



Midwestern Society of Orthodontists

Electronic Newsletter Articles January 2015

A compilation of the news articles that were posted on the MSO web site in January 2015.

President's Letter, page 2

MSO Components, page 5

Miscellaneous Articles, page 15

Graduate School Programs, page 18

AAO and Associated Entities, page 35

President's Letter

Greetings from Minnesota "Land of 10,000 Lakes!" It is an honor and privilege to serve as your 2014-2015 MSO president. To be installed in Chicago by my mentor and colleague, Dr. **Arnie Hill**, and stand next to him as he received our most prestigious Shepard Distinguished Service Award was beyond a joyous event. Congratulations **Arnie!**

Thank you to my Mayo Clinic Orthodontic Program mentors, Drs. **Howard Sather, Arnie Hill, Don Nelson** and the late **Terry Guenther**. Their expertise and undying patience transformed a naïve Minnesota farm girl into someone able to follow their example of dedication and love for serving the orthodontic profession. Thank you to these and many other colleagues who have encouraged you and me to become involved and serve our profession through endless hours of service to the AAO, MSO, ADA, mission work and our communities through volunteerism.

Involvement in organized orthodontics has enriched my life in innumerable ways and I have no doubt that you will experience the same. Please be willing to step forward when you are asked to share your talent and time for your profession. You will have no regrets, as you will receive much more than you can possibly give.

Our 2014 GLAO-MSO Annual Session at the historic Hilton Chicago was a tremendous meeting. We hosted 1,020 doctors, staff, guests and exhibitors. Thank you to Drs. **John Crawford** and **Phil Beckwith** (GLAO) and the Annual Session Committee for their dedication to making this meeting so successful: Drs. **Steve Marshall**, General Arrangements Chair; **Jose Bosio**, Scientific Program Chair; **Spencer Pope**, Staff Program Chair; **Mike Durbin** and **Bob Brown** (GLAO), Exhibits/Sponsorship Co-Chairs; and the staff team at Burmeister and Associates, Inc. for arranging all of the fine details.

My sincere thanks and congratulations also go out to our officers Drs. **Brent Larson** (Minnesota) MSO Trustee to the AAO Board; **Ara Goshgarian** (Illinois) MSO President-Elect; and **Ginny Mennemeyer** (Missouri) Secretary-Treasurer; and newly-elected Director Dr. **Mark Dake** from Missouri.

Our plan for the year ahead is to challenge the MSO and keep it on the top of its game. MSO is held in great respect in our profession and often thanked by AAO staff and leaders for bringing solid, forward-thinking leaders to the table. This continues to be our goal. When members in the last AAO survey were asked, "How would you rate the overall quality of your constituent society?," the MSO received the highest score for excellence and member satisfaction. We can contribute much of that to our dedicated leaders and staff. I thank these leaders, who work tirelessly for the MSO, for their service. We, as your elected leaders, know our true strength is in all of you, our members, at the grassroots level.

It has been my honor to sit on the AAO House of Delegates to represent the MSO and work through difficult decisions to keep our organizations moving forward with the rapidly changing times. We need all of you, both our “new” and “seasoned” members to bring us your concerns, ideas and methods for making your component, constituent and AAO to work for the betterment of our profession.

Please call or e-mail your leaders to bring forth your suggestions and questions. This will allow your MSO Board and Delegation meeting March 20-21 at the MSO Ad Interim Board Meeting in St. Louis, to hold the right cards to represent you diligently at the AAO House of Delegates in May in San Francisco. Thank you to these recently elected MSO delegates to the AAO House: Drs. **Ara Goshgarian** - Chair, **Deborah Lien** - Vice Chair, **Ross Crist**, **Jim Klarsch**, **Ginny Mennemeyer**, **Dennis Sommers** and **Kim Stafford**; and alternates **John Kanyusik**, **Steve Marshall** and **Ryan VanLaecken**.

Yet another event where the MSO will be sending our younger and strongly influential leaders to be in the spotlight will be to the AAO Emerging Leader Conference in Miami, Florida on February 5. The MSO had an abundance of fine applicants...of course what Midwesterner wouldn't jump at a chance to go to Florida in February with the AAO Winter Conference! Thanks go to Dr. **Brent Larson** and his planning committee who have arranged an exciting conference where these young leaders join together and gain knowledge on how they can make positive changes in the health of our profession. Congratulations to Drs. **Matt Larson**, **Daniel Keith**, **Nellie Kim-Weroha**, **John Foley**, **Jordan Poss**, **Douglas Barden**, **Katie Graber** and **Todd Thayer** for representing the MSO at this AAO Conference! I look forward to joining them as the representative for the MSO's “seasoned salt and pepper” leadership!

Dr. **Ara Goshgarian** will be our MSO representative at the AAO Presidents-Elect Conference March 2 in Washington, D.C. This is a new conference that was approved by the 2014 AAO House of Delegates. It will be held in conjunction with the 2015 AAO Professional Advocacy Conference, which concludes March 3 with Capitol Hill visits. Components should send their president-elect with travel, hotel and registration fees covered by the AAO. Please contact **Julie Sutter** at AAO if additional information is needed. This is a wonderful opportunity for our grassroots members to meet with their legislators and legislative staff to voice their concerns and questions for healthcare issues and for our great profession.

Dr. **Steve Litton** and wife, **Bonnie**, of Golden Valley, Minnesota were recognized at the MSO Annual Business Meeting for their excellence in publishing 35 MSO printed newsletters over the last 18 years. Wow! Steve has graciously agreed to continue entering our MSO news and highlights on the web site that he keeps in current, immaculate form. The great expense of printing and mailing the biannual newsletter led to the decision of your MSO board to go to web posting. Please continue to check this web site regularly for up-to-date information and archived news.

