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Dr. Patrick Simone  
& Fiancée Pam Perry  
Reaching Out With

## Common Goals

\$3.95 OCTOBER 2001





## COSMETIC DENTIST AND TEACHER SHARE COMMON GOALS WHILE SUPPORTING EACH OTHER

*By Richard S. Gubbe*

**R**EALIZING THAT SUPPORT IS AN IMPORTANT INGREDIENT TO ANY LASTING RELATIONSHIP, PAM PERRY AND DR. PATRICK SIMONE HAVE BUILT A SOLID FOUNDATION FOR THEIR FUTURE. BOTH HAVE HELPING PEOPLE PROFESSIONS; SHE'S A SCHOOLTEACHER, HE'S A COSMETIC DENTIST. TOGETHER, THEY MAKE ONE OF NEVADA'S MORE "CONTRIBUTING" COUPLES.

THE ESSENCE OF CONTRIBUTING FOR PAT AND PAM IS MORE HANDS ON. THEY CONTRIBUTE THROUGH THEIR PROFESSIONS BY IMPROVING THE WORLD AROUND THEM. THEY SUPPORT EACH OTHER NOT ONLY WITH WORDS AND COMFORT, BUT ALSO WITH ACTION. EACH TAKES A WELCOMED ROLE IN THE OTHER'S WORK. TOGETHER, THEY PROSPER AS A UNIT SERVING TWO DIVERSE AREAS.

AFTER DATING THE PAST SEVEN YEARS AND WITH PLANS TO BE MARRIED THIS YEAR, PAT AND PAM HAVE LEARNED SOME OF THE MORE IMPORTANT BUILDING BLOCKS TO A SUCCESSFUL LONG-TERM RELATIONSHIP. THEY NOT ONLY CARE ABOUT EACH OTHER, THEY SUPPORT EACH OTHER DURING AND AFTER WORK. PAT IS ONE OF THE VALLEY'S PREMIER COSMETIC DENTISTS ALWAYS ON THE CUTTING EDGE. HE ATTENDS THE MOST CURRENT TECHNOLOGY SEMINARS AND PAM OFTEN ATTENDS A SEGMENT OF THE SEMINAR, USUALLY IN THE AREAS OF ADMINISTRATION AND LEADERSHIP SKILLS. ALTHOUGH HER PRIMARY CAREER FOCUS IS ON TEACHING, SHE IS PREPARING FOR HER NEXT JOB, SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR FOR THE CLARK COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT. PAT HELPS HER IN THE AREA OF WORK-RELATED NEEDS THROUGH SUPPLYING SOME OF THE MISSING RESOURCES SHE AND OTHER TEACHERS TRY TO OVERCOME.



"Teaching can lead to a lot of long hours. With him knowing that this is my passion, he is very supportive. We try to assist each other any way we can."

They met in her second year in teaching. She had a dental appointment and Pat's hygienist got the two together.

"The hygienist started asking questions about my personal life," Pam recalls. "I think she took it upon herself to get us together."

Dr. Simone's practices includes follow-up calls at night to every patient after they see him."

"After he completed my crown, he called," Pam says. "He must have saved me for last because we talked for hours. After a few more phone calls, he took me to lunch at Mt. Charleston and we went from there."

Both support the community, particularly in the area of elementary education.

"We don't have children, but that doesn't stop me from helping them," she says. "These kids are our future."

When the first day of the term begins, there's Pat hanging bulletin boards, sharpening pencils...

"And risking harm to my appendages," he adds.

Pat recently bought her a laptop for the classroom and has helped with many other resources.

"Pat will give us supplies for projects and even donates money for pizza parties," she says. He contributes to my being effective and to creating an environment that will be conducive to learning."

As the two share each other's presence, they are also looking toward the future. Pat says the couple is getting closer to setting marriage plans. "Hopefully, this year in Hawaii," he says.

Until then, they spend a great deal of time together, dining out, vacationing, exercising and spending time with Sparky, their Yellow Lab.

