

DIGITAL SINGLE ARTICLE

# DENTALTRENDS

ENTERTAINMENT + WELLNESS

DSA 2

JAN 10 16

## SEAN HAN, CDT

Ceramist, CAD/CAM  
Trainer, CTO & Founder of  
Image Dental Group, Same  
Day Smile Specialist, Co-  
Founder of Digi-Smile

## PASSION

*How his whole journey began*

## Digi-Smile

Treatment Branded Network

DIGITAL  
IMPRESSION  
ADVANTAGES



## PLUS

This TrendStar's Next Big  
Move & the "True Story" of  
Sean's Original Dream as a  
Talented Pianist

Photography by Eugene  
Royzengurt, Vadim Vainer



# SEANHAN

*Exclusively* ODT

**HIS JOURNEY STARTS HERE**

By Helen & Sharolyn  
Photographs by Helen Han

## SEAN A PIANIST

Sean Han was born in Seoul, Korea on July 18, 1979 to a well driven entrepreneur middle-class family of four. He showed much talent as a piano player during his early years planting a dream to his mother as a world-known piano player. After school, it would be normal to see him in front of the piano playing for hours and hours without breaks. When Sean played at competitions, he would bring home endless awards winning the top in his age group. The dream was solid. He soon packs up to study abroad in United States at age 16 to become a pianist.

## COMING TO THE UNITED STATES

This is where his journey began. Sean's parents found a guardian in Redwood City, California where he was to finish high school and apply to a top performing art university in New York. It did not work out as easy as planned. It turned out that the guardian who was provided incredible amount of cash to place Sean in a private high school, had a gambling addiction. Sean was not registered for his education for more than 6 months, and the communication between his parents in Korea was lost. Time went on this way.

## INTERNATIONAL MONEY FUND CRISIS 1997

Then the International Money Fund (IMF) Crisis hit hard in Korea in 1997. His parents lost control of all their businesses by this time.

One day, Sean comes home from school, only to find a completely emptied house. The guardian and his family had moved out leaving Sean behind. At age 17, he was faced with hunger, *loneliness* and helplessness for the first time in his life. Sean remembers, "When I was in Korea, practicing endlessly at my piano school, I secretly attended a judo martial arts center without my parents knowing. Then, I remembered there was a fairly large taekwondo dojang (martial arts center) walking distance from the guardian's house. I ran over there begging to stay while finishing high school and in exchange, I would clean their dojang floors after class. Luckily, there was a young guy around my age living in the warehouse at the time and we immediately became good friends. He was even the Best Man at my wedding years later."

This new unforgettable lifestyle went on for another year while Sean proudly becomes a black belt. The dream to becoming a pianist was lost. Sean eventually got a hold of his parents who had moved the whole family home to Chicago, Illinois. Soon after graduating with a whopping 4.0 Grade Point Average, Sean moves to Chicago where he meets a very special friend.

## DENTAL TECHNOLOGY? WHAT'S THAT?

The family reunion starts in Chicago as Sean, his older brother, Jinwoo and parents all sit around the dinner table once again. Sean meets a mentor for the first time in his life (other than Dad). It was his uncle who was an endodontist.

"I wanted to become a dentist. I wanted to get into a dental program and become a very successful dentist. My uncle suggested to me to go into a dental laboratory first while finishing school. He mentored me to become a prosthodontist at the time. So I got into a local walking distance laboratory inside a dental practice right away." Sean started talking very fast by this time of his interview.

## SEAN GETS MARRIED

"While working at the laboratory and attending college, I met the love of my life, Helen. She was only 17 years old, driving a very fancy European car, a golfer and a suburban wealthy lifestyle kind of girl. Yet, she was the most down to earth, loving and perfect person in my life. She was the answer to my prayer to end *loneliness*."

Sean and Helen got married at an early age and take off to Austin, Texas for college. They transfer to Silicon Valley, California in year 2000 where they presently reside.