We have a unique and exciting 2015 MSO Annual Session scheduled October 9-10 during our time of most beautiful fall peak colors in Rochester, Minnesota. **ENHANCING ORTHODONTICS through BODY, MIND, HEART AND SOUL** presentations will include a variety of orthodontic and healthcare issues designed to enhance the overall care and lives of your patients, staff and family by Mayo Clinic Consultants and University of Minnesota Specialists. (Members are still raving about Dr. **Arnie Hill's** 1997 MSO Annual Session in Rochester!) Our exhibitors and sponsors also have been eager to step forward in support of the MSO in 2015 and we look forward to seeing their new products with exhibits at the meeting.

Friday combined doctor, spouse and staff lectures include Mayo Clinic Consultant and Saturday Doctor Scientific lectures include a lively interactive program by Dr. **Brent Larson** and University of Minnesota specialists on a variety of topics Saturday afternoon. Saturday a separate staff lecture will feature **Amy Kirsch** – back by popular demand from the 2013 MSO meeting in Kansas City! Refer to the Annual Sessions page on this web site for up-to-date speaker and lecture titles.

Also refer to the 2015 Annual Session web page for details on the opportunity to invest in your health with priority scheduling for Mayo Clinic's Executive Health Physical. Mayo is offering a fast track to schedule an executive health physical for doctors and spouses in the time immediately before and after our MSO Annual Session or at a time convenient to you. We hope you will take advantage of this amazing opportunity while close to Mayo Clinic. There is Power in Prevention!

We also will be honoring Dr. **John Kanyusik** as our 2015 MSO Earl E. Shepard Distinguished Service Award recipient. John has served the MSO in numerous capacities and has spent many years giving unselfishly of himself as a stellar volunteer to the MSO, AAO and CDABO. John, congratulations, you are so deserving of this award! Enjoy your colleagues, share the artist's work and honor Dr. Kanyusik during our Friday evening reception at the Rochester Museum of Fine Arts.

Our 2015 Annual Session Planning Committee welcomes you to Rochester: Dr. **Arnie Hill**, General Arrangements Chair; Drs. **Fred Regennitter** and **John Volz**, Scientific Co-chairs-Mayo; **Dr. John Kanyusik**, Scientific Co-chair-University of Minnesota; **Dr. Nellie Kim Weroha** and Ms. **Denise Schouweiler**, Social and Staff Program Co-chairs; Drs. **Jackie Miller** and **Kim Stafford**, Exhibitor and Sponsorship Co-chairs; Dr. **Kevin Denis**, Registration Chair; **Kristi Burmeister**, Executive Director and **Penny Key**, Meeting Planner. Check this web site for program highlights and updates.

Thank you for the honor and opportunity to serve you and this wonderful organization as your MSO President. I look forward to another successful year ahead, culminating in our unique 2015 MSO Annual Session in Rochester, Minnesota, on October 9-10.

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MSO Components

IOWA

Melissa Bernhardt, President

Chris Holahan, President-Elect

David Meyer, Vice President

Clayton Parks, Secretary/ Treasurer

The annual meeting of the Iowa Society of Orthodontists was held October 12-13, 2014 at Hotel Vetro in Iowa City. The program featured **Charlene White** who discussed, *Financial Rewards of Clinical Efficiency*.

The 2014 meeting is scheduled for September 27-28 in Iowa City. The details of the program are still being finalized.

At the last legislative session, the Iowa Dental Association devoted considerable resources to pass the two remaining provisions contained in the Dental Patient Protection Act, "assignment of benefits" and **full** "external review" of denied dental insurance claims for dental patients. We only were able to achieve limited external review protection based on medical necessity only. We have received a "promise" that the Iowa Insurance Commissioner would review the reasons dental patients are treated differently than medical patients for purposes of external review of denied insurance claims. The insurance commissioner's report to the legislature and the Governor is due sometime in December.

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ILLINOIS

Michael Durbin, President
Michael Erhart, President-Elect
Betsy Ulrich, Vice-President
Randy Wright, Secretary-Treasurer

Illinois welcomed the MSO in Chicago this past September for its Annual Meeting. Many thanks to all who helped put together an outstanding program, including our own Drs. **Steve Marshall**, **Spencer Pope** and **Mike Durbin** on the planning committee. Knowledge was gained and a good time had by all, no doubt! We are looking forward to the return of the MSO Annual Session to Chicago in November 2016 with Dr. **Ara Goshgarian** as MSO President.

ISO kicked off its 2014-2015 lecture series schedule on November 3 with an informative presentation from Dr. **Ed Lin** on 3D technology in orthodontics. We welcomed ISDS President **Ed Segal** at our lunch meeting and he updated us with timely news. Dr. **Mike Durbin** presented the ISO annual donation to the AAOF and it was accepted by Dr. **Steve Roehm**, MSO representative to the AAOF Board. We also welcomed AAOF Vice President **Robert Hazel**. DENT-IL-PAC ISO Director **Randall Markarian** explained the role of our political funding and the importance of supporting it.

Congratulations to ISO President Dr. **Mike Durbin** on being presented the President's Award at the ISDS Annual Session in September!

ISO takes pride in two of our members, Drs. **Steve Marshall** and **David Musich**, who are among the speakers at the upcoming AAO Winter Conference this February in Miami.

Upcoming meetings for the ISO are on Friday, February 27, 2015 at the Chicago Midwinter Meeting with Dr. **Luis Carriere** and Monday, April 13, 2015, at the Carlisle Banquet Center in Lombard with Dr. **Dave Sarver**. Attendees are encouraged to bring their interdisciplinary team members.

Finally, please join us at the April 13 meeting to congratulate Dr. **Paul Castelein**, named 2015 winner of the ISO Merit Award for his many years of dedicated service to our profession.

More news and photos for the ISO can be found at <http://www.isortho.org/News.aspx>.

Enjoy the holidays!

