

THE ALABAMA COMPOSITE



ALABAMA
ACADEMY of
GENERAL DENTISTRY

The Newsletter of the Alabama AGD

Editor: Shivani Pandit, DDS, FAGD



Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve

Glacier Bay is a national park of the United States located in Southeast Alaska, west of Juneau. It became part of a binational UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1979, and was inscribed as a Biosphere Reserve in 1986.

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President’s Message

written by: Dr. Melodie Jones

As we move forward together in 2026, I am energized by the opportunity to serve the Alabama Academy of General Dentistry and by the strength of the dentists who make up this organization. Our Academy is only as strong as the people within it, and my focus this year is centered on three key priorities that will help ensure a vibrant and engaged future for Alabama AGD.

Growing our membership and participation is foundational. I want more general dentists across Alabama to experience the value of AGD—through meaningful connection, high-quality continuing education, and the professional support that helps us thrive in an ever-changing practice environment. When more voices are at the table, our Academy becomes stronger, more relevant, and more impactful.



Members of the Alabama AGD Executive Committee and other guests at the first board meeting of 2026

Strengthening collaboration is equally important. I look forward to deepening our partnerships with the Alabama Dental Association, our dental specialty colleagues, and all those who share our mission of advancing oral health across the state. By working together, we amplify our influence and better serve both our profession and the public. Together, we truly are stronger.

Mentoring the next generation is especially close to my heart. Investing in students at the UAB School of Dentistry and supporting young dentists throughout Alabama is essential to the future of dentistry. I want them to know they have a home, a voice, and a network of support within this Academy.

Looking ahead, please mark your calendars for the Emerald Coast Annual Review of Dentistry

2026, to be held September 10-12, 2026, at the Sandestin Hilton. This promises to be an outstanding meeting, and I encourage each of you not only to attend, but to invite colleagues and friends to join us. This meeting will also include our General Assembly, where every member has an important voice in shaping the future of Alabama AGD.

Thank you for your commitment to excellence in general dentistry and for all you do to support our Academy. I look forward to a productive and inspiring year ahead.

Melodie Anderson Jones, DMD
President, Alabama Academy of General Dentistry

September 10-12, 2026 Emerald Coast AGD Annual Review of Dentistry

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Dental CE in Person or Virtual?

written by: Shivani Pandi, DDS, FAGD

COVID dramatically changed the way we live, work, and learn. Finding ourselves quarantined for months on end taught us the value of virtual meetings and online shopping. Now, we face the decision of how to effectively leverage technology without sacrificing the in person, hands-on learning experience. Recently, Alabama dentists debated this question at the Town Hall session that the Board of Dental Examiners held at most recent UAB Alumni Weekend.

There are merits to both virtual and in person dental CE classes.

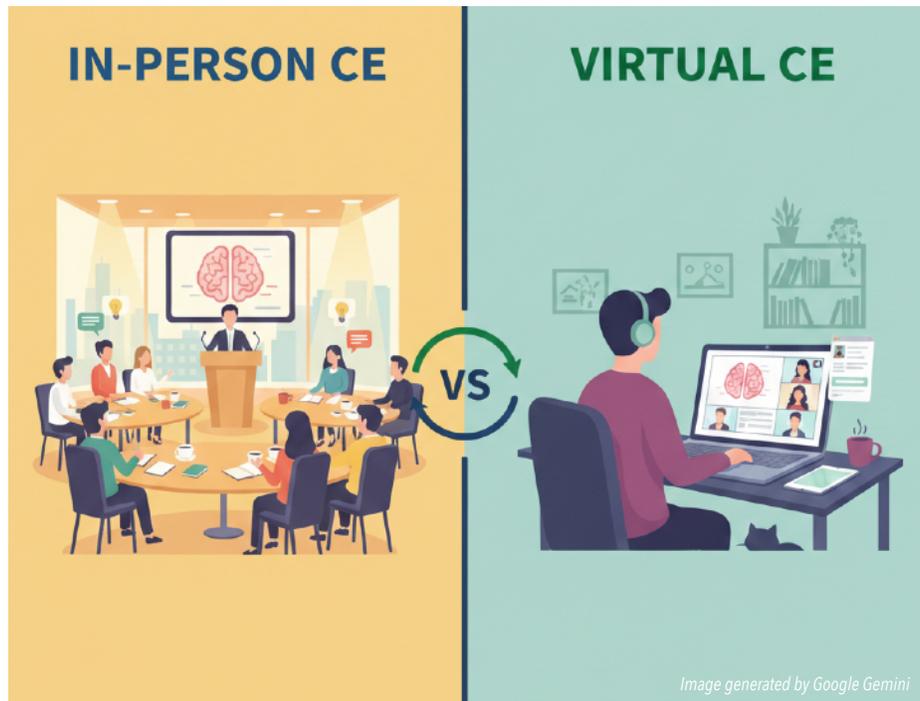
Many at the town hall argued the cost savings associated with virtual classes. Hotel, flight, and meal expenses overlay additional expense beyond the tuition. Factor in time away from the office and lost production and in-person meetings can quickly become cost prohibitive. Joining a call with colleagues during a lunch break or after work seems a convenient and economical option.

