

Crown 2J



Thirty years ago, a help wanted ad led Vidal Briseno (left) to both the career of his dreams and the love of his life. Pictured with Briseno are his *Crown Challenge* partners, Philip NeQuent (center) and Johnny Santillan.

Technician team: Johnny Santillan, model work; Philip NeQuent, waxer and metal work; and Vidal Briseno, ceramist

Laboratory: D.D.S. Associates, an in-office laboratory in Houston, Texas

Twist of fate: In 1976,

Vidal Briseno was studying painting and sculpting at the University of Houston, but fate stepped in. He came across a help wanted ad for a local dental laboratory and has never looked back. “Dental technology was natural for me and I learned quickly,” he says. “I love this profession and am proud of my work.”

Not only did Briseno find his professional calling, but his life detour also brought him to the love of his life. He met his wife, Patricia, when they were co-workers at a dental laboratory and the pair has been married for 28 years.

On going in-office: Briseno has worked for commercial laboratories in the

past, including his own, but loves working for an in-office lab because of the patient interaction. “You get to see the patient, create the restoration, then see the work in the mouth.” Working in-office also gives him the incentive to improve the quality of his restorations. “You’re reminded every day that the work is for a real person, not just a name on the prescription,” he says. “You want to do better work because you’ve met the person and have created a bond.”

Having a connection to the patient also feeds Briseno’s love of learning. “Seeing the crown in the mouth shows me what areas need improving and gives me something to

work towards for future restorations,” he says. “You don’t get that working for most commercial laboratories.” **LMT**



The evaluators praise this crown’s well-adapted fit, nicely designed metal collar and the distinct anatomy. They also point out that the stain is very natural-looking; it varies in intensity and is “just the right amount.”