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MANITOBA

Constantine Athanasopoulos, President

Roger Moir, Secretary/Treasurer

Some of the recent highlights occurring in the Manitoba Orthodontic Society (MOS) are as following:

- The fall business meeting of the MOS occurred on Friday, November 21, 2014.
- We proceeded with a different format for this meeting as we conducted an abbreviated business morning meeting followed by a lecture/lunch. Dr. **Bill Kottemann**, sponsored by Align Technologies, presented *Optimal Invisalign: Making It Work, Making It Productive and Making It Profitable*. The response was very positive with many attendees really liking the format along with the bonus of 3 CE hrs. Unfortunately, the end result was that we could not encourage more MOS members to attend the business meeting.
- The *A Smile for Life* chapter is now finalized and in the process of screening candidates for board approval. Dr. **Tim Dumore** and his team have been spearheading this program.
- The Canadian Association of Orthodontics (CAO) 2015 Annual Session will be held in Victoria, BC from September 17-19 at the Fairmont Empress Hotel.
- The 2015 MSO Annual Session will be held in Rochester, Minnesota, October 9-10 at the Hilton Chicago Hilton.

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Minnesota

Regina Blevins, President

David Resch, President-elect

Ron Snyder, Vice President

Nellie Kim-Weroha, Secretary/Treasurer

Dr. **Regina Blevins** will preside over the 2015 MAO Annual Winter Meeting, which will take place on January 9, 2015, at the Minneapolis Marriott City Center Hotel. A joint presentation for the staff is planned with Dr. **Thomas Everett** who will share *Making Your Image Shine as the Smiles You Create* along with Ms. **Denise Schouweiler**, who will present on new patient phone calls. The doctor lecture will be presented by Dr. **Jaime**



L to R Dr. Regina Blevins, MAO president; Dr. Nellie Kim-Weroha, MAO secretary/treasurer; Dr. Deb Lien, MSO president; and Dr. Doug Vayda, past MAO president

Reynolds speaking on *Digital Orthodontics*.

The 2014 MAO Fall Meeting was held on September 19, 2014, at Pizza Luce in Minneapolis. The lecture was given by Dr. **David Boschken** on various Invisalign topics followed by Minnesota Twins baseball game.

Dr. **Arnie Hill** received the MSO 2014 Earl E. Shepard Distinguished Service Award at the MSO Meeting in Chicago in September. Congratulations, Arnie! At the same meeting, our own Dr. **Deborah Lien** was inducted as the new President of the MSO and will serve as a MSO representative to the AAO 2014 House of Delegates.

We invite everyone (doctors, staff and spouses) to join us in Rochester for the 2015 MSO Annual Session on October 9-10. It will not be below freezing yet in Minnesota! This year the planning committee, with the leadership from Deb, will be hosting a unique combination of topics with Mayo Clinic and University of Minnesota speakers along with other excellent nationally known speakers. There also will be fun activities planned and a chance to have an executive exam at the Mayo Clinic. More information on the meeting will be coming soon or see the MSO website at msortho.org.

The *Smiles Change Lives* program has continued to be strong in Minnesota thanks to all the generous providers that have signed up. We are proud to say almost half of the orthodontists in the state are participants and we thank you for your kind support of kids who really do benefit from the program. If you would like to be a provider, please go to www.smileschangelives.org or 888-900-3554 to sign up. Thank you to Dr. **Steve Litton** for all his time and efforts to growing this program in Minnesota.

We continue to be proud of MAO's own Dr. **Brent Larson** as MSO Trustee to the AAO Board of Trustees. Thank you, Brent, for your hard work and doing a great job in representing us.

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Missouri

Kevin Austin, President

Neil Kanning, President-Elect

Jeffrey Cavanaugh, Secretary/Treasurer

A Missouri Society of Orthodontists business meeting was held September 12 during the Midwestern Society of Orthodontists meeting in Chicago.

The next business meeting is scheduled January 30-31, 2015 in Kansas City. The meeting will be held at the combined Kansas/Missouri Society of Orthodontists meeting at the Intercontinental Hotel on the Country Club Plaza in Kansas City.

Information has been sent to Missouri Society of Orthodontists members. Please plan to attend and sign up soon! New officers will be installed at the next business meeting.

Do not forget that the Missouri Society of Orthodontists has a website www.moortho.org. Please refer to the website for information about Missouri orthodontists.

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NEBRASKA

Steven Swenson, President

Thyagaseely (Sheela) Premaraj, President-Elect

Michael Morrison, Secretary/Treasurer

The upcoming meetings of the Omaha Orthodontic Study Club and the Nebraska Society of Orthodontists have been planned.

The Omaha Orthodontic Study Club will meet on January 30, 2015, at the Shadow Ridge Country Club. Dr. **Robert Miller** will provide the continuing education and his topic will be *McLaughlin Bennet System 4.0™*. Dr. Miller completed his orthodontic residency at Medical College of Virginia and practices in Culpeper, Warrenton and Centreville, Virginia. We would like to express our appreciation to **Greg Pellegrom** for this course as it is sponsored by Opal Orthodontics. For further information or to register call 402-397-4443.

The Nebraska Society of Orthodontists annual meeting will be held on March 27, 2015, at the Shadow Ridge Country Club. Dr. **Mark Berkman** will present, *Evidence Based Aesthetics: Speaking with Certainty on Smiles*. Mark completed dental school at The Ohio State University and received his specialty and graduate training at the University of Michigan. He has authored a number of papers on Class II and III treatment and has lectured nationally on a variety of practice-management related topics. A Diplomate of the American Board of Orthodontics, he also teaches as an Adjunct Assistant Clinical Professor of Orthodontics. He maintains a private practice in Commerce Township, Michigan. We would like to express our appreciation to **Tom Irvin** for this course as it is sponsored by 3M Unitek. Further information may be obtained by contacting Dr. **Sheela Premaraj** at 402-472-4919 or sheelapremaraj@unmc.edu.

