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DAVID A. WRIGHT

D.D.S., P.C.

www.waterfordclarkstondentist.com

New patients
welcome

Winter 2016/17

Writer blocked:

Why has it been a year since my last newsletter?

I usually send a newsletter out twice a year, but it was this time last year when my last newsletter went out. It was not for a lack of trying.

In late June I began writing, knowing that I wanted to include my graduation with my MAGD (see page 4) in July. On June 28, however, my world changed. My mother was diagnosed with stage IV inoperable small cell lung cancer. After two weeks of hospitalization and two weeks of home hospice, she passed away on July 31. She literally had no pain, and really never suffered the horrible things that some cancer patients endure; for that we are so very grateful.

The next months were busy with creating the new normal for my 89-year-old father, who was physically getting weaker and exhibiting some dementia. At the same time, he was as vibrant and full of personality as ever. By October we had a good routine, with professional homecare aides, my three sibs and two sibs-in-

laws all pitching in. I finally had time to make my second attempt at writing the newsletter, and it made it to the printer on November 4. On that very day, my dad fell and died. I called the printer and asked them to STOP; it was time to rewrite again.

So guess what I am doing now? That is right—writing. Phew!

As I am, for the third time, writing this article, we are approaching Thanksgiving, easily my favorite holiday of the year. It has been far too easy for me to forget to give thanks over the past year. And yet I feel luckier, more blessed, and more thankful this year than ever before.

All three of my kids are progressing well in college and enjoying the experience, and two of them, Natalie and Daniel, will be finished with undergrad by this time next year. Julia, our youngest, is a freshman at the University of Michigan, living in the same dorm (Markley) that my wife, Peggy, was in as a

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For every season...ortho, ortho, ortho

I have a great advantage over the majority of general dentists who have not received orthodontic training: I have ways to remedy problems that are not available to these dentists. Every day I give thanks that I was fortunate enough to go through comprehensive training in orthodontics nearly 20 years ago. Frequently I have people come to me because their bite is collapsing, teeth are breaking and severely wearing, and regular dentistry cannot help them. Combining restorative dentistry with orthodontics, we can help people of all ages obtain better dental health and a wonderful smile. We can do things that simply cannot be done with regular dentistry alone.

I sometimes have people in their 30s share with me that "I'd like to do braces, but I am just too old." I think of all the people in their 50s, 60s, 70s, and yes, 80s who have done

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Thank you for all your referrals. We appreciate them!

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freshman “many moons ago,” as they say. My kids continue to be grateful, charismatic, insightful, and caring people. They are a ball, even now as adults, and they have an empathetic “worldview” that I could not have imagined at their age.

My sibs and their significant others showed great courage as we made it through the loss of our parents. My in-laws, pretty much always the dream “other” family, continued to be loving, supporting, and easy-to-get-along-with relations.

My office is more successful now than ever before. Our patients are referring more new patients now than any time in the last 25 years, and the vast majority of our online reviews are excellent. My staff is loyal, hardworking, intelligent, and fun to be around. I have been able to travel for work, and for pleasure, and have obtained long-standing professional goals during the last year.

At 55 I have remarkable health and honestly feel, for the most part, like I did when I was 30. I have a tremendous wife who gets better looking and even more intelligent every year. I watched her give a speech to her coworkers this year that was incredible and allowed me to see new aspects of her that I can appreciate.

Life is absolutely, unequivocally great. I hope you enjoy this newsletter, which expounds on these, and other, themes.

Finally, I am so very thankful for you, my patients and supporters. To think that so many people trust me with something as important as their oral health care is simply amazing. I hope to keep working for your health, your trust, and your friendship for many years.

Thank you!
Dr. Wright

Berlin, Prague, and Budapest: Coming to appreciate a tough past

My usual introductory comment on these travel articles: I know that we are incredibly fortunate to be able to travel. While we do it at minimal expense (including using frequent-flyer miles for our flights and some hotels), we realize that not everyone can do this sort of thing. Many people have enjoyed my previous writings on our travels, so I include this with the hope that readers will be entertained and not think that this is “showy” or “braggy.” Thanks!

This past September, in celebration of being “empty nesters” and also for nearing our 30-year anniversary of marriage, Peggy and I took a trip to Eastern Europe. We started in Berlin, Germany, for three days, and then went to Prague and Budapest for a few days each. These three cities in the late 1800s into the early 1900s were the center of industry, science, and politics in Europe. The next century was not so kind to these places. All three were on the losing side in World War I and were severely punished monetarily (through “reparations”) and by losing huge chunks of land. Then, these were three of the most important cities in the Jewish world, with huge populations of Jews that represented the academic and business backbone, and really, the heart of these cities. Nearly all of the Jews in Berlin and Prague, and two-thirds of those in Budapest, were murdered by Nazi Germany. These cities have never recovered. And just as World War II ended, on came Russian occupation and dominance. Only in 1989 did these three cities get out from under Russian occupation and dominance and start to understand capitalism and freedom.

Kids in school often say history is boring. It REALLY comes alive when you meet people who lived through tragic events. We had so many chances to talk to people who grew up under Communism, who remembered Russian tanks rolling down their street, who spoke of not wanting to talk to neighbors because no one knew who was a government informant. We



One of the rooms of the Museum of Jewish Heritage, Holocaust Memorial, Prague, Czech Republic. The “pattern” on the walls is actually over 50,000 names of people from the Czech Republic who were murdered in the Holocaust. This was one of the most moving, emotionally crushing things I have ever experienced.

Berlin, Prague, and Budapest (continued from page 2)

met several people who were bright, good students but were not allowed to go to university because their families did not belong to the Communist Party. We met Jews whose entire families were wiped out, except their mother or father or grandpa or grandma who managed to escape in time. Imagine that.