In-person classes provide opportunities for firsthand training and the opportunity to try new products. Most of these seminars are part of a larger meeting which usually



Editor of the Alabama Composite, Dr. Shivani Pandit

feature showcased products and the chance to talk with business partners about what products best fit your office needs. Networking dinners and events provide opportunities to share experiences, best practices, and form relationships. Given the sometimes-isolated space in which dentist operate, these networking opportunities are invaluable.



Clearly there are advantages to both virtual and in-person CE classes. Most agree that a hybrid approach which allows some virtual learning but encourages in-person attendance is optimal. Most dental organizations offer discounts to offset the expenses associated with in-person events and business partner sponsorships take the edge off the cost as well.

The hybrid approach takes the best of both options. Most dental boards in the United States have adopted this model. Few boards accept virtual only CE, recognizing the value of in-person experiences.

I concur with this approach. Changing our requirements to allow all virtual components robs the professional from opportunities to gain experience and learn together. We are a community of dentists. We have a responsibility to our profession to be active and engaged. Working in a vacuum without the opportunity to share our insights and best practices in an in-person environment severely curtails our ability to serve our profession and clients.

As with most things, balance and blend is important. So, it is with Virtual and In-Person CE.

MasterTrack Report

Written By: Wendy Holder, DMD, MAGD

MasterTrack provides training and education on the latest techniques and best practices to equip you to provide the absolute best care for your patients. See an example of the work Dr. Stanley Beard completed as part of his journey to earn his Master of the Academy of General Dentistry (MAGD) with one of his case presentations in this edition.

You can be a part of MasterTrack as well. [Register now](#) to join us April 10th and 11th for A Hands-On Guide to Digital Dentures: Mastering Compete, Immediate, and Partial Restoration Workflows. Dr. Toni Neumeier will demonstrate how to scan and improve denture accuracy. Learn how to maximize the efficiency of your appointments and minimize appointment follow-ups. If removable dentistry is part of your practice area, you will benefit from this course hosted by the University of Alabama at Birmingham School of Dentistry.

Take your skill set to the next level by joining this course. For more information or to register, go to www.uab.edu/dentistry/home/continuing-education



Temporary Restorations in the Esthetic Zone

Stanley R. Beard, DMD, FAGD, FICD, FACD

ABSTRACT

Temporary restorations in the esthetic zone present distinct functional and esthetic demands, particularly in complex cases involving trauma, non-restorable teeth, or staged implant therapy. This article presents a clinical case in which a customized, lab-fabricated flexible removable partial denture was employed as a long-term provisional solution following anterior tooth loss. Digital workflows—including intraoral scanning, photographic documentation, and lab communication—enabled precise fabrication and efficient turnaround. Chairside customization techniques, including micro-etching, contouring, and individualized staining with Optiglaze, allowed for seamless integration with the patient's existing dentition and esthetic profile. The result was a highly esthetic, functional interim prosthesis that met both patient expectations and clinical requirements without compromising implant healing. Importantly, these restorations are particularly effective in cases complicated by dental neglect and limited patient motivation, where full-mouth rehabilitation may not be

immediately feasible. Beyond their provisional role, such restorations serve as diagnostic aids and esthetic previews, guiding final treatment planning and improving patient acceptance. This case highlights the utility of digitally integrated, chairside-customized provisional prostheses as an effective, minimally invasive solution within contemporary restorative and implant dentistry. Many times, we are tasked with finding temporary prostheses for the esthetic zone that are required to perform over an extended period of time. These cases can be time intensive and create multidisciplinary challenges for the practitioner. One way to reduce chairside time is to have a lab fabricated flexible removable partial made, that is customized chairside (Figure 1).

CASE

The patient is a 35-year-old white male whose tooth was fractured in an industrial accident. The left central was extracted and grafted for implant placement (Figure 2). A NobelReplace Conical Connection NP 3.5x13mm implant was placed with a 5x5mm healing cap. The patient was seen for an



Figure 1

emergency visit and inquired about a temporary solution to enhance his smile. His existing dentition showed extensive wear and staining. Furthermore, a complete esthetic makeover was not a priority for the patient at this time.



