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NADL ANNUAL AWARDS

FRIDAY, JANUARY 20, 2017
THE PALMS ● LAS VEGAS
We welcome to the 2017 NADL Awards!

Friday, January 20, 2017

The Palms • Las Vegas

Congratulations to all of the 2017 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 2017 President Jerry Ulaszek, CDT, TE, and 2016 President Dena Lanier

2017 NADL President

Jerry Ulaszek, CDT, TE

Jerry Ulaszek has been in the dental technology field since 1975. After graduation from Southern Illinois University, Jerry was employed as a dental technician in two multi-specialty dental offices for six years prior to starting Artistic Dental Laboratories, Inc., CDL, DAMAS with a partner. In 1988, Jerry earned a Masters of Business Administration degree, MBA, from Governor’s State University. Jerry is a Certified Dental Technician in the areas of Crown & Bridge and Ceramics.

Jerry has developed his skills by attending lectures with the masters of dentistry: Dr. Peter Dawson, Dr. Jon Kois, Dr. Frank Spears, Dr. Erwin Becker, and Dr. Greg Tarantola, in laboratory courses at the Dawson Center, The Pankey Institute and a ‘one on one’ day with Willie Geller. Jerry is a visiting faculty member at the Pankey Institute, and has conducted staining and glazing seminars for Vita porcelain. He has lectured for numerous dental study clubs and regional dental societies on topics ranging from implants, overdentures, material usages and partial designs. Jerry’s chairside experience has given him the knowledge to assist the dental office in treatment sequencing.

Jerry has spent countless hours over the years in continuing education and continues to attend in excess of 200 hours per year in lectures. Jerry was the first dental technician member of the American Equilibration Society. Jerry’s day is spent treatment planning and sequencing complex cases with dentists from around the country. He has been involved with implants for 30 years and continues to consult with surgeons on a daily basis.

During his time with NADL, he has served on numerous committees and regularly contributes to the Foundation for Dental Laboratory Technology. He is also current President of the Illinois Dental Laboratory Association.
PREAT CORPORATION

PREAT Corporation, located out of Grover Beach, California, has been in operation for over 30 years. With a team meeting every day, PREAT focuses on ways to improve by reviewing technical questions, inventory, and always highlighting on customer feedback. PREAT operates on a core belief of improving the quality of customer’s lives.

PREAT is active in the dental laboratory technology community. In 2016 alone, PREAT donated over $25,000 to various dental laboratory technology programs, presented over 50 hours of continuing education credits to dentists and personnel. In addition, PREAT provided over 200 hours of free, non-commercial, continuing education to dental technicians at over 30 different meetings. PREAT is a strong believer in personal growth. All four of PREAT’s managers have been developed and promoted from entry level positions. Each employee is required to have 50 hours of continuing education each year. PREAT believes in the power of good customer service and the importance of educated dental technicians leading to their companies’ success.

THAYER DENTAL LABORATORY, CDL

Thayer Dental Laboratory, CDL, is located in Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania and has been in operation for 40 years. They currently employ 45 people. Thayer Dental Laboratory is a full service dental laboratory servicing a national market.

Thayer Dental Laboratory believes in quality provided to the customer with several services including a 5-year warranty on casework, a customer advisory board and comprehensive market research. In over 40 years of service, Thayer Dental Lab’s President Gregory Thayer, CDT, has maintained a “whatever it takes” attitude. Through this, Greg has cultivated a company with dedicated dental technicians and support personnel all playing a role in Thayer Dental Laboratory’s success.

Thayer Dental Laboratory is committed to certification. The Laboratory maintains a CDL certification and employees seven CDTs including one Master CDT. Less than 1% of all CDTs achieve a Master CDT status.

“There are few people who support the dental laboratory industry in as many ways at Tom, Chris and the PREAT Corporation. Through their generosity, knowledge and support my laboratory and the whole laboratory industry are better at what we do because of PREAT’s support.”

– Randolph E. Blackburn, CDT

“Thayer provides exceptional quality craftsmanship. I know them and they know me. My patients appreciate the time and skill they put into fabricating high quality esthetic restorations. If my patients are happy, I’m happy. That makes practicing dentistry very rewarding. This ever changing world of materials can be overwhelming. I’m so grateful to have such a knowledgeable partner that strives to stay current and provide my practice with useful restorative options. Whatever my needs, Thayer is there to support and provide me with the essentials I need for a successful and satisfying career.”

