

Donald R Joondeph

From the time that Don Joondeph burst into this world, I am quite sure there was little that he could not accomplish once he focused on the task at hand. His father was a pharmacist, and both parents instilled education as priority for their four sons. Don's early roots reach back to the East Coast where he was born and raised in New Jersey. He is the second of four sons born to Olga and Reese Joondeph. After graduation from Ridgewood High School in New Jersey, Don headed west to Chicago for the next ten years of his education. He initially attended Northwestern University for his undergraduate schooling and then decided to stay at the same school for orthodontics as well. While still in Chicago, Don married his high school sweetheart in 1963. His first family was on its way with the birth of Brad in 1968 and Molly a few years later. Don had long been an avid golfer and passed some of this prowess to his children. Brad took a liking to the sport, enough so that he played three years on the Stanford golf team. Soon after that great experience, he decided to buckle down on the grades and attend law school, instead of extending his golf career. Law school was a good fit for Brad and after graduation, he was selected by Sandra Day O'Connor to serve as her Clerk on the US Supreme Court. Since that time Brad has been an educator on the Stanford Law School Faculty. His sister, Molly, went to Duke University following high school, married her best friend and the newlywed couple headed out West to work for a rather new company, named Yahoo. Before retiring to spend time raising their children, Molly reached the position as Head of Asian operations for Yahoo. (?)

During his final year in the Northwestern orthodontic program, Don met Dr. Alton Moore, chair at Washington. Dr. Moore was in Chicago for a meeting with Hal Perry, Northwestern's chairman. Moore was just in the process of implementing a two-year post-doctoral fellowship for orthodontic educators at the University of Washington. Don was invited to interview in Seattle, and vividly remembers his first trip to the Pacific Northwest. "It was February when I stepped off the plane into a 65 degree sunny day. Bill McNeill drove me around in his convertible with the top down. After leaving Chicago and arriving in Seattle that April, we didn't see the sun for at least two months." It was an inauspicious start to what became a successful ten-year term as Chairman of the University of Washington Department of Orthodontics. Don continued the fine tradition established by his predecessors and mentors, Al Moore and Dick Riedel. He felt it very important to maintain the balance between research and clinical training that had been a trademark of the Washington program. His own research on the temporomandibular joint received the Milo Hellman Award in 1972. During his chairmanship tenure Don practiced part-time with fellow faculty colleagues, first with Dick Riedel in Downtown Seattle, and later with Jack Keller in Kirkland. After stepping down as chair in 1984, he has maintained an professor's status at the University and maintains a solo private practice in Bellevue, Washington.

Don wasted little time in becoming a proven leader in all arenas of the specialty, academics, research, clinical excellence and even administrative policies. He published numerous scientific articles as well as finding the time to chair graduate student thesis projects. He made many scientific and clinical presentations to audiences of all levels of expertise.

Activities within the professional community picked up speed as Don's abilities became more widely known. He served as President of the Washington State Society of Orthodontists and the Northwest Component of the Edward H. Angle Society. He became a director on the board of the Pacific Coast Society of Orthodontists...then rose all the way to being president in 1989-90. He then became a director on the American Board of Orthodontics, serving as its president in ? Success in all of these organizations led to his being appointed to represent the PCSO as its Trustee on the AAO's Board of Trustees, becoming president in 2007. As such, Don had the wisdom and power to bring the AAO's Annual Session to Seattle for only the second time in history.

Being an educator, a clinician as well as politically connected provided Don with one more major challenge. He was asked by leadership of the American Dental Association to serve their Committee on Dental Accreditation, and eventually he became the Chair of that Committee. When one becomes so effective in motivating others to work well together, the challenges continue to find you. Don being the case in point.