



The Diplomat

The American Board of Endodontics Newsletter
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The ABE 2014

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The President's Message

by Patrick E. Taylor, D.D.S.

I would like to extend congratulations from the entire Board to the 92 new Diplomates highlighted in this issue. We realize that the amount of work to accomplish this is considerable and the new Diplomates can be proud of their achievements. We realize that the hours of hard work involved not only the Candidates, but was augmented by mentors in their residency programs, help from the College of Diplomates, colleagues, business partners and staff, and supportive families.

The effort to achieve Diplomate status is tremendous, and is of great benefit to the specialty. Organized Dentistry is encouraging all specialties to increase the percentage of board certification in their field and we are working hard to achieve this goal. Diplomates report that the end result justified the effort and that completing the process made them better endodontists.

The number of Candidates taking the oral examination has averaged over 150 per year over the last three years. Moving the fall exam to the American Board of Orthodontics facility in Saint Louis has enabled the accommodation of the increased number of Candidates. The ten examination rooms allow us to give 40 exams per day. In February we also moved the spring exam to the ABO facility, examining 78 candidates, many of whom battled some horrendous weather to get there. This increase to two exams per year at the ABO increases our capacity to over 200 per year.

A special thank you to the many past directors who have volunteered their time to come back as examiners for the oral and case history portfolio examinations. We could not have expanded to the number of examinations that we currently give without these individuals who have battled the weather, schedule changes, unintended consequences of new procedures and various

glitches. They have been very supportive. It has been an honor to serve with individuals that I consider heroes of endodontics.



This spring the board launched the website for the new digital case history portfolio submission at <http://www.amboardendo.org>. Candidates now have the option of submitting their portfolios in either the traditional binder or online in the new digital format and we are encouraging all candidates to submit digitally. Yes, there will be some growing pains and some bumps in the road, but we very much appreciate your efforts. Our intent is to make the process easier. Many thanks to the Directors, past Directors and staff that have brought this project to fruition. A special thanks to Ivana Bevacqua for her tireless efforts to make it work.

Your American Board of Endodontics is striving to make the board process fair, inclusive, accessible, efficient, relevant and representative of modern endodontic practice. We want to encourage every endodontist to pursue certification.

Attention Candidates

You can now submit your Case History Exam online!
Visit www.amboardendo.org to register, download instructions and guidelines, and to submit your exam.
Questions?
Contact Ivana Bevacqua at ibevacqua@aae.org.

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Meet the New Diplomates

The main objective of each issue of *The Diplomat* newsletter is to recognize the achievement of each of our newly Board Certified members -- the newsletter is even named in their honor! In what has become a rite of passage for each new Diplomat, the ABE asks them to submit a short bio, a photo, and to answer to the following question: What does it mean to you to be a Diplomat? Congratulations to them all, and may their enlightening, thoughtful, humorous and inspiring words encourage us in all of our challenges.



Abdulaziz S. AbuMelha
Khamis Mushait, Saudi Arabia
Endodontic Program: New York University
Graduated: 6/30/2012
What does it mean to you to be a

Diplomate?

It means nothing can stop you from reaching your dreams except you! All my memories passed in front of me when I received the news of becoming a Diplomat. It was a rewarding moment for all the hard work. Simply, I am proud and honored to be a Diplomat.

Jeffrey M. Adcock
APO, AE
Endodontic Program: US Army Dental Activity, Ft Gordon
Graduated: 6/30/2011
What does it mean to you to be a Diplomat?



Becoming a Diplomat, for me, signifies I have achieved the pinnacle of my profession and reinforces the quality of my work and dedication to patient care.

Tareq Alali
Glen Allen, VA



Endodontic Program: Virginia Commonwealth University
Graduated: 6/30/2012
What does it mean to you to be a Diplomat?
 Achieving Diplomat

status reflects the excellent training I was fortunate to receive throughout my residency. It also recognizes the hard work and dedication that my specialty demands. My goal prior to joining my residency program was to become a Diplomat and I feel very content having achieved my goal so early in my career. Personally I feel that the board certification process has made me a better endodontist with a greater appreciation and deeper understanding of my field. I am very proud to be part of the association that keeps our specialty recognized.

Jason S. Allen
Orange Park, FL
Endodontic Program: Naval Postgraduate Dental School, Bethesda
Graduated: 6/30/2012
What does it mean to you to be a Diplomat?



Becoming a Diplomat exemplifies a lot of hard work and arrival to a destination which seemed impossible at one time. It symbolizes everything I strive for in patient care and reinforces the integrity I attempt to exemplify. As a clinician and Naval officer, this milestone reinforces my mentorship to fellow clinicians and colleagues. I am very thankful to everyone who guided, instructed and encouraged me along the way - both at the University of Texas, San Antonio and the Naval Postgraduate Dental School, Bethesda. Achieving Diplomat status is a huge honor, and it will be a constant reminder to strive for excellence. This milestone truly is the pinnacle of endodontic professionalism and reinforces commitment to lifelong learning. I especially want to thank my family – Mandy, Averie, and Aaron for their love, patience, and never-ending support.

Abdullah I. Alqaied
West Hartford, CT
Endodontic Program: University of Connecticut
Graduated: 6/30/2012
What does it mean for you to be a Diplomat?



Becoming a Diplomat has always been an achievement that I wanted to accomplish since I have joined the endodontic residency program in the University of CT - Health Center. It was an easy decision to pursue this status since the Endodontic Program at UConn prepared me very well for such an achievement. Preparing for three examinations solidified the bits and pieces of knowledge I have gained during the residency. These examinations helped me think, decide, and treat according the highest and most updated level of evidence. It is an honor to become a member of such an elite group of professionals.

Alireza Aminlari
Rochester Hills, MI
Endodontic Program: University of Michigan
Graduated: 6/30/2011
What does it mean to you to be a Diplomat?



I am delighted to become a proud Diplomat of the American Board of Endodontics. To be a Diplomat is a way to give back to your profession and to uphold a higher standard of care to my patients. I spent many long hours studying for the written and oral portions, and many more late nights putting together the cases. In the end, receiving the congratulations letter and the honor of becoming a Diplomat made it all worth it. I recommend any new endodontist to strive to achieve this goal. The more Diplomates we have, the more secure the future of our specialty will be.