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NORTH DAKOTA

John Warford, Jr, President

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Michiel Nuveen, Secretary/Treasurer

North Dakota dentists have been busy meeting with legislators in advance of the biannual North Dakota legislative session. The main areas of focus are advocating for dental school loan repayment and against midlevel providers. The NDDA will host a brunch at the Capitol on January 16 for dentists to join together to educate legislators about these issues. The North Dakota legislature has supported a dental school loan repayment program in the past for dentists that will practice in rural communities or safety net clinics. As dental school debt continues to be a primary issue for dental school graduates, the NDDA will strongly advocate for this bill. The main talking point against midlevels is that the number of dentists in North Dakota has grown twice as fast as the North Dakota population in the past five years. This equates to a 16% increase in dentists, placing us number one in the nation for increase of dentists.

Dr. **Dan Keith**, orthodontist in Bismarck/Mandan, will represent North Dakota at the AAO Emerging Leaders Conference in February. We are excited to see Dan grow as a leader for North Dakota and the MSO.

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WISCONSIN

Kevin Race, President

John (Jay) Frazier, President-Elect

Michael Maslowski, Vice President

Alan Ostertag, Secretary/Treasurer

WSO members were proud to support fellow WSO member, Dr. **John Crawford**, by attending the 2014 MSO/GLAO meeting in Chicago in place of its usual Fall Conference. Dr. Crawford and his team put together a terrific meeting that was enjoyed by all.

The WSO thanks John for his excellent leadership and service to the MSO as president and we congratulate our new MSO president, Dr. **Deb Lein**.

WSO members **Jay Frazier**, **Kevin Race** and **Dave Mentz** attended a meeting with the leaders of the dental specialty associations and the Wisconsin Dental Association during the 2014 WDA Annual Session in Milwaukee. All specialties were represented except pedo and oral surgery. It was mainly an organizational brain-storming meeting with the main objective of bringing the officers of the various dental specialty organizations together to explore ways to work together to better serve our members. Further, the WDA would like to increase the attendance and participation of the specialties at the annual WDA meeting. Perhaps having courses particularly geared to each specialty and/or to encourage the specialties to hold meetings concurrent with the WDA at the WDA meeting site. The WDA also would like to have the specialties available to write letters and appear as needed at the legislative level to give input and to support WDA approved legislation. We ended the meeting intending to address these concerns in the future, but no specific date was set. We hope that this can be the start of an on-going dialog and collaboration.

The 2015 WSO Spring Conference will be held at the American Club in Kohler, April 16-17.

The meeting will feature two speakers:

Dr. **Aaron Molen**'s presentation will be *Contemporary Technologies in Orthodontic Treatment*.

Dr. **Bill Dischinger**'s presentation will be *Efficient Class 2 Treatment*.

All MSO members are welcome.

For more information, please contact Karen at the Wisconsin Society of Orthodontists at the numbers below or at www.wisconsinsocietyoforthodontists.com to see the new website.

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Miscellaneous Articles

Mark Dake installed as new MSO director

The MSO is proud to announce the installation of a new director to the MSO Board of Directors. Dr Mark L. Dake, West Plains, Missouri, replaces Dr. Virginia Mennemeyer as she moves on to the officer ladder of the MSO. We thank Ginny for all of her contributions as a director.



Mark received a BS in biology from Missouri Southern State University in 1980, his DDS from University of Missouri-Kansas City in 1984 and a MSD from Baylor College of Dentistry in 1986. He started private practice in West Plains in 1986 and, currently, has offices with partners Drs. David Sander and Kyle Wendfeldt in West Plains, Mountain Grove and Houston, Missouri and Mountain Home, Highland and Batesville, Arkansas.

Mark served as president of Missouri Society of Orthodontists and has been a member of the Council on Governmental Affairs (COGA) for nine years representing the MSO – his full term of eight years plus one year completing the term of the previous representative. He is also a Diplomate of American Board of Orthodontics.

Mark has been married to his wife, Kim (a dental hygienist), for 35 years. They have three children: Merritt and wife, Lauren, and granddaughter Margaret; Miles and wife, Meredith; and Anne Katherine Dake. He does enjoy the role of grandfather to Margaret, but also has interesting hobbies of raising Angus cattle and flying.

We look forward to Mark's service and contributions to the MSO Board.

Hill received 2014 Shepard Award

The Midwestern Society of Orthodontists Board of Directors unanimously selected Dr. Arnold J. Hill of St. Paul, Minnesota, as the recipient of the 2014 Earl E. Shepard



Distinguished Service Award. This award recognizes a member of the MSO who exemplifies the ideals of the orthodontic profession, community and family. He received the award at the MSO/GLAO Annual Session in Chicago in September.

Raised in Minneapolis, Arnie attended the University of Minnesota for his undergraduate, dental school and orthodontic training, graduating with a MSD degree in 1965. He was in private practice in Rochester for five years, then Staff Consultant and Professor at Mayo Clinic for 30 years. He returned to private practice with Drs. Terry Guenther and Brent Larson in Rochester, and then with Dr. Michelle Bergsrud in Minneapolis. While at Mayo, he was the Graduate Education Orthodontic Program Director for a number of years and had a special interest in patients with congenital anomalies as a member of the Craniofacial Disorders Team. He also was a member of the Sleep Disorders Team treating patients with sleep apnea. He is most proud to be among former orthodontic staff and residents from the Mayo program who have had successful professional lives and have made significant contributions to their communities. Giving back in time, talent, service and resources are hallmarks of the Mayo Legacy.

