

January - March 2024

Meet Our New RDDS Leaders: Dr. Joe Yancho, President and Dr. Cassie Lee, Vice President

Born and raised in Northern Michigan with deep roots in dental families, Drs. Joe Yancho and Cassie Lee embarked on their dental journeys at the University of Michigan, completing their undergraduate studies in 2014 and dental school in 2018. Following graduation, Dr. Yancho served five years on active duty with the U.S. Navy, stationed in Chicago, Japan, and San Diego. Now back in his hometown, he has joined his father Phil's practice at Yancho Family Dentistry. Dr. Lee, after three years in public health, became a partner at Suttons Bay Dental Center, where she practices alongside Dr. Steve Hall.

Beyond dentistry, Dr. Yancho finds joy in ice hockey, biking, and outdoor adventures with his wife Leah. Dr. Lee, on the other hand, enjoys hiking with her husband Derek and their two Labrador retrievers. Together, they are thrilled to contribute to the Resort District Dental Society board, giving back to the community they hold dear.

A heartfelt thank you goes to Drs. Brian Rathke and Sara Bergsma for their dedicated service and hard work at RDDS over the years!



Drs. Joe Yancho and Cassie Lee at their White Coat Ceremony in 2014



Drs. Phil Yancho, Joe Yancho, Cassie Lee, Bill Lee at Graduation in 2018



Drs. Joe Yancho, Hannah Yancho, and Derek Schmidt, Cassie Lee

Introducing the New 2024 RDDS Leadership Welcome New Officers!

- President: Dr. Joe Yancho
- Vice President: Dr. Cassie Lee
- Treasurer: Dr. Mark Krull
- Secretary: Dr. Kristen Guphill
- Communications: Dr. Maddy Stumpos
- New Dentist Liaison: Dr. Tom Brown
- CE: Drs. Spencer Crouch, Jennifer Barrod, and Tom Shoniker
- Social: Drs. Spencer Olson, Derek Schmidt, and Tom Brown
- Delegates: Drs. Kerry Kaysserian, Kyle Steward, Chris Stilwill, and Mark Krull

Highlights of the Annual Business Meeting

On November 13th, RDDS members gathered at the Filling Station for a successful event filled with new leadership announcements, celebratory cheers for another successful year, and engaging discussions. Notably, Ted Shuman II led a valuable session on financial planning for dentists, earning attendees 1 CE credit. The combination of business, camaraderie, and professional development made it a memorable and enriching occasion.



Family Feature: The Lee Legacy

In Resort District we're fortunate to have numerous legacy dental families. In this edition, we spotlight the remarkable Lee Family.

The Lee Dental Legacy started with the efforts of Dr. Bill Lee, the first in the family to embark on the path of dentistry. Dr. Bill states he doesn't recall what exactly prompted him to become a dentist, but remembered his orthodontist fondly and his Aunt Jane, who was a dental hygienist, along with his desire to join the healthcare profession. Dr. Bruce can recall exactly what inspired him to go into dentistry, his brother, Bill! He stated he lived with Bill when he moved to northern Michigan and saw what a great life he had as a dentist. Inspired by his passion, Dr. Bruce Lee joined the ranks, drawn not only by the allure of dentistry but also the beauty of Northern Michigan, a sentiment rooted in the cherished memories of visiting their Grandpa Carter by Crystal Lake. Both Bill and Bruce are grateful for the time spent with their grandfather Up North, where he taught them how to hunt and fish.

The Lee family's commitment to dentistry is evident in their family tree. The brothers Dr. Bill Lee and Dr. Bruce Lee are joined by Dr. Cassie Lee, Bill's daughter, married to Dr. Derek Schmidt. Dr. Carter Lee, Bruce's son, plans to take over his father's practice soon. Additionally, Dr. Bruce is married to Jennifer Lee (RDH), who works as a hygienist with Dr. Cassie Lee. This familial bond echoes shared professional experiences and a common dedication to enhancing oral health in Northern Michigan.

Dr. Bill Lee was the first dentist in the family and upon graduating from dental school in 1980, he decided to make Traverse City his home. He initially rented a space from another dentist but then moved to a remodeled home on 8th street. In addition, he was the first dentist to practice in Mesick and dedicated two to three days a week, gradually phasing it out as demand in Traverse City grew. Dr. Bill's commitment extended beyond the confines of traditional dental practice. In the early '80s, faced with the closure of Traverse City State Hospital, he stepped up to continue serving mentally and physically impaired patients who were relocated to foster homes across a five-county area. Recalling those years, he shared, "We had to put our patients at a regular OR bed, we didn't have a dental chair. We had mobile high speed, ultrasonic, and x-ray. I had to bring my own dental

assistant and a fishing tackle box full of dental instruments that I needed.” After many successful years in private practice, he sold his practice and started working for the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa Chippewa Indians. Dr. Bill Lee has also been very active with Victors for Veterans as well as volunteering for the new United Way Clinic.

