

An unfortunate accident leads to updated crowns and a natural-looking, new smile.

June D'Angelo was visiting a friend last summer when she tripped over a protruding piece of jagged concrete paver and fell. She didn't get her arms out in time to catch her fall and, unfortunately, landed squarely on her face. The injury was quite serious.

"I had to go to the emergency room because my tooth went through my upper lip and through my cheek," she describes. "They had to do stitches inside and out."

The fall also knocked out one of June's teeth and broke an old crown off of her front tooth. The next morning, she visited Port St. Lucie dentist Stephen G. Blank, DDS.

"He has a very good reputation," explains June, a Realtor with Lang Realty at PGA Village Real Estate. "I know people who have gone to him, and that's why I chose him. I've heard more than one person say that they go to him, and they're very happy."

Though unfortunate, the accident forced June, 75, to address some other issues with her dental health that she had been putting off. "Some teeth were crooked. Some had yellowed with age," she describes. "I had an old silver filling that showed through the tooth. It just was not a real great smile."

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-June D'Angelo**

While at Dr. Blank's office following her accident, June, who's originally from Southern New Jersey, read several articles about him in *Florida Health Care News*. "I was looking at some of the pictures and some of the things he did for other people with their smiles, and I inquired about them," she recalls. "I sell real estate, and it's important to put your best foot forward. I just needed to be revamped, so to speak."

Smile enhancement

In addition to treating June's broken tooth and crown, Dr. Blank's treatment plan addressed several other issues that affected her overall smile.

"June had front teeth that were worn short," remembers Dr. Blank. "Over time, her teeth had just gotten shorter and kind of boxy looking. A lot of us don't realize our teeth are changing shape. We just think they've always been that way, but her teeth were much shorter than they originally were."

To address that issue, Dr. Blank used a special dental laser to help reshape June's gumline. "We raised the gumline and made a nice, pretty curve at the top so the teeth could have natural shape to them," he explains. "The procedure is surgery free and does not require stitches. We're able to do laser gum reshaping and change the shape



June D'Angelo

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Stephen Blank, DDS

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of the gums and teeth instantly."

Once June's gumline was improved, Dr. Blank focused on giving her updated, natural-looking teeth. Her smile enhancement included new bridges as well as new crowns on both her top and bottom arch.

"Some of her old crowns were mismatched in color, and there was darkness at the gumline," Dr. Blank observes.

"Many people have older crowns with porcelain layered over metal and may have darker edges showing. New dentistry is not the same. We don't just take out your old crowns and make new crowns that look just like the old ones. We have better materials now, and we're able to do all ceramic, with no metal layer at all. There's no darkness anywhere on the tooth."

Dr. Blank worked on both arches simultaneously. Following impressions and a wax-up of June's mouth, he cosmetically designed her new smile to create her temporary teeth. "She went home with temporaries that looked just like her new crowns were going to look," Dr. Blank says. June's final crowns were completed last fall.

"Even my sons and daughter can't believe how realistic he made my teeth look!" June exclaims. "He did it so it looks like my teeth, and he did a wonderful job."

A dental relationship

Dr. Blank gives all of his new patients a thorough examination to determine their dental needs and develop a custom treatment plan. The 1.5-hour exam includes a complete oral examination, including TMJ, bite and soft-tissue evaluations; computerized periodontal measurements, digital x-rays, an intra-oral video tour that allows the patient to see what the dentist sees, an oral hygiene

fitness evaluation and more.

"It's not your typical five-minute dental exam," assures the dentist. "The goal is to build a good dental relationship that will allow each patient to achieve the best oral health possible and, with proper care, maintain that level of health for a lifetime."

"I think the best part of caring for patients is really understanding what their desires and needs are with a good interview at the beginning of our relationship, and then a good examination for the patient to understand his or her current conditions," adds Dr. Blank. "That allows us to discuss options and make plans for each patient based on their individual needs and desires."

Customized care

Unlike some crowded, busy practices in which dentists treat several patients at once, Dr. Blank, who has been practicing

in Port St. Lucie for nearly 33 years, takes time to deliver individual, customized care to all of his patients.

"He's professional, but friendly," says June. "You get the feeling that he's confident and knows what he's doing."

"I think he's aggressive with his education, which is important," she continues. "He calls afterward to see how you're feeling if you have a more serious procedure done. I have recommended him to other people, and I know two who are going to him now."

The busy Realtor, who's lived in Florida since the 1980s, is thrilled with her new smile. Others have noticed, too. "People who have known me for years can't get over how I look and how natural my teeth look because they've known me for so long," June reflects. "They think it looks great!" **FHCN—Melanie Casey**



June, a busy Realtor, is happy about her new smile.

For more information, please visit the office website at www.PSLDentist.com, find them on Facebook or call (772) 878-7348



Stephen G. Blank, DDS, is a 1982 graduate of Northwestern University Dental School in Chicago. He has since completed intensive continuing education studies. Dr. Blank has studied TMJ under Mark Piper, MD, DMD, at the Piper Education and Research Center. He has completed the course continuum at the Dawson Center for Advanced Dental Studies. Dr. Blank was 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. Dr. Blank enjoys teaching dental teams around the country.



June's smile, before treatment

PHOTO COURTESY OF DR. BLANK

SNAP Instant Dental Imaging

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. Ask how you can see your smile enhanced with SNAP Instant Dental Imaging. You will be able to see your new smile before you make any decisions.



Gold Medal Winner

Dr. Blank was awarded gold medals by the Florida Academy of Cosmetic Dentistry (FACD) Scientific Session competition, which is designed to reward excellence in clinical cosmetic dentistry. The FACD is an organization devoted to seeking improvements in the science and art of cosmetic dentistry.