Visiting  
First Lab,  
Chicago, IL



Cerec30 Celebration  
Las Vegas, NV

## TOP OF THE CHAIN

"I dreamed of one day becoming the *top of the chain*." We quickly asked Sean this question, "In your own words, what is the definition of a *top of the chain* dental technician?"

Sean answered firmly, "In my mind, a top of the chain dental technician is a top of the chain human being. When you are that individual who consistently strives to give back, in education, in impacting another person's life for the better, contributing to the community, this is top and it naturally shapes who you are as a dental technician and what kind of passion you pour into your work. This is what I consider real prosperity. It's not how much money I have in my pocket because I am a successful DT, but how much luxury I have in my heart that makes me prosperous. So in the end, I dream to be wealthy in my heart and that carries over to my lifestyle."

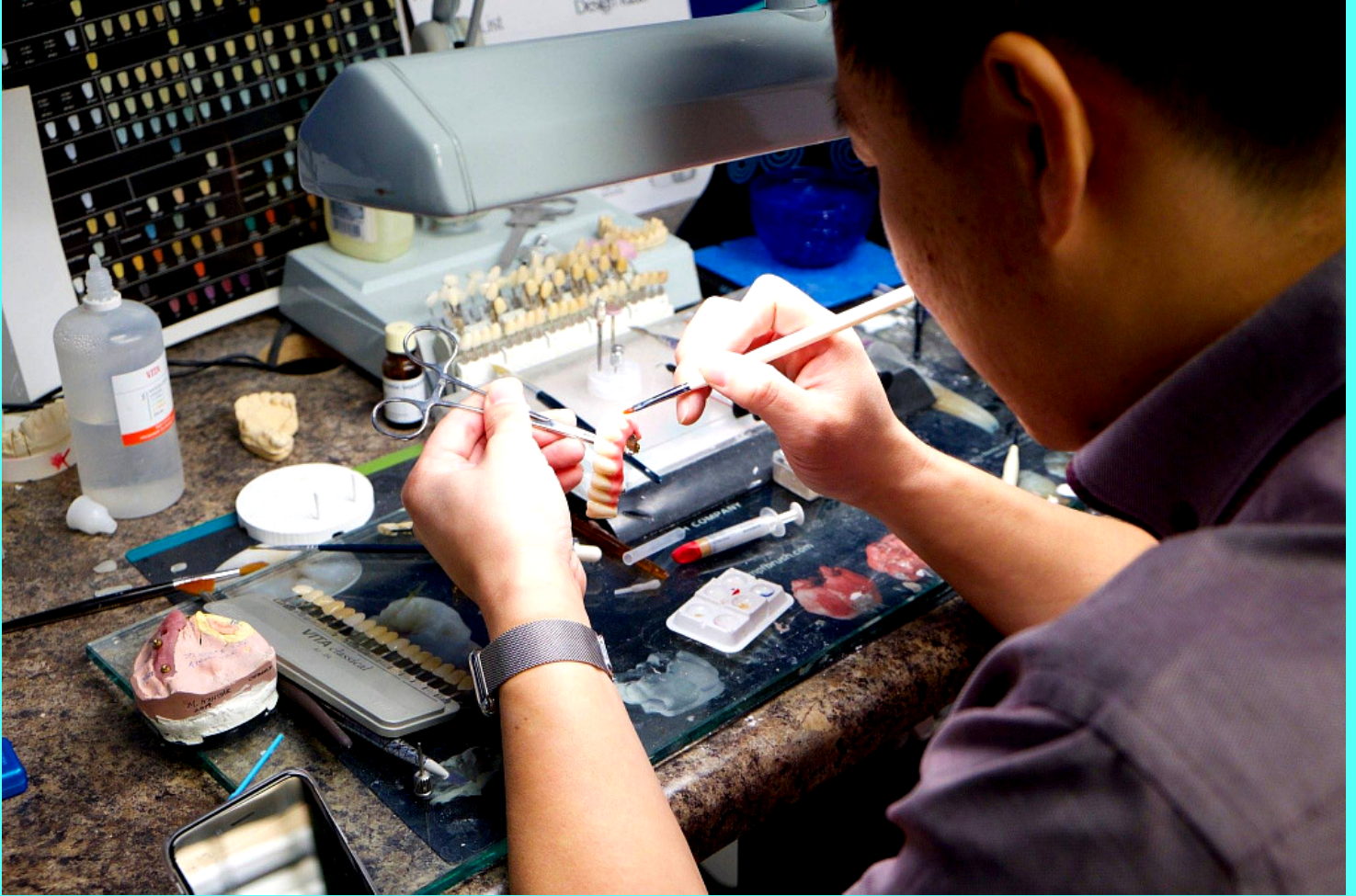
At this, it brought a lot of thoughts into our minds. -H&S

