



Dr. James L. Vaden

University of Tennessee Health Science Center's College of Dentistry opens new orthodontic clinic

Orthodontic students at the University of Tennessee (UT) Health Science Center's College of Dentistry in Memphis, TN, have a new orthodontic clinic. The College of Dentistry dedicated and officially opened the James L. Vaden Orthodontic Clinic on July 27, 2013. Dr. Vaden, a past president of The American Board of Orthodontics (ABO), served as chair of the UT Department of Orthodontics for 11 years.

The state-of-the-art facility is now home to the 12 orthodontic students in the 34-month graduate orthodontic program. Dr. Terry Trojan, the current graduate program director and chair of the Department of Orthodontics, says the clinic now has a setting more akin to a private practice than an educational institution. "The design allows faculty and students to interact almost instantly during patient treatment," he said. "The students really appreciate their private office space. Our Walter C. Sandusky Conference Room, which recognizes an alum and ABO-certified practitioner and educator who spent 62 years teaching in our department, is also a hit. It has all the state-of-the-art communication and display capabilities that allow sharing of content off campus, as well as greater clarity for local presentations."

During his tenure as chair, Dr. Vaden established a fund to build a new clinic and sought support from the orthodontic alumni as he had in the past. Oddly, his proposal quickly hit a dead end. "I said we needed a new clinic and started the fund, but I didn't get anywhere after that," he said.

Unbeknownst to him, the orthodontic alumni were secretly raising \$800,000 for a new clinic. "First and most important, there is no one among the UT alum more deserving of this recognition than Jim Vaden, but the alumni response came before the donors decided to name the clinic in his honor. He asked; they gave," Dr. Trojan said, noting that several alumni, including Dr. DeWayne McCamish, Dr. Richard Williams, Dr. Billy McKinley, Dr. Ray Fuqua and Dr. Randy Smith, worked diligently on the fundraising effort. "Our department has a history of alumni support for endowed foundations and special projects. We had a participation rate of 50 percent for the construction of the new clinic. That participation rate is at least double the national average for similar campaigns."

The group announced the availability of these funds at the end of Dr. Vaden's term as chair. "They surprised me in May 2010; I had no idea," said Dr. Vaden, who continues to serve as a professor within the department, teaching one day a month. "The alumni did this, not me. We have an amazing alumni group that goes above and beyond what is requested of them."

In addition to having a strong alumni support system, the graduate orthodontic program emphasizes board certification. All of the orthodontic students take the ABO's Written Examination. Faculty members encourage the orthodontic students to complete the board-certification process after they graduate.

"We do expect this and prepare all students for the process," Dr. Trojan said. "We do all we can to ensure that current students have the cases necessary to present for the Initial Certification Examination. Not all graduates complete the process, but we continue to encourage all graduates to become fully certified. We look forward to the day when we can state that we are a 100-percent certified program."