

ODA New Member Spotlight:

David Taylor Evans, DMD, Oklahoma City, OK

By Chelsea Canada, ODA Communications Manager

Dr. David Taylor Evans' path to practicing dentistry has involved diversity and adventure in many cities. From a young age, Evans was intrigued by both aviation and dentistry. It took one year of aviation school to convince him it wasn't his calling. But after spending some time shadowing in a dental office, he knew it was the perfect career for his lifestyle.

Evans graduated from Nova Southeastern University College of Dental Medicine in 2010, and then attended Temple University Hospital to complete his pediatric residency. "I have a great appreciation for Temple," he said, "and I thoroughly enjoyed my residency training experiences."

Evans then decided to move to Oklahoma to join Dr. Jerome Miller, past ODA president, in Miller's Oklahoma City pediatric dental practice. "Don't be intimidated from starting or buying your own practice," said Evans. "There are plenty of resources and mentors to help you succeed. It may seem easier to jump into a big company, but the challenges,

autonomy and fulfillment of owning your own practice is a wonderful and rewarding accomplishment. You can do it!"

Evans deals with challenges in his practice on a daily basis. His biggest learning curve as a pediatric dentist has been balancing and juggling the interactive dynamic of parents or guardians and his patients. "I sincerely love pediatric dentistry," said Evans. "Patient care is always my top priority, and when you're providing treatment for young patients it can sometimes seem like twice the workload when you have to take into consideration the other parties involved."

Evans' favorite part about dentistry is serving people and communities with the skills and talents of his training. Whether it's pain relief, helping retain or improve health or providing a beautiful smile, it's all rewarding to him. Evans has participated in international dental missions in Brazil, Panama, and the Dominican Republic. "They were all rewarding in their different respects but my favorite thus far has been Brazil," he said. "Along with 18 other health professionals, I spent a week taking care of children in an orphanage, starting before the sun came up and working until it was dark again. Conditions were far from ideal, resources were very limited, and our equipment was nothing short of MacGyver-type modifications created by our team members. Patients lined up as early as 4:00 a.m. desperately hoping to receive personal attention and dental treatment. We were unable to take care of every patient in that small community, but the tears of gratitude and love in the faces of those we were able to treat will forever be in my mind, and will motivate me to always serve the less fortunate both locally and abroad, when opportunity allows. We are so very blessed to be in this country and this profession."

Evans on a mission trip in Panama.



Evans appreciates the support of the Oklahoma Dental Association through which he can learn from the experience and wisdom of other colleagues. "I feel comfort in knowing there is an organization constantly facilitating a framework that supports the mission of our profession." If he could go back in time to his dental school days Evans would advise his younger self to "fully enjoy the ride, despite the exhaustion and intimidation, because it's all worth it to join the best profession in the world!"

When he isn't treating patients, Evans enjoys playing basketball, snowboarding, cycling, and mountain biking - pretty much all things active! This year, he completed his first marathon. His hero is his grandfather, Leon Victor Evans, a spiritual giant full of wisdom who continually demonstrates love, integrity and compassion to all he knows. His other role models are the research scientists who continue to develop new products and techniques that allow him to provide better care to his patients. Evans hopes to teach his children to do unto others as they would have others do unto them, without expecting anything in return. Evans is the middle child of nine. He has yet to find the love of his life, but he enjoys spending time with his eighteen nieces and nephews whenever he can.



Evans and his brother-in-law before their 150-mile bike ride from Boston to Cape Cod.