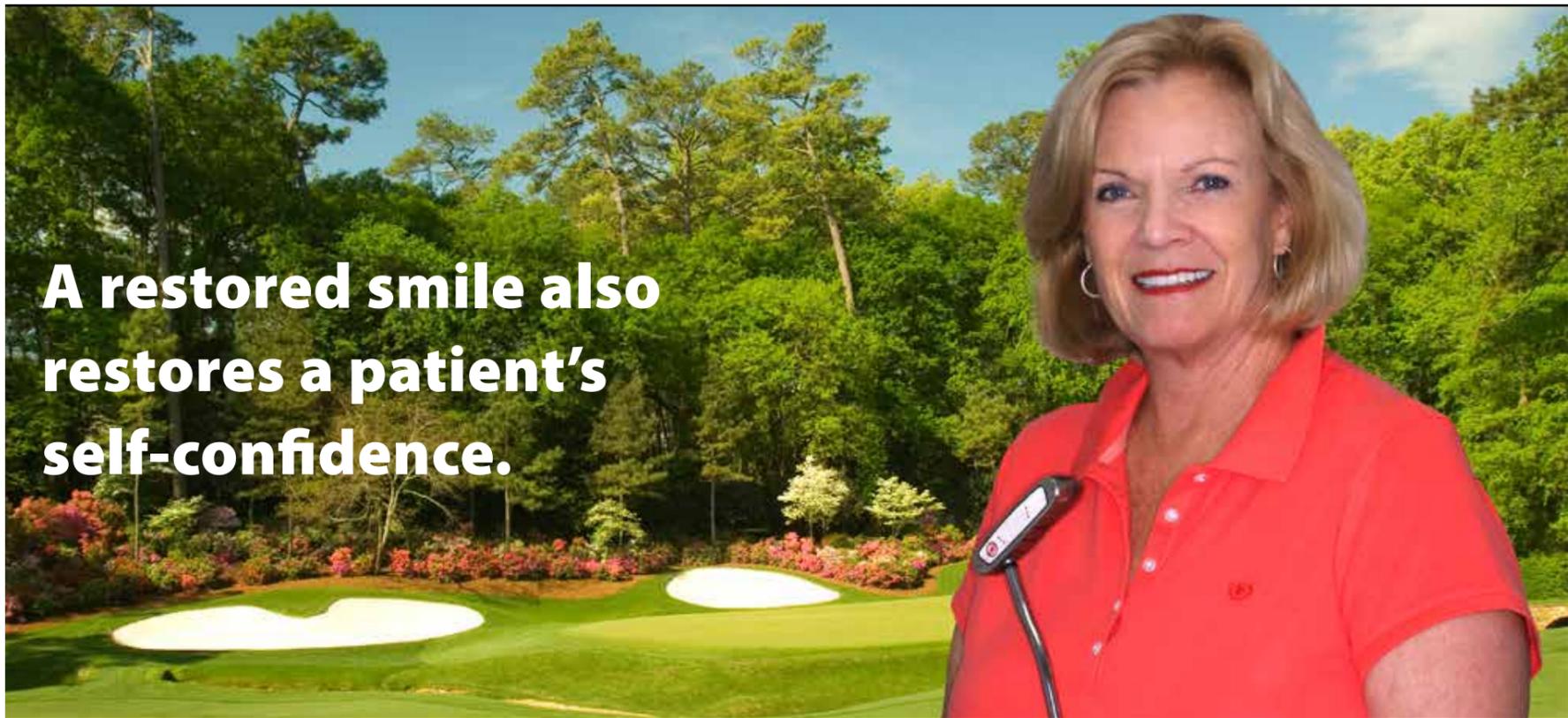


Dentistry You Can Smile About

A restored smile also restores a patient's self-confidence.



PATIENT PHOTO COURTESY OF DR. BLANK; BACKGROUND FROM ISTOCKPHOTO.COM

Wendy Callis can't help but to smile when discussing the dental work she received from Stephen G. Blank, DDS.

When Wendy Callis says she had her crowns replaced to improve her self-confidence, she stresses the word *self*. "I didn't do it to impress anyone but me," she relates.

in Tennessee; none of those activities brings her around hordes of people. She did not have to worry about impressing others on a regular basis with a dazzling smile. However, whenever she looked in the mirror, she was bothered. "I wanted a great smile," she states.

she have 13 of her top crowns replaced with lengthier ones that had a whiter and brighter color.

