

## Peter Shapiro, DDS, MSD

### It's All About Orthodontics

Ask him about his passion—he'll say orthodontics. His profession—orthodontics. His love—orthodontics.

Since earning his MSD from the University of Washington in 1973, Dr. Shapiro's commitment to the UW School of Dentistry and especially the Orthodontic Alumni Association has grown very strong. Later, as Chair of the Department of Orthodontics at the UW for twelve years from 1984–1995, Dr. Peter Shapiro served a department which to this day remains of utmost importance in his life.

Not that his life is unbalanced or is *only* about orthodontics. Dr. Shapiro and his wife, Gail, a pediatric allergist, have raised two children, both born in Seattle, of whom both are very proud. Friends call them devoted parents—and the results show. Their son, Evan, has returned to the UW to complete a degree in law. Jessica, their daughter, earned an MBA from the UW School of Business and now works as a project manager for Microsoft.

Dr. Shapiro and Gail initially moved to Seattle in order for him to complete his residency in orthodontics at the UW, which was then and now considered to be the finest in the country. Gail too was searching for a school to complete her residency, but because he had commuted between Baltimore and D.C. for three years so that she could study at Johns Hopkins, they felt it was his turn to choose the city where they would study next. And Seattle has remained their home. After Peter earned his MSD in 1973, he then completed his post-doctoral fellowship under Dr. Ben Moffet. Although the original plan had been to move back East after completing their residencies, opportunities here, including Peter teaching in the UW Orthodontics department, convinced them to stay. Peter continued on to serve as the fourth Chair of the Orthodontic department, and Gail, according to Peter, became even more well known in her field than he. She is a past president of the Ameri-

can Academy of Asthma and Allergy Immunology. Both have lectured all over the world in their respective areas of expertise, including Israel, Cape Town, Fiji and Europe.

Dr. Shapiro earned what he considers an excellent dental and social education from Howard University in Baltimore in 1970. It was a tumultuous time of civil rights strife in this country, and he has always deeply appreciated his rich experiences as a minority among Howard's predominately African-American student body.

Perhaps that is why he devotes so much of his time to serving several community service organizations, including the Jewish Federation of Greater Seattle as board member; Jewish Family Services as president; and Kline Galland Center, an agency providing counseling, nursing, retirement and assisted living services to children and adults.

Last year, Dr. Shapiro whale watched while kayaking just outside Glacier Bay, Alaska, and he has also run two marathons—the Goodwill Games in 1990 in Seattle and the New York Marathon when he was 50. He and Gail share a love of golf and spend as much time as possible on the links at Sand Point Golf and Country Club.

Probably his strongest commitment, outside of his family, is to the UW Orthodontic Alumni Association. It is with pride that he talks about the unique 'esprit de corps' among its members, and their enthusiasm in contributing to the continued excellence of the department of orthodontics and its programs. A small, unique department with a strong emphasis on graduate education, it is also very progressive. For the past three years nearly 50% of the students in the orthodontic program have been women.

"People who have graduated from the UW Orthodontics department feel very strongly about the high quality of their education and what that education has provided for them. They are interested in and committed to serving their alma



Clockwise from upper right: Drs. Peter and Gail Shapiro • Peter and brother, Michael, kayaking in Glacier Bay, Alaska • Peter Shapiro crossing the finish line at the New York Marathon • Left to right, Sabina Silver, son Evan Shapiro, Peter, Gail, daughter Jessica Mirsky and son-in-law Darrell Mirsky on a sailboat in the British Virgin Islands.



mater, specifically the ortho department,” says Dr. Shapiro. The dentists with whom Dr. Shapiro graduated are considered by many to be the *grandfathers of orthodontics* in the Northwest. Many of them are very generous with their time and their dollars, giving to many projects which Dr. Shapiro has spearheaded over the years. For example, the Kokich/Shapiro Visiting Professorship for a distinguished teacher to come to the UW once a year to teach for a week; the Moore/Riedel Professorship in Orthodontics, for which Dr. Shapiro personally raised over \$1 million dollars in pledges; and the Orthodontic Mini-Residency Program, which attracts the finest graduates each year from all across the country. The Moore/Riedel Professorship in Orthodontics

is used to support the research, teaching or other professional activities of a full-time faculty member who is nationally recognized as a scholar in orthodontics and/or craniofacial biology.

“There isn’t a more dedicated person than Dr. Shapiro,” says Sue Corbett, Director of Development for the UW School of Dentistry. “He is extremely well respected and liked in the dental community.” Dr. Vincent Kokich, with whom he established the Kokich/Shapiro Visiting Scholarship Fund in 1998, believes that “...his strongest attributes as a teacher and administrator are his sincerity, kindness and his organizational skills. He’s been an incredible asset to the orthodontic department at the UW.” 🐾