Figure 2

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Try-in included customizing the Duraflex prosthesis from Oral Arts in Huntsville, AL., mimicking wear of the existing occlusion on other teeth in the smile, especially the right central. After using fine Brasseler diamonds and carbides, to simulate chips and cracks on the right central incisor, the prosthesis was ready for custom staining (Figure 3). Prior to customizing the temporary tooth, special consideration is also given to the profile of the tooth as its buccal prominences and slight undulations were altered before staining.

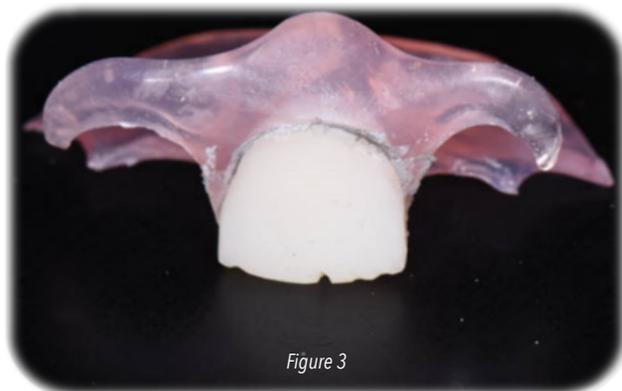


Figure 3

Optiglaze by GC America Corporation gives the practitioner a host of staining options. The customized prosthesis was micro-etched using 90-micron aluminum oxide powder to produce a textured surface ideal for colorant adhesion. After etching, the surface was rinsed with warm water. A base layer of A-Plus was then applied and light-cured for 60 seconds under a Sun X9 Nail Lamp (Amazon, \$30).

Next, yellow, and red-brown staining was applied to gingival 1/3, and interproximal areas repeating a 60 second cure after each application. Lastly, the final clear glaze and cure were added. If your custom shading is off at final placement, you can simply erase the staining by micro-etching and starting the process over (Figures 4 & 5).



Figure 4



Figure 5



CONCLUSION

Chairside customized temporary prostheses provide a highly effective and esthetically favorable interim restorative solution, particularly in the anterior region where visual outcomes are critical (Figures 6, 7, 8). Their effectiveness in complex clinical scenarios underscores their value as a versatile, reliable component of contemporary restorative dentistry.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Sincere appreciation is extended to Dr. Miles Cone for his encouragement in the development of this article. Dr. Stanley Beard is a participant in the Alabama Mastertrack Program, where, under Dr. Cone's instruction, the idea for this article was inspired following a class presentation. Dr. Cone's support played a key role in bringing this work to fruition.

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Student Chapter Updates

Maria Picado, Student Chapter President



(photo above) The D1 pizza lunch is where the student chapter shares what the AGD does and how that will benefit the students after graduation. Dr. Kramer and Dr. Myers gave a presentation about the organization, and Dr. Robles spoke on how it has benefited him to be a part of the AGD.

(photo above) For screenings at the Lovelady Center, Dr. Neumeier and Jael helped to set up the process and guide students in helping the residents at the Lovelady center. D4 students Zoe Karidis, Hilda Toth-Burjan, Nicol Ghobar and Maria Picado worked alongside D3/D2 students provide the oral cancer screenings and to help address the immediate dental needs of the residents .



(photo to the left) The Lovelady festival is an event the student chapter holds every year for the kids at the Lovelady Center. They volunteer with other organizations such as SNDA and HSDA and come together and have fun games for the kids while also speaking to parents about oral hygiene. Several D2-D4 students participated in this fun event.

(photo above) Some of the students at this event included Hanna Sepsick, Patterson White, Maria Picado, Zach Sutton, Lisa Gu, Zoe Karidis, Ian Wang, Crystal Estrada, Gabby Torres, and Gaby Campis.





A Hands-On Guide To Digital Dentures

Mastering Complete, Immediate, and Partial Restoration Workflows

Details:

April 10-11, 2026
8:30am - 5pm

Friday - 8 CEUS
Full Weekend 16 CEUs

Lecture & Hands-On

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AGD Mastertrack Credit Available

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UPCOMING EVENTS SUMMARY

April 10-11, 2026

A Hands-On Guide to Digital Dentures
UAB Dentistry - Birmingham, AL

June 24-27, 2026

AGD2026: National AGD Scientific Meeting
Caesar's Palace - Las Vegas, NV

September 10-12, 2026

Emerald Coast AGD
Annual Review of Dentistry
Hilton Sandestin in Florida

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