

# Orthodontist honored for distinguished service

## ■ Charles H. Tweed Foundation recognizes Dr. McCullough for contributions to profession

By Conrad Dudderar  
Editor

Yukon's first full-time orthodontist has earned a distinguished service award for contributions he's made to his profession.

Starting his 32nd year as an orthodontist in Yukon, Dr. **Stephen McCullough** opened Yukon's first full-time orthodontic practice more than three decades ago in the Spring Creek office building. Having been in Yukon since 1983, Dr. McCullough has maintained his practice at the same location the entire time.

Dr. McCullough received a Distinguished Service Award during the 30th Biennial Meeting of the Charles H. Tweed Foundation on Oct. 23-25, 2014 in Tucson, Ariz.

"It was an honor to receive the award," Dr. McCullough said. "It was basically based on a long-term commitment to doing things the right way."

This award is given every two years to people who have made significant contributions to orthodontics and the Charles H. Tweed Foundation. The Charles

H. Tweed Foundation for Orthodontic Research and Education is named after a pioneer orthodontist who revolutionized the industry during the 1930s and '40s.

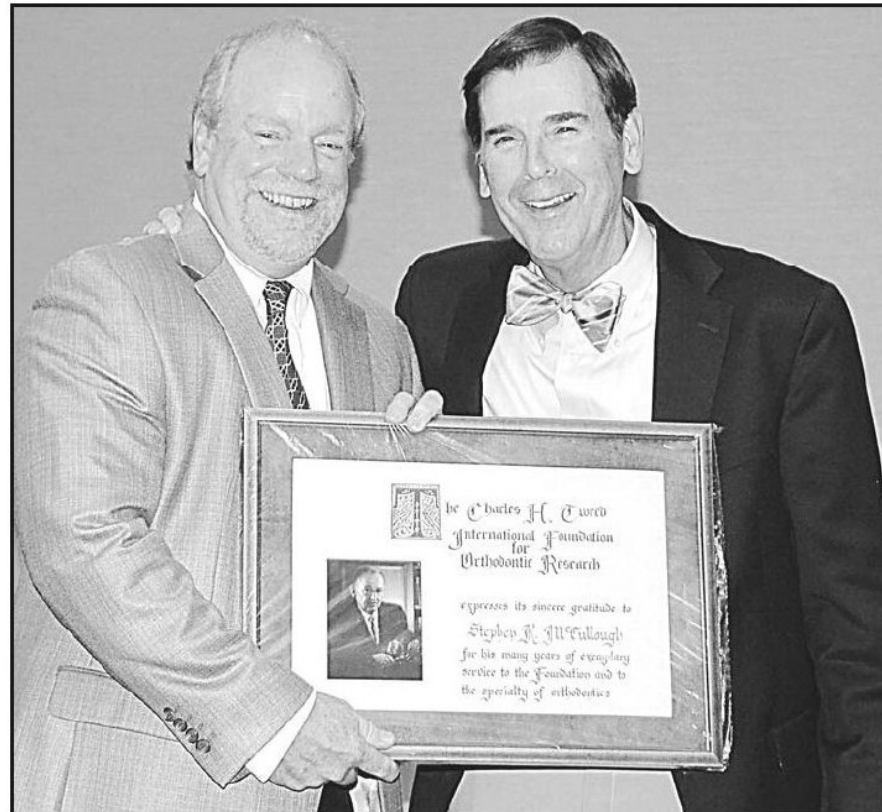
Dr. McCullough learned about Tweed and his treatment method while attending orthodontic school. Dr. McCullough has followed Tweed's philosophy in his thriving orthodontic practice.

Starting in 1987, Dr. McCullough became an instructor in the Charles H. Tweed Course in Tucson, Ariz.

Now offered three times annually to orthodontic graduate students and practicing orthodontists, it is the longest-running post-graduate course in orthodontics.

"I taught the course once a year for 10 years, and then they asked me to be an assistant course director," said Dr. McCullough, who since 1997 has taught every course and thousands of students (about 110 students attend each course).

"It's a fairly rigorous course," Dr. McCullough said. "It's two weeks of a lot of wire bending, treatment planning and going over cases. We start at 8 in the



Yukon orthodontist Dr. Stephen McCullough accepts the Distinguished Service Award from Dr. David Williams, president of the Charles H. Tweed Foundation for Orthodontic Research and Education.

morning and finish at 7 at night; it's a long day for these students and the instructors!"

Dr. McCullough spends six weeks in Tucson each year instructing students and fellow orthodontists from across the country and world. The summer session is an international course, with attendees from China, Italy, France, Brazil, and many other places.

Through the relationships he's developed with fellow professionals, he's been invited to lecture in Italy, Monte Carlo, Japan, China, and Brazil.

An Oklahoma City native, McCullough attended college and dental school at the University of Oklahoma back in the 1970s.

OU's College of Dentistry didn't have an ortho-

dontic program then, so he went to Michigan for two years to earn his orthodontic degree.

Dr. McCullough is a charter faculty member of the Graduate Orthodontic Department at the OU College of Dentistry, having taught there since 1981. He continues to teach part-time at OU.

After 2-1/2 years teaching

full-time at OU in the early '80s, Dr. McCullough decided he wanted to have his own orthodontic practice.

"I looked around and really liked Yukon," he said. "I came out and talked to Dr. (James) Limestall, Dr. (David) Deason, Dr. (Dale) Watson, and other dentists who were here then. They said they would welcome an orthodontist here."

The Spring Creek building, 508 W Vandament, was just being built. Dr. McCullough's office has been there ever since and he's lived in Yukon since 1989.

"It's been 31 great years that I've spent here," he said. "I live just a quarter-mile from my office, which is nice. Even though Yukon is growing now, we still have that 'small-town feel'."

The Yukon orthodontist has been a major supporter of Yukon schools and student programs, and enjoys "giving back" to his community. Through the Give Kids a Smile program, Dr. McCullough provides free services to several deserving patients.

"I treat a lot of patients for free," he said. "I've been blessed to live and practice here and I try to give back when I can."