



THE PAWLOWICZS

FOCUSED ENTREPRENEURS WHO LOVE THEIR COMMUNITY

By Heather Cherry | Photographs by Dena Koenig



The Pawlowiczs are family-focused. Joining their father to maintain Pawlowicz Dentistry, John and Jason Pawlowicz enjoy getting to see each other every day. “The family business is great because you’re working with your family, providing a living for your family—but also all the staff and their families,” Jason said. “It’s also nice to offer a valuable service for the community—we treat our patients like family.”

A family-oriented dental practice is much different from a corporate-owned business because it allows relationships to be built. “We get to watch families grow up, and it is an amazing thing,” Jason said. “You don’t have the opportunity to see that in corporations—it is gratifying and something we enjoy.”

Synergistically, as dentists, John and Jason keep everything in-house. “We don’t have to refer our patients to specialists because between my brother and me, we have increased our skillset to include orthodontics, root canals, and extractions,” Jason said. “We also offer general dentistry, sleep appliances, implants, smile makeovers, and more.”

Their family values extend far beyond the office. Both of their families value the community and all it has afforded them through their careers.

BETH AND JOHN PAWLOWICZ, III

John, Beth, Jack (18-years-old), and Jane (17-years-old) live in the Adams Ridge community. They chose this subdivision because of the proximity to their families.

But they say it’s such a great place to live that they couldn’t imagine living anywhere else. “It’s convenient to a lot of things, but it’s also a very nice area—a lot of our friends live here. Our neighbors are fantastic,” Beth said. “It’s been a great place for our kids to grow up.”

Beth and John have been married 22 years—together for 32 years. They first met as classmates at the University of Pittsburgh School of Dental Medicine (Pitt).

John and Beth have been dentists since 1993. John always knew he wanted to be a dentist, whereas Beth—not so much. “I did not know I wanted to be a dentist until I was in college and started working for an oral surgeon,” Beth said. “That’s when I decided I wanted to go to dental school—I liked all aspects of dentistry.”

Seeing his dad build a business while remaining involved in the community is what inspired John’s career. “I always knew I wanted to be a dentist from watching my father build his business,” John said. “I saw a lot of hard work and dedication. Dad was a great role model, and I wanted to continue to build the business and give back to the community.”

Beth works as a Director, General Practice Dental Hospital-Based Residency Program at UPMC Presbyterian Shadyside Hospital. She also works in the UPMC Head and Neck Cancer Survivorship Clinic where she trains newly graduated dentists in advanced procedures and sees

patients who are head and neck cancer survivors. “I do specialized treatments with my patients,” Beth said. “It is challenging and exciting.”

Beth is also an Assistant Professor at the University of Pittsburgh School of Dental Medicine.

Beth earned a degree in English and pre-medicine with a minor in Art History from Franklin & Marshall College in Lancaster, Pa. She then attended Pitt, studied dentistry where she earned her Doctor of Medicine in Dentistry (DMD), and completed a hospital-based general practice dental residency at UPMC Presbyterian Dental Center.

John attended Kent State University and graduated with a political science major, with pre-medicine dominance. He earned his DMD from the University of Pittsburgh School of Dental Medicine. He received a general practice fellowship from Montefiore Medical Center in 1993. He obtained several fellowships, including a mastership in the International College of Craniomandibular Orthopedics (ICCMO).

He is a partner at Pawlowicz Dentistry, where he specializes in patients with temporomandibular joint (TMJ & TMD) issues, headache sufferers, patients with sleep disorder breathing, and oral surgery issues—anything that deals with the surgical side of dentistry—including implants and restorations. “I focus on a lot of full mouth dentistry rehabilitation—anything that needs to be rehabbed orally—including from excessive trauma or post-cancer,” John said.

John also serves as the President of the Dental Society of Western Pennsylvania and the alternate delegate for the American Dental Association.



Beth and John enjoy volunteering for Catholic Charities and encourage their children to do the same. "We did a lot of work from ground level in helping to establish the Saint Kilian Parish Center," John said. "We spent a lot of time there helping to get it established—it was rewarding and a fabulous experience."

Jack is involved at Lasallian Ministry at Central Catholic High School. He was a part of their recent primary fund drive collecting over \$20,000 in sports equipment. Jane frequently uses her birthday to ask for gifts for local charities versus for herself. She recently requested donations for the Catholic Charities Roselia House which supports mothers in crisis. "We have raised our kids that to live a full and happy life, you have to give back," Beth said. "We're blessed, and we don't take it for granted."

Their family motto, beyond hard work and having great careers, is putting their faith into action. "Jack says it feels good to live faith in action, and that's what's important to us," Beth added. "We always get involved when we can."

