



Dr. Michael O'Toole to receive Paul Ripley Young Alumnus Award

The LSSU Alumni Association is presenting Dr. Michael P. O'Toole with the Paul Ripley Young Alumnus Award for achieving exceptional personal and professional success early in his career. The 2003 biology graduate with a minor in chemistry is an orthodontist and has co-owned a practice with Kent Floreani since 2011.

While a student at Lake Superior State University, O'Toole received the Ontario Board of Trustees scholarship, the Faculty Association scholarship, one of only two Undergraduate Research scholarships and also received an award for the highest overall grade point average in general chemistry, graduating summa cum laude. He was a member of the Alpha Chi National College Honor Society and also a member of LSSU's Honor Council.

O'Toole earned his doctorate of dental services (DDS) from Dalhousie University in 2007. He received the Nova Scotia Dental Association Biomaterials Award; the United Dental Lab award; and the Quintessence award for proficiency. He researched the role of the dental community in the diagnosis of OSA and participated in the interdisciplinary seamless care initiative.

He completed his dental residency at Toronto Sick Children's Hospital from 2007-08 and completed his MSc in Orthodontics at the University of Toronto.

"Lake Superior State University was the start to a long post-secondary education and provided a huge advantage," according to O'Toole. "LSSU is an ideal-sized university where you can work hard and 'shine a little brighter.'"

O'Toole's work experience includes one year with Bloorview Children's Rehabilitation Center, two years with Sunnyside Dental Center; two years with the Regional Academy of Dental Hygiene and four years with the Sioux Lookout Dental Zone in remote communities of northwestern Ontario.

He is an active member of the Sault Ste. Marie Dental Society; a member of the University of Toronto Orthodontic Study Club; and a member of a number of professional associations including the CAO, OAO, GLAO, AAO, CDA and ODA.

Of his time at LSSU, O'Toole said, "The ability to form personal relationships with great enthusiastic professors, such as Dr. Marshall Werner, is priceless, especially when your future career path often depends on their kind words. I am most proud of my LSSU degree because it kick-started a wonderful educational/ career path."

O'Toole enjoys martial arts in his spare time, and has been a volunteer instructor of Kuk Sool Won at the Family Martial Arts Centre in Sault Ste. Marie from 1997 to 2003 and again 2011 to the present. He twice won the men's black belt grand champion in the Detroit regional martial

arts tournament (2000 & 2002) and obtained a second-degree black belt in Kuk Sool Won in 2003.

Dr. O'Toole was excited to return to the Sault area, and he brought with him his wife, Melissa, who is a practicing general dentist at Family Dentistry on Bay. They both love the outdoors, keeping fit, and, most recently, keeping up to their 3 children, Elizabeth, Catherine & Liam.

Outside the office, Dr. O'Toole always looks forward to some fly-fishing, cross country skiing, and “glamping”.