Kevin H. Andrus
Highlands Ranch, CO
Endodontic Program: University of Florida
Graduated: 6/30/2011



Meet the New Diplomates

What does it mean to you to be a Diplomate?

I am very excited to be a Diplomate of the American Board of Endodontics. Achieving this goal means a great deal. Thank you to the program at The University of Florida for preparing me well, and thank you to the ABE!



David M. Baker
Santa Fe, NM
Endodontic

Program: Tufts University
Graduated: 6/30/2010

What does it mean to you to be a Diplomate?

Shortly after entering residency, I decided that board certification would be a part of my professional journey. Achieving the goal of becoming a Diplomate of the ABE gives me a sense of satisfaction and achievement. To my mentors and my colleagues, it demonstrates a commitment to provide the best patient care possible. The board certification process of study and self-critique is quite humbling. It was a very rewarding experience and one that I highly encourage others to pursue. It helps to hone and maintain excellent habits including: the habit of thorough documentation, the habit of providing a rationale for clinical procedures, and the habit of keeping up to date with basic and clinical research and applying these to daily practice.

Randy L. Ball
South Kingstown, RI

Endodontic Program: University of Washington
Graduated: 6/30/2012

What does it mean to you to be a Diplomate?

I made the goal to achieve board certification when I first started my residency at the University of Washington. I have grown personally and professionally more than I could have imagined as I have pursued this goal. The specialty of endodontics is strengthened by the board certification process. The intense study and careful patient management required in this pursuit have helped me develop critical thinking skills and a solid foundation



over which I can build my clinical practice. This translates into better clinical care for my patients and more confidence in my treatment decisions. I am so grateful for the support I have received in my journey to become a Diplomate. My program director, Dr. James Johnson, has been an example, a mentor, and a leader and I can't thank him enough for setting the bar high and encouraging me to succeed. Other faculty mentors and my mentors in the Navy have also provided countless hours of support and encouragement. Most importantly, I could not have achieved this goal without the loving support of my wife and children, whose love, patience, and understanding were unflinching. It's great to be a Diplomate!



Brooke Blicher
White River Junction, VT
Endodontic

Program: Tufts University
Graduated: 6/30/2009

What does it mean to you to be a Diplomate?

For me, Diplomate status means that I have done all that I can to be a true specialist. I feel confident that I can answer any patient or referring doctor's question either with the knowledge I have currently, or with my practiced abilities to turn to the literature and justify any decision. I am proud to be part of a profession that values these skills, and especially the cohort of endodontists that have taken this extra step.

Daniel J. Boehne
Laguna Niguel, CA
Endodontic

Program: VA Medical Center, Long Beach
Graduated: 6/30/2010

What does it mean to you to be a Diplomate?

It always feels good to reach such a hard-earned, long term goal. Becoming a Diplomate is a process that helps us to become the best endodontists we can be. The process helped to reinforce what I learned in residency as well as clinical practice. Being a Diplomate sets the stage for life-long learning and a commitment



to the specialty and our patients to be our best.



Eric D. Brown
APO, Ae
Endodontic

Program: Wilford Hall USAF Medical Center
Graduated: 6/30/2012

What does it mean to you to be a Diplomate?

Becoming a Diplomate means that I have achieved a goal I set for myself at the very beginning of my endodontic residency. My mentors prepared me extremely well to become board certified, and I want to thank them for their hard work and dedication. Without them I would not have been able to achieve this high honor. I would also like to thank my wife, Kelly, and three kids for supporting me as well as putting up with me while I completed the steps to become a Diplomate.

Mark A. Byron
Parkersburg, WV
Endodontic

Program: West Virginia University
Graduated: 6/1/1994

What does it mean to you to be a Diplomate?

I graduated from my endodontic program in June of 1994 making this my 20th anniversary. Although I passed the written examination right after my program, life events prevented me from completing within the allotted time period. I considered trying again, but dreaded starting from scratch. The recent change in the Board rules gave me the opportunity and desire to finish the process. The mentoring program available through the College of Diplomates was a tremendous help, especially for someone out of training so long. It is a tremendous sense of accomplishment to have finally completed the final part of this process. In addition to being in full time private practice, I am a part-time instructor at WVU's Endodontic residency program. I now have the credentials and experience to give back to the school where I trained.



Meet the New Diplomates

Derek Chu
Redlands, CA
Endodontic
Program: Temple University
Graduated: 6/30/2007



What does it mean to you to be a Diplomate?

It is truly an honor to be considered a Diplomate by the ABE. Being a Diplomate represents to me a commitment to continuous learning. The knowledge and experience gained through the certification process has given me a solid foundation for my career going forward. I'm grateful for all the faculty and mentors who have guided me through the exam process, and I'm thankful for all my family and friends who have supported and encouraged me through the whole process.

Callee Cosby Clark
Columbus, MS
Endodontic
Program: University of Texas at San Antonio
Graduated: 6/30/2011



What does it mean to you to be a Diplomate?

Becoming a Diplomate means that I have fulfilled my promise to both myself and my mentors to obtain the highest level of achievement that our specialty offers. Obtaining Diplomate status is definitely a group effort! I am thankful for my professors and mentors for their dedication to our specialty; I am thankful for my co-residents for their support and encouragement; and I am very thankful to my family for their excitement through this process.

knowing that the hard work, time, and effort put into the board certification process culminated into becoming a Diplomate. Reaching the pinnacle of our specialty shows that as a Diplomate, I have made a commitment to life-long learning through evidence-based knowledge in our field.



Arthur L. Cole
Clarksville, TN
Endodontic
Program: US Army Dental Activity, Ft Gordon
Graduated: 6/1/1986

What does it mean to you to be a Diplomate?

Board Certification means to me that I am able to provide the best treatment available to my patients. I am grateful to those who helped me achieve this goal, especially Dr. Carl W. Newton.

Michael R. Cotter
Mamaroneck, NY
Endodontic
Program: New York University
Graduated: 6/1/2003



What does it mean to you to be a Diplomate?