"I need his support to get me out of bed to go running in the morning," she says. "When we run, I can think through my day, plan ahead, get my thoughts together and my frustrations out."

Pam's background in administration helps Pat in crucial personnel decisions, as all of his employees are women.

"Her support is more than passive when listening to my problems," Pat says. "She's very level headed and she advises me on a fair and equitable solution to the problem.

As a man running a business and employing six women, men tend to think differently than women do, and one of her great strengths is that she can give me the women's perspective to the problem and help me come up with a solution that is fair in a sensitive manner. That's where she has the greatest support. I have extremely high expectations for my staff members. When they maintain that, they are rewarded. If they don't they are asked to leave and find a new office with lower standards."

He believes Pam will make an excellent administrator.

"Her objectiveness, sensitivity and the fact she is devoted. She's a good leader and people respect her and like her. It's in her heart to do for the kids. It's all for the children. She'd do just fine at it."

After work or while traveling, they enjoy dining out.

"We love to eat out," Pam said, starting the conversation about leisure time.

"That's because she's not a very good cook," Pat joked.

"I've had some catastrophes," Pam admitted. "You just have to have the time to put into it. He has had some 'unique' meals with me he's never had before in his life. But, my cooking skills are developing as we speak."

Vacationing usually means a trip to the West Coast.

"We like our little getaways," Pam says. "At Big Sur in Ventana, all we do is relax, enjoy fine wine and play Scrabble. I'm the champion."

"Yeah, of three-letter words," Pat quips.

Both are certified scuba divers.

"The ocean is our favorite place," Pam says.

The two are currently working on their nest house, a large new home in the foothills to the south.

"We soon will have a beautiful house to entertain," Pat says. "Pam is doing the interior design just like she did for my office."

The office on South Pecos in Green Valley is attractive with an elegant reception room and large treatment rooms to make the patients comfortable.

"Most of my patients are women. They appreciate those nice touches," Pat says. "Pam created an environment that makes my clients feel comfortable while reflecting the quality of care and the quality of dentistry provided."

What does HE like about HER?

"Her sense of humor and her positiveness," Pat says. "She's always in a good mood, always looking at the bright side. I like her dedication. Her ethics. I like her honesty. She's a loving, warm person."

What does SHE like about HIM?

"He's got a great sense of humor, pretty dry," she says. "He can make any situation humorous. I also admire his perseverance. I have never seen anyone so driven as Pat."

## More About Pam Perry

Pam Perry, a resident here for 12 years, graduated from University of Nevada, Las Vegas with two master's degrees in education, one in instructional and curricular studies and another in educational leadership. Despite any shortcomings in education, she's where she wants to be right now a teacher at John C. Vanderburg Elementary School in Green Valley.

Pam has been a teacher in Clark County the past eight years.

While the call for better and more qualified teachers in Clark County is heard repeatedly, Pam thinks the main ingredients missing for a more successful school setting lie in resources and training.

The tag of future administrator can be pinned on Perry, but not because she has been a teacher too long. The lure of managing education is almost as strong as teaching itself.

"I believe in the teaching field," she says. "The most challenging task facing us is a lack of resources. That is what I would consider a major detriment. But with community support and educating the community members as to the infinite needs of children, we can overcome that obstacle. For now, we don't have all the tools that we need, but manage with what we do have. Teachers have high expectations and the students expect us to come through for them."

She also has high expectations for her career.

"My ultimate goal would be consulting," Pam says. "One of the reasons for going into administration is that I will be able to disseminate my skills and knowledge to teachers that will make differences for each of the students; therefore, affecting many classrooms as opposed to just one."

"If I were an administrator, we would

have an after-school enrichment program as well as programs to learn effective strategies for homework and discipline at home. I think we need to assist the parents in any way we can."

Coming in as a former teacher, she would know where many potential problems exist.

"You have to have your administrator backing you 100 percent," she says. "The school climate is very important."

"The school district let a few bad apples slip into the bushel basket of teachers last year, overshadowing the hard work of those dedicated to their careers. The publicity the fired teachers gained was detrimental," Pam says.

