

Health & Medicine

Reason to Smile



Dr. Michelle Cantwell



Dr. Jennifer Forshey



Dr. Becky Fox

Women dentists in Central Pennsylvania are enthusiastic about the organization. Dr. Michelle Cantwell, for example, is currently opening her new dental practice on Oregon Pike in Lancaster, and says “there is a wealth of knowledge in Lancaster’s dental community.” She expects the local chapter of AAWD “will help women dentists and the public access that knowledge much more easily.” Originally from Kingston, Dr. Cantwell earned her DMD from the School of Dental Medicine at the University of Pittsburgh – where she also completed her three-year residency in prosthodontics, which uses crowns, bridges, implants, dentures and veneers to replace or restore missing and damaged teeth. She now resides in Mount Joy with her husband and three daughters.

Dr. Jennifer N. Forshey, another AAWD enthusiast, is both a medical doctor and a dental surgeon – having earned her MD from Harvard Medical School and her DMD from the University of Pennsylvania School of Dental Medicine. She has completed residencies at several Boston hospitals, and was Clinical Fellow in Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery at Harvard School of Dental Medicine. Her specialty involves the surgical treatment of diseases, deformities and injuries of the mouth, jaws, sinuses, and adjoining facial structure, and she is on staff at Lancaster General, Heart of Lancaster and Ephrata Community Hospitals.

And Dr. Becky Fox, who currently resides in Mount Joy, recently opened a general dentistry practice in Lemoyne, Cumberland County. She completed her education at Wilkes University, Temple University School of Dentistry, and Muhlenberg Hospital. Having recently obtained her Fellowship with the Academy of General Dentistry and certification with the Academy of Laser Dentistry, she describes her practice as “family-oriented care that retains quality as the primary focus, enhanced with new technology” and says of AAWD that she is “looking forward to establishing a diverse network of women dentists in the Central

With relatively few exceptions – most notably nursing, education and library science – U.S. professions have been predominantly male fraternities.

Dentistry was not one of the exceptions, but in recent decades that’s begun to change. And there’s reason to believe this trend will be accelerating in Lancaster and central Pennsylvania, as the region becomes home to more women dentists, and as more of them become active members of the American Association of Women Dentists (AAWD). Participation in AAWD allows members to share their knowledge of the various dental specialties, the challenges of building a professional practice, and the rewards of working together on community projects.

We Are Happy To Announce A New Dental Practice On Oregon Pike In Lancaster



Michelle Cantwell, DMD Prosthodontist

Specializing In: Advanced Cosmetic, Implant and Restorative Dentistry

Michelle Cantwell is originally from Kingston, Pennsylvania and resides in Mount Joy with her husband John and their three daughters. Dr. Cantwell attended the University of Pittsburgh, School of Dental Medicine for both her dental degree and her three year residency in prosthodontics. Upon graduation, Dr. Cantwell and her husband served the United States Navy in Norfolk, Virginia.

Dr. Cantwell’s prosthodontic practice is located on Oregon Pike in Lancaster. Her practice utilizes the most contemporary dental technology, including laser dentistry and digital radiographs to minimize the patient’s exposure to radiation. Incorporating laser dentistry allows many routine procedures to be performed with greater precision and less trauma to the surrounding area. Prosthodontics is one of nine dental specialties recognized by the American Dental Association. This specialty focuses on the management of the most complex dental restorations ranging from traumatic injury to genetic facial deficits as well as routine dentistry. Dental implants, crowns, bridges and full or partial dentures are just some of the procedures used by the Cantwell Dental Group to restore smiles.

Dr. Cantwell is a member of many local, regional and national organizations. These include the American Dental Association, the American Association of Women Dentists, and the American College of Prosthodontists.

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Pennsylvania area to share ideas and experiences with the challenges of being a female small business owner. We’re looking to create a sharing group to help each other solve different dilemmas at different points in our careers. And we also can bring some wonderful national charitable projects to our local community – a task that could be daunting to take on individually.”

One of the best-known AAWD charitable projects is “Smiles for Success” – a foundation that assists

women in transition from welfare to work who cannot afford the cost of dental care. Facing a job interview for them may mean self-consciousness, embarrassment and pain as they attempt to hide decayed, missing or damaged teeth; in jobs that require public contact, the condition of their teeth may even keep them from being hired. The Smiles for Success program helps by providing a short-term boost – cost-free dental care that’s generally unavailable to them through government

programs ... and that can help them successfully take the next step on the road to financial stability and self reliance.

So it’s not just women dentists who can look forward to benefits from their participation in the Central Pennsylvania AAWD. It’s also their patients, who can benefit from the knowledge their dentists will share with each other. And it’s the community as well, which can benefit from AAWD-sponsored programs like Smile for Success.