

Giving Thanks

At the time of this writing, we've just completed the Thanksgiving holiday, and our Christmas break is rapidly approaching. I just returned from a wonderful weekend with one set of grandkids in Boone, NC, where we've gone Christmas tree hunting (there are literally hundreds of choose-and-cut lots in the Allegheny County region of the NC mountains) for the past 7 years with the grandkids. Previously, we've hunted the elusive "perfect" Fraser fir trees in driving snow storms, in the rain, and in gorgeous weather (like this weekend—mid-60s, sunny, light breezes). We always get hot cocoa or hot apple cider, take the tree back to the grandkids' home and decorate it, build and decorate gingerbread houses, watch classic Christmas movies, have dinner together, and all-in-all, simply have a terrific time. This set of grandkids are 8, 6, and 4 (the oldest is a boy, and our first grandchild), and, as are all our grandkids, simply terrific.

Perhaps it's the age of the grandkids, or the fact that I really needed a break from the routine, but this year's tree hunting trip was absolutely exceptional, and one I'm very thankful for. And, it's given me pause to reflect on this past year, and on all the things I can be thankful for. I'm married to the love of my life, we have five great kids, and six terrific grandkids (with a seventh due mid-January), and our remaining parents and siblings are all in good health. I'm gainfully employed in a location and position that I absolutely love, and my commitments outside of my "day job" are all very fulfilling. I serve as editor of an ever-improving journal, and my dedication to the American College of Prosthodontists, the American Board

of Prosthodontics, the Academy of Prosthodontics, as well as to several other organizations, is unflinching. Many have commented as to how I get everything done in a schedule that is incredibly hectic—I only have to say that, when you love what you do, it's easy.

I'll also take this time to thank those individuals who have helped make one of my favorite things (sounds like the *Sound of Music*, doesn't it?), the *Journal of Prosthodontics*, such a success. In 2012, we received 523 new manuscripts, an all-time high for the second straight year. Without our incredibly adept Managing Editor, Ms. Alethea Gerding, my exceptional cadre of Section Editors, as well as our fabulous Editorial Review Board, serving as Editor of the journal would be much more difficult. And so, I give my sincere thanks to all of you who have worked tirelessly this year to continue making the *Journal of Prosthodontics* an excellent periodical, and one the College can be very proud of. And, thanks to all of you who have helped shape the journal over the past two-plus decades, and who make my job so fulfilling.

By the time you are reading this, spring will be close to peeking its head around the corner, so I hope that you, too, had a safe, relaxing, and joyous holiday season. I hope 2013 is off to a prosperous and wonderful start, and that the winter doldrums are beginning to melt away.

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