"It's frightening to think about what has



Pam Perry with her students.

happened," she says of teachers accused of consorting with students. "It's hard to keep teachers motivated when the media around them is bashing them. Your inner circle of colleagues then comes into play as well as your administrator for support. I completely believe in public education and have faith in our teachers. The good far outweighs the bad."

Pam teaches at a year-round school and thinks the benefits are more in favor of the district.

"As a teacher, the schedule helps me to regroup. However, when you are out for a

track break, communication can break down," Pam says. "I also see where it is has been difficult for parents who have children in both elementary and middle schools. Juggling their schedules can be a nightmare. The district is concerned about conserving energy. By returning schools to a nine-month schedule, it could help in this situation as well." Pam is involved in the student intervention program that assists teachers with students who are not successful in the classroom, whether it's behavior or academic.

"We help the teacher find different applications they can use for those students. The SIP Committee spends a lot of time reviewing the teacher's documentation, student's work samples, observations. I enjoy helping teachers find different strategies to help their students" she says.

Pam believes the computer is a powerful teaching tool when used properly.

"I think kids should be on as early as they want to be. "There are whizzes out there, but it has to be monitored as to how much time is spent on them. Everything in moderation."

How would she prepare the average elementary student for the big world?

"Employers look to see if kids are problem solvers," she says. "If a person is a problem solver, and is motivated, then they are more apt to succeed in that company. "I like to tell my students that I am a lifelong learner and I hope they will be one, too," Pam says. "Do they have to graduate from college to be successful? They don't and there are other opportunities these days. I do believe continuing one's education makes them become well-rounded and hopefully more global.

"I feel the curriculum of the CCSD is beneficial; however, I do believe that students should be aware of more applicable concepts, such as the managing of money. Another fourth grade teacher and I implement a mini-society in our classrooms that focuses on entrepreneurship. Within the unit, students learn about banking and interests, stocks, taxes, and how to take advantage of an opportunity and act on it."

Pam feels the need to provide that education, "because I do enjoy children and I strongly agree in public education."

Pam has presented on the topic of literacy for the National Council of Teachers of English in the states of North Carolina, New Mexico and Colorado. She also presented to new

teachers in the CCSD in the areas of reading and language arts. Pam has been awarded the Southeast Area Distinguished Educator in 1999-2000. She also was a Court Appointed Special Advocate volunteer in 1998.

## More About Dr. Patrick A. Simone

Dr. Patrick A. Simone is one of the most respected and prominent cosmetic dentists in The Las Vegas Valley, improving the lives of people coast to coast, including some of Las Vegas' most respected citizens.

Dr. Simone has amassed a restorative dentistry practice that borders on the miraculous. Working with the latest technologies of an ever-evolving profession, he takes cosmetic restoration to the highest level with a personal and conscientious touch.

From his aesthetically pleasing office in Green Valley, he remains a constant in the way he handles patients. A single patient may get his attention for an entire day.

"I'm a restorative dentist with a passion for creating beautiful smiles," Dr. Simone says. "People come here looking for success. They want to do it once and have their expectations met."

Simone is at the peak of his profession. He has been practicing in the Las Vegas Valley since 1986, after completing a residency back east. He started taking cosmetic classes in 1989, and in following the philosophy of his mentor, he didn't start using the word cosmetic in his practice until 1996.

"I did things a little differently. I got the training first," Simone said. "As soon as I felt comfortable and knew that what I was doing, I was doing correctly, and I was going to give my patients a good result for their investment, then I decided to put cosmetics after my name."

Even though the combination of cosmetic dentistry means an improvement in one's overall fate, the word cosmetic can fall far short of what Dr. Simone is capable. The general public, for the most part, is unaware of what modern dentistry can provide for them. Just taking a look at Dr. Simone's before and after photos is evidence enough. The benefits are more than just physical, as his restoration consists of more than just your smile.

"I've seen people who have had a smile that prevented them from job promotions or



from feeling comfortable about dating," Dr. Simone says. "They just feel self-conscious about it. Other people viewed them as not outgoing enough because they didn't smile and laugh. They were self-conscious about their smile, thinking, 'Every time I look in

One of Dr. Simone's clients



Before

After

the mirror, I just don't like what I see looking back at me.'