Arnie has held top leadership positions in the Minnesota Dental Association, the Minnesota Association of Orthodontists, and the Midwestern Society of Orthodontists. He was selected by the American Dental Association to chair the national Special Committee on Fragmentation of the Association and Profession. Their findings and recommendations helped shape future goals and activities of the ADA. He was a member of the ADA House of Delegates for many years and a member and chairman of the Council on Dental Care Programs. With the AAO, he served a number of years in the House of Delegates, as chairman of the Council on Scientific Affairs and as part of the group that developed the first *Guidelines for Orthodontic Practice*. In 2003 he was General Chair for the AAO Annual Session in Hawaii. He is a Diplomate of the American Board of Orthodontics and a retired member of the Edward H. Angle Society. For eight years Dr. Hill was a member of the Minnesota Board of Dentistry serving as president in 1991-93.

Among his many honors, Arnie was chosen Teacher of the Year by the Mayo Clinic Fellows Association and was the recipient of the A. B. Hall Distinguished Alumnus Award given by the University of Minnesota School of Dentistry; the Roger J. Fredsall

Distinguished Service Award given by the Minnesota Association of Orthodontists; and the James E. Brophy Distinguished Service Award given by the American Association of Orthodontists. He was named the Guest of Honor by the Minnesota Dental Association and received the Alumni Service Award from the University of Minnesota Board of Regents.

For 18 years as a Rochester, Minnesota Police Commissioner Arnie took pride in helping develop a more educated and professional police force. He was active in his church and served on the boards of the United Way and the American Cancer Society, the latter as president. As a member of a southeastern Minnesota task force to assess the need for a dental assisting program in the area, he was instrumental in selecting the location for Rochester, developing the program and serving as a part-time volunteer instructor.

Professionally, Arnie currently occasionally helps cover orthodontic practices in the Twin Cities and Rochester. He provides orthodontic diagnosis and treatment planning, practice counseling and evaluations for a major Minnesota dental/orthodontic group. He helped develop Affordable Care Act orthodontic guidelines for a Minnesota-based insurance company.

Marriage to Shirley for over 50 years has added great dimension to Arnie's life; she still tries to keep him diversified. Socializing remains high on their list as they enjoy fine food/beverage, travel, music, gardening and numerous projects around their homes at Spider Lake, Wisconsin and St Paul, Minnesota. They have two daughters, Jennifer and Sara, and grandchildren Lydia, Alice, Price and Bart, ages 17-6, with sons-in-law William and Jonathan. The family is at the center of their lives and activities—whether in St. Paul, Spider Lake, Lake City, Edina, Hawaii or wherever.

Congratulations, Arnie, for all that you have done for orthodontics, the dental profession and your community. You are most deserving of this award.

Graduate School Programs

University of Iowa

The Iowa Society of Orthodontists' annual meeting was held October 12-13 at the Hotel Vetro in Iowa City. Sunday's speakers included the Iowa Department of Orthodontics faculty, Drs. **Tom Southard** (posterior open bites), **Nathan Holton** (current research in facial growth), **Sreedevi Srinivasan** (current research in facial growth prediction) and **Sath Allareddy** and **Lina Moreno** (concepts of craniofacial anomalies treatment). Monday's speaker was Ms. **Charlene White**, of Progressive Concepts.

Dr. **Robert Staley**, along with the orthodontic dental assistants, attended the Midwestern Society of Orthodontists' meeting in Chicago in September.

The Orthodontic Department has completed interviews for the incoming class starting June 30, 2015. We will learn the names of the Class of 2017 when the Match is announced on December 3, 2014. The candidates were exceptional and will become outstanding future orthodontists.

Dr. **Sath Allareddy** has published another article. The reference is **Allareddy, V, Elangovan, S, Nalliah, RP, Chickmagalur, N, Allareddy, V**, Pathways for Foreign-Trained Dentists to Pursue Careers in the United States. *J Dent Educ* 2014 Nov; 78(11):1489-96. PubMed PMID: 2536689.

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University of Manitoba

We extend a warm welcome to our three first-year residents who commenced the 36-month program during June 2014. They are Drs. **Matthew Kotyk** from Winnipeg comes with a DMD and an MSc in Chemistry, **Virginie Provencal** from Montreal where she attained her dental degree and **Alvaro Salles** with a dental degree and PhD from Brazil and was a practicing general dentistry in Winnipeg prior to joining the program.

Three residents completed their thesis requirements and defended during November 2014. Drs. **Richard Halpern** will be going to Calgary, **Mireye Senye** to Toronto and **Jonelle Crichton** has yet to decide where she is going to settle. We wish them all well for their future in orthodontics.

We had four residents present research at the Canadian Association of Orthodontists meeting in September in Montreal: Drs. **Mireye Senye, Robert Ward, Laura Duncan** and **Marc Aucoin**, who was also selected to do an oral presentation of his research representing the University of Manitoba program.

Our third-year residents are actively preparing for their Royal College upcoming exams and working on their theses. The program also is actively preparing for its accreditation site visit in March 2015.

I would like to thank our full- and part-time instructors for their dedication to the program. Their enthusiasm for teaching our residents and friendship is much appreciated.

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MAYO

Happy holidays to everyone! It definitely feels like winter in Minnesota.

Our newest resident in the program is Dr. **Eric Orbison**. Dr. Orbison was born in Lewisburg, Pennsylvania and attended Bucknell University and obtained his DDS from the University of Maryland School of Dentistry in Baltimore in 2014. He enjoys basketball and golf. His wife, **Jenna**, teaches elementary education in the Rochester school system.

Dr. **Li-Ping Chew** graduated this past July. Her research, *The Effect of Chemotherapy on the Survival of Dental Implants*, was successfully defended and presented at the AAO Annual Session in May in New Orleans. Dr. **Jeff Kohlmeier** is our chief resident and is completing his research and finishing patients. He successfully completed the written portion of the ABO certification examination in April. Dr. **Eric Wu** is our second-year resident. In addition to the academic and clinical studies, he also has been enjoying the fishing and hunting experiences unique to Minnesota this fall.

This past summer, Dr. Orbison attended the GORP program hosted by the University of Michigan. In September Dr. Wu attended the 10-day Tweed Foundation course in Tucson, Arizona. This continues to be fall highlight for our second-year residents.

