

Hinman's First Female President, Dr. Jane Puskas Takes Reigns of Society

It's the first time a busy mom and dentist has risen through the ranks to become president of the Hinman Dental Society. Given her tremendous experience in the dental profession combined with her dedication to Hinman, it's not surprising that Dr. Jane Puskas is the first female to fill the role.

Dr. Puskas is a graduate of Williams College and the Harvard School of Dental Medicine. She practiced in both Boston and Toronto before moving to Atlanta in 1994 with her husband John, a cardiothoracic surgeon. She became a Hinman member in 1996 and said that the organization helped "this Yankee" become established in the Atlanta dental community. The following year, Dr. Puskas bought the dental practice of Harold Lanier, a Hinman Past General Chairman, and said that he was an incredible mentor for her.

"The networking in Hinman was invaluable. My young family loved and benefitted from the social interactions at the annual meeting and I am indebted to Hinman for all that it did for my professional career and family," she added.

When not practicing dentistry, Dr. Puskas is a busy mother of three children and wife of a busy surgeon. She's not had much time for hobbies, but has been very involved in the lives and activities of her children over the years – serving as team mom and volunteering at the Westminster School. Her son Alex (21) is a senior at Wake Forest; daughter Jillian (18) is a freshman at Princeton, and youngest daughter Caroline (16) is a high school junior at Westminster.



"I knew that I wanted a strong family life and felt that dentistry would better enable me to achieve a more rewarding work, life balance," she said. "I am so happy that I did choose dentistry as I have managed to attain a happy family life with a successful professional life. I also love being a general dentist because of the special bond and relationship I share with my patients. It is rewarding to be an integral part of their health and smile."

Over the years, Dr. Puskas has been very involved in Hinman and has served in a variety of leadership roles. Hinman is an extension of her family and has provided many fond family memories. For example, in 2004, her then 12-year-old son, Alex, caught an 80-pound cobia on the Hinman fishing excursion out of St. Simon's Island. The fish was served at the Hinman dinner reception that night and everyone shared in his accomplishment.

As she embarks on the year ahead, her priorities as president are to represent the Hinman Dental Society in a manner Dr. Hinman would be proud of by continuing to provide first-class continuing education to members. She also wants to attract great women and men to the Society by fostering greater involvement and service of female and younger members who have so much to contribute to the organization. This effort includes energizing the membership to work hard for Hinman 2014 to make it the "best Hinman ever."

"I am so honored to become the first female president, because there are so many great women leaders in dentistry here in Georgia. I feel a strong responsibility to serve well by continuing to support the great Hinman traditions while recognizing the different insights and strengths that women can offer to the Hinman Dental Society," she said. "I look forward to getting more people involved, which will make our Society even better."



If she hadn't chosen dentistry as a career, Dr. Puskas might have been a physician. She entered Williams College as pre-med, but then decided to apply to dental school instead because it offered an appealing lifestyle.