The changes are evident in posture, as well.

"Many of those people cover their mouth while talking," he says. "Then they get comments from friends. It comes to a point of an awakening for them. Whether it's now an issue or they have just denied it, after the work is done they can now smile."

Dr. Simone has achieved the dramatic many times since moving from Buffalo 15 years ago. Of the today's common maladies, he fixes gray fillings, dark lines where old crowns and the gum meet and malpositioned teeth. Re-positioning, re-shaping, and whitening teeth, procedures that once seemed impossible, are now commonplace.

"We've dedicated ourselves to cosmetic and restorative dentistry because the advances are so great and so quick," he says. "It's impossible to stay current with all the advances made in all the specialty areas of dentistry."

"I strongly believe continuing education in my field is a powerful tool and a necessary one," he says. "Nevada has a minimum requirement for licensing of 12 hours per year. My personal goal is no less than 75 hours."

He and his team focus on continuing education to stay current. Dr. Simone always speaks of his staff in a team sense.

"Professionally, I think I've made it, but that doesn't mean we aren't looking to make things better and provide a higher level of care."

Dr. Simone is "honored to be working with a fabulous ceramist," who is as dedicated to esthetic dentistry as Dr. Simone. Dr. Simone and his ceramist routinely attend courses specific for ceramists, searching for techniques to better enhance their results. They are currently planning on attending a hands-on course in Switzerland, of which, only a few dentists have ever attended.

"The application of porcelain is an intricate process," he says. "The layering of different shades of porcelain gives a natural result, making your smile natural and life-like. Few dentists are aware of the detail their ceramists provide in order to give the dentist the results they want. I feel compelled to thoroughly know the process so that my expectations and those of my clients are realistic." Some day he may even be his own ceramist providing the custom work that his reputation was built on.

Dr. Simone spends his weekends creating new smiles for his clients. He will first fabricate their smile in wax, a "wax up," on a stone model. This will give the client a chance to preview the changes before actually undergoing treatment. It also will be used as a guide for his ceramist, "a blueprint of sorts."

When asked if it consumes a lot of his time, he said, "Sure it does, but I have met the patient, their personality, who better than to create a smile that will enhance them."

Many dentists just provide their technicians with stone models and maybe a photograph or two. "I have found that when I use this method, all the smiles begin to look alike," he says.

He stays a technically advanced dentist his patients call a nice guy. He's accessible, caring and he doesn't overbook his day, always taking time to address every patient's concerns and never rushing through client visits.

The warmth, comfort and attention given at his plush office on North Pecos in Green Valley include the added touches of photo books, magazines, juice and a friendly greeting. All are a prelude to a consultation.

Longer visits include movies, a selection of music and soothing artwork on the walls.

Treatment rooms are a great distance apart and his method for securing a sterile environment is painstaking to ensure no errors. The stringent guidelines include a steam autoclave used on all instruments after each use. The water he uses for rinsing is not from a tap, rather purified from an independent system.

"Our goal is to enhance someone's quality of life by renewing dignity and confidence," he says. "Before we recommend any treatment, we listen to your preferences and any concerns about dental care."

To keep up with the latest advancements, Dr. Simone attends numerous continuing education clinics and seminars, including those at the Seattle Institute for Advanced Dental Education and the Pacific Aesthetic Continuum. He is an honor graduate of the State University of New



**Front** left to right: Chris Bakazan, *Financial Administrator*, Cara Kirby, *Registered Dental Hygienist*, Alaina Cox, *Clinical Assistant*, **center** : Lynette Ippolito, *Registered Dental Hygienist*, Kelly McElfresh, *Clinical Assistant*, Nancy Beroldi, *Treatment Administrator*, **top**: Dr. Simone.

