

**The George Arvidson Award
for Meritorious Service to Chiropractic**
77th Annual Congress
Federation of Chiropractic Licensing Boards
May 3, 2003
Orlando, Florida

The George Arvidson Award for Meritorious Service to Chiropractic was created by the Federation in 1992.

Overview: This award is the Federation's highest individual honor. Named for FCLB Past President Dr. George Arvidson of Minnesota, it recognizes integrity, service, sacrifice, vision, and commitment in the arena of chiropractic licensure.

The selection of the recipient is made thoughtfully and with joy as we continue to keep alive the dreams of George Arvidson, the gentle man with the great heart, the radiant smile, and the deep love for chiropractic.

Each year, a right choice clearly emerges to uphold the honor represented by this prestigious award.

Our 1993 award began the tradition with Don Petersen. The quality of his support for licensure is undiminished.

The 1994 winner, Dr. Rex Wright of Kansas, combined both current and past service. He enriched our history with what he gave, and our present with his bold vision for tomorrow.

In 1995, the award went to the man to whom George had passed the torch of FCLB leadership - Dr. Brent Owens of Florida.

In 1996 the award went to co-winners, Drs Paul M. Tullio of Chicago, Illinois and Frank G. Hideg, Jr., of Kentucky for their combined regulatory service and their untiring efforts to secure a sound future for the our organization.

1997 focused on Canada's humble and relentlessly dedicated visionary, Dr. Daniel Saint Germain. In 1998, Dr. Peter D. Ferguson was honored, not just for what he has given regulation but also for the call he has answered - and what he has yet to contribute to national service.

1999 sent the award around the world to Australia, where Dr. Ed Devereaux has shaped the Australian regulatory story with his passionate commitment to public protection.

The new millennium in 2000 placed our highest honor in the healing hands of a person who has served education and regulation, and who has fought tirelessly for legislation to benefit the patients, Dr. Ken Padgett.

In 2001, the winner was Horace Elliott, a dedicated man who has served testing with the NBCE for over 15 years.

And last year, Dr. Joe Brimhall was honored for modeling integrity and honesty in his dedication to public protection through regulation and accreditation.

This year, we have the opportunity to highlight the character and accomplishments of a man who has sacrificed much for chiropractic licensure and regulation.

Describing this year's winner is difficult - not because the words are hard to find, but because there are so many superlatives from which to choose.

supportive

funny

compassionate

forgiving

brilliant

wise

fiscally responsible

well organized

creative sensitive

disciplined

are just a few of the words people use in describing him.

Over the years, his experienced moved him across the United States and around Asia. His mind was not to be outpaced by his feet - he took on the study of the hard science of physics with the same vigor and curiosity he had about the softer revelations in psychology of human behavior.

He was fascinated by what was going on inside the human body as well as outside it - and developed exceptional expertise in radiologic technology.

There is, ultimately, one word which best describes this talented author, lecturer, organizer and administrator. A simple word, a perfect fit - TEACHER.

No matter where he has worked, in a variety of health care-oriented professions, he always rises to the level of teacher.

And his first student,
his most intense student,
was ---- himself.

In the absence of a traditional homelife, he taught himself almost everything he needed to know about being a successful student, administrator, husband, and parent.

He has never taken a computer class, yet he taught himself enough to develop one of the first chiropractic board websites to appear on the Internet.

He never had a music class, yet he taught himself to play the piano, a musical instrument he combines with his exceptional voice to bring joy to the church, his family, and – when we're lucky – to this Federation.

This year's winner graduated from the Pasadena College of Chiropractic in 1985 following successful careers in radiological technology and nursing, because he wanted MORE. He knew he could find it as a doctor of chiropractic.

As if a successful private practice in Beverly Hills California did not represent enough of a challenge, he continued in education by establishing a teaching program in Tokyo, Japan, and a state board review program in radiation protection in California. Concurrently, he taught at the American School of X-ray in California, raising it to one of the top schools in radiologic technology in California, securing accredited status on first application.

It was while he was on the road, teaching yet another program, that he met the beautiful woman who would eventually be the mother of their two sons, a chiropractic assistant who would earn her DC degree from Northwestern College of Chiropractic. He is the first to tell you that it was his love for Ann that brought him to the state he now calls home, Minnesota.

Licensing boards know him as a dedicated board administrator for over ten years.

Our Federation knows him for his groundbreaking educational programs in sexual boundaries and his innovations in using computers to free his staff for compassionate human service.

His sons know him as the “best dad in the world.”

For his vision, his integrity, his self-sacrifice, and his exceptional commitment to public protection through excellence in regulation, the 2003 George Arvidson Award is presented to

Dr. Larry Spicer