First off, I want to thank my wonderful wife Chrissy for her unconditional support throughout this process. Becoming a Diplomate has enabled me to be much more thorough throughout my thought process when examining and treating my patients. The review and preparation of the management of the medically compromised patient was critical and has changed the way I practice endodontics today. I am proud to be a Diplomate and encourage others to strongly consider taking the path to becoming a Diplomate.



Jamie M. Day
Bridgeport, WV
Endodontic
Program: West Virginia University
Graduated: 6/30/2006

What does it mean to you to be a Diplomate?

Becoming a board certified endodontist has been a personal and professional goal since I started my graduate program. For me, it was a commitment I made to my patients, my colleagues, and myself to work towards the highest level of professional excellence. I have much pride in this accomplishment and will dedicate my career to uphold the honor of being a Diplomate of the ABE.

Becoming a board

certified endodontist has been a personal and professional goal since I started my graduate program. For me, it was a commitment I made to my patients, my colleagues, and myself to work towards the highest level of professional excellence. I have much pride in this accomplishment and will dedicate my career to uphold the honor of being a Diplomate of the ABE.

Allen D. Colic
Seattle, WA
Endodontic
Program: Case Western Reserve University
Graduated: 6/1/2005



What does it mean to you to be a Diplomate?

The board certification process is arduous and challenging especially when balancing practice and family commitments. However, that is the same reason that makes it extremely gratifying and fulfilling once you achieve it. Not only are you practicing at the highest level for your patients but you also prove to your family and colleagues that you strive to be the best!

Mark B. Desrosiers
Columbia, CT
Endodontic
Program: Boston University
Graduated: 6/30/2006



What does it mean to you to be a Diplomate?

Becoming a Diplomate is a journey. The written examination was a very comprehensive review of the sciences covered in my residency. While the process of writing up the cases was tedious, the growth in my abilities during the process was rewarding. Studying for the orals was time consuming but enjoyable. Reviewing and learning/relearning the literature after being out a few years really helps you understand why we do what we do. No doubt, I am a better endodontist because I went through the process. While it is an accomplishment worth celebrating, it is but a step in my journey of continuous improvement.



Taylor P. Cotton
Bryan, TX
Endodontic
Program: University of Texas at San Antonio
Graduated: 6/30/2008

What does it mean to you to be a Diplomate?

To me there is great gratification in

Meet the New Diplomates

Adam J. Diliberto
Lebanon, IL
Endodontic Program: Saint Louis University
Graduated: 6/30/2008



Hung K. Do
Elk Grove, CA
Endodontic Program: Temple University
Graduated: 6/1/2005
What does it mean to you to be a Diplomate?
 Being a Diplomate

is an acknowledgement to all my previous instructors and mentors that their dedication to teaching has inspired me to continue learning.

Derek J. Duggan
Chapel Hill, NC
Endodontic Program: University of North Carolina
Graduated: 6/30/2008
What does it mean to you to be a Diplomate?



Being a Diplomate gives me the sense that I am doing what I can to support our specialty. All endodontists are more than capable of board certification, if they put their minds to it. Board certification also strengthens our mandate to maintain our independently recognized specialty. The question is not why do it, but why not do it? Go and do it!



Jeffrey N. Dzingle
Ypsilanti, MI
Endodontic Program: University of Michigan
Graduated: 6/30/2011
What does it mean to you to be a Diplomate?

Becoming a Diplomate of the American Board of Endodontics has been a great honor for me. Though it has taken a lot of hard work and dedication to become a Diplomate, it has also been very rewarding knowing that I have accomplished each

step of this process to become board certified. I decided to go through this process because it would only strengthen my knowledge and skill level so I could treat my patients to the highest level of care. Even though I have accomplished the great honor, my goal is to never stop learning new advances in our profession so I can always maintain the highest level of expertise for my patients.



Jonathan C. Ee
Aurora, ON Canada
Endodontic Program: University of Illinois at Chicago
Graduated: 6/30/2012
What does it mean to you to be a Diplomate?

Being a Diplomate reminds me that there is something greater than my own career and goals. That I helped put the specialty and quality of work first. It is a great honor to be surrounded by such an amazing group of individuals who help shape and guide our specialty towards knowledge and excellence.

Michael B. Elliott
Rockville, MD
Endodontic Program: University of Florida
Graduated: 6/30/2012

Mohammed A. Elseed
Tempe, AZ
Endodontic Program: Nova Southeastern University
Graduated: 6/30/2007



What does it mean to you to be a Diplomate?
 The pursuit of Diplomate status helped boost my confidence when I am treating patients. Being a Diplomate means maintaining high standards of clinical practice and as a result, providing patients with the best service possible at all times. Becoming a Diplomate was a tough and long journey, but it was definitely worth it.

Hadi H. Faras Safat, Kuwait
Endodontic Program: Loma Linda University
Graduated: 6/30/2012



James R. Farrar Ruston, LA
Endodontic Program: Louisiana State University
Graduated: 6/30/2007
What does it mean to you to be a Diplomate?
 ABE Diplomate

status represents the pinnacle of our profession. We, as dental practitioners, owe it to ourselves, our specialty, and most importantly, our patients to be the best we can be by providing ideal endodontic care. Board certification is a great honor, personally, and has made all the long hours of preparation worthwhile.



Tawana D. Feimster
Arlington, VA
Endodontic Program: University of Maryland
Graduated: 6/30/2006
What does it mean to you to be a Diplomate?

It gives me a sense of pride and accomplishment to reach the pinnacle of this profession. By maintaining discipline, dedication, determination and most importantly faith, this accomplishment shows that all things are possible. This achievement increases my responsibility to provide the best care through evidence-based dentistry, contribute to endodontic research and inspire others to strive to become Diplomates. I'm grateful for all the mentors I've had throughout this journey with special thanks to Dr. Fouad, Dr. Hicks, Dr. Patty Tordik, Dr. Kim Menhinick and my family.

Meet the New Diplomates



Natasha M. Flake
Seattle, WA
Endodontic Program: University of Washington
Graduated: 6/30/2007
What does it mean to you to be a Diplomate?

