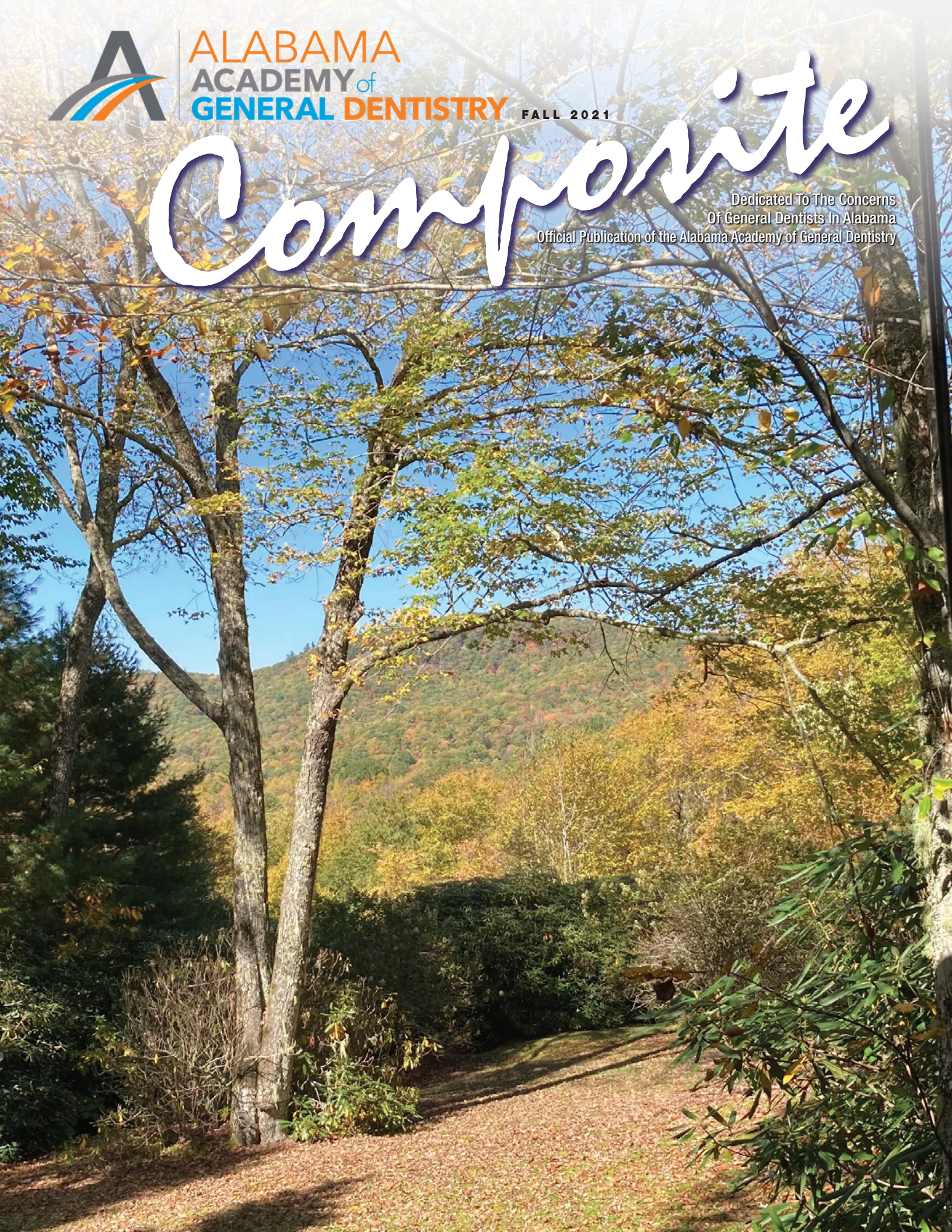




ALABAMA
ACADEMY of
GENERAL DENTISTRY FALL 2021

Composite

Dedicated To The Concerns
Of General Dentists In Alabama
Official Publication of the Alabama Academy of General Dentistry





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Bill Chesser, DMD, MAGD

Et Cetera, Et Cetera...

I finally did it! July 29, 2021, was my last day to work at Whatley Health Services in Tuscaloosa. Certainly, I never intended to work to aged 81, yet there it is.