We are happy to report that Dr. **Grant Collins** (2013) was awarded Board certification status this spring. He is very busy with his Rochester practice. He and Drs. **John Foley** (2012) and **James Stork** (2011) have agreed to be moderators at next year's Midwestern Society of Orthodontists meeting. An exciting program of Mayo Clinic consultants and University of Minnesota speakers is planned for October 9-10, 2015 in Rochester, Minnesota.

Mayo Clinic orthodontics sponsored clerkships this past year for senior dental students



from UCLA, Meharry University, University of Kentucky and the University of Minnesota. The fall also has been busy with new resident interviews for the Class of 2018. We have met a talented group of young dentists from across the nation. The selection committee is in the process of finalizing the Match list and results will be announced December 3, 2014.

We were delighted to host the president of the American Board of Orthodontics, Dr.

Paul Castelian on November 7. He spent the day sharing his expertise and experience on a variety of orthodontic subjects. He is pictured with the residents and staff.

I hope that you enjoyed reading this program update at Mayo Clinic Orthodontics. Alumni support, by participating in the AAOF, coming to meetings, calling on the telephone or sending an e-mail is really appreciated. Keep it up!

Have a great Holiday Season.

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UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

December is a month that is special for us in the North Country. The amount of daylight becomes confined to those hours when we are either at our desks, in a seminar room or in the clinic. We relish each noon walk to a local eatery as a time to comment on the temperature of the day and, hopefully, get some sun on our faces. The Thanksgiving holiday polished off the last of the November days and we are busily preparing for the winter holiday parties and Winter Break.

The first-year residents are feeling very comfortable in their new roles as future orthodontists and the second-years haven't really realized that they will be fledging after one more semester. We have, as an entire division, selected a new class for next year and are comfortably settled in to the happy business of discovering and rediscovering the art and science of orthodontics. Board exams, thesis defenses and practice transitions won't enter our minds until next year. December is a special month!



Our new class, the class of 2016, is diverse and cohesive at the same time. They exhibit an amazing team spirit and are eager to accept as much work as the faculty can give them. In alphabetical order, the class roster is Drs. **Brianna-Lise Newton** (nee Carlson) from the University of Minnesota; **Matthew Goergen** from Southern Illinois University; **Farah Kar** from the University of Minnesota;

Rosemary Lelich from the University of Pennsylvania; **Ariana Weissend** from SUNY in Buffalo; and **Charlene Tai** from the University of British Columbia at Vancouver. In the past six months they have enjoyed the GORP conference in Michigan (see photo) and are looking forward to attending the Moyers Symposium as well as the AAO meeting in San Francisco.

One of our valued adjunct professors, Dr. **Alisa Madson**, has left the Division to seek out different venues and adventures in orthodontics. We will miss her upbeat personality as well as her stories about the triathlons she has conquered. We feel extremely fortunate to have found a replacement in Dr. **Jacqueline Schieck**, who is practicing in Northfield, Minnesota. Jacquee is willing to drive the 80 mile round trip every other week to give back to her alma mater! We couldn't be happier to have her here infusing the residents with her enthusiasm and practice-building knowledge.

Dr. **Thorsten Grünheid** traveled to the Chicago area this fall to lecture at the Consortium for Orthodontic Advances in Science and Technology (COAST) meeting. He presented his views on customized orthodontic appliances and is finding himself increasingly in demand as a speaker at conferences and meetings nationwide. Dr. **John Beyer** is shaping the predoctoral orthodontic program to his liking this fall semester. He holds

one of our busiest positions in that he is responsible for about 100 dental students as well as a share of the clinical, didactic and research teaching for our twelve orthodontic residents. Dr. **Stan Williamson** heads up the clinical portion of the program and with a 25-chair clinic that is no mean feat. He is currently working on our strategy to evolve into a plasterless environment and is researching the latest intraoral scanners to help effect that change. Dr. **Brent Larson** dusted off his Air Force hat this fall and spent three days teaching at Lackland AFB in San Antonio in his capacity as National Civilian Consultant to the USAF Surgeon General in Orthodontics.

Well, that's all the news that's fit to print. See you in San Francisco at the program's reunion on Saturday, May 16!

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UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA

Congratulations!! Drs. **Jeffrey Rector**, **Nima Rohani** and **Jared Schoettger** will be completing their Master's Degree in Oral Biology and their Residency in Orthodontics at the end of the Fall 2014 Semester, December 19, 2014. Their future plans have Dr. Rector and family moving to Bozeman, Montana to enter into private practice; Dr. Rohani moving to Dallas, Texas, to join a practice and Dr. Schoettger staying in Lincoln. He is becoming an associate at Schoettger Orthodontics with his father, Dr. **Robert Schoettger**, who began the practice.

July 1, 2014 is when our class of 2016 began their orthodontic residency at the College of Dentistry. The incoming class consists of Drs. **Payam Ishani Afousi**, **Brian Luong** and **Emily Willett**. Dr. Afousi went to community college and the University of Utah to complete his Bachelor of Arts degree in 2010. He then went to the University of California-San Francisco School of Dentistry and completed his DDS degree in 2014. Dr. Luong received his BS degree from the University of California-Irvine and his DMD degree from Harvard School of Dental Medicine in Boston. He has completed his G.P.R. at the University of California-San Francisco in 2013 and his MBA in Business at Harvard Business School in 2014. Dr. Willett received her BS degree in Biology from South Dakota State University. In May 2014 she graduated from the University of Nebraska Medical Center College of Dentistry program, having earned her DDS degree.

We are happy to welcome the following candidates who have been matched with the Orthodontic Program at the UNMC College of Dentistry: Drs. **Leslie Ellingson** (from UNMC College of Dentistry), **Kelsey Riffel** (from the University of Missouri-Kansas City) and **Jacob Stadiem** (from Midwestern University in Glendale, Arizona). They will begin their pursuit of their specialty in orthodontics on July1, 2015, at the College of Dentistry.

