

SMILE!

Life Can Begin Again at 65.

STEPHEN G. BLANK, DDS

Jim Marquart moved down to Florida from Rhode Island at the end of 2005.

"I was still doing trade negotiations and attending the World Trade Organization for the US government and the national jewelry trade association," notes Jim, former MJSA (Manufacturing Jewelers & Suppliers of America) president/CEO. "Throughout my career, I was often covered by the media and was a guest lecturer all over the world.

"My appearance mattered."

Jim says he is just now phasing out of the professional limelight.

"By the time I moved down to Florida I already had several teeth capped," confides Jim, "but because I had them done two per year which tied into my dental insurance, the coloration was inconsistent.

"Even after my move down to Florida, I was going back to Rhode Island for my dental work, but then I decided I wanted to find a local dentist who could do a complete review of my mouth, my smile, and my look."

Along with his professional obligations, Jim also had a more personal reason to care about his smile.

"My wife of just a year and a half, who was living in Boynton Beach at the time, had recently had her smile redone, and it looks beautiful," observes Jim. "I've always been impressed by a great smile, and I knew I wanted to do something to improve mine, so I asked my wife if she would ask for a referral from her dentist for someone in this area. He referred us to Dr. Blank."

Stephen G. Blank, DDS, practices cosmetic and functional dentistry in Port St. Lucie. Mindful of each patient's expectations, Dr. Blank chooses his cosmetic dentistry procedures and methods carefully. He takes his time in evaluating both the patient's dental condition and how the new smile will fit with other facial features.

"Along with analyzing the health of my mouth, Dr. Blank spoke with me about improving my appearance," remembers Jim.

Smile design visit

"We begin makeovers with a smile design visit and discuss with our patients their desires and goals," notes Dr. Blank. "Jim had a mixture of different types of old dentistry, including veneers, fillings, and crowns. Some of his crowns had been produced with the old technology of ceramic over metal which can darken at the gum line and

lacks the translucency of the newer all-porcelain restorations."

Dr. Blank's smile makeovers include choosing the right materials, designing the length of the new teeth, ideal proportions, desired morphology or shape of the teeth, color, and any other aesthetic concerns. Patients' desires are addressed at this time.

"Dr. Blank showed me before and after photographs of his previous patients," recalls Jim. "He recommended all-porcelain crowns for my top ten front teeth and my lower six front teeth in order to create the uniformity of color, straightening, and shape that I was looking for. Then he showed me how my new smile would look."

After defining the goals, Dr. Blank makes study models of his patients teeth.

"I create a mock-up by using flowable resin, but without any adhesive, over my patient's current teeth," he describes. "The resin is shaped to the design I recommend for their smile makeover. That way they can see how the shapes of the teeth would change and we can practice their speech to make sure the new restorations won't affect their phonetics. We can also test the different resin colors to get the perfect shade."

"What I found interesting," considers Jim, "is that as he was designing each tooth, Dr. Blank would call in his hygienist Raquel, his receptionist Mary-Ellen, and his dental assistant Tiffany to ask them for their opinions. It was meticulous."

"I like to get the opinions of our office staff," says Dr. Blank, "because each one will have a unique aesthetic vision. Also, occasionally seeing a tooth from a slightly different angle will highlight a contour that could be improved upon."

"Of course, the mock-up also gives our patients the opportunity to see their new smiles and make any changes before we even begin the actual process," points out Dr. Blank. "Then we take photographs of their smiles that we send to the laboratory for the wax-up."

A wax-up, or a wax model



FHCN PHOTO BY BRIAN GLENN

Jim's new life, his new wife, and his new restorations give him plenty of reasons to smile.

GOLD MEDAL WINNER

On September 29, 2007, Dr. Blank was awarded four gold medals at the Florida Academy of Cosmetic Dentistry (FACD) Annual Scientific Session competition, which is designed to determine the best of the best in clinical cosmetic dentistry. The FACD is an organization devoted to seeking improvements in the science and art of cosmetic dentistry.

of how the enhanced or repaired teeth will look, is completed by the laboratory. It is used to make any necessary changes before the lab proceeds to make the patient's new restorations.

Preparation day

On the second visit, the patients' teeth are prepared for the new restorations, and any old dentistry is removed. Impressions are made for the laboratory, and temporaries that match the wax-up are placed.

"In spite of the fact that Dr. Blank had to remove so many crowns, it was not painful in any way, shape, or form," recounts Jim. "Then he had to reshape every tooth and place each temporary individually. With all the extensive dental work I've had done in the past, I marveled at his expertise. This is the best procedure I've ever gone through, and the temporaries looked terrific."

"The temporaries give our patients a second opportunity to see the appearance of their new restorations," observes Dr. Blank. "At this stage changes can still be made, such as adding a bit of length or a little curvature or a slight reduction."

"Additionally, we perform a T-Scan which enables us to digitally record our patient's bite so that both my patient and I can view the bite on a computer monitor."

"From the time people begin to close their teeth until their mouths are completely closed might take only half of a second, but in that time we make a movie that is hundreds of frames long. We can observe which tooth touched first, second, third, and so on."

"Our goal is to have them all meet evenly at the same time."

Once this process is completed, Dr. Blank gives

the laboratory instructions on coloring, translucency, and brightness.

"Following his second visit, Jim left our office with resin temporaries that looked great, just like his new teeth were going to look," says Dr. Blank.

The final step

The final step was to bond the porcelain restorations to Jim's teeth.

"My new smile has affected my image and has certainly improved my appearance," analyzes Jim. "I felt good about doing it."

"It's not that I had a bad smile before, but this one is far superior. I'm getting all kinds of compliments on how wonderful my teeth look."

"Dr. Blank and his staff are tremendous. Compared to all the dentists I've had during the rest of my life, the caring I felt there was just incredible."

"Dr. Blank performs with both class and warmth; he's a true perfectionist." FHCN-Kris Kline

For that healthy smile

Dr. Blank and his staff look forward to meeting the readers of Florida Health Care News. For more information or to schedule an appointment, please call (772) 878-7348. His office is located at 184 NW Central Park Plaza in Port St. Lucie.



Stephen G. Blank, DDS, is a graduate of Northwestern University Dental School in Chicago. He has since completed intensive continuing education studies, and he and his dental team have completed the Dental Organization for Conscious Sedation program. Dr. Blank is a clinical instructor with the Hornbrook Group, teaching dentists from all parts of the country in live hands-on courses on the various aspects of smile design, occlusion, full mouth reconstruction, and complete patient care. He is a facilitator/mentor with the Dental Boot Kamp program and a supporter of the Smiles for Life Foundation. Dr. Blank enjoys teaching dental teams around the country.

Dr. Blank invites you to visit his website at www.PSLDENTIST.com