# ONE LOVE



**10 THOUSAND YEARS LATER**

*I will love you ten thousand years.  
This I know because you are the answer to my prayer.  
Almost two decades ago, you came into my life,  
Not knowing what you were getting yourself into..  
And you have stuck thick and thin through the years.  
Ten thousand years later,  
I will still be madly deeply in love with you.*



# PASSION

## "I LOVE WHAT I DO"

### Exclusive Interview with Sean Han, CDT

Just when we thought we knew Sean to the dot, there was much more in this man. Here's a collection of our chat over coffee and tea as we all had our own favorite hot drinks.

**H & S:** So, can we cut straight to the chase and ask you, "Why are people so into you?"

**Sean:** This is making me blush. I think it's because I'm pure?

**H & S:** Is that a question for us? That you're pure?

**Sean:** I have a very colorful flavorful life. I am blessed to have so many great family and friends all over the place. My focus in life is to never take things for granted and help empower as many people as I can and more than anything, be real. My life has been a roller coaster and I am just real thankful for the place I'm in today. If

you have anything at all to help someone, you are a pretty powerful person."

**H & S:** That's beautiful. Can you tell us a little bit about yourself, personally and professionally speaking, how did you get into the dental industry?

**Sean:** Sure. Well, first, I am Sean Han! I am a dental technician, father of 4 children and husband of beautiful Helen Han.

I am a Founder and Chief Technology Officer of a high-end dental laboratory in the heart of Silicon Valley, California, called Image Dental Group partnered with Craig Hom. I also own a dental training center in our laboratory facility. We specialize in Dental Implants and Cosmetic Dentistry utilizing the latest CAD/CAM technology. I am a Key Opinion Leader (KOL), Mentor and Consultant for Sirona, Kuraray Noritake, GC America and Empire Dental Solutions. I am a member of over 20 live

study clubs locally. I am a Co-Founder of Digi-Smile with Leo Yang, DDS. Dang! I hold many titles and yet I feel I have so much more to do..

**H & S:** Were you always this passionate or was there ever a moment you wanted to leave dental?

**Sean:** Actually, yes. During the dot com boom in Silicon Valley, I signed up for a software engineering program. I wanted to make more money! I made many friends and commuted two hours every single day after working in the lab. After a year and a half, I ended this journey.

Although the money seemed great at the time, it was not

and patients.

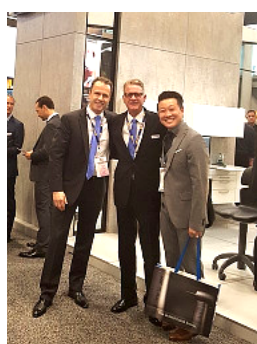
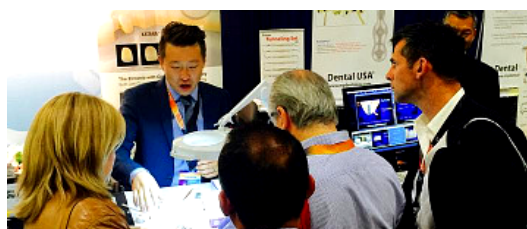
My natural personality, I don't really nickel and dime. If I think back to it now; I think that's what it was. I've seen good friends of mine that calculate their life and career to the point they say things like, "I'm probably only going to work for the next 20 years at the most, why would I have to be the BEST?"