In August 2014, **Joseph Hurd**, DDS, MSD, joined our program as an instructor. Over 40 years of dental and orthodontic experience allows him to add considerable depth and perspective to the clinical cases.

Dr. Hurd's undergraduate and dental graduate studies were completed at Creighton University in Omaha. Adding to his diversity was a rotating dental internship in Mississippi. He completed his orthodontic specialty training at St. Louis University and earned his MSD degree at the Medical Center, St. Louis, Missouri. During this time he received *The Highest Scholastic Achievement Award*. He has served in the US Air Force and has completed coursework in periodontics and advanced orthodontic specialty, served as department of orthodontics chairman at four separate locations, attained the rank of colonel and received numerous military honors including the *Meritorious Service Medal*. While serving in the US Air Force he received the *Outstanding Graduate Award* from the Air War College.

To remain active and involved, Dr. Hurd is a member of numerous professional organizations. His involvement includes serving as a president of the Nebraska Society of Orthodontists, the Omaha Orthodontic Study Club and the Omaha District Dental Society. Adding to his accomplishments, Dr. Hurd has had journal articles published as a result of his research.

Currently, Dr. Hurd practices at *Exclusively Orthodontics* in Papillion, Nebraska. His particular clinical interests are difficult cases and surgical cases. He joins our other current part-time faculty, Drs. **Brett Cascini, Robert Glenn, Paula Harre, Rebecca Hohl, Robert Schoettger** and **Kim Stafford**.

In October the Orthodontic Class of 2007 returned to Lincoln and provided a practice management seminar to the current College of Dentistry Orthodontic residents. It was our pleasure to have Drs. **Michael Crosby, Paul Robinson** and **Loren Short** visit the college for the day and provide the seminar.

The program continues to advertise and search for the right person to fill the faculty position which opened in July 2013 after Dr. **Peter Spalding's** retirement. Basic qualifications for the position include DDS/DMD or foreign equivalent degree, Certificate in Orthodontics and eligibility for Nebraska dental license. Applicants also must possess an MS or PhD in any scientific field. The successful candidate will provide didactic education and clinical supervision of undergraduate and post-graduate students in Orthodontics. The person hired will actively engage in research activities leading to publications in professional journals and seek external research funding. He/She also will participate in service activities in the department, college, university and the outside dental education community. Participation in the College of Dentistry's University Dental Associates practice is available.

We would be honored to have alumni applications or recommendations. While our program is strong, a third and well-qualified faculty member would make us even stronger. The position is posted on the UNMC website and applications continue to be accepted and considered. Please review the online application process at <https://jobs.unmc.edu> today!

The UNMC Orthodontic Program was proud to host a Continuing Education Course in Orthodontics by **Daniela Storino**, DDS, MS, in October. Dr. Storino is dual trained in Pediatric Dentistry and Orthodontics and on the Clinical Faculty and a Research Coordinator at the University in Sao Paulo, Brazil. Dr. Storino has participated in research in arch development, optimum forces and craniofacial growth and development. The focus of the program presented was management of the occlusal plane as a critical element of successful treatment of all malocclusions, and was titled, *Progressive Management of the Occlusal Plane*.

For the MSO members who may not be aware, we are sad to report the September 2014 passing of Dr. **Kenneth Holland, Sr.**, at the age of 94. Dr. Holland was a graduate of the University of Nebraska and in 1943, a graduate of the College of Dentistry. Following service in the US Army, he and several partners began an orthodontic practice in 1947 in both Lincoln and Columbus, Nebraska. In addition to the orthodontic practice, he was a part-time faculty member at the College of Dentistry, spent several years as chair of the orthodontic program, and was a teacher for several years, culminating in the honor of 55+ years of service at the University. Being active in the orthodontic profession, Dr. Holland additionally served as president for both the Lincoln Dental Society and the Midwestern Society of Orthodontics.

The following are contributions from the orthodontic program since our last newsletter submission:

Publications:

Holwegner C, Reinhardt A, Schmid M, Marx D, Reinhardt R (2014), Impact of Local Steroid or Statin Treatment of Experimental Temporomandibular Joint Arthritis on Bone Growth in Young Rats, *Am J Orthod Dentofacial Orthop*, In Press.

Premaraj T, Rohani N, Covey D, Premaraj S, Hua Y, Watanabe H (2014), An *In-Vitro* Evaluation of Mechanical and Esthetic Properties of Orthodontic Sealants, *European Journal of Dentistry*, 8(4) 487- 492.

Premaraj T, Simet S, Beatty M, Premaraj S (2014), Oral Epithelial Cell Reaction Following Exposure to Invisalign[®] Plastic Material, *Am J Orthod Dentofacial Orthop*, 145(1): 64-71.

George MD, Owen CM, Reinhardt AL, Giannini PJ, Marx DB, Reinhardt RA (2013), Effect Of Simvastatin Injections on Temporomandibular Joint Inflammation in Growing Rats, *J Oral Maxillofac Surg* 71(5):846-853.

Miralami R, Koepsell L, Premaraj T, Kim B, Thiele G, Sharp JG, Garvin KL and Namavar F (2013), Comparing Biocompatibility of Nanocrystalline Titanium and Titanium-Oxide with Microcrystalline Titanium, *MRS Proceedings*, 1569: 91-96.

Abstracts:

T Premaraj, C Anderson, S Premaraj, and S Fernando (2014), Bacterial Community Structure in Endodontic Infections, *J Dent Res*. 93 (Spec Iss. B): 394.

S Premaraj and T Premaraj (2014), Orthodontic Loading and SOST/Sclerostin Expression in Rat Alveolar Osteocyte, *J Dent Res*. 93 (Spec Iss. B): 1665.