However, what truly impressed Wendy was what Dr. Blank told her she did *not* need done. He said her bottom teeth were fine and did not require new crowns. A less honest dentist might have tried to trick her into believing otherwise. Then, when she informed him she only wanted to replace 11 of her 13 top crowns because the other two could not be seen when she smiled, he didn't try change her mind.

"He was very trustworthy," states Wendy. "He never tried to push more on me than I wanted, which I appreciated."

"Our desire is to meet the patients' desires," notes Dr. Blank. "Our job is not to fix every tooth in a patient's mouth. It is to fix what needs to be fixed and to improve what the patient wants improved."

get the teeth to bite down together properly. It made a tremendous difference in my chewing and, I'm sure, my grinding."

"If the upper and lower teeth all meet happily, clenching and grinding are reduced significantly, sometimes completely," adds Dr. Blank.

Wendy is not taking a chance with her grinding habit. Dr. Blank also made her a bite plate to wear at night to protect her new teeth from potential grinding damage.

"I put it in every night," she states. "I don't want to ruin my new teeth. I love them."

"When everything was done, Dr. Blank and his staff asked me, *Has anybody noticed your new smile yet? Has anybody come up to you and complimented your new teeth?* I laughed and said not yet and it didn't bother me that no one had. I did this all for me. When I look in the mirror now, I am so happy." **FHCN**—Paul Guzzo

Stephen Blank, DDS

www.PSLdentist.com



Wendy has been a grinder all of her life. By the early 1990s, her teeth were a cosmetic mess – some were so worn down that they were flat, while others were chipped or fractured. Around that time, she had all of her teeth treated with crowns to reverse the cosmetic damage, but that proved to be just a temporary fix.

"I kept grinding," confides Wendy, a Port St. Lucie resident.

This bad habit wore down her crowns. The damage then spread to her gums, which pulled away from her teeth, exposing the metal edges of her crowns.

"They were the old crowns made with metal," she explains, "and the metal was also turning my upper gums grey. I needed an upgrade."

Wendy is retired. She enjoys spending her time reading, gardening, golfing, boating, and relaxing at her summer cabin

in Tennessee; none of those activities brings her around hordes of people. She did not have to worry about impressing others on a regular basis with a dazzling smile. However, whenever she looked in the mirror, she was bothered.

Building a smile

"Wendy had dental work that had gotten a little older," affirms Dr. Blank. "She was nervous about doing anything about her teeth because they worked fine. But she told me that she was not very happy with how they looked."

"I've had some poor dentistry in the past and I was really frightened about having my old crowns taken off," admits Wendy. "I was worried about damaging my remaining tooth structure. Dr. Blank filled me with confidence, though. He is very skilled and knowledgeable."

Dr. Blank practices cosmetic and functional dentistry in Port St. Lucie. Considering each patient's needs and expectations, Dr. Blank chooses his cosmetic dentistry procedures and methods to match the patient's desires and their dental condition. He takes his time in evaluating both the patient's dental condition and how the new smile will fit with other facial features.

"Your smile is really your best accessory. The first thing we notice about another person is their smile or lack of one; that's the underlying assumption driving all of our efforts with a new patient," says Dr. Blank.

After a complete examination of Wendy's mouth, Dr. Blank suggested

Before



After



PHOTOS COURTESY OF DR. BLANK

Damage control

Using Tekscan's digital T-Scan III, Dr. Blank also corrected Wendy's bite.

A high-tech version of the blue bite paper that was once the only option available to dentists, this computerized analysis system digitally displays a patient's bite on a monitor. It enables Dr. Blank to see if his patients' occlusion (the way they bite) may be causing damage to their teeth. For instance, he can determine if a patient bites harder on one side or on one particular tooth.

"The patients can then watch their bite as a video so they can tell me if they're feeling the same thing that the T-Scan system is showing us," cites Dr. Blank. "If so, we can then work to fix their bite. This allows us to fine-tune the bite far better than we ever could without it."

"The new dentistry of today is amazing," gushes Wendy. "He was able to tell what part of my mouth I bit down on harder and then slightly buffed one side to



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.

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.

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.



Scan the QR code for Dr. Blank's contact information.

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