

I live in: Seattle, Wash.

I attended dental hygiene school at: Marquette University (distinguished alumna 1999) for my Bachelor of Science and went on to the University of Washington for my Master of Science in oral biology and certificate of clinical research

I became a dental hygienist because: I wanted to work in science and with people but also write and use my artistic skills (glory! I am doing it all!)

My current position as a dental hygienist is: self-employed as a dental hygiene educational consultant and dental science writer since I am also an oral biologist. I volunteer in tobacco cessation through my state and nationally through ADHA.

The thing I enjoy the most about being a dental hygienist is: making a difference to so many people that I might never meet with my writing.

The most gratifying thing I have accomplished as a dental hygienist is: putting the term 'dental hygiene diagnosis' in the dental dictionary (Mosby/Elsevier); check it out! Receiving the 2009 Johnson & Johnson/ADHA Award for Excellence in Dental Hygiene was not bad either...

The thing I would most like to accomplish as a dental hygienist in the future is: working more in the research aspect of dental hygiene and continuing to write, write, write!

My mentor: Marilyn Beck, BSDH, MEd, of Marquette University in Milwaukee, Wisc., who taught me how to teach and think as a clinician and scientist. I need to also include all my RDH "lister sistas" and fellows who keep me sane.

I believe the dental hygiene profession should concentrate the biggest part of its resources on this goal: working to increase the professionalism of our profession so that we can work unfettered as other health care professions do at this time.

The current trends affecting the practice of dental hygiene: The mechanics and related science are certainly changing, but let us not change our role in prevention and caring for our patients.

The key to solving the access to care problem in America: Allow dental hygienists to be the preventive professional in all aspects of health care as we know how to be.

The most important thing ADHA membership has done for me: It keeps me current to work with other like-minded professionals and makes me proud!

My advice to someone starting out in dental hygiene: Get to know many dental hygienists in all aspects of care to see where you fit in; the role you may end up with is not the role you started out at!



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**-Margaret J. Fehrenbach,
RDH, MS**

If someone is interested in finding out more about me or my job: Please contact me through my Web site at www.dhed.net.

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