Let's put it this way, I didn't nickel and dime for today - I simply wanted to be better in my career. I guess in the end, I am selfish that way.

**H & S:** Explain how you overcame all the struggles of learning and troubleshooting that led you to who Sean Han, CDT is today.

**Sean:** I worked my butt off and never gave up. Day-by-day, I never gave up. There were some restorations that

# MY life



intriguing enough to leave what was really my passion. In fact, it bored me. It was not for me. What I know now, and from that experience is that we all have a purpose in life and if we don't serve that purpose, we are living with no real breath. My purpose is to be the best dental technician that I can be. My job is my calling. It is through my passion for what I do that I am most able to touch other people's lives.

**H & S:** So now you are focused on continuing to create a high-end, digital laboratory specializing in dental implants. Tell us about that.

**Sean:** There's no running away from the final results. I am always striving to raise my own personal bar. I want control over my work and to deliver outstanding results. My belief is, your "title" comes naturally when you personally account for your work to both your clients

required me to work over ten times. I still did not give up. Others may say I'm stubborn - but in my own definition, this is persistence, healthy pride and passion for what I do.

**H & S:** If you were to start all over again, where do you see yourself?

**Sean:** I would be at the top of my chain in this industry. Not having wasted my time and money in different areas but invest more into my education. I am still striving for this. I only started committing to my own continuing education eight years ago. If I started at the time of my entrance into the dental industry, I would have more than 18 years of solid continuing education. That hurts me in my stomach to think about now. Ouch!

**H & S:** How do you juggle between family, career and all your traveling?



**Sean:** For me, it's always family first. Helen and I travel so much throughout the year together and although it may seem a bit much sometimes, we get to be boyfriend and girlfriend again during these trips and the children get to spend great times with grandparents (both sides) while they are still young. More than anything, when we are all together, we enjoy the most "quality" time together.

When I'm in town, I try my best to keep my hours at eight, starting my day at early hours.

I really value my time. I used to waste my time and was terrible at time management. It took me more than a decade into this industry to efficiently use my time prioritizing my hours, my minutes and to the seconds. This is very important. I think I read over 25 books on time management!

# Time manage



**H & S:** What will students pickup from your 2-day Digi-Smile Exclusive Course?

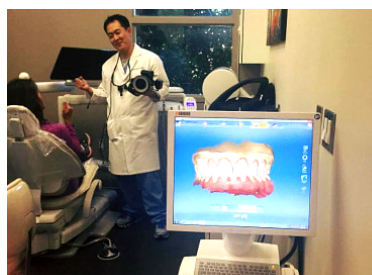
**Sean:** They will learn about full mouth screw-retained process flow from planning to final delivery step by-step. Dr. Leo Yang and I designed our course to be most comprehensive. We want to see people take the two days of our lecture and workshop and be able to be ready to produce on the following Monday morning. Our course is unique in the sense that we encourage dentists and laboratory technicians to take the course together.

It is a team concept. It cannot be done with one-way directions from the dentist nor the dental technician. It must be planned carefully to the right specifications from the beginning and clearly defined throughout the process.

This is a "selflessness" concept. We each put our experience and knowledge on the table for our patient. What decisions must be made during which process and how to troubleshoot throughout the case is the real key they will be taking back to their practice.

**H & S:** What inspired you to create DIGI-SMILE with your partner, Dr. Leo Yang?

**Sean:** Imagine a \$6K-9K sales increase per arch for a dental laboratory and \$25K-35K sales increase for the dentist. This is pretty exciting. That's not all. During these cases, it's the most rewarding experience as a dental professional because of the "WOW factor" in these large cases. It's the emotional component I'm talking about.



# My 2016

The impact on each and every one of these patients is amazing. I don't think there was a single time during the many cases I've worked on that I have not seen someone in the room tearing up with joy.

