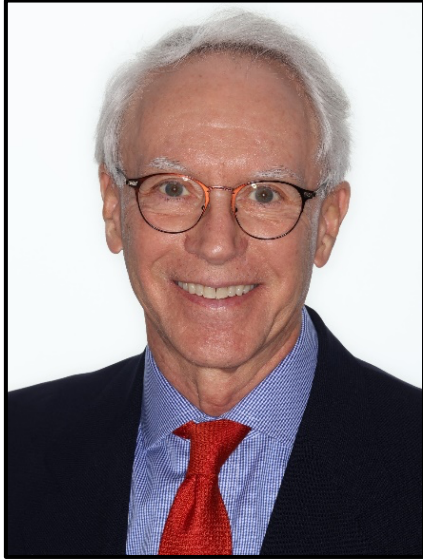


Dr. Patrick Foley receives 2024 Shepard Award



Dr. Earl E. Shepard served the specialty of orthodontics and especially the Midwestern Society of Orthodontists (MSO) in multiple roles. He was an educator and chaired the Department of Orthodontics at Washington University in St. Louis for 22 years. He was the secretary-treasurer for the Central Section of the AAO (predecessor to the MSO), as well as the AAO, was president of the MSO and was best known as the American Board of Orthodontics (ABO) first and longest serving Executive Director. Recognizing these many contributions to orthodontics and dentistry, in 1987,

the MSO created the Earl E. Shepard Distinguished Service Award as its highest named recognition for service to the dental profession, the specialty of orthodontics, and the greater community. How fitting it is that this year's award recipient, Dr. **Patrick F. Foley**, has himself served with distinction as an educator, society leader, and the MSO representative to the American Board as well as its president.

Pat started his collegiate education at Northern Illinois University where he majored in mathematics and chemistry. His first "real job" was as a high school teacher in his chosen major. "My sense of always striving to be my best was developed during my youth under the guidance of loving and supportive parents. This perspective carried on through my high school teaching experience—with diligent preparation for each day." Pat credits the early working with students both as a teacher and coach, for developing his love for academics.

After several years of teaching in Oswego, Illinois, Pat entered the College of Dentistry at the University of Illinois in Chicago (UIC). After dental school, he completed a General Dentistry Residency at Fort Gordon in Georgia and then served in the Army for an additional four years, much of it in Butzbach, Federal Republic of Germany. Dr. Foley notes, "The U.S. Army motto of "Be all that you

can be,” was reinforced within my general dentistry experience as a U.S. Army Captain.”

Service to country was important, but it also provided a backdrop for him to work with and eventually marry his UIC dental school classmate and fellow Army dentist, Rita and start their family. While Pat found that he enjoyed general dentistry, he was intrigued with orthodontics, and after leaving the army, completed the orthodontic specialty residency program at Saint Louis University (SLU). Rita practiced general dentistry, taught dental hygiene and eventually became a researcher for dental related products for which she and Pat hold patents.

Dr. Foley had a thirty-year private practice experience in the northern suburbs of Chicago. Not only an excellent clinician, his orthodontic colleagues also note that he demonstrated a special facility for “coaching” both patients and parents and, through his abilities at communication, facilitating better care both for the patients he treated as well as helping fellow professionals with whom he consulted. For the last 17 years of his practice, he also shared his time and skills with residents at SLU as an assistant professor. Pat was actively recruited in 2018 to become a full-time faculty member and now serves as an Associate Professor, Kenneth Marshall Endowed Professor of Orthodontics, and Associate Director for the SLU Center for Advanced Dental Education. Pat has stated, “teaching at the graduate level at Saint Louis University in more recent years has kept me humble and yet engaged, especially today in orthodontic education and research.”

During his time in practice and teaching, Pat has also served as a volunteer leader in his profession. His appointments have included service as a trustee on the University of Illinois Alumni Board, Illinois Society of Orthodontists (ISO) trustee and its president (2020 recipient of the ISO’s highest Merit Award), American Board of Orthodontics Examiner, MSO’s ABO Director including a term as ABO president, and the Commission on Dental Accreditation’s (CODA) Review Committee on Orthodontics and Dentofacial Orthopedics Education. Pat has also served as a reviewer for the following professional journals: the *American Journal of Orthodontics & Dentofacial Orthopedics (AJODO)*, the *AJODO Clinical Companion*, the *Angle Orthodontist*, *Orthodontics and Craniofacial Research*, *BMC Oral Health*, the *European Journal of Orthodontics*, and *Clinical Oral Investigations*.

In Lake Zurich, Illinois, for 27 years Pat was part of the Chamber of Commerce. He is likely best known in the community for his work with pre-teens and teens coaching basketball for both girls and boys as well as himself being an avid distance runner and board member for the Alpine Runners of Lake Zurich and a participant in the Jaycees. A strong proponent of work/life balance and the importance of faith, Pat also served Saint Francis de Sales Catholic Church in Lector Ministry for over 25 years.

Drs. Pat and Rita Foley have four children all who have been very successful in their chosen fields. Son John is an orthodontist in North Carolina, son Matt and daughter Elaine are software engineers in Chicago and daughter Kaye is an Emmy Award winning producer in New York. The Foley home enjoys activity—especially when any of their grandchildren visit. Pat continues with his watercolor painting, examples of which can be seen in their home, in private galleries and the homes of friends.

In preparing to receive the Earl E. Shepard Award, Dr. Foley was asked to comment on his career. “I have been thrilled to be able to work with young people in their life journeys, initially as a teacher and coach, then with our own family and in the community. Most recently I have been able to help bright residents become orthodontic specialists. They have survived in a different generational perspective than my own; however, most remain dedicated to serving their patients in the best way possible. Because of this dedication I can remain optimistic about the future of our specialty. Certainly, we must continue to foster a dynamic understanding of the specialty—preserving traditions as well as operating with evidence-based science. I always emphasize with residents the importance of maintaining one’s integrity. Honesty will never go out of style!”

Congratulations to Dr. Pat Foley, a most deserving recipient of the 2024 MSO Earl E. Shepard Distinguished Service Award.