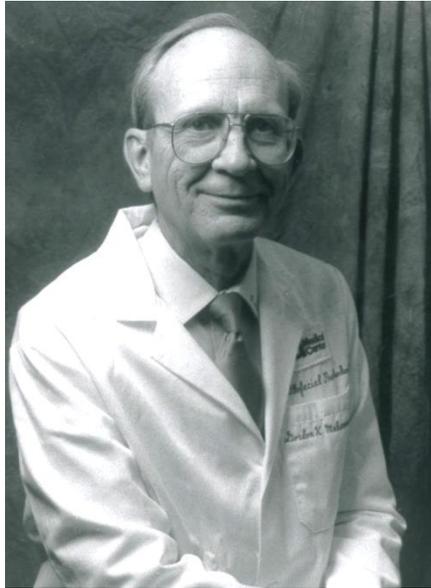


Obituary for Gordon Kent Mahanna, DDS, FAAMP, FACD

April 30, 1938 – July 19, 2016



Gordon “Gordy” Kent Mahanna was born in Norton, Kansas in 1938 and spent much of his life in western Kansas. His father, Raymond, was a prominent pharmacist who, with the help of Gordy’s mother, Aileen, managed the family’s drugstore.

Gordy enrolled in undergraduate studies at Kansas State University before entering dental school at The University of Missouri at Kansas City where he obtained his DDS in 1963. He and his late wife, Karen, had three children, Kent, Thane, and Kimberly. Gordy owned a general restorative dental practice in Hoxie, Kansas for 22 years. He was active in local and state dental societies and served as president of the Northwest Kansas Dental Society in 1981. Gordy also served as a liaison to the Sino-American Technology Exchange Council, a nonprofit organization devoted to sharing dental

technology with Chinese dentists.

In 1986, at the age of 48, he chose to pursue postgraduate studies in prosthodontics at The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio. After obtaining his certificate in prosthodontics, he enlisted in the maxillofacial prosthetic training program at the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston. After completing his training in 1989, Gordy joined the faculty at the College of Dentistry at the University of Nebraska in Lincoln. There he developed a unique practice offering maxillofacial prosthetic services. As the demand for surgical services grew, he relocated his practice to the University of Nebraska Medical Center in Omaha where he founded the service that complements the head and neck oncology practice that exists today. The program he initiated continues to enjoy a regional referral base and maintains the collaborative principles he established upon its founding.

Gordy became a fellow of the AAMP in 1989 where he served the organization in a variety of capacities that chiefly included ad hoc committees devoted to quality of life issues. He too served as a member of the AAMP Board of Directors. As a consummate champion of maxillofacial prosthetics, he mentored several of our academy fellows with his essays, teaching roles, his management skills, and his presentations.

In his retirement, after 16 years of service to the University of Nebraska, Gordy remained an appreciated advisor to the Department of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery.

Being a motoring enthusiast, Gordy enjoyed watching NASCAR and drag races and he was particularly entertained by viewing Barret Jackson auctions. As a formidable antique glass authority, Gordy had an impressive collection of Nailsea glassware and was honored to be named a consultant for the Toledo Museum of Art's Glass Pavilion. Gordy passed away on July 19, 2016 with his loving wife, Nancy, and children by his side. Gordy will surely be missed by all who knew him and the impact he made on our specialty.