N Rohani, H Watanabe, D Covey and T Premaraj (2014), Evaluation of Mechanical and Esthetic Properties of Orthodontic Sealants, *J Dent Res* 93 (Spec Iss. B): 936.

B Kim, T Premaraj and F Namavar (2014), Cell Response to Nano Structured Zirconium Oxide Coated Titanium, *J Dent Res* 93 (Spec Iss. B): 268.

E Katzberg, MW Beatty (2013), Observations of ZrO₂ Nanoparticle Size on Weathered PDMS Mechanical Properties, *J Dent Res* 92 (Spec Iss. A): 1924.

Z Jacob, B Kim and T Premaraj, Osseointegration of Dental Implants with Different Surface Treatments, Poster presentation, Professional Day, College of Dentistry, 2014.

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SAINT LOUIS UNIVERSITY

Fourteen residents will graduate in December of 2014; subsequently they will scatter across the U.S. and the world and are expected to serve their patients and specialty admirably. They and their home dental school are:

Class of 2014

Azadeh Amin	University of Wurzburg (Germany)
Adam Armstrong	Midwestern University
Christopher Baker	Indiana University
Daniel Breha	Case Western Reserve University
Evmorfia Fotakidou	Aristotle University (Greece)
Michelle Furlong	SUNY Stony Brook
Shireen Irani	Baylor College of Dentistry
Kyle Jamison	University of Nevada Las Vegas
Colleen Mohan	Temple University
Chelesa Phillips	Howard University
Christopher Ruth	Virginia Commonwealth University
Eniko Toth	University of Florida
Astrid Tourne	Katholieke University (Belgium)
Vasilis Charalabakis	University of Athens (Greece)

The Orthodontic Education and Research Foundation will hold their next meeting in St. Louis, February 27-March 1, 2015. Many fine speakers will enlighten the audience including **Sheldon Peck, Chris Chang, Bob Boyd, Tako Araujo, Stephanos Kyrkanides, Gustavo Berreto, Peter Buschang, Larry Jerrold, Ki Beom Kim, Larry LeGrand** and **Gagan Bhalla**. Dr. Peck will receive the OERF Merit Award. Contact moscalb@slu.edu for information on the OERF meeting.

In addition, the SLU orthodontic program has a number of guest speakers arranged for the spring of 2015. All MSO students are encouraged to look at the schedule on our website (it is updated periodically) and if they find a presentation they would like to attend, please let us know.

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University of Missouri - Kansas City



UMKC Orthodontics Welcomes new faculty member Dr. Shankar Rengasamy Venugopalan

We are pleased that Dr. Rengasamy Venugopalan (BDS 2004, Tamil Nadu Medical University; DMSc Ortho 2014, Harvard; PhD 2010, TAMU Baylor) has agreed to uproot himself from the east coast and join our department as an assistant professor. It's not Shankar's first time living in the middle of the US. Until moving to Harvard in 2010, where he completed his orthodontic residency in 2014, Shankar was at Baylor College of Dentistry where he completed his PhD.

Dr. Rengasamy Venugopalan will have responsibilities for teaching didactic courses to dental students and orthodontic residents as well supervise in the undergraduate orthodontic clinic and laboratory. Shankar's research interests are in the area of enamel proteins. These proteins are a current interest in dental research given that the proteins at the dental enamel junction can be activated by acids or radiation. Significant clinical consequences occur when these proteins are activated and are the likely causes of leakage around composite restorations or separation of enamel from the dentin-enamel junction consequent to radiation therapy for oral cancers.

Thank you, Dr. Rengasamy Venugopalan, for agreeing to be part of the UMKC Ortho Team!

Report from Down Under....our UMKC connection to Australia.

UMKC Orthodontic Alum Dr. **Mike Razza** (DDS Baylor '82; UMKC Ort '90) sends us all warm wishes from the west coast of Australia. Mike lives in Perth and is an Associate Professor in the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry, University of Western Australia. He also has private practices in the towns of Booragoon, Subiaco and Broome. Dr. Razza has been very active in serving the orthodontic profession. He recently completed a two-year (2010-2012) stint as president of the Australian Society of Orthodontists. During his tenure, the WFO meeting was held in Sydney (see photo). Mike has served in various capacities within the ASO, as well as acting as an executive council member for the Asian Pacific Orthodontic Society. Thanks, Mike, for carrying the UMKC flag in the land of the Southern Cross.

Dr. Mike and Jacqueline Razza at the Sydney Opera House during the meeting of the World Federation of Orthodontists (2010).



2014 Midwest Dental Convention UMKC Orthodontic Alumni Lecture: Dr. Antonino G. Secchi

The Chateau Room of the Sheraton Crowne Plaza Hotel hosted approximately 60 orthodontics during the Midwest Orthodontic Lectures given by Dr. **Antonino Secchi**, Clinical Assistant Professor, Department of Orthodontics, University of Pennsylvania. The focus of Dr. Secchi's Thursday lecture was on the *Complete Clinical Orthodontic System: A Review of Treatment Mechanics*. On Friday, the theme of the lecture was *Skeletal Diagnosis of Transverse Discrepancies and Early Treatment*. Don't forget to mark your calendar with next year's Midwest Dental Convention UMKC Orthodontic Alumni Lectures, which will be held on April 9-10, 2015.

Four dynamic orthodontic speakers are slated to talk. It is going to be a jam-packed meeting, so don't miss out on these specialists.

Landy Chase, MBA, CSP is a consultant and award-winning author who specializes in training orthodontic practices to increase the start



rate of prospective patients. He provides highly effective, professional procedures for attracting and acquiring new patients for client practices. He has worked extensively within the profession as a trainer, consultant and coach and is a popular speaker at numerous conferences and study clubs including AAO, the Schulman Study Group and The Bottom Line program. Mr. Chase is a graduate of The Citadel, The Military College of South Carolina and holds an MBA from Xavier University in Cincinnati.



Dr. Paul Tran attended