

Klarsch receives 2018 Shepard Distinguished Service Award

The Midwestern Society of Orthodontists' Board of Directors unanimously selected Dr. James G. Klarsch of Des Peres, Missouri, as the recipient of the 2018 Earl E. Shepard Distinguished Service Award. This award recognizes a member of the MSO who exemplifies the ideals of the orthodontic profession, community and family. He received the award during the business meeting of the MSO in Bloomington, Minnesota in September.



Dr. Klarsch, a St. Louis native, received his Bachelor's degree, with Honors, from the University of Missouri at Columbia and was chosen to be a member of Mystical 7, the most prestigious Honor Society at MU. In 1984, he earned his Doctorate of Dental Surgery (DDS) "With Distinction" from the University of Missouri Kansas City School of Dentistry. There, he was inducted into Omicron Kappa Upsilon, the National Dental Honor Society.

Post-graduate work began with a General Practice Residency program at Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville School of Dental Medicine/St. Mary's Hospital. Dr. Klarsch then completed his post-graduate education in orthodontics at St. Louis University Center for Advanced Dental Education/Department of Orthodontics. Graduating at the top of his class, he received a Master of Science (MS) degree and has been practicing orthodontics since 1988.

Today, Dr. Klarsch is dedicated to his field with a thriving practice that is limited to the Specialty of Orthodontics for children, adolescents and adults. Also, he continues to train in and study about orthodontics in order to provide his patients the highest quality care. To this end, he is active in numerous dental organizations. Dr. Klarsch is an active member of the American Association of Orthodontists (AAO), the American Dental Association, the Missouri Dental Association and the Greater St. Louis Dental Society. He also served in several offices including president for the Missouri Society of Orthodontists and the Midwestern Society of Orthodontists. Additionally, he is a past board member of the Orthodontic Education and Research Foundation, and a past president of the St. Louis University Orthodontic Alumni Association. Dr. Klarsch served on the AAO Council on Communications. He is Board certified in the Specialty of Orthodontics and is a Diplomate of the American Board of Orthodontics.

At St. Louis University's Department of Orthodontics, Dr. Klarsch is shaping the future of orthodontics as a member of the clinical faculty, training students in the art and science of orthodontics. He is also a member of the staff at the Cardinal Glennon Children's Hospital, where he volunteers his time and expertise on the craniofacial-cleft palate team.

Away from dentistry, Dr. Klarsch was elected to serve for two years as the Grand Knight of the St. Clement Knights of Columbus Council 13604 and earned the Star Council Award each year. He was the Cub Master for nine years of the St. Clement Cub Scout Pack 624.

Dr. Klarsch achieved the rank of Eagle Scout through the Boy Scouts of America. He is also the proud father of Austin and Daniel, his two sons who are both Eagle Scouts. He was inducted into his alma mater Ritenour Senior School's Hall of Fame.

Dr. Klarsch is a resident of Des Peres, Missouri. He and his wife, Betsy Klarsch, who have been married 25 years, are proud parents of daughter Mary, and sons Austin and Daniel. His hobbies are many outdoor activities including boating and skiing, as well as spending time with his family

Congratulations to Jim for all of his activities, which exemplify the ideals of the orthodontic profession, community and family.