

# What Exactly is a Legend?



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The Cambridge Dictionary defines a *legend* as “Someone very famous and admired, usually because of their ability in a particular field.”

This certainly describes the following four “Legends” of comprehensive cosmetic dentistry who will be presenting at AACD’s 33rd Annual Scientific Session. Drs. Larry Rosenthal, William Dickerson, David Hornbrook, and William Strupp will be sharing their wisdom, expertise, and techniques in Las Vegas in April. You owe it to yourself to hear them speak.

These educators have had an enormous impact on the growth and development of the AACD and cosmetic dentistry. I am one of the many clinicians who have been inspired by them throughout the years.

I first heard Dr. Larry Rosenthal lecture in 1995. I had been in practice less than 10 years and wanted to get more out of dentistry. Larry, already a renowned clinician and speaker, was very gracious and advised me to join the AACD. I did, and was awed by the talent and skill I encountered. Inspired, I then attended the Anterior and Advanced Aesthetics program taught by Drs. Bill Dickerson and David Hornbrook. Shortly afterward, I became a clinical instructor under the direction of Dr. Hornbrook. Helping colleagues with their esthetic cases made me a better dentist and mentor. Amending and refurbishing case after case of composite mock-ups, acrylic provisionals, and final restorations over the next four years gave me an education in esthetics that no amount of money could buy. Larry taught me how to create distinctive central incisors, David showed me ways to characterize laterals, and Bill taught me how to contour cuspids. Although I did not officially study under AACD founding member Dr. Bill Strupp, his lessons have added immeasurably to my dental repertoire and personal growth.

Years later, when I thanked Dr. Rosenthal for sparking my interest in cosmetic dentistry, he modestly replied, “I didn’t do anything...I merely cracked open the door for you.” Whereas others might have taken credit for my enlightenment, he played it down like it was no big deal. What a class act!

I have never forgotten what he said. Guiding others to discover their own potential continues to give me tremendous joy. I have encouraged many colleagues and students to join the AACD and learn from some of the greats; it is my way of paying forward what these “Legends” of cosmetic dentistry have instilled in me.

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