

# Dale B. Wade Award *of excellence*

## Dr. Don Thompson receives Dale B. Wade Award of Excellence

The Dale B. Wade Award of Excellence honors exemplary senior clinicians who demonstrate exceptional dedication to orthodontics through clinical excellence and devoted teaching in the image of Dr. Wade. At the College of Diplomates of the American Board luncheon May 17, 2008, the CDABO bestowed this award on Don Thompson (DDS '61).

Dr. Thompson's professional history is impressive. Originally from Southwest Missouri, he attended Southwest Missouri State University. He graduated as salutatorian of his dental class at the UMKC School of Dentistry in 1961 and was honored with the Alpha Omega Award. After serving in the U.S. Air Force, Dr. Thompson entered St. Louis University and received his MS degree in orthodontics in 1965.

Don Thompson joined his older brother, Gene, in the private practice of orthodontics in Kansas City in 1966. That same year he also began his teaching career in the Orthodontic Department at the UMKC School of Dentistry, teaching cephalometrics and clinical orthodontics.

Over the years, Dr. Thompson has provided a positive influence for many young people entering the specialty of orthodontics. An excellent clinician and devoted teacher, he presents orthodontics from a practical as well as a theoretical perspective. He teaches cephalometric

and orthodontic concepts in a manner that relates to the daily practice of orthodontics. As a mentor he has always strived for excellence in his own practice and instills this goal in his residents to implement into their practices. Dr. Thompson has exceptional values and ethics that show in his actions both in and out of the orthodontic specialty.

Dr. Thompson was away from UMKC for a few years in the '80s to devote his full attention to private practice when his brother became ill. He returned to teaching in the early '90s when his oldest son, Jeff,

joined the practice. His youngest son, Doug, joined his father and brother in practice in the mid '90s. Thompson Orthodontics has had a well-deserved reputation for excellence in orthodontics in Kansas City for over six decades.

In 1997, Dr. Thompson became the interim director for the Department of Orthodontics at UMKC, and in 2003 he became its interim program director. He has taught a typondot course from 2000 to the present. He is currently the clinical director of the graduate orthodontic clinic at UMKC. ■



Dr. Thompson and UMKC Orthodontic Residents: (left to right) Dr. Jason Burckhard, Dr. Ian Ballou, Dr. Chuck Schumacher, Dr. Patrick Briscoe, Dr. Larissa Freytag, Dr. Tara Cash, Dr. Paul Anders and Dr. Mike Barlow.