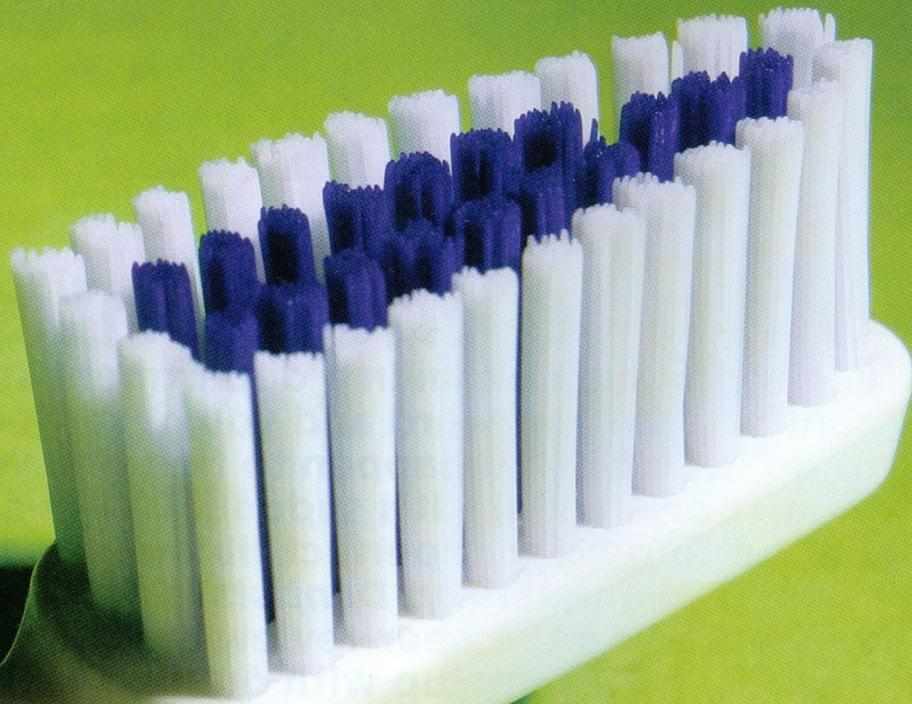


TOP DENTISTS 2008



Our sixth-annual guide to the Valley's best orthodontists, oral surgeons, pediatric dentists and more, featuring 108 practitioners in seven specialties. Say "Ahhh"!



Going to the dentist is a bit like trying on a bikini in a department store – it’s uncomfortable, awkward and you never feel quite ready to do it. But if you happen to find one you love – a dentist or a bikini – it’s suddenly a life-altering accomplishment. But finding that perfect fit isn’t always easy, so that’s where our sixth-annual *Top Dentists* issue comes in.

Our ranking is based on the peer-review system – that is, dentists rate the dentists. To come up with our list, we surveyed 1,500 area dentists, who were asked to name the top practitioners in seven specialties. In all, we ended up with 108 dentists. The top vote-getters in each specialty are listed alphabetically, and an asterisk denotes which dentist in each category received the highest number of votes.

For more information on Valley dentists, contact the Arizona Board of Dental Examiners at 602-242-1492. For more information about how we choose our *Top Dentists*, read “Who Decides Who’s a Top Dentist?” (page 176). When it comes to bikini shopping, you’re on your own.

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OR
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8639 W. Union Hills Dr., Peoria

602-485-4700

Background/training: Univer-
sity of Wisconsin, Milwaukee;
Marquette University for dental
school; practiced as a general
dentist for a year before switch-
ing to orthodontics.

Years practicing: "Since 1987, so
this will be my 22nd year."

Why orthodontics?: "I knew I
wanted to be an orthodontist in
my second year of dental school.
The orthodontic program was a
separate part of the building with
a great atmosphere.... I like the feel
of orthodontics because I think
patients look forward to coming
into an orthodontic office."

Favorite dental health tip: "Wear
your retainer! So many people go
through their treatment and then
go to college and lose their re-
tainer or break it.... Ten years later,
their teeth start to move."

**What's different about his
practice:** "We focus more on the
health of the bite more than the
straightness of the teeth. I say,
if the bite is good, assuming the
teeth are a good size, shape and
color, then the teeth automati-
cally look nice. You can make the
teeth look nice, but if the bite
isn't healthy, you'll have all the
problems with tooth wear, gum
recession, teeth cracking.... But if
you get the bite right, the long-
term health is there to stay."

Number of cavities he's had: "Not
fair! I have had too many! Had I
had sealants when I was a kid...
and before I knew better, I used
to drink so much soda.... I can't
count the number of cavities I've
had, but it's too many."

— Interviewed by Claire Lawton