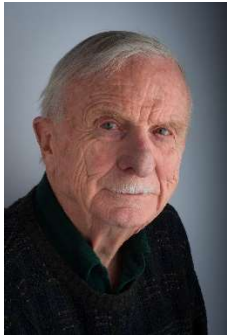


Dr. James S. Brudvik

May 4, 1933 – June 22, 2022



James Brudvik DDS, FACP passed away peacefully in Seattle, Washington on June 22, 2022. A life-long world-renowned prosthodontic educator, Dr. Brudvik held faculty appointments for over 56 years. After completing his pre-dental education in his home state at North Dakota State University in 1953 James received his DDS from the University of Minnesota in 1957. Upon graduation he began a lengthy and distinguished career in the Army where his first duty station took him and his wife Irene to France. After an unfulfilling 18-month experiment with private practice in Minnesota in 1961, Dr. Brudvik accepted an assignment at Walter Reed Army Medical Center. There he was assigned to the prosthodontic laboratory and clinic until he began his formal prosthodontic residency in July 1964. He completed the removable prosthodontic training two years later and was immediately reassigned as an instructor. In 1967, the same year he received his certification from the American Board of Prosthodontics, he was sent to Saigon, Vietnam holding the position of Consultant to the Surgeon General for Prosthodontics in South East Asia. Under his direction, prosthodontic care protocols were streamlined to help maintain the readiness of the soldiers. It was this experience, of creating effective and efficient treatment protocols for soldiers who were on-leave for 24 hours, that reinforced his ability to synthesize and then teach the complexities of removable prosthodontic care.

Upon his return from Vietnam, he completed a Residency in Maxillofacial Prosthetics at the University of Texas, Houston, M.D. Anderson Cancer Hospital in 1969. Over the next ten years of his Army career he would train, interact with, and befriend countless Army Dental Corp officers and enlisted personnel. He developed and directed the Maxillofacial Laboratory at Walter Reed for its mission to support US Army Maxillofacial prosthetics world-wide. He then became Director of Dental Education, US Army from 1972 – 1973. During this time, the Army introduced and trained expanded function dental auxiliaries. From 1973 – 1976, he was Commander of the Regional Dental Laboratory at Fort Sam Houston Texas and then became Director (Dean) of the Dental Division of the Health Sciences Academy, also at Fort Sam Houston. Over the course of this decade, he was a consultant to the Surgeon General, US Army, for both Maxillofacial and Laboratory Prosthetics. In 1975, he received the Army Medical Department's highest honor; the "A" prefix award, from the Surgeon General. He retired from the military in 1979 with the rank of Colonel, which would become an ever-lasting moniker through the second phase of his professional career.

Retirement for Dr. Brudvik only meant he was able to choose his next assignment, accepting an Associate Professor position at the University of Washington School of Dentistry in 1979. Reaching full professor in 1983, he and several other colleagues created what was among the finest removable prosthodontic training programs in the world. With time he gravitated to the now combined Graduate Prosthodontic Training program, becoming Associate Director from 1985-1990 and then Director from 1990-1995. Known affectionately as 'The Colonel' to all the residents, he was an ever-present voice for removable prosthodontics amidst a fixed prosthodontic dominated training environment. Three decades worth of UW graduates, many now considered the elite of the world's dental educators, learned practical yet highly advanced removable prosthodontics from the Colonel. His career of selfless teaching to both undergraduate and post-graduate students was recognized by the University of Washington School of Dentistry by his receipt of the Bruce R. Rothwell Distinguished Teacher award in 2002.

'Retiring' for a second time in 1998, he became Professor Emeritus. The reduction in administrative responsibilities gave him more time for research projects, publications, and hands-on interaction with the Graduate Prosthodontic residents. By the time of his third and final retirement he had published nearly 60 peer-reviewed dental articles, a textbook, and was a contributing author on four other textbooks. Many of the articles were teaching moments, guiding the lead-author resident through the publishing process for clinical cases he had overseen. This made him an excellent editor and reviewer, a job he held for the Journal of the American Dental Association, Journal of Prosthodontics, Journal of the American College of Prosthodontists, and International Journal of Prosthodontics. Drawing on his French speaking skills, which he greatly enjoyed, he reviewed and abstracted French language translations for the American Dental Association until 1989.

His worldly travels and loving personality allowed him to easily interact with the endless variety of cultures from which his residents came. Of course, this also allowed him to test their humor. Among his favorite slides was a grand picture of the Swiss Alps (taken during his time stationed in France). Routinely showing this slide during a lecture on Removable Partial Dentures, he would say to a resident from some far-away location, "And here is my home state of North Dakota." His worldly travels, to 6 different continents, were often trips to the home countries of dental colleagues or former residents. Between 1999 and 2002 alone, he gave major presentations in South Africa, Nova Scotia, Sweden, Mexico, New York, New Zealand, and Taipei. He was often the honored guest lecturer and reason for the conference, speaking on RPD's for multiple days.

His influence was not only seen in the individuals he trained, but also in the formative years of the most prominent prosthodontic organizations that now exist. He was a charter fellow for both the American College of Prosthodontists and International College of Prosthodontists, serving as ACP program chair in 1974-1975. He was a long-time member and the former President of the American Academy of Maxillofacial Prosthetics in 1980. His other prominent memberships included the Academy of Denture Prosthetics, American Prosthodontic Society, Washington State Society of Prosthodontists, Delta Sigma Delta Dental Fraternity, and Alpha Tau Omega. In 1999, Quintessence published his textbook Advanced Removable Partial Dentures. His hand-drawn illustrations highlighted a modern RPD philosophy, significantly new and developed over time. This textbook solidified his place among the world's experts on this topic. The soon to be published new edition of this textbook, Brudvik's Advanced Removable Partial Dentures, titled such despite his humble misgivings, demonstrates the energy he continued to put into the topic despite his third and final retirement in 2018.

For those who knew him during his Professor Emeritus years, one would not be able to immediately recognize the enormity of the Colonel's accomplishments. They would instead notice his friendly ability to relate and talk about art, culture, golf, and nearly any place around the globe. Rather than be inaccessible, he would offer the lower level of his duplex in Ballard, Seattle, Washington for prosthodontic residents in need of a place to stay while long-term housing could be arranged. Rather than gain monetarily from the knowledge base he created, he gave away digital versions of the first edition of his textbook to those who were interested and more often than not donated the honorariums for his many speaking engagements. Without a doubt, his wealth is beyond measure in the memories of those he taught, served, and befriended. It was a remarkable career in service to his patients, his country, his students, his world. To be emulated by those left behind.