After selling my practice in Ozark, AL, in 2012—following 50 years of dental practice—I spent an entire year on the back porch of our Tuscaloosa home, boring myself to death. Part-time work beckoned, and I was hired at a Federally-Qualified Health Center to work a few hours each week. I enjoyed it, and decided that—as long as they needed me—I would continue to work.

I might mention here that dentists need to have other interests at hand, when nearing retirement. My friend and former dental school classmate Dr. Bobby Babb became an expert in roses. Other friends I know are passionate about hunting, fishing, wood-working, or golf.

Our profession has seen many changes since my graduation in 1967. Unbelievable as it may seem, my classmates and I did not wear masks or gloves until AIDS forced us into it in the early '80's, nearly 20 years later!

Two serious infections on my hands should have been a clue! The first was a strep infection in my left hand, while the second caused the removal of the nail on my right index finger.

Materials have changed drastically, too. Amalgam and gold are out; now we concentrate on composites and porcelain. Implants were only a dream, when I started practice; now they are a possibility in most prosthetic situations.

Lasers, Cad-Cam-produced restorations, and digital impressions are only a few of the tools available to today's dentists. Oh, and then there are COMPUTERS! The future is bright for our profession. CARPE DIEM, we are reminded.

New problems have arisen with the passing of time, however. Student debt looms over the heads of many of today's dental school graduates. They need a JOB right now, so they can begin paying back those loans.

Insurance woes plague the front offices of our practices. These powerful companies are, in some cases, dictating the treatment we provide for our patients by limiting coverage. Some dentists have chosen not to accept insurance payments, while others feel they can survive only by consenting to the insurance demands.

Covid-19 has been a malignancy upon all business in our country, including dentistry. We were forced to close our practices for months, then to reopen with strict confines on how we worked. Financially, Emotionally, Professionally, we have suffered in different ways. The pandemic is still with us, and we are adjusting. Over 15,000 valuable lives have been lost in Alabama, alone. Now, the Delta variant is causing additional grief. Hospitals continue to adjust to the heightened needs, and staffing is a problem in all health-care positions.

Fortunately, the AGD has been watching out for general dentists. We have constantly been supplied with the information we needed to survive closures, as well as re-openings of our practices. AGD has also advocated for us with third-party reimbursements as well as student debt.

We have chosen a rewarding profession. By providing our best efforts for our patients, we can earn a comfortable income, help those who seek our services, and enjoy a healthy involvement in community activities. Congratulations on opting for a rewarding career of which you can be proud!

President's Message

Timothy Smith, DMD, FAGD, MBA

*Timothy Smith,
DMD, FAGD, MBA
President*



Fall is here, with Winter not far behind. Now is a good time to consider the changes which these seasons bring about in the cycles of our lives. We in AGD look back with gratitude for the successful Fall meeting we shared at the Sandestin Hilton in September.

This particular meeting was unique for all of us, as we began to emerge from the Covid-19 pandemic with a new “sense of normal”, which continues to evolve daily. We were thrilled to enjoy great speakers and courses, with a good turnout of attendees at this amazing beachfront location, enriched by the fellowship of our families and friends.

As we approach this busy holiday period, we all have so much for which to be grateful. Your Alabama and Mississippi AGD organizations continue to work hard to represent the needs and interests of General Dentists, as they also maintain active representation and participant connections at the

national level.

We hope you all enjoy a blessed Thanksgiving and Christmas, and that you can plan to join us at next year’s gathering, 2022 Sandestin.

Sincerely yours,
Timothy Smith, DMD, FAGD, MBA



The big winner ! Large screen TV



Dr.Lambert instructs an attendee in the participation course



Dr.Pamela Sims always conducts an informative seminar on pharmacology

2021 Emerald Coast Annual Review of Dentistry

We did it! The Emerald Coast Review of Dentistry meeting, held at the Sandestin Hilton, convened in September! Kudos to our hard-working committee for their diligent work.

Thanks to **Angie Gilliver, Executive Secretary**, and **Dr. Gary Myers, Executive Director**, for their commitment in working with the hotel staff, making things work like a charm to our advantage. Planning started months ago, with Zoom conferences heating up the air waves to iron out all the details.