[www.patricksimonedds.com](http://www.patricksimonedds.com)

York at Buffalo School of Dentistry, where he earned a Doctor of Dental Surgery Degree. He is a member of the American Academy of Cosmetic Dentistry, the American Dental Association, the Nevada

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Dental Association and the Clark County Dental Association. He also is a Fellow of the Academy of General Dentistry.

"Those dentists who keep up with the latest technology through continuing education commit the fewest mistakes," Dr. Simone says. "You can't work with techniques that worked in the '70s to satisfy a client's aesthetic demands."

Most people seek out a cosmetic dentist through friends. Along with whitening and straightening without the use of braces, Dr. Simone provides porcelain veneers, all-porcelain crowns, electronic smile imaging, bonding, tooth-colored fillings, as well as preventative measures and cleanings.

"The majority of my referrals are from satisfied patients," Dr. Simone says. "Their visits are quality of life experiences they look forward to, not fear."

More inquiries about restoring a smile are being made by men; past interest was shown by women.

"Five years ago, very few men were thinking about it," Dr. Simone says. "Now, both genders are represented."

He works with skilled orthodontists, periodontists, and an endodontist, that have also trained in the cosmetic arena to help create the most aesthetically pleasing smile for his clients. During his assessments, he puts the images of a person's mouth on a TV screen through the aid of a small digital camera. Models of teeth are made and photos are taken before treatment is rendered. His patients travel from as far as Europe, Saudi Arabia and Singapore to see him.

"He's someone who takes an interest in his clients," says his fiancée, Pam Perry. "He's so personable and makes people feel at ease. He calls his patients at night at home to check on them after an appointment."



Dr. Patrick A. Simone

When he isn't available by cellular for any emergencies, he may be scuba diving or gliding in his sailplane.

"Sailplaning gives you a sense of peacefulness," he says. "It's about pure flight. No engine. No noise. Just you, the plane and the air currents. It is the essence of flight as an art form."

Scuba diving in Hawaii also is an adventure, when vacation time is available.

With all the developments in the dental industry, he spends a great deal of time learning new techniques or refining old ones. His advanced skills make him stand out like an all-white smile.

"With all the types of media out there these days, with models in magazines with pretty smiles, people do a comparison," Dr. Simone says. "Then they make a commitment to change."

After visiting Dr. Simone's office, the comparison is favorable and the change is more than cosmetic alone.

*For more information regarding his practice you can contact him at (702) 735-2755.*

## SCHOOL SAFETY TIPS FOR PARENTS

Advocate an Emergency Plan as a safeguard for your children at school.

Involve local police, fire department, ambulance services and other emergency-response organizations, giving them school blueprints and a complete set of keys. Regular emergency drills.

Drills uncover logistical problems, according to the St. Louis Area Chapter, which found many glitches in area school plans. For example, one school planned to evacuate students by bus in an emergency but had not considered that buses were available only in the morning and late afternoon.

Readily available first aid kits.

Look for first aid kits throughout the premises, preferably in every classroom. Teachers' kits should include a class roster, a list of who has permission to pick up each child and records of special medical needs. The Cincinnati Area Chapter suggests placing classroom first aid kits in backpacks.

Visit <http://www.redcross.org/disaster/masters/supplies.html> for more ideas on school kits.

An off-campus meeting site.

"Whether it's a fire or hostage situation, parents want to rush to the school right away. But that can easily make the situation more dangerous for kids by diverting police attention and creating other problems," said Gary Miller of the Cincinnati Area Chapter.

A way to report bullying and violence.

Many schools have hotlines or other means for students to anonymously report bullying or impending violence. The reason: two-thirds of the students who carry out school shootings have experienced "longstanding and severe" bullying and harassment, according to a new United States Secret Service report. More than three quarters of the shooters told a friend, classmate or sibling about their plans, yet those confidantes almost never told an adult.

Interventions for troubled kids.

Experts say that school shooters vary dramatically, so creating a profile of personality traits such as "loner" to predict violence won't work. Instead, schools should focus on combating bullying and detecting actions and communications suggesting a violent act is actually being planned. These safety tips were originally published in "The Humanitarian," the national quarterly magazine of the American Red Cross. 