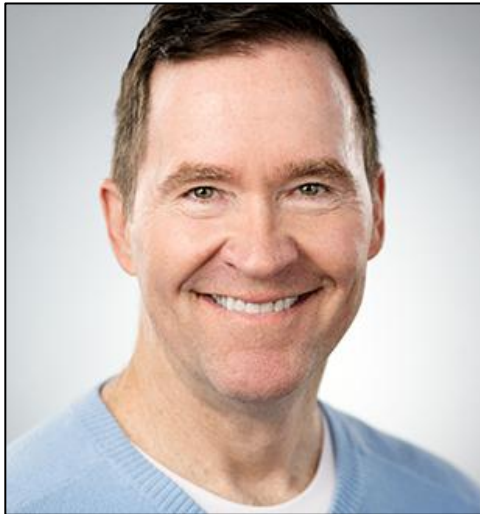


Tom Stark receives 2022 Shepard Award



The MSO Earl E. Shepard Distinguished Service Award was created in 1987 to honor Dr. Shepard and recognize those orthodontists who perform service to mankind in a combination of service to orthodontics and service in other areas of dentistry and/or their state or local community. The Board of Directors of the MSO unanimously selected Dr. **Thomas M. Stark** of Ames, Iowa as the 2022 MSO Earl E. Shepard Distinguished Service Award recipient.

Tom attended Iowa State University where he earned his BS in Distributed Studies in 1980, and then he received his DDS from the University of Iowa in 1983. Tom was blessed to be accepted into the Baylor Department of Orthodontics in Dallas, Texas, where he received his MSD degree in 1985.

Tom and his college sweetheart wife, Cindy, then moved back to Ames, and they now live two blocks away from their respective fraternity and sorority houses where they first met. Tom joined Dr. Bill Iversen, the co-founder of Ortho2 Computer Systems in his orthodontic practice in the summer of 1985; and he bought the practice when Bill moved to Colorado in 1987.

Growing up, one of Tom's beloved parents Maurie and Mary Stark's favorite sayings was 'to whom much has been given, much will be expected.' Tom has tried to emulate their example and contribute his time, talent and treasure to many worthy causes in his community, his church and the dental and orthodontic profession.

Tom served as president of the Boone and Story County Dental Study Club, as president of the Iowa Society of Orthodontists, was Iowa's director to the Midwestern Society of Orthodontists from 1996-2002, and served as president of the MSO in 2002-2003. He also served on the Council on Orthodontic Health Care for several years, was the general chair of the MSO's 2002 annual meeting in

Minneapolis, was an MSO delegate to the AAO's House of Delegates multiple years, and served on several national AAO committees. Tom is also one of the founding members of the CGCG orthodontic study club!

In the Ames community, Tom has served as a director and long-time member of the Ames Noon Rotary Club, a past board member of the Story County United Way, a long-time director with First American Bank, and an active member in his church. He has participated weekly with St. Cecilia's Perpetual Adoration for over 25 years. In 2017-18, Tom and Cindy co-chaired St. Thomas Aquinas Church's successful \$5 million dollar capital campaign 'Catching Souls...Our Catholic Mission'.

Tom served as an adjunct faculty member in the University of Iowa's orthodontic department for over 15 years, and he looks forward to resuming that position and sharing the spot with his youngest son Mikey upon his anticipated move back to Ames in May 2024, after Mikey completes his orthodontic training at Tom's alma mater, Texas A&M (Baylor) Department of Orthodontics.

Next to his faith, Tom's most important priorities are his wife and family. Tom has been happily married to the love of his life Cindy for over 40 years! They are the very proud parents of four wonderful children: Emily, a CPA like her mom; John, PhD in mechanical engineering; Steve, an attorney, and the aforementioned Mikey. They absolutely adore their children's four loving spouses and girlfriend, and their favorite titles are 'Papa' and 'Nana' to grandsons Jimmy, Robbie, Charlie, Theo and Tommy.

In his free time, Tom enjoys fly fishing, waterskiing, golf and upland bird hunting. He likes to call himself a 'permanent beginner' because he isn't very good at any of them!

On a personal note, Tom feels completely surprised and humbled to receive this honor, especially considering the tremendous list of previous recipients. Tom had the good fortune to actually meet Dr. Earl Shepard in 1986 in St. Louis. Tom clearly recalled how that giant of a man seemed to carefully size up this young orthodontist. Hopefully, Tom has made him proud.