Leo and I want more and more technicians and dentists to be a part of this great experience; the treatment concept and the potential to grow their practice to a higher level of service for their patients. We are looking for more and more technicians and dentists to be a part of this treatment branded network and bring it world-wide. That is our vision. We are on a mission!

**H & S:** Finally... what's next in Sean Han's life?

**Sean:** Digi-Smile. I am putting in full-force along with my long-time friend and client, Dr. Leo Yang. Digi-Smile consists of two treatment concept utilizing CAD/CAM technology, dentist and laboratory technologists. **It includes Full Mouth Screw-Retained treatment concept and Single Day Smile Makeover treatment concept.**

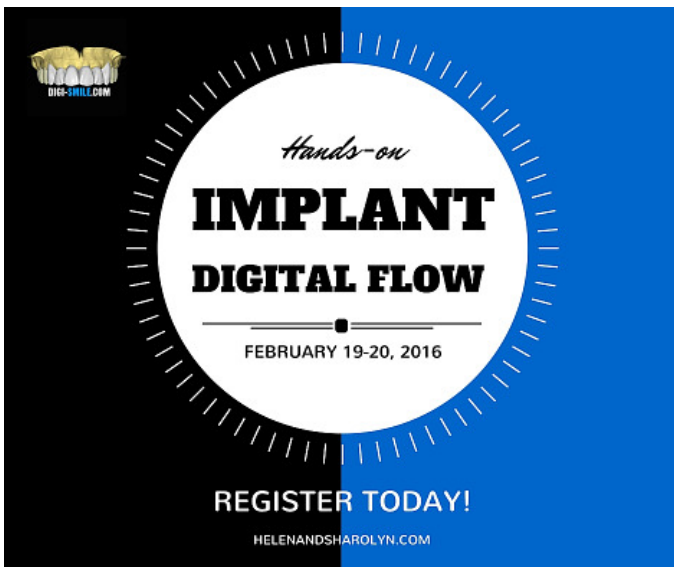
I will be training, mentoring and working on these cases each and every day. I want to create a network of Digi-Smile trained and certified laboratory technicians partnered with trained and certified dentists nationwide. We share a very valuable end-user together. Our patients.



FOLLOW SEAN ON FACEBOOK:

**SEANHANCDT**

[WWW.IMAGEDENTALSTUDIOS.COM](http://WWW.IMAGEDENTALSTUDIOS.COM)



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## TREND WATCH

# DIGITAL IMPRESSION(DI) ADVANTAGES

By Sean Han, CDT



**A**re you taking advantage of your digital intra-oral scanner?

Many dental practice now has a type of intra-oral scanner in their practice and may not recognize all the advantages it serves.

### ACCEPTING ALL DIGITAL IMPRESSIONS

Many Technologically Advanced (TA) dental laboratories are now trained and equipped with the most innovative, top-notch technology in-house with the capability to accept ALL scanned digital impressions. Some of the most popular to mention: Cerec OmniCam (also known as "Sirona-Connect"), iTero, Trios, Carestream and all STL files. As long as they are STL files, your TA laboratory will take it from there! However, only Sirona TA lab is able to accept Cerec files which is why I am happy with my current systems. To find a TA laboratory near you, visit [Digi-Smile.com](http://Digi-Smile.com).

### PREDICTABLE RESULTS

Due to the precise margin capture amongst many other variables that used to allow for errors gone, say good-bye to remakes. Work with your digital laboratory on the specifications you require and all this is automated for less human error. Not to mention, labs have more time to work on aesthetics versus framework. Your crowns and veneers are more in control than ever.

### COMMUNICATION & FASTER DELIVERY

We are living in a *LTE speed* world. Sending Di allows for better communication with your laboratory and faster delivery of your restorations. My doctors and I are texting, facetimeing and just about any other communication technology you can think of. The cases are much smoother with clarity on both ends to allow quality results. If you are still hesitant about the technology, ask your peers or better yet, test run a few cases! You'll either love it or love it.

