeshows and study groups to provide the dental laboratory industry with educational opportunities on the subjects of health and safety and quality assurance. Between their employees, they have over 58 years as Certified Dental Technicians (CDTs), have earned NADL’s Excellence in Education Award and NADL’s Merit Award for Outstanding Service twice. They have earned DLAT’s Excellence in Education Award, DLAT’s Hall of Fame Award, have served as faculty for the NADL University program for ten years, and provide onsite lectures at dental technology schools around the country.

L A B O R A T O R Y M E M B E R O F T H E Y E A R A W A R D


Drake Precision Dental Lab, Inc., CDL, DAMAS, located in Charlotte, North Carolina, has been in operation for 59 years. Drake Precision Dental Lab, Inc. is full service laboratory servicing a national market and they currently have over 100 employees.

Drake supports the future of the industry in many ways. The lab is an active member of NADL, the Southeastern Conference of Dental Laboratories, the Eastern Conference of Dental Laboratories, Cal-Lab, and the Dental Trade Alliance. Drake has pledged over $20,000 to the Foundation for Dental Laboratory Technology. The lab has been a leader in the Donated Dental Services Program and Missions of Mercy. They encourage employee involvement in outside community organizations allowing the time needed to be active in these organizations.

Drake Precision Dental Lab, Inc. is also committed to certification. The laboratory maintains both a CDL and DAMAS certification, something that less than 1% of all dental labs have achieved. Drake encourages every technician to earn the Certified Dental Technician (CDT) designation, and hosts the NBC CDT exams annually to allow their employees to test. At this time, Drake has 14 CDTs on staff, several of them holding additional specialty certifications.
Barbara Warner-Wojdan, CDT, AAACD

Barbara Warner-Wojdan, CDT, AAACD is President of Knight Dental Group, Inc., CDL, DAMAS, ISO, in Oldsmar, Florida. She has been in the industry for 28 years and in that time has earned the CDT certification and AAACD accreditation. Barbara currently serves on the NADL Board of Directors and the CAL-Lab Board of Directors.

Barbara is passionate about giving back to the industry. She has participated in the Foundation for Dental Laboratory’s Race for the Future since its inception in 2014, personally pledging $5,000 and collecting over $20,000 in donations. She has been a part of the AAACD Give Back a Smile (GBAS) since 2005, and also participates in the Donated Dental Services program.

In addition to her involvement in the industry, Barbara gives back to her community. She has been a breast cancer awareness advocate for 20 years, showing her support by fundraising and running in the Susan G. Komen race each year. She and her family support the Kimberly Home in Tampa, Florida, a non-profit resource center that offers assistance to women and families in unplanned or troubling pregnancies.

Jim McLees, CDT

Jim McLees, CDT has been a dedicated Certified Dental Technician (CDT) for 41 years. He is certified in Complete Dentures, Partial Dentures, Crown and Bridge, and Ceramics. His accomplishments include service as a past president of the NADL and he has served as NADL’s voting representative to the American Dental Association’s Standards Committee on Dental Products since 1999. During his tenure in that role, as the only dental technician, Jim has been called upon to serve as Chair or Co-Chair of over twenty committees and sub-committees.

Jim’s work has focused on dental materials, electronic R/X standards, CAD/CAM and software standards to list a few areas of industry impact. He has also been sought in leadership roles with ISO, as one of the only technician voices that participate in such programs. The work with ADA and ISO requires inordinate amounts of time and research to help determine final standards, which in many cases are used for FDA pre-market approval for industry marketability.

Jim is an industry consultant and the owner of Zone Technologies in Kent, Washington. Prior to consulting, he owned DiMartino Dental Laboratories in Seattle, which was acquired at the time by DTI Dental Technologies.

Merit Award for Outstanding Achievements

BARBARA WARNER-WOJDAN, CDT, AAACD

LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP AWARD

JIM MCLEES, CDT
Jerry Ragle, CDT began his career in the dental laboratory profession in 1973. He is CEO of Ragle Dental Laboratory, Inc. of Champaign, Illinois, established in 1979. As a member of the Illinois Dental Laboratory Association, Jerry has held every office including four years as Treasurer, two years as President, and held the position of interim Executive Director in 1993.

After leaving IDLA, he continued his participation in other organizations including NADL and the Dental Laboratory Section of the American Dental Trade Association (ADTA). He received Mastership recognition in the American Academy of Implant Prosthodontics (AAIP), holds certification in Ceramics and Crown and Bridge with the National Board for Certification in Dental Laboratory Technology (NBC), and serves on the Coordination Board of the Cal-Lab Group.

In addition to authoring several articles for JDT, IDT and LMT, Jerry has presented for local dental societies, IDLA, Vision 21 and was a faculty member of NADL University.