Jack is a senior at Central Catholic High School. He was awarded a baseball scholarship and is planning to attend St. Bonaventure University in fall 2021 to study Environmental Geoscience and minor in Finance. Jane attends Oakland Catholic High School. She is currently playing golf and has played basketball. She is a high honors student; a member of the Joan of Arc Society of Scholars; a National Honor Society student; Junior Class Vice President; and involved in Model United Nations. She isn't yet sure where she plans to attend college upon graduation, but

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RESIDENT FEATURE

her interests are politics, policy, and economics.

As for hobbies, John and Beth enjoy watching Jack play baseball.

For fun, as a family, they like to vacation in Cape May, N.J., and love to go to Walt Disney World. "It's not a cliché—Disney is our happy place," Beth said. "Our kids love it, we love it—if we could choose anywhere to go, we go to Disney."

Their special message to their neighbors is that they are thankful. "We've always had the support of our neighbors and community—allowing us to grow a business and raise a family," Beth said. "We do not take for granted what a wonderful community we live in. Our wish for our children is that they can raise their families in a place like this."

ASHLEY AND JASON PAWLOWICZ

Jason, Ashley, Annabelle (15-years-old), Thadeus (8-years-old), and Owen (5-years-old) live in the Myoma Woods Subdivision. They enjoy their community because it's an excellent place to raise a family. "There is an overabundance of young families here, but also offers an old-time feel—we are a tight-knit community," Ashley said. "It is not as busy as some of the other local municipalities, and there are good school districts."

Their children attend St. Killian Parish School and North Catholic High School.

Unlike his brother, Jason didn't always know he wanted to be a dentist. "Dad worked long hours and he wasn't home a lot," Jason said. "Dad never pushed us to get into dentistry or never suggested it, but he did say to be your own boss because you can't fire yourself, and you get to make your vacations. That stuck with me."

"My senior year in college, I studied for the Medical College Admission Test (MCAT) and put in my applications for medical school. My Dad's long-time assistant was out sick, and he asked if I would come down and help out," Jason added. "It was life-changing to see how dad interacted with patients—it was an amiable environment, and each patient he treated was different."

That's when he decided to rethink his career path and changed his coursework to study for the Dental Admission Test (DAT). "I took my DAT, did well, and got accepted to Pitt."

He is now a partner alongside his brother John at Pawlowicz Dentistry and specializes in early intervention orthodontics, endodontics, esthetic and implant dentistry. He is also certified in Invisalign.

Jason earned a pre-medicine degree with biology and a minor in chemistry from Geneva College. He then earned his DMD from the University of Pittsburgh School of Dental Medicine. Jason also completed a one-year general dentistry residency at Allegheny General Hospital.

Ashley earned a Bachelor of Arts and Science degree from Pitt. She majored in communications



PHOTOS BY DENA KOENIG PHOTOGRAPHY

with a concentration in public speaking. After graduation, she worked in corporate retail as a Fashion Show Coordinator for Kaufmann's. She has also worked as an Assistant Buyer at Dick's Sporting Goods and as a Special Event Coordinator at Macy's. "When I got married and started having kids, the traveling was tough, and Macy's took the corporate office out of Pittsburgh," Ashley said. "That's when I moved into healthcare. I now work for the Butler Health System, in the Cardiovascular Thoracic Surgery unit as a Patient Care Assistant."

Annabelle is on the North Catholic High School girls basketball and tennis team. She lettered the last two years in tennis. She was elected to the National Honor Society this year and is an excellent all-around student. She is interested in children and is currently investigating how her love of kids could lead her to a future career.

Thadeus is involved in baseball, basketball, golf, and Cub Scouts. He is hoping to follow in his Dad's career path and become a dentist someday.

Owen plays baseball and basketball and started golfing this year. He is also a fan of World Wrestling Entertainment (WWE) and video games. "He is the best Xbox gamer I've ever seen," Jason said. "None of his older cousins can beat him."

As for community involvement, Jason volunteers as a den leader for Thadeus's Cub Scouts and previously volunteered as a basketball coach for Thadeus's and Annabelle's teams.

Fun facts about Jason and Ashley—Ashley has a twin sister in the Upper St. Claire area.

Like John and Beth, Jason and Ashley are devoted fans of Disney. "We love traveling to Walt Disney World every year—it is an easy vacation with kids," Ashley said.

Their special message to their neighbors is that friends are everything. "Mars has provided us so many friendships—we can't see ourselves living anywhere else," Ashley said. "And we are looking forward to seeing more of them this summer."



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