Being a Diplomate is certainly an honor. After having gone through the process, I view it not as an endpoint, but as a call to continually challenge myself to stay current, think about the science of endodontics, and translate this knowledge into clinical practice. The knowledge base of the field has grown so much, but this only highlights how much we have yet to learn. I am extremely grateful to my Program Director and Chair, Dr. James Johnson, for instilling high standards, for leading by example, and for his support throughout the process of becoming a Diplomate.

Robert F. Gatti
Lawrence, KS
Endodontic Program: Texas A&M University Baylor College of Dentistry
Graduated: 6/30/2011

David L. Hadley
Albuquerque, NM
Endodontic Program: Virginia Commonwealth University
Graduated: 6/30/2008
What does it mean to you to be a Diplomate?



I am very happy to have achieved this long time goal. I am grateful to the wonderful professors, mentors, and friends who have helped me along the way. It is a privilege to be associated with such incredible individuals.

Sarah Heward
Portland, OR
Endodontic Program: Oregon Health & Science University
Graduated: 6/30/2010

Anita A. Hoelscher
Centennial, CO
Endodontic Program: Marquette University
Graduated: 6/1/2005
What does it mean to you to be a Diplomate?

Becoming a Diplomate is exciting and means fulfilling personal and professional goals. I have long admired fellow colleagues that have pursued and achieved board certification and I am thrilled to join the club. Thank you to my mentors, family and friends for supporting me through the process. Here's to being a lifelong learner!



Richard K. Howard
Benton, LA
Endodontic Program: Wilford Hall USAF Medical Center
Graduated: 6/30/2011
What does it mean to you to be a Diplomate?

To be a Diplomate fills me with a great sense of accomplishment. By going through the certification process, studying the historical literature and keeping abreast of current research, I am confident that I can provide patients with the best care possible. At the same time I am overwhelmed with gratitude to be counted among those who honor their profession by striving for excellence. To be a colleague of those who have mentored me is humbling, as I owe so much to them for their patience and dedication. I am also indebted to my wife and children for their unwavering love and support.

Haris Iqbal
Indianapolis, IN
Endodontic Program: Indiana University
Graduated: 6/30/2011
What does it mean to you to be a Diplomate?



I am thrilled to have achieved Diplomate status in our specialty. I could not have done this without the support of my family, and my mentors. I



would like to personally thank Dr. Spolnik, Dr. Newton, Dr. Vail, Dr. Legan and Dr. Stuart for being so encouraging throughout this process. It is a great honor and I feel it is important that we strengthen the future of our specialty through board certification. I will strongly urge new endodontists to pursue board certification as the process has been immensely streamlined.

Christopher J. Joubert
Stony Brook, NY
Endodontic Program: Stony Brook State University of New York
Graduated: 6/30/2012



What does it mean to you to be a Diplomate?
Becoming a Diplomate is special in so many ways. The process of board certification takes you on a journey that truly changes who you are as an individual, a professional, a clinician, and an educator. However, it is the entire collection of Diplomates that helps to make our specialty stronger and quite honestly – special. This is a process that gives you a full appreciation of the history of our specialty as well as contemporary endodontic science. Both as a clinician and educator, I feel that I can offer my patients and students a service that meets the highest standards, fully adapting evidence based literature and modern science. I do not look at board certification as the end, rather a platform only to build on. While achieving Diplomate status is incredibly rewarding, it has also been a humbling experience with the realization that there is always more to learn. I would like to thank my family and wife Alyson for their wonderful support. I would also like specially thank Drs. George Bruder and Randolph Todd. Without your guidance this might not have been possible. You have and continue be the mentors, colleagues, and friends that I only hope I could be to future aspiring Diplomates.

Meet the New Diplomates



Gerald P. Kaban
Vacaville, CA
Endodontic
Program: Texas
 A&M University
 Baylor College of
 Dentistry
Graduated:
 6/30/2009
What does it mean
to you to be a

Diplomate?

Attaining board status is an amazingly rewarding accomplishment that I hope everyone in the process will continue to strive for that commitment. I look back and am so grateful to all my instructors and mentors who have encouraged me to make the commitment. As many have commented before me that attaining board status is not an ends to a mean but acknowledgement that you are committed to a lifetime of learning and sharing to be the best.

Valerie M. Kanter
Encino, CA
Endodontic Program: University of
 Florida
Graduated: 6/30/2010

Steven J. Katz
Beachwood, OH
Endodontic
Program: Ohio
 State University
Graduated:



6/1/1988
What does it mean
to you to be a
Diplomate?

Becoming a Diplomate is the culmination of many years of hard work. Not only with dental school and my residency, but also my twenty-five years of practice before I decided to follow the path to board certification. The tests and case submissions challenged me more than two decades away from my schooling. But for me, rather than an ending it has become a beginning: an opportunity to treat disease in a new light, to view the literature more open-mindedly and to evaluate the science of dentistry, specifically endodontics, with objectivity that I never had before. Becoming boarded has opened my eyes and re-trained my mind to the science of endodontics. Each morning as I enter my office I think about how lucky I am to be doing what I do but I also think about my responsibility. I have

reached the pinnacle in our profession and feel an obligation to represent it as such.

A.L. Christopher
Kayafas
Fairlawn, OH
Endodontic
Program: West
 Virginia University
Graduated:
 6/1/1999
What does it mean
to you to be a
Diplomate?



The process of becoming a Diplomate has been a fulfilling experience. After being in private practice for over 14 years, the thought of tackling the boards often seemed insurmountable. However, getting back into active learning proved to be a rewarding and meaningful undertaking that impacted the way I practice. One of my objectives was to show my children the importance of dedication and discipline necessary to achieve a meaningful goal.



Mohamed Kayali
Hingham, MA
Endodontic
Program: Boston
 University
Graduated:
 6/30/2006
What does it mean
to you to be a
Diplomate?

I feel proud and honored to be an endodontist. Finally years of hard work has paid off. Going through the board certification process enhanced my knowledge and allowed me to provide my patients with evidence-based treatment. Achieving Diplomate status is definitely not the end of the road; rather it shows one's commitment to a never-ending learning process.

