

Dentistry—the Perfect Career for a Perfectionist

By Linda Wellbrock

Linda Stone came from a home where things were not just handed to her; she developed a drive and work ethic that still lasts to today, “I loved to learn. I was like a blank page needing to be filled with information and I considered learning a privilege. I always was open to learning more because I believe that it makes you a better person.” Linda became interested in dentistry during a pre-dental program she took in high school. She immediately fell in love with dentistry as a profession. Her passion for dentistry was clearly evidenced when she became the Valedictorian of her Dental Hygiene class with some of the highest grades ever received in the entire program. Linda remembers a dental professor coming in and asking ‘Who is Linda Stone?’ He wanted to meet this outstanding student and once he met Linda, he advised her to go straight to dental school. Linda took that sage advice.

Soon after that conversation, Linda began her journey through many different phases of her dental career. She was a hygienist, a partner in a dental practice and eventually, the owner of her own practice. Part of the reason that Linda finds her profession so interesting is her refusal to stand still, “I never close the door to what is next- I always want to learn about what the newest advancements are and what I should be doing to be unique.”

Dr. Stone explained that there are many aspects to her job that she loves including the patients, the people she gets to work with on her staff and her favorite part, transforming people through their smiles. “I love to actual-

ly show patients what the possibilities are before we do anything permanent.” This could range from bonding a small space to putting in porcelain veneers. Unlike many competitors, she has the ability to give patients options before they decide, “My patients’ smiles are my signature- so I want to ensure that they are happy.”

Dr. Stone also loves changing dental phobics into people who actually like coming to the dentist. She explains, “I feel so lucky to be where I am and to have the ability to dramatically change people’s attitudes for the better.” Gentle Caring Dentistry has never had a phobic patient that they could not win over. That’s due to the comforting techniques of Dr. Stone and her staff. “We treat people the way we would want to be treated and now people who couldn’t smile for sometimes as long as 20 years can feel comfortable with themselves and show off their beautiful teeth.” Dr. Stone’s patient base is drawn from all over the United States with two patients coming from as far away as Hawaii. “My best advertisement is the referral system of my patients to their friends. After I have created a spectacular smile for a patient, one of their friends comes into the office and asks me to create the same smile for them.”

The most challenging part of practicing dentistry for Dr. Stone is that she is extremely busy and she gives 110% to every single patient that sits in her chair, “Every patient is important to me. If I don’t like the way something looks I will do it over again. I want to make sure that everyone looks and feels as great as possible. I am a perfectionist which is a gift, but it drives my staff crazy.”

Dr. Stone explains that some of the benefits of dentistry as a career include: flexible hours, being your own boss, being able to raise a family and most of all making a difference in the lives of your patients. “If you’re really into it like I am, you start to feel like you are changing a little piece of the world with every patient.” When Dr. Stone started her career over 20 years ago- she managed her business around raising her daughter Vanna. She credits her mother in law and husband for being her support system and realizes how difficult it would have been without them and without the ability to have a flexible career. Dr. Stone biggest attribute is clearly her passion for her job, “I love what I do and I wake up every day and feel so lucky to be where I am.” Now Linda’s daughter Vanna is graduating high school and wants to become a dentist too. Dr. Stone explains how “this is the greatest compliment any mother can receive. I guess I must have done something right for her to want to follow in my footsteps, so it really touches my heart.”

The future for Dr. Stone is an exciting one at Gentle Caring Dentistry, which is relocating offices within the next few months. She is in the process of transforming her new space into the entire dental experience for all her patients: “I want to expand on the spa-inspired amenities we presently offer since it is so much easier working on a relaxed patient.” Presently, there is soothing music on headphones, a choice of movies on individual television monitors, aromatherapy, scented hot towels, juice and a pampering staff to create a stress-free environment. “Patients often come in now and get so comfortable having their dental work

done and watching a movie that they ask to stay and finish the movie even after the dental appointment is over." Eventually the office will offer facials and a full line of skin care treatments. Linda plans on offering all services that treat the face in terms of appearance and wrinkles, so that "patients can come and stay while we pamper them." I love technology so the new office will have even more state of the art equipment, short appointments, quicker results, and hopefully a paperless office. Dr. Stone's motto is, "I want to do everything I can to make patients feel and look great."

One of Dr. Stone's secrets to success is: "always strive to go beyond your abilities and aspirations and you won't have stress, but a feeling of accomplishment." Dr. Stone prides herself on her work and she is honest with everyone she has to work with. This includes herself, patients, staff, and the many doctors who refer their patients to her. Part of her success is due to her impeccable reputation. She also advises that "you have to love what you do. If you are sincere, then you will most likely succeed, and then your work will become your signature I do the best I can do and it works."

**Dr. Linda Stone
can be reached
at Gentle
Caring Dentistry
973-994-3112.**