– Dr. Joann L. Frey
**HALL OF FAME AWARD**

**JIM GLIDEWELL, CDT**

James R. Glidewell, CDT, also known as Jim, serves as President and Chief Executive Officer of Glidewell Laboratories, Inc. Jim directs the Research & Development Department in developing cost effective dental restorations at Glidewell Laboratories.


Jim is a Certified Dental Technician and Glidewell is a Certified Dental Laboratory. During his career, his laboratory has consistently hosted CDT written and practical exams, and his laboratory encourages CDT certification for technicians.

Jim has served NADL through numerous volunteer committee roles and was a founding contributor of the NADL Pillar Scholarship that helps technicians pay for their exam costs for the CDT process. Jim is also a Foundation donor and has provided an open door for countless technicians and laboratory owners over time to share his internal processes.

One of the largest dental labs in the world, the company now operates from seven locations worldwide. Glidewell Dental Lab is a dental industry leader thanks to its innovative dental technology, resourceful R&D department and dedication to providing free clinical and technical education to promote dental industry growth.

**TERRY JOHNSON, CDT**

Terry Johnson, CDT, Removable Department Manager of Dental Designs Inc., has worked in the dental laboratory profession for over 40 years and has maintained his Certified Dental Technician status for the past 36 years.

Terry regularly hosts lunch and learn programs providing continuing education hours to those who attend and teaches at the University of Nebraska Dental College both Complete Denture and Removable Partial Denture classes. Terry is an integral part of the UNMC Postgraduate Prosthodontic program from its inception in 1988 and also served as a dental technician consultant in the Advanced Education in General Dentistry (AEGD) program located in Lincoln, Nebraska during the tenure of both programs.

When Terry isn’t in the lab or teaching, he is actively involved in philanthropy in his community. Terry participates in Macy, Nebraska Omaha Indian Reservation outreach program providing dentures to those who are not able to afford them. Terry and his wife are also licensed foster parents for the state of Nebraska and have fostered over 32 children in the past 17 years adopting three children.

Faculty who teach with Terry describe him as “an engaging instructor who enjoys interacting with students and demonstrating laboratory techniques. He is a strong role model as a technician. He values working with dentists to achieve excellent outcomes for the patients. He is consulted frequently on complex prosthetic rehabilitations and maintenance procedures.”
Professor Brooke O. Pratt, MPM, CDT, TE, is the Director of the Indiana University-Purdue University Fort Wayne Laboratory Technology program, which is currently the only accredited bachelor degree program in the country. Professor Pratt and her faculty have worked diligently over the past three years to make the bachelor program a reality and will accept their first cohort of students for the bachelor program in Fall 2017.

Professor Pratt herself is a graduate of the DLT Program at IPFW. After graduating, she worked in a privately owned dental laboratory and returned to IPFW as a Laboratory Assistant and Graduate Teaching Assistant. She continued to expand her career by earning a Master of Public Management degree with a concentration in Health Systems Administration and Policy and obtained her CDT certification in Complete Dentures and Partial Dentures. In addition to being the current Director of the Dental Laboratory Technology Program and Clinical Assistant Professor at IPFW, she is currently the President Elect for the Association of Indiana Dental Laboratories (AIDL), and the Educator Representative of the National Board for Certification in Dental Laboratory Technology.

“By being an Educator Representative on the National Board for Certification in Dental Laboratory Technology Board of Trustees, a Task Force Analysis team member and by helping to revamp CDT certification during 2015-2016, Professor Pratt has greatly contributed to DLT education and the profession.”

– Renata Bundy, CDT, TE, Assistant Professor, Department of Restorative Dentistry School of Professional Studies, New York City College of Technology
Dental Designs, Inc. is located in Lincoln, Nebraska, and has been in business since 1980. Starting as a small Crown and Bridge Laboratory with three technicians, Dental Designs has grown to 51 employees, including three CDTs. The lab works on a national level and opened a second laboratory in Omaha in 2007; continually growing they moved to a larger site in 2011. Dental Designs, Inc. is a fully digital laboratory on the forefront of all new technology. They do same day digital e.max and zirconia crowns, design and print implant guides in-house, and also design and print all of their partial frameworks.

Dental Designs, Inc. is passionate about their community sponsoring events such as Down Syndrome Association for Families of Nebraska (DASF), as well as, Juvenile Diabetes walks and fundraisers, and participating in the Macy, Nebraska Indian reservation outreach program providing dentures to those who cannot afford them. Dental Designs, Inc. also provides an annual scholarship in memory of one of their lab techs that was killed in a car crash.