Deborah C. Knaup
Rochester, MN
Endodontic
Program:
 University of
 Minnesota
Graduated:
 6/1/2005
What does it mean
to you to be a
Diplomate?



It has been my personal goal to become board certified since joining the Endodontic

Program at Minnesota in 2003. I finally stopped making excuses and just did it! It has been the most rewarding accomplishment in my career. To review the literature in such depth after practicing for nine years has made me feel like I have such a deeper, richer understanding of the art and science of endodontics than I did as a new graduate. I would highly encourage anyone who has been "putting off" the process to pursue board certification. I think it also speaks volumes to referring doctors and patients about your dedication to excellence. I feel very blessed and honored to be a part of this profession and I hope that in becoming board certified I have done my small part to strengthen our profession. I would like to thank my family for their support and patience during this process. I would like to thank all the faculty at the University of Minnesota, and especially thanks to Drs. Donna Mattscheck and Alan Law. Since I was an undergraduate dental student you have encouraged me and led by example of what an exceptional clinician, teacher, friend and mentor can be. Thank you also to Dr. Scott McClanahan. Although I was not one of your residents you were incredibly supportive of this Minnesota Alum during the entire process. Thank you!

Gregory J. Kolber
Sacramento, CA
Endodontic Program: University of
 California, Los Angeles
Graduated: 6/30/2010

Harish Koratkar
Eagan, MN
Endodontic
Program:
 University of Illinois
 at Chicago
Graduated:
 6/30/2012
What does it mean
to you to be a
Diplomate?



Being a Diplomate is a great honor and a source of immense pride for not only me but for my family since this accomplishment is a combined effort of many individuals. It is a culmination of one journey and beginning of a new where I carry with me a renewed sense of responsibility. Choosing a career in Endodontics requires a lot of hard work along with dedication and being a Diplomate signifies a life-long commitment

Meet the New Diplomates

to our specialty. I recognize and acknowledge all my mentors and teachers at University of Illinois at Chicago who have helped me to achieve this goal, in particular Dr. Wenckus and Dr. Johnson.

Darin C. Lee
Edwards, CO

Endodontic Program: University of Southern California
Graduated: 6/30/2006



Mark A. Limosani
Miami, FL
Endodontic Program: Nova Southeastern University
Graduated: 6/30/2011

What does it mean to you to be a Diplomate?

My Diplomate status demonstrates one of many steps in a journey of professional self-reflection and dedication.

Michael P. Lowery
Southaven, MS
Endodontic Program: Tufts University

Graduated: 6/30/2006

What does it mean to you to be a Diplomate?

It means I've reached the mountain top of my profession. It's a great feeling of achievement, pride and satisfaction. The process was long and difficult, but truly worth it. I believe this accomplishment signifies dedication and determination and a desire to be the best for yourself and your specialty.



John R. Lundstrom
Dubuque, IA
Endodontic Program: University of Iowa
Graduated: 6/30/2009

What does it mean to you to be a Diplomate?

To me, the achievement of Diplomate status in the American Board of

Endodontics gives me a sense of not personal, but combined accomplishment with the knowledge that without the support and help of my mentors and associates, I would have never accomplished the task at hand. The achievement is particularly meaningful to me because I have fulfilled a commitment to the faculty at my Endodontic Program at the University of Iowa. Additionally, I feel satisfied that I am able to help the profession by increasing the percentage of endodontists who have attained board certification.

Joseph Luzzo
Washington Crossing, PA

Endodontic Program: Rutgers School of Dental Medicine
Graduated: 6/30/2010

Matthew Malek
New York, NY
Endodontic Program: New York University
Graduated: 6/30/2011

What does it mean to you to be a Diplomate?

One of the most rewarding aspects of our profession is the ability to serve others. Being an endodontist provides me with an exceptional opportunity to be part of an elite group of healthcare professionals who help to relieve others' pain and put a smile on their faces. To quote a contemporary philosopher, "It is everyone's duty to be useful in society." Being a Diplomate of the American Board of Endodontics is not only a true honor bestowed upon me by the most qualified and well-respected practitioners in my field, it is also a public recognition of my achievements in the field of endodontics and further allows me to fulfill my duty in society.



Chris M. Maltezos
Mount Pleasant, SC

Endodontic Program: Texas A&M University Baylor College of Dentistry
Graduated: 6/30/2005

What does it mean to you to be a Diplomate?



Becoming a Diplomate of the American Board of Endodontics has been the most rewarding accomplishment of my career. The journey was challenging (especially while in private practice and with three young children) but the overall process made me strive to become a better clinician and mentor while remaining more knowledgeable in my field. It has helped me look at clinical cases and patient management scenarios with even more depth and scrutiny while remaining confident in my decisions. I'm motivated to stay current with the research in my field, incorporating cutting-edge technologies, instrumentation protocols and various techniques into my everyday practice. My curiosity and devotion to the field of Endodontics has grown, and will continue to grow, all the more thanks to this critical step in my career. I now have even more confidence that I am delivering the best and most up-to-date care for my patients. Furthermore, as Diplomates with a strong evidence-based approach, it is up to us to lend a critical ear to change and help push Endodontics to new horizons.

Blake W. McRay
Larkspur, CA

Endodontic Program: University of Washington
Graduated: 6/30/2012

Aye Min
Vacaville, CA
Endodontic Program: University of Southern California

Graduated: 6/1/2001

What does it mean to you to be a Diplomate?

Becoming a Diplomate is a great achievement that I can be proud of. I am fortunate to have the opportunity to successfully complete the board examination, which would not have been possible without the support and understanding of my wife, Mu. I would also like to thank my friends and colleagues for their guidance and support. Studying for the oral examination and gaining an increased depth of knowledge has been most valuable to me.



Meet the New Diplomates

Ross P. Mitchell
Albany, OR
Endodontic Program: Oregon Health & Science University
Graduated: 6/30/2011



Stephen H. Moore
Cuyahoga Falls, OH
Endodontic Program: West Virginia University
Graduated: 6/1/2002
What does it mean to you to be a Diplomate?

