

THE OFFICIAL ALUMNI PUBLICATION OF THE OSTROW SCHOOL OF DENTISTRY OF USC | SUMMER 2012

TRODENT



ONE HUNDRED FIFTEEN YEARS OF HISTORY
ONE HUNDRED FIFTEEN MILLION FOR OUR FUTURE



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ALON DORI

DDS '09

He sculpts smiles all day, but when the lights go out at Dori Dental Arts, this Ostrow alumnus unwinds by sculpting statues.

BY JOHN HOBBS

For Alon Dori DDS '09, sculpting is an escape.

"Some people go to the movies. Some people exercise. I sculpt," Dori says.

By day, Dori and his wife, fellow Ostrow alumnus Melissa Dori DDS '01, Endo '05, run Dori Dental Arts in Woodland Hills, Calif., a private practice they opened in January.

Starting a practice from the ground up—Dori and his wife actually helped design their office's interiors—is not without its stresses, Dori says.

"I use art as a way to relieve my stress, to get lost in something," Dori says. "When I'm sculpting, I'm not thinking about anything else."

Dori's interest in sculpture began years ago.

Prior to entering dental school at USC, he worked at a special effects company where he worked on such films as *The Sixth Sense*, *Galaxy Quest*, and *Austin Powers*.

Dori followed his artistic inclinations further by attending Loyola Marymount University where he received his master of fine arts with an emphasis in film.

He directed many short films and commercials, but realized a showbiz career does not always make for a regular paycheck.

To start a family, he'd have to find another career.

At his wife's urging, Dori shadowed a few dentists before deciding that dentistry had the right ratio of art and science, another subject he had always felt passionate about.

Dori began coursework at the Ostrow School of Dentistry, finding his mold-making and casting skills real assets in his clinical work.

Now, the Ostrow alumnus sculpts smiles by day at his private practice and squeezes in a few hours of sculpting at day's end.



His most recent work (pictured above) is a sculpture of a mountain range, structurally modeled after something he sees under the overhead light everyday: teeth.

Once complete, the jagged mountain range will join other Dori originals, "David," "Eve," and "The Struggle" (pictured on page 2), all of which greet patients at Dori's dental office.

Dori has sold many of his sculptures. In fact, one of his sculptures is currently for sale at the Gallery Judaica in Westwood, Calif.

Six months after opening Dori Dental Arts, Dori admits owning a business is tough, but rewarding. He's just thankful he's not doing it alone.

"With my wife, it's something we can do together," he says. "We can commiserate, and we can share our triumphs together."

And if things get too stressful, he's always got his art to see him through.