Thomas Zaleske, AS, is a dental technician and the owner of Matrix Dental Laboratory and Consulting, and has been in the dental technology field for 30 years. As a regular contributor to many dental magazines, a founding board member of the Chicago Dental Technicians Study Group, and a regular presenter on the lecture circuit, Thomas believes in the value of education.

Along with running Matrix Dental Laboratory, Thomas is also heavily involved in the technical side of things. Thomas works as a technical trainer and support, helping to trouble shoot and assist technicians having problems with their products. Thomas also assists in testing and developing new products, as well as, developing technique manuals and videos for products.

Thomas is continuously sharing his knowledge in a vast majority of ways and always willing to assist those wanting to learn. His belief is that his relationship with sponsoring manufacturers is one where they understand he is not a commercial laboratory and that it’s always knowledge, and technique before products. Thomas believes it is important to have enough technical knowledge to be a resource for his clinical partners and that will result in the best patient outcome.

“I understand it’s my primary responsibility as an opinion leader and educator to present information that creates a better, patient-centered, end result which does not always come from using specific products, but rather the knowledge of its overall effect on a case success.”

– Thomas Zaleske, AS
ROYCE THOMPSON

Royce Thompson is a Design Engineer for occlusal products with Whip Mix Corporation. Royce has been in the dental laboratory profession for the past 22 years. He started out as a manual machinist for Woodward Grover out of Colorado. After 15 years of service Royce moved to Water Pik Inc., where he was first introduced to dental products and quickly moved up in the company. In 2008, Whip Mix bought the professional oral health division where Royce soon became their Design Engineer for occlusal products. This is where Royce learned to understand the needs of the industry and developed the Mark 300 Articulator System.

The start of the Mark 300 system began back in 2007. The Mark 300 series articulators were designed for durability allowing them to hold calibration much longer than other articulators. It was designed and built with no movement other than open and close and with the same interchangeability as the rest of the system. This allows labs to use it as a work horse for mounting their models and eliminates the need for each articulator to stay with each case. Out of the box thinking has led to a design that is second to none.

“I have had the pleasure and opportunity to learn from some of the greatest lab techs and dentists out there. These are the people who have helped me understand their needs and create the products that would help improve their processes.”

– Royce Thompson

SHAWN NOWAK

A third generation owner of one of the nation’s fastest growing dental laboratory suppliers, Shawn has overseen quadruple growth in his tenure as President of his company. Shawn continues to work tirelessly for many causes, including his current service as Fiscal Officer with the Foundation for Dental Laboratory Technology.

Shawn is also a passionate cyclist and swimmer, competing across the country at various events, though his first and greatest love will always be his wife Kimmie and their two sons, Brennan and Brock, the latter of whom currently serves in the U.S. Navy. Shawn’s constant desire to give back is evident in his annual participation with the NADL’s Foundation Race for the Future, a venture that has raised nearly $150,000 to support CDT scholarships and grants to schools. Shawn continues to support the CDT program and is a strong proponent of education in helping to keep the industry strong well into the future.
2017 CDT of the Year Award

Starting in 2009, the National Board for Certification in Dental Laboratory Technology (NBC) began the ‘CDT of the Year’ awards program. This came about as a way for NBC to recognize and honor the individuals who stand out in the industry. NBC is excited to present the 2017 CDT of the Year award to Mike Abraham, Master CDT.

Mike Abraham, Master CDT, has been in the dental laboratory technology industry for over 40 years. He currently is the owner of Dent-Tech Dental Lab. Mike earned his Associate Degree in Dental Technology at Texas State Technical College in Waco, Texas and became a Master CDT in all six specialties earning his first CDT certification in 1994. Less than 1% of CDTs can call themselves a Master CDT and far fewer have mastered all six specialties.

Mike is actively involved in the dental technology community and frequently travels nationwide as an Examiner administering practical CDT examinations. He has served as president of Associates Dental Lab of Arkansas for two years and is actively involved in his community. Mike has worked with both Donated Dental Services of Arkansas and Donated Dental Services of Mississippi and is an avid supporter of VFW 3030 a foundation supporting Veterans.

“Our profession is lucky to have such a hardworking, caring, gifted technician and lab owner. He exemplifies the best in your organization and is deserving of this outstanding honor.”

– Alvin W. Neff, DDS, FAGD, FICD

Michael Abraham, Master CDT

“Without question, Mike is the best all-around technician I have ever had the opportunity to work with in my prosthodontic practice.”

– Dean McNeel, DDS

Congratulations again Mike Abraham, Master CDT, our 2017 CDT of the Year!