To me, achieving Diplomate status means reaching the pinnacle of our profession. It has been a personal goal of mine ever since I completed my residency. The process of becoming board certified was a very humbling and challenging endeavor and I learned a great deal along the way. I am extremely thankful and proud of this accomplishment and I would recommend that everyone consider pursuing board certification. There are many study aids and resources to help you along the way.

Nicklaus A. Morton
San Francisco, CA
Endodontic Program: University of Florida
Graduated: 6/30/2010



Royeen Nesari
San Francisco, CA
Endodontic Program: University of Pennsylvania
Graduated: 6/30/2008
What does it mean to you to be a Diplomate?
 Becoming a

Diplomate is both an achievement and honor that I share with my beautiful family, wonderful staff, and dedicated colleagues. The mentors I have had over the years at the University of Pennsylvania, the University of California, San Francisco, and my online endodontic discussion group, have pushed me to improve with each patient and to deliver the best possible endodontic care to the people in my community.



Peter S. Ok
Boston, MA
Endodontic Program: Harvard School of Dental Medicine
Graduated: 6/30/2011
What does it mean to you to be a Diplomate?

It means the lifelong commitment and dedication to the highest quality of endodontic treatments and continuous learning process. I am extremely grateful for my professor and endodontic director at Harvard, Dr. Robert White, for his strong support and guidance. Under his generous leadership at Harvard, I have had great privileges to learn and teach with excellent faculty and residents. Also, I'd like to thank my wife and parents for the unconditional love and trust.

David G. Olson
Olympia, WA
Endodontic Program: US Army Dental Activity, Ft Gordon
Graduated: 6/30/2007

Nancy H. Osborne
Camp Lejeune, NC
Endodontic Program: Naval Postgraduate Dental School, Bethesda
Graduated: 6/30/2011
What does it mean to you to be a Diplomate?



I am tremendously relieved and honored to be recognized as a new Diplomate by the ABE. Diplomate status reinforces my commitment to our specialty and to life-long evidence-based learning. Board certification was a challenging and rewarding process, one which I could not have achieved without the encouragement of my mentors. I am especially grateful to CAPT (ret) Patricia Tordik, CAPT Terry Webb, CAPT (ret) John Allemang and my family for their guidance and support.

Gardiner M. Packer
Moseley, VA
Endodontic Program: Virginia Commonwealth University
Graduated: 6/30/2008

Jiten B. Patel
Seattle, WA
Endodontic Program: Case Western Reserve University
Graduated: 6/1/2005

Loken M. Patel
Washington, DC
Endodontic Program: Rutgers School of Dental Medicine
Graduated: 6/30/2011
What does it mean to you to be a Diplomate?

A great sense of accomplishment! The process has helped me in putting all that I've learned together. I'd like to thank Dr. Gary Hartwell in giving me the education and motivation to achieve this goal.



Rekha Pawar
Wallingford, CT
Endodontic Program: University of Connecticut
Graduated: 6/30/2011
What does it mean to you to be a Diplomate?



Becoming a Diplomate is hopefully the beginning of a long and fulfilling journey through clinical endodontic practice. The board certification process has been an invaluable learning experience. The lessons learned during my residency, and reviewed repeatedly through the certification process will continue to help me approach each patient with a foundation of basic knowledge, with humility, and a drive for lifelong learning. Importantly, none of this would have been possible without the consistent support and encouragement I received from my family, and the UConn Endo family.



Mark T. Phillips
Duluth, MN
Endodontic Program: University of Minnesota
Graduated: 6/30/2011
What does it mean to you to be a Diplomate?

Meet the New Diplomates

After working in private practice, I encountered many challenging clinical situations. The three steps of the board certification process provided an opportunity to examine these scenarios using the literature. The certification process has assisted me in becoming a better clinician. Being a Diplomate means having a solid staging point from which to continue my education in endodontics. I am appreciative of my mentors in endodontics, and especially thank the professors at the University of Minnesota.

Rebecca S. Prescott
Chicago, IL
Endodontic Program: University of Illinois at Chicago
Graduated: 6/30/2007



Reid V. Pullen
Brea, CA
Endodontic Program: VA Medical Center, Long Beach
Graduated: 6/30/2006
What does it mean to you to be a Diplomate?

I feel honored and humbled to join this exceptional group of endodontists. Becoming a Diplomate means that I have achieved the highest level in my specialty field. I feel that the Diplomate process has increased my endodontic knowledge and has encouraged me to continue to be a lifelong student. I am excited to finally achieve Diplomate status.

Richard L. Raymond
Atlanta, GA
Endodontic Program: Nova Southeastern University
Graduated: 6/30/2011
What does it mean to you to be a Diplomate?



Achieving Diplomate status is the culmination of many years of hard work and represented the next step in my education following completion of endodontic residency. I would like to thank all of my mentors and faculty members who helped guide me through the process.



Mathew J. Royal
Duluth, MN
Endodontic Program: University of Iowa
Graduated: 6/30/2006
What does it mean to you to be a Diplomate?

The culmination of hard work, dedication and striving to be the best endodontist one can be. I would like to thank all of my mentors that graciously provided their time and effort in helping me achieve this goal.

Kyle J. Saisselin
Fairport, NY
Endodontic Program: University at Buffalo State University of New York
Graduated: 6/30/2011
What does it mean to you to be a Diplomate?



Becoming a Diplomate required me to take my education and clinical skills to a higher level. Excellence in clinical care and knowledge of the latest advancements, while being rooted in the fundamentals of endodontics form the basis of a Diplomate. Upholding the title of Diplomate is a responsibility that requires constant maintenance. What is standard of care today may change suddenly as new research becomes available. The challenge to those who have earned the title of Diplomate is to uphold the high standards that have been set by those before us. I am honored to join my colleagues in endodontics in the latest class of Diplomates.

