

# NEW DENTIST SPOTLIGHT

## DR. HEATH COLEMAN, CHECOTAH

Dr. Heath Coleman attended the University of Oklahoma College of Dentistry, graduating with his DDS in 2013. After dental school, he knew he wanted to return to the same dental office that had ignited his passion for dentistry. When the opportunity presented itself, he didn't hesitate to start his practice, Dentures and Dental Services, in his hometown of Checotah on June 3, 2013. Coleman met his wife, Holly, during his last year of undergraduate study at the University of Arkansas. The Colemans have one son, Isaac.



*Dr. Heath Coleman with his wife, Holly, and their son, Isaac.*

**Which philanthropic activity has been your most rewarding?**

I've traveled to four different countries in the past four years with CMDA (Christian Medical and Dental Association) on medical and dental missions. The food is fantastic, the people are appreciative, and the experiences are unprecedented. Nothing could have prepared me better for my future life than those trips. Spiritually, the trips were refreshing and allowed some time to reflect and prioritize things in life. I worked with many different dentists over those four

years and learned a lot, especially from Dr. Robert Livingston, an oral surgeon from Muskogee. He taught me how to give my first injection and extract my first tooth. The experience I gained from him was priceless.

**Why did you choose dentistry as your profession?**

The summer after my freshman year, my father helped me get a job as a dental tech assistant in a local dental office. At the time, my major was pre-med and I was determined I would be a surgeon someday. After working around dentistry all summer, and getting some occasional experience on the floor with the dentists and their assistants, I knew I wanted to change to pre-dental. Since then, there has never been a doubt in my mind.

**What were your most/least favorite things about dental school?**

I'd say my favorite thing about dental school was the people. Some of the people I met, classmates and faculty included, really left a lasting impression on me. I remain in contact with many of them today. I would say my least favorite thing was trying to meet all my clinical requirements.

**What do you love most about dentistry?**

I love seeing people smile. It's actually a pet peeve of mine when they don't. I absolutely love it that we give smiles to so many people that haven't smiled in decades.

**If you could go back to the beginning of dental school what advice would you give yourself?**

Chill out. It's all going to be fine. Oh, and pay more attention in pharmacology!

**What has been your biggest challenge as a new dentist?**

Treatment planning. Ninety percent of the treatment plans that I've done outside of dental school have forced me to think outside of the dental school box. There are always factors that can compromise the ideal treatment plan (limited VDO, limited finances, limited time, etc.). Many times, I have to speak with the more experienced dentists in the office and get them to point me in the right direction.

**What hobbies do you enjoy?**

I am currently taking my last course in pursuit of my Masters of Business Administration at Oklahoma State University. Before dental school and business school, I loved playing guitar and going to the lake, so I hope to spend more time getting back to those passions.

**What is one thing that you want to make sure to teach your children?**

Serve others.



*Dr. Coleman in Peru in 2011.*



*Dr. Coleman in 2012 while on a Mission to Mexico.*