

Peter Alan Shapiro, DDS, MSD

Peter completed his orthodontic residency at the University of Washington in 1973. He was in the same class as Vince Kokich. This was the first class I had the privilege of mentoring in the clinic as a new clinical instructor initially employed in 1971. With this class as my initiation into part time teaching, it is no wonder that I found it satisfying and something I would continue for another 42 years.

Peter's roots stretch back to the East Coast, where his parents lived. Peter was born in 1944 in New London, Connecticut. This small town was the location of Edward Angle's first School of Orthodontia. The school remained in this location for about four years, when Dr. Angle decided to move to Southern California. Dentistry was always in Peter's life. His father was a dentist and practiced for many years until he retired and became an Associate Dean in dentistry at the University of Connecticut. Peter initially attended public school, but later on enrolled in prep school at Mt. Hermon Academy in Massachusetts. It was in this environment that he developed his academic skills, and upon graduation was accepted as a student at Brown University. While at Brown, Peter studied English literature. It was here that he met Gail Greenberg, whom he would later marry. After graduation Peter applied and was accepted at Howard University Dental School. As the story goes, this was convenient, because then Gail could attend medical school at Johns Hopkins University, which was close by. They were married in 1967, while both were in the early part of their professional educations. Being married as students must have been good for Peter and Gail. They both graduated at the top of their respective classes.

After graduation from dental school, Peter completed a hospital internship in Baltimore while Gail was completing her internship at Johns Hopkins. When they both applied for their residencies, Peter in orthodontics and Gail in pediatrics, they could only hope that the programs would end up being at the same university. It all seemed destined to happen, and they both landed at the University of Washington. Peter completed his residency and decided to participate in a post-doctoral teaching fellowship which culminated in 1975. This would play a major role in his later effectiveness as a department chair. With such successes for both Peter and Gail, it was only logical for them to stay in the Northwest to practice and to maintain a close affiliation with the University of Washington.

For the next 11 years after graduation, Peter practiced two days a week in the university district, associating with his good friend, Bill McNeill. With this schedule, he could spend as much as three days teaching and conducting research in the orthodontic department. This is when Peter developed an extensive background in experimental primate research and has published over 25 scientific articles. When Don Joondeph decided to step down from the chairmanship at Washington, Peter was well qualified to take over the reins in 1984. Following his appointment at Washington, Peter had few problems living up the expectations of his predecessors.

He started out by sitting in on every presentation made by his faculty members over the first year to determine precisely what was being taught. He then worked very hard to keep up the traditions of his predecessors at Washington, Al Moore, Dick Riedel and Don Joondeph. Besides redefining the undergraduate orthodontic program, he continued to maintain balance between research and clinical training that has been a trademark that keeps Washington in the forefront of orthodontic education internationally.

Throughout the challenging times Peter maintained calm and compassion both on a personal basis and professionally. It is said of his style of leadership -- to have the ability to lead without threatening the people around him. He always commanded a great deal of respect from the faculty of the dental school as well as the orthodontic community in the Northwest.

In addition to being an effective chair of the orthodontic department, Peter has given more than 30 years of distinguished service to School of Dentistry activities as a researcher and faculty member. Beyond this, he has established an outstanding record of leadership and commitment in generating support for the School, a record that has earned him formal recognition as a University of Washington Benefactor. Dr. Shapiro personally raised more than \$1 million to establish the prestigious Moore/Riedel Professorship in Orthodontics, with an endowment created in 1999. More recently, he worked with the UW Orthodontic alumni Association to raise funds for a \$1.3 million clinical renovation that was unveiled in 2013. Along with Dr. Vince Kokich he established the Kokich/SShapiro Endowed Scholar Fund, which supports an annual visit by scholars in the field of orthodontics or related disciplines.

In addition to his regular duties at the School of Dentistry, he has played an active role on School committees, especially during the time he served as Chair of the Department. One such task was playing an active role on the oversight committee of the Center for Pediatric Dentistry. He has also been active in the Seattle community, including serving as President of the Jewish Family Service. To summarize, Peter joined the faculty in 1973, then served as chair of the Department from 1984 to 1995.

Reference:

Kokich, VK. Portrait of a Professional - Peter Alan Shapiro. PCSO Bulletin, 1986, (2) Vol 56: 28-32