Steven J. Schmoltd
Yokota Air Base, Japan
Endodontic Program: Wilford Hall USAF Medical Center
Graduated: 6/30/2011



What does it mean to you to be a Diplomate?
 Becoming a Diplomate was an investment in myself to be the best endodontist

possible. I have learned that this journey has no end! This privilege demands a life-long commitment to learning and improving to ensure the highest level of care for our patients based on the ever-changing science and evidence upon which we base our decisions. Thanks to the many mentors who helped me achieve this goal, especially Drs. Kirkpatrick, Yaccino and Schindler. Most of all, thanks to my wife and kids for joining me on this ride! Cheers!



Nicholas D. Schulte
APO, Ae
Endodontic Program: Wilford Hall USAF Medical Center
Graduated: 6/30/2012
What does it mean to you to be a

Diplomate?

Becoming a Diplomate of the ABE is the fulfillment of years of hard work and dedication to achieving excellence in the art and science of Endodontics both clinically and academically. I'd like to express my gratitude to the staff of the US Air Force Endodontics Residency at Lackland AFB (Drs. T. Kirkpatrick and J. Yaccino), Dr. Bill Schindler, and the staff at UTHSCSA (Drs. K. Hargreaves, F. Teixeira, and A. Diogenes) for the training and mentorship they provided during and after residency to help me achieve this high goal. I'd also like to thank my wife, Heather, and my family for their dedication and support through this process.



John W. Shamul
Babylon, NY
Endodontic Program: Columbia University
Graduated: 6/1/1992
What does it mean to you to be a Diplomate?

Relieved, elated, and grateful. This has been a dream of mine for many years. Many of my friends had gone through the process but for several reasons I never got started. Speaking to the more mature clinicians I felt intimidated relearning all the basic sciences after going through my residency program 20 years earlier. I am always

Meet the New Diplomates

willing to push myself out of my comfort zone to achieve a worthwhile goal. This was a hurdle that many recent graduates had accomplished so why not me? It was a bit discouraging not passing the oral exam the first time so I said I just had the greatest mock oral somebody could ask for. Just take it again till you pass, just never quit! You all can do this if I can.

Howard J. Sorensen
Yuma, AZ
Endodontic Program:

University of Iowa
Graduated:
6/30/2007

What does it mean to you to be a Diplomate?

Becoming a Diplomate was more than just the next step in my career; it is a commitment to my profession to not only achieve but to maintain the highest level of academic and clinical excellence. Having reached such a milestone has been both rewarding and humbling. I am honored to have achieved board certification, however I know that the opportunity for growth continues every day. I want to thank Drs. William T Johnson, Anne Williamson and Matt Tonioli, for their example, leadership and commitment to their profession.



Joseph D. Spires
Bedford, IN
Endodontic Program:

Indiana University
Graduated:
6/1/2002

What does it mean to you to be a Diplomate?

Achieving Diplomate status means that I understand that I am not and will never be the perfect endodontist. It means that I have committed myself to strive to achieve the highest level of knowledge and skill possible in order to provide the highest possible quality of care to my patients. The Board has really changed the exam quite a bit over the last few years to make it more easily attainable. I would strongly encourage anyone who is considering taking the exam to take the plunge and do it now. There are plenty of study aids and mentors available to help. I have been

blessed to have had mentors at Indiana University School of Dentistry like Drs. Brown, Newton, Spolnik, Legan, Adams and Deardorf to impress upon me the importance of pursuing this endeavor, not only as a clinician, but also as a person. My good friends Krie Brasseale, Mychel Vail, Curt Warren and Charlie Hine helped so much and made this process enjoyable. I only wish that I would have started sooner! Ultimately, I could not have achieved this without the work ethic I learned from watching my wife, Shannon, while we were in high school and college. The support I received from her and our three kids was invaluable and I can't thank them enough for being so special to me.



Scott J. Starley
Spokane, WA
Endodontic Program:

University of Washington
Graduated:
6/30/2006

What does it mean to you to be a Diplomate?

As a Diplomate, I feel it is my responsibility to continually evaluate new research and techniques in order to practice endodontics based on the best available evidence. It has been a goal of mine to become a Diplomate from the time I started my postgraduate endodontic training. This goal has influenced every aspect of how I practice endodontics. The case history portfolios require very thorough evaluation, documentation, and treatment. This has helped me try to develop a system of patient care that meets that high standard. It is rewarding to have passed the exams and feel that the work and sacrifice required were rewarded. Achieving Diplomate status gives me a great sense of accomplishment and relief. We all have many demands on our time and finding the time to study or compile the case portfolio requires sacrifice. Because of the sacrifice, completion of the board certification process was very satisfying.

Sheila E. Stover
Brookfield, WI
Endodontic Program:

Marquette University
Graduated:
6/1/2003

What does it mean to you to be a Diplomate?

Above all of the academic achievements that I have had the privilege to complete, I am most proud and appreciative of attaining Diplomate status with the American Board of Endodontics. We all have a responsibility to advance and strengthen our profession and achieving Diplomate status is a way that I can contribute to this goal. As a full-time educator, the board process has helped me to adjust my teaching style to take a progressive view and to have treatment philosophies that are based on science. I couldn't be happier.



Shalini Tewary
Clifton, NJ
Endodontic Program:

Rutgers School of Dental Medicine
Graduated:
6/30/2010

What does it mean to you to be a Diplomate?

During my endodontic residency at UMDNJ I set a goal for myself, which was to become a Diplomate of the American Board of Endodontics. Now that I have achieved this goal, I feel a tremendous sense of accomplishment and pride. I am glad that years of hard work and dedication have come to successful fruition. I feel privileged to be a member of the Diplomate community. Achieving this status has given me the confidence to be a better clinician and provide the highest level of care for my patients. I would like to thank Dr. Gary Hartwell for his perseverance and help throughout the process. I would not have been able to complete this without him.

Meet the New Diplomates

Blayne E. Thibodeau
Saskatoon, SK
Canada

Endodontic Program:
University of North Carolina
Graduated:
6/1/2006



What does it mean to you to be a Diplomate?