“Jerry has always been willing to go the extra mile to serve his dentist clientele to get the job done right and in a timely fashion. From visiting a dental office to help with a difficult case, to letting a patient come to the lab to get that shade just right, Jerry takes care of business and does the best possible job.”

— Michael L. Trautman, D.M.D.
Gary Iocco is the President of Dimension Dental Design, a Certified Dental Laboratory (CDL) in Hastings, Minnesota. He attended DePaul University from 1975-1976 and Winona State University from 1976-1978, where he majored in business. He started Dimension Dental Design in 1982 as a fixed laboratory, located in Minneapolis, Minnesota and in 2010 combined it with Red Wing Dental Lab in a new facility to become a full-service laboratory.

Gary serves on the Foundation for Dental Laboratory Technology Board of Trustees and is a former President of the NADL. He currently sits on several NADL committees, including the Public Awareness Committee, the Budget Committee, and the Audit Committee. Prior to this, he also served on the NADL Business Management Committee, JDT/Communications Advisory Board, the NADL Nominations Committee, and was Chair of the Dental Laboratory Manager Task Force.

In addition, Gary is a former president of the Midwest Dental Laboratory Association and was the lead elected leader of the association in helping to get Minnesota’s laboratory regulation passed into law. He testified in front of the ADA House of Delegates on behalf of the dental laboratory profession and was instrumental in passing Resolution 52, which supports dental laboratory registration in an effort to ensure patient safety, elevate the profession and assist in establishing compliance regarding minimum standards.

“NADL has been blessed with many great leaders as president during its history. Gary’s personality and leadership style clearly stand out. His tireless work visiting state and regional meetings; engaging constituents through social media; helping to facilitate the Whats In Your Mouth PR campaign launch and developing strategic partnerships with manufacturers and allied dental organizations during his tenure have resulted in more people knowing the value of NADL’s role in the industry”

— Harold Burdette, Jr., CDT, NADL Past President
Daniel Alter, MSc, MDT, CDT

Daniel Alter, MSc, MDT, CDT, is an Assistant Professor of Restorative Dentistry at New York City College of Technology in Brooklyn, New York. He has been a faculty member for seven years and has worked in the dental laboratory profession for 19 years. He began his career in dental technology as a graduate of NYCCT in 1994. He continued his education and earned a Bachelor's degree in Biochemistry and a Master’s of Science Degree in Business Management and Organizational Leadership. In 2008, Daniel earned his first CDT certification in Crown and Bridge, followed by an additional specialty in Ceramics.

As a professor, Daniel teaches a vast array of courses including CAD/CAM, Implantology, Tooth Morphology, Crown and Bridge, Ceramics, Metallurgy and Dentures. He developed the first ADA accredited, CAD/CAM education program at NYCCT to ensure that students are relevant and productive members of the dental technology community upon graduation. This new curriculum may become the roadmap for future CAD/CAM dental technology education programs throughout the United States.

Oral Arts Dental Laboratory, a Certified Dental Laboratory (CDL), located in Atlanta, Georgia has been in business since 1946. Starting with a small group of techs, the lab currently employs 19 people, nine of which hold the CDT certification. Oral Arts has been fortunate to employ long-term, committed people. Most of the team that opened the laboratory were together for 20 years or more, and even now a large majority of their employees have been with the laboratory between 8-20 years.

Oral Arts is passionate about education, and their employees embracing opportunities such as the Pankey Institute, the Dawson Academy and the Kois Center. Their employees attend state and national meetings, participate in local lectures and hands-on courses, and host training at their laboratory. Oral Arts has been a part of over 20 technicians earning the CDT credential and is looking to host the CDT exams in the future to allow more technicians the opportunity to test.
Julio Zavala, Master CDT, has been in the dental laboratory technology industry for almost 20 years. He currently works at LSUHSC School of Dentistry as an Associate Professor of Clinical Prosthodontics. He earned his Bachelor’s degree in Dental Laboratory Technology from LSU in 1996, and earned his first CDT certification in 1997. Over the next several years, Julio dedicated himself to his craft earning five CDT certifications and the Master CDT designation. He is certified in Crown & Bridge, Complete Dentures, Orthodontics, Partial Dentures and Ceramics.

Julio is an avid learner, attending meetings across North America each year. In 2015 alone, he has attended conferences and meetings in Los Angeles, Chicago, Orlando and Mexico. He earned multiple awards during his time at LSU, as both a student and professor. As a student he earned the John Lapez Awards in 1994, the Chancellor’s Award in 1995 and the Coordinator’s Award also in 1995. As a professor, he has been awarded the Excellence in Teaching Golden Apple Award six times from 2000 through 2014.

Congratulations again to Julio C. Zavala, Master CDT, our 2016 CDT of the Year!

“He is the consummate team player, a highly dedicated and dependable individual with an exemplary work ethic.”

— ARTURO MENDEZ, DDS, MSC