Dr. Bruce Lee was inspired by his brother to pursue a career in dentistry stating, “ I applied to dental school because Bill became a dentist”. Following his graduation, Dr. Bruce rented a chair from Dr. Bill and Dr. Fred. His practice grew and he eventually acquired his own space in 2000. Dr. Bruce mentioned that he saw collaboration with Dr. Bill Lee, but despite the desire to build a new practice together, they ultimately pursued separate ventures due to the demands of burgeoning practices. Reflecting on this period, Dr. Bruce Lee reminisced, “We were just too busy. Bill bought Fred’s half of the building. We talked about the two of us building a new spot together with 8-10 ops but just didn’t do it.”

Beyond the confines of his practice, Dr. Bruce Lee’s impact reverberates through community initiatives. From crafting free mouth guards for Glen Lake Schools’ football team to longstanding volunteerism at the Munson Cleft Palate Clinic. Serving on the Board of Governors at the University of Michigan for three years and making significant donations alongside his brother for a recent university remodel exemplify his dedication to fostering growth within the academic sphere. Dr. Bruce is looking forward to his son, Dr. Carter Lee, moving back home. Expressing excitement about this generational transition, Dr. Bruce Lee shared that he is “excited to be able to share our family’s northern Michigan legacy with my son Carter who plans to move up here and take over my practice in the near future.”

The Lee Legacy Continued:



Bill and Cassie, Victors for Veterans



Bruce, Carter, Cassie at graduation in 2018



Dr. Bill Piskorowski, Cassie, Bill and Derek at graduation in 2018

For Dr. Cassie Lee, the decision to pursue dentistry was a natural progression, nurtured by the rich healthcare legacy of her family. Growing up surrounded by role models such as her father and uncle, dentistry became an appealing and desirable path. Recalling her early influences, she shared that “having role models like my dad and Uncle Bruce made dentistry seem pretty desirable.” Following her graduation from dental school, Cassie worked for a few years in public health. By the time Cassie decided to go to dental school, her dad, Bill, had already sold his practice and transitioned into his job as chief dentist at the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa Chippewa Indians.

After practicing in public health, Dr. Cassie joined Dr. Steve Hall up at Suttons Bay Dental Center. Cassie stated, “I am sad I never got to practice with my dad, but I think partnering with Steve Hall is the next best thing.” Dr. Cassie is married to Dr. Derek Schmidt who is the new chief dentist at the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians. Dr. Cassie Lee continues the Lee family’s tradition of community involvement and philanthropy as new vice president of the resort district dental society. Her work with the Victors for Veterans program during dental school, alongside her father, underscores a commitment to serving veterans and fostering community well-being. Speaking about her involvement, she noted, “During my time in dental school, I got to work with my dad through the Victors for Veterans program, which we really enjoyed.” Looking ahead, she stated, “I hope to find more ways to give back to my community in the future as well, just like my dad and uncle have been able to.”

When discussing their family, there is a sense of continuity, pride, and enthusiasm as the Lee family’s legacy in Northern Michigan is passed down through generations. In their collective wisdom, the Lee family shares advice for aspiring dentists. Dr. Bruce Lee emphasizes the greatness of the dental profession while Jennifer Lee imparts a crucial reminder—love for the

profession should be the driving force, not merely a desire to carry on the family legacy. Dr. Bill Lee echoes the sentiment, urging prospective dentists to pursue the career for its inherent merits—making a difference in people’s lives and enjoying a fulfilling career. Dr. Cassie Lee, drawing from her own experiences, advocates for thorough immersion in the dental field before making a commitment. Her advice encourages aspiring dentists to explore the profession firsthand and make decisions based on personal passion and fit rather than familial expectations. The united message underscores the importance of genuine passion and personal fulfillment in the pursuit of a career in dentistry.

As the Lee family’s enduring commitment to dental care is celebrated, their story serves as an inspiration for service. It’s not merely about dental procedures but about the countless smiles crafted, lives touched, and the community enriched by their presence. Dr. Bill Lee emphasizes the importance of treating people well in his perspective on core values passed down within the Lee family. He states, “having empathy, care, trust, and almost friendship with patients. Patients don’t know how great you are as a dentist. What they know is that you’re nice to them, how caring you are to them. You can be the best dentist in the world, but be a jerk, and they will never come back to you.”

The Lee family continues to leave their mark on Northern Michigan dentistry, putting the "Lee" in "Lee-gacy."

Resort District Dental Society

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