Being a Diplomate to me is validation for the time and effort I have put into my education and the way I practice endodontics. Reaching the end of the board certification process brings a feeling of relief; but also a sense of accomplishment and a feeling that I have finally completed the final requirement of my residency program. We were always encouraged during residency to pursue board certification, and I am glad that I have now gone through the process. The pursuit of knowledge is one of the main reasons I returned to graduate school, and I see it as a lifelong commitment and responsibility. The board certification process is a way to re-affirm one's knowledge. I also see it as a way to honour my instructors for the time and dedication they put into my own education. I share this reward with my family, who sacrificed their time with me so that I could pursue this goal.

Ryan M. Tigrett
Fort Lauderdale, FL

Endodontic Program: Nova Southeastern University
Graduated: 6/30/2011



Anita K. Tomkoria
Newport Beach, CA

Endodontic Program:
University of Southern California
Graduated:
6/30/2010

What does it mean to you to be a

Diplomate?

Becoming a Diplomate is a culmination of my academic and clinical experience to provide the highest level of endodontic care to my patients.

Kenny T. Tran
San Diego, CA

Endodontic Program: Loma Linda University
Graduated:
6/30/2012

What does it mean to you to be a Diplomate?

Being a Diplomate gives me great sense of personal and professional achievement. A Diplomate status is the pinnacle of the specialty and the commitment to treating patients at the very highest level of care, clinically and ethically. Board Certification is a challenging process but achievable within 1 year post-graduation! I am grateful to have learned and trained from some of the best (Drs. Torabinejad and Bakland). I'd like to thank the Navy Dental Program for the post-graduate training opportunity and their support. Also, I'd like to express my profound appreciation to endodontic faculty, colleagues, and staff at Loma Linda University. Most importantly, I could not have accomplished this highest honor without the support and sacrifices of my wife, Lily, and two daughters, Kat and Jackie.



Jerald F. Turner
Bossier City, LA

Endodontic Program: Louisiana State University
Graduated:
6/30/2007

What does it mean to you to be a Diplomate?

I'm very proud of my

accomplishment. I think we owe it to our specialty to become board certified. This is something that takes a ton of hard work and dedication, but is very rewarding once you have completed the process. It's an honor as much as a privilege to call myself a Diplomate.

B. Aaron Vaughn
San Antonio, TX

Endodontic Program: Virginia Commonwealth University
Graduated: 6/1/2005

Viraj R. Vora

Vaughan, ON Canada
Endodontic Program: University of

Michigan

Graduated: 6/30/2011

Benjamin J. Williams
Mount Juliet, TN

Endodontic Program: Texas A&M University Baylor College of Dentistry
Graduated: 6/30/2011



Jeffrey Wiswall
Rapid City, SD

Endodontic Program: University of Minnesota
Graduated:
6/30/2010

What does it mean to you to be a Diplomate?

Being a Diplomate

means achieving the highest level of certification for our profession by integrating evidence based clinical decisions to provide the highest level of care to each and every patient that walks through my door.

Qian Xie
Chicago, IL

Endodontic Program: University of Illinois at Chicago
Graduated: 6/30/2011

Helen S. Youm
Kirkland, WA

Endodontic Program: Harvard School of Dental Medicine
Graduated:
6/30/2009

What does it mean to you to be a Diplomate?

Embarking on the journey to become a Diplomate of the American Board of Endodontics has been a challenging, humbling and worthwhile endeavor. I have learned a lot about our profession in the process: where we come from, where we are now and where we are heading, for the betterment of our patients and collective endodontic dental community. Ultimately, obtaining Diplomate status helps elevate and advance our endodontic profession, and I am proud to be a part of this unique community of dental professionals.



Reflection from a New Diplomate



The Path to Board Certification: In Constant Pursuit of Knowledge

By Dr. Steven J. Katz

My father was a salesman during the week and a Sunday school teacher on the weekend. He died when I was 26, having just finished my first year of dental school. The epitaph on my Dad's gravestone reads: "In constant pursuit of knowledge". I understood what that meant. My Dad was always reading whatever he could get his hands on. And it was not necessarily work related as it was often about religion, human nature, etc. At 26 and just beginning to learn about dentistry, I studied, absorbed as much as I could, and took the exams. I did well, but was I "In constant pursuit of knowledge"?

Now I'm 56. I am thirty years older and have just completed and achieved ABE Board Certification. It's been 25 years since I finished my endodontic residency! I started studying almost 3 years ago. I re-learned what I had studied back in the residency, I learned, for the first time, that 100 times more information has been written since my residency. I used to simply read the AAE journal, but now in preparation for the exams, I had to study it. I spent most of my free time studying endodontics. I forgot how to use the TV. Music no longer played in my study and forget all that computer solitaire.

But why? I was accomplished. I had built a private practice that I think most people would consider to be successful. And then I got it! : "In constant pursuit of knowledge". That little saying that I read each and every time I visit my father's grave. I had become complacent. I was doing endodontics almost by rote. Yes, every case is different and every patient is different and by no means do I want to simplify what we do. It's hard work! It takes mental skills, technical skills, compassion, patience, attention to detail and on and on. But, is it always evidence-based? Do we understand why we do what we do? Are we looking at the patient as a tooth or a very complex being that we are trying to cure or prevent disease in?

Studying for the Board exam is an arduous task. It takes hard work, dedication and mostly discipline. It requires a patient and understanding family and mentors; lots of mentors. Luckily, there are plenty. People that are willing to help you, tutor you and support you. And when you complete your task you have really only just begun. You will look at your patients different, you will analyze your cases from a new viewpoint. Everyday you will think about addressing your patients' needs, addressing their diseases from a science, literature, evidence-based perspective.

My Dad never really told me to learn, read, study; it was just expected. And I did, I succeeded. But it took me 30 years to really understand! He would be proud of me now. Not because I have become Boarded but because now I have become "In constant pursuit of knowledge". That's what the ABE Board exam has done for me.

Congratulations Diplomates!



Congratulations Diplomates!





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Dr. Cindy R. Rauschenberger
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From left to right (Back Row) Drs. James D. Johnson, Cindy Rauschenberger, W. Craig Noblett, and Scott B. McClanahan. (Front Row) Drs. Van T. Himel, Karl Keiser, Patrick E. Taylor, John F. Hatton and Donna J. Mattscheck.