

Peter Alan Shapiro, DDS, MSD

A year ago the *PCSO Bulletin* began a series of articles designed to present biographical information about the chairmen that lead the orthodontic departments in the Pacific Coast constituent of the American Association of Orthodontists. These people are responsible for directing the orthodontic training of many of the future dentists and orthodontists that will practice in our region. What are these men like? How will they shape orthodontics through their decisions? What changes will they be making in their orthodontic programs to keep pace with the orthodontic needs of tomorrow's patients? In this issue, we will profile Peter Alan Shapiro. Peter is just completing his second year as chairman of the orthodontic program at the University of Washington.

Early background

Peter's roots stretch back to the East coast, where his parents, Alec and Martha Shapiro, still live. Peter was born in New London, Connecticut in 1944. (Most of you are probably not aware that New London is the location of Edward Angle's first School of Orthodontia. It remained in this location for about four years, before Angle moved to California.) Dentistry was always a part of Peter's early life. His father is a dentist and practiced for many years in Connecticut as a general dentist before retiring to accept a position as Associate Dean in the Dental School at the University of Connecticut. His father was involved in dental education at Connecticut for several years and is still a consultant at the dental school.

Peter attended public school in Connecticut, then

enrolled in prep school at Mt. Hermon Academy in Massachusetts. Here he had the opportunity to develop his academic skills and upon graduation was accepted at Brown University, one of the oldest American Universities and one of the most prestigious of the Ivy League schools. While at Brown, Peter studied English literature. It was here that Peter met Gail Greenberg, whom he would later marry. With an excellent background in the liberal arts, Peter decided to apply to dental school. He was accepted at Howard University. This was convenient, since Gail was accepted at Johns Hopkins University medical school. This allowed Peter and Gail to be as close as dental and medical students have time to be during their training. They were married in 1967, while both were in the early part of their professional education. Marriage as a student must have been good for both of them, since they both graduated at the top of their respective classes.

Migration west

After graduation, Peter completed a hospital internship in Baltimore while Gail was doing her internship at Johns Hopkins. When they applied for their residencies, Peter in orthodontics and Gail in pediatrics, they could only hope that the programs would end up at the same university. But with their excellent backgrounds, they could pick and choose, and decided to enroll at the University of Washington. Peter completed the orthodontic residency in 1973 and a post doctoral teaching fellowship in 1975. During that time Gail was not only completing her residency in pediatrics, but did a separate residency in allergy as well. Upon graduation, they decided to stay in the Northwest so they could practice and maintain a close affiliation with the University of Washington.

Facing page: Peter at work in the clinic at the University of Washington



Peter and Gail Shapiro in Venice. In the background is the Ponte Vecchio.

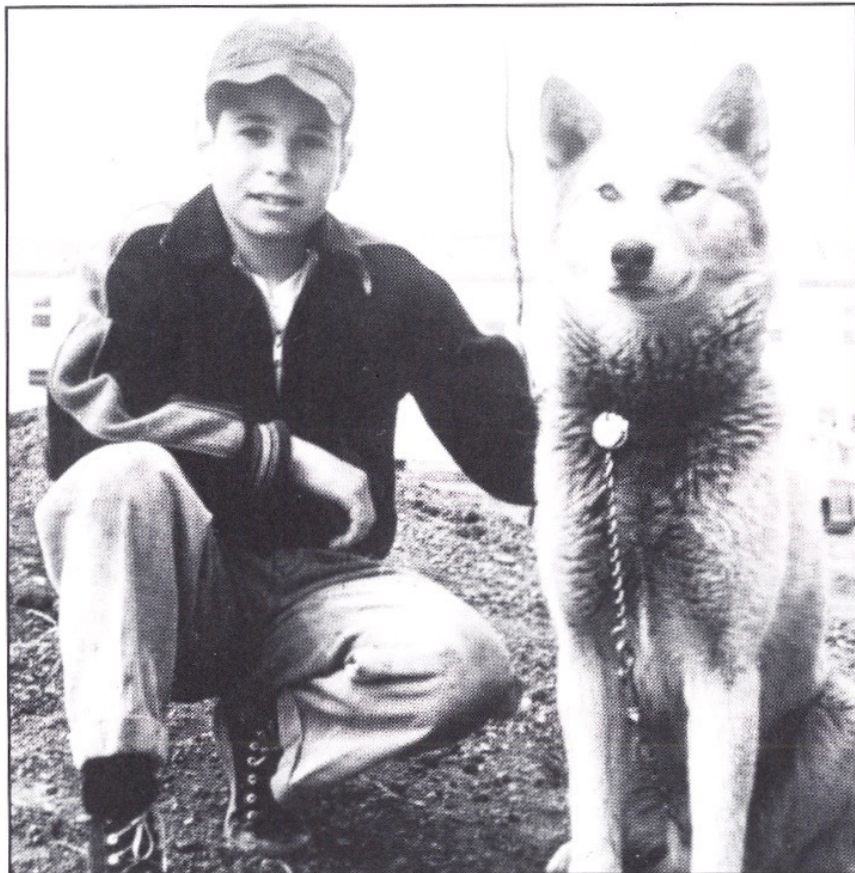
donetics, and he was promoted to Professor at the University.

When not involved in teaching or private practice, Peter can be found skiing with his children (Jessica is 13 and Evan is 10), travelling with Gail to one of her allergy meetings, jogging, or making wine — his favorite hobby.

The questions on the following page were designed to let the readers know how Chairman Shapiro feels about certain key issues in orthodontic education today.



Peter, on the far right, just before his final ascent of Mt. Rainier.



Peter, at 18 months, and later with a boy's best friend, in Anchorage, Alaska

The chairmanship

For the next 11 years after graduation, Peter practiced two days a week in the university district with his good friend Bill McNeill. He could therefore spend three days teaching and conducting research in the orthodontic department. Peter has 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. Since his appointment as chairman in 1984, Peter has been very busy keeping up the fine tradition set by his predecessors, Al Moore, Dick Reidel, and Don Joondeph. He is continuing to refine the undergraduate orthodontic program

to keep pace with the needs of the dental community. In addition, he has continued to maintain the balance between research and clinical training that has been a trademark that keeps Washington in the forefront of orthodontic education internationally.

Peter is understanding and compassionate personally and professionally. He has the ability to lead without being threatening to the people around him. He commands a great deal of respect from the faculty of the dental school and the orthodontic community in the Northwest. This past year has been an especially important one in his life: he successfully achieved diplomate status in the American Board of Ortho-

