As you may know, Doctor Bob passed away this past February. It’s hard to overstate his influence on Ortho2, especially during its formative years. We knew him as Dr. Bob, Uncle Bob, just plain Bob, Dr. Bizarro, and occasionally, but rarely, as Dr. Robert P. Scholz.

Bob completed his orthodontic certification at the University of California San Francisco in 1963, then spent two and a half years in Athens, Greece practicing orthodontics for the Air Force. He ran a part time private practice, while maintaining an appointment at UCSF for 20 years, departing as Clinical Professor in 1987. He was Adjunct Professor at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill and Temple University. He was also Editor of Techno Bytes, the technology section of the AJO/DO. Dr. Bob lectured worldwide on various subjects including functional appliances, practice management, PC-based digital imaging systems, and most recently, on technology subjects of interest to orthodontists. And, of course, he was a stockholder, board member, and advocate for Ortho2.

I don’t have to tell those of you who knew Bob that he was an unconventional, at times confounding, but always interesting and exceptionally unique individual. No event was unchanged by his involvement and, while things wouldn’t always go according to plan, they did always benefit from his participation.

I owe Bob a tremendous debt. In 1986, when my original partner relocated to Colorado, Ortho2 could easily have gone into decline. Instead, Bob invested in it and helped provide the orthodontic expertise and big-picture thinking that launched us to the next level. He remained deeply committed to the company, most recently running the popular Cutting Edge Webinar Series, which connects industry experts to orthodontists and residents interested in a particular topic. We will continue the Cutting Edge series, but it won’t feel the same without Bob as the moderator.

Everyone who knew Bob knows what they’ve lost. For me, I’ve lost my partner, my friend, my mentor. It’s hard to imagine Ortho2 without Bob, but fortunately his legacy will live on at Ortho2 in two ways. Bob’s son, Dr. Craig Scholz has been with Ortho2 since 1987, initially in sales and currently as our Director of Emerging Technologies. He is also a stockholder, board member, and active member of upper management. And finally, we benefit moving forward from the foundation and vision that Bob helped us create.

For those who wish to honor Bob’s memory through a charitable gift, the family asks that it be made to UNC – Graduate Orthodontic Clinic, School of Dentistry Dept. 7450, 2110 Brauer Hall; CB, Chapel Hill, NC 27599-7450.

Dan Sargent, Ortho2 President

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