The tough decision was made to trim our traditional meeting time from three days to only two, with an early-arrival reception on Thursday evening. Seeing old friends and their families, after a two-year Covid-Induced separation, was—in a word—awesome!

Of course, masks were advised, but we could not resist head-turned hugs and warm handshakes (followed by hasty squirts of de-bugging juice).

CE offered during our 2-day gathering covered all aspects of dentistry for general dentists. A **Master Track** course was provided by **Dr. Douglas Lambert**, from Edina, Minnesota, and was well-attended.

The overall attendance was, predictably, down from our usual numbers, and we had a few cancellations. Exhibitor attendance was also a smaller number than usual, but overall, comments were positive. **“WE WILL BE BACK NEXT YEAR!”** was heard from many dentists and exhibitors alike.

Several VIP’s were there, including national **AGD President, Dr. Bruce Casis**, from WV, and **President-Elect Dr. Gerald Botko**, of Boca Raton, FL., both of whom were very complimentary of our meeting. Also present were Region 19 Trustee, **Dr. Glen Miller** and Regional Director, **Dr. Bill Burn**, from SC; and **Dr. Nick Russo**, our Delaware representative. Nick was happy to be back, as he has not missed one of our meetings in over 20 years!

Saturday evening, our conference ended with our traditional **Exhibit Hall Party**. Great snack food and drinks were available, but the REAL attractions were the door prizes awarded in drawings overseen by our famous Master of Give-Away Ceremonies, **Dr. Bob DeShazer**.

Bob was, as usual, in top form, and lots of happy

campers walked away with great treasures. We pride ourselves on the fine quality of our gifts, all leading up to the huge Big-Screen TV awarded at the close of the festivities.

President **Timothy Smith** can rightly be happy with the fine meeting held under his auspices. Everyone there had a good time, and certainly the weather cooperated!

Next year, **Dr. Charles Betts** will be our President, and we hope you will support ALAGD by signing up to be at our 2022 annual meeting. **ALAGD needs your support, and we all need ALAGD.**



2021 President Timothy Smith addresses the Thursday reception



Dr. Ross Isbell receives recognition for serving as ALAGD President 2019



Dr. Kim Stiegler receives recognition for serving as ALAGD President 2020.



VIP attendees enjoying the reception; L-R Merlin Ohmer, Trustee from Region 20 and candidate for Vice President, Bruce Casis AGD President and Gerald Botko AGD President Elect



President Timothy Smith at the ALAGD Board meeting



The kids having fun at the deck reception trying out the hula hoop expertise

AGD 2021 Annual Meeting



Jackie Dorst lecturing on Infection Control



Participants in Dr. Lambert's hands on course



DRs Nick Russo, Bill Burn and Glen Miller attending the Board meeting



Bob DeShazer, getting ready for the Big "giveaway" at the Exhibit Hall Party



Gordon Isbell wins TV. Gordon had never won a door prize before



Dr. Wendy Holder displays the Apple Watch she won while Dr. Bill Ingram does his best Vanna White impression !



Dr. Nick Russo, in appreciation of being made an honorary ALAGD Board member, presented gifts to the Board. Here, he is giving Angie Gilliver her gift.

Alabama Board of Dental Examiners, 2021

Dr. Ray McLaughlin, Past-President of Alabama AGD, was installed as a member of the Alabama Board of Dental Examiners on October 1, 2021. Ray hails from Ozark, AL, and is the fourth dentist from this small Wiregrass city to serve on this prestigious Board.

Dr. Joye Davis Wright grew up there, and became the first woman ever elected to the Alabama BDE, where she served two terms. Also elected to this Board from Ozark, AL, were Dr. Charles Smith and Dr. Bill Chesser.

Dr. Ray McLaughlin is sworn as a member of the Alabama Board of Dental Examiners by President Dr. Mark McIlwain



Above: Dr. Mark McIlwain is presented a plaque recognizing his time on the BDE. Mark served as Board president during the beginning of the pandemic. He and Dr. Kevin Sims (left) were instrumental in guiding our us through the rules concerning dentistry and covid. Kevin is the incoming Board President

At left, Dr Doug Beckam receives his plaque for service on the Board of Dental Examiners. Doug is also a past president of ALAGD



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