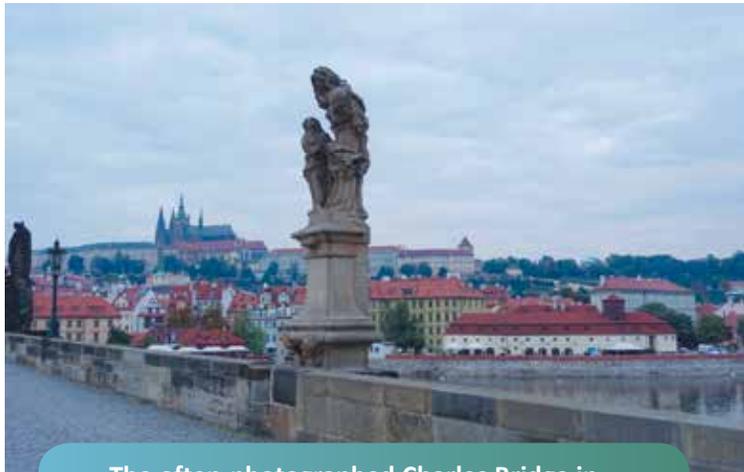
All three cities have prospered under capitalism. They have been rebuilt, renewed, and now are vibrant, happening cities with good futures. All three have monuments and architecture that are breathtaking. And yet, in Hungary their new leader is starting to take the country back to more of an authoritarian path, and the future is uncertain. Budapest residents who remember the past speak openly about being worried about the future. In the Czech Republic, they have elected a president (a position that actually has little power) who turned out to be an embarrassment, and a bit of a "bad guy." We are not alone in being concerned about our choice of leaders.

Like any trip of this size, I am only now processing all that we saw. There was intensity, and there was beauty. There was good food, and even better beer. There were fun and sometimes intense conversations with locals. There was play, and there was learning. Do I have one take-away from the trip? Well, I recommend these cities for anyone thinking about



Peggy and our German guide, Bernhard, in front of a Communist-era statue in a part of East Berlin that has not yet been regentrified. This was a typical spot for pro-government, Communist rallies when Bernhard was growing up. The graffiti speaks to the love of freedom of current Germans.

traveling, as they are welcoming and surprisingly affordable towns. (Former communist Eastern Europe is WAY less costly than Western Europe or Northern Europe.) But mostly, I came away with an appreciation of how lucky I am to live in the United States, to not have grown up under Nazi, Communist, or other authoritarian rule. We are lucky beyond words, and I have SO very much to be thankful for during this time of Thanksgiving.



The often-photographed Charles Bridge in Prague. This beautiful city escaped World War II with only minor damage.



Built in 1913, the Széchenyi baths remain popular with locals and tourists alike today.



Opening night for the opera house: Opera is a big deal in Hungary. The street is blocked off; chairs and video screens are set up. The lucky folks with tickets can go inside of one of Europe's most opulent opera houses for the performance; the rest can watch and party in the street.

For every season...ortho, ortho, ortho

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orthodontic treatment with us, and I laugh about the 30-year-old who thinks that he or she is “too old.” The fun thing is that virtually every patient, when we are done, will say, “That wasn’t that bad. I wish I had done this years ago!”

I hope that you enjoy these before-and-after views from two nice folks who allowed us to share their photos. If you notice any teeth wearing or chipping, or if you have things about your smile that you would like to change, please let me know. We can sit down and discuss treatment options for you. So many times these options are simpler and less costly than people imagine. And as always, thanks for letting me care for your dental needs! —**Dr. Dave**



BEFORE



AFTER



AFTER

Office Hours

Monday 10 a.m.-7 p.m.
Tuesday 8 a.m.-5 p.m.
Wednesday 8 a.m.-5 p.m.
Thursday 8 a.m.-2 p.m.
Friday 8 a.m.-2 p.m.
Saturday 8 a.m.-1 p.m.

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Michele Heather
Nichole Amelia
Ashley Ann

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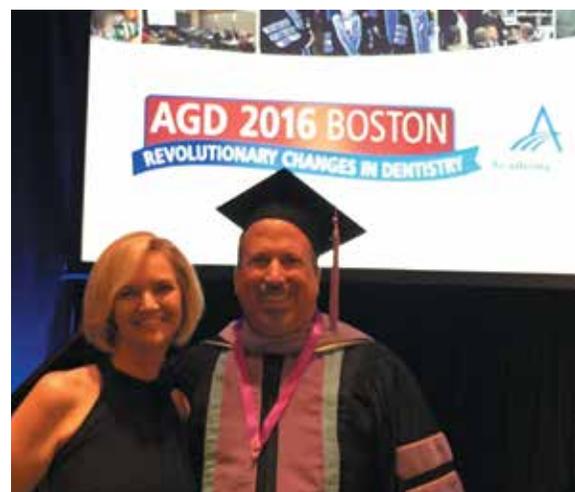


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Dr. Wright gains his Mastership in the Academy of General Dentistry

The Academy of General Dentistry (AGD) is the organization that represents the over 80 percent of dentists who practice general dentistry. There are two awards that recognize advanced learning in the area of general dentistry. The first award, the Fellowship in the AGD, was awarded to Dr. David Wright in 1995. Approximately 5 percent of general dentists eventually achieve this award. The other, more advanced, award is the Mastership in the AGD. It is difficult enough that only around 1 percent of general dentists hold this prestigious award. In July of this year, Dr. Wright was presented with the Mastership in the Academy of General Dentistry, signifying the highest level of achievement in general dentistry. We are very proud to have our self-described “Dental Nerd” recognized by organized dentistry. **Great job, Dr. Wright!**



**Dr. David Wright with wife Peggy in Boston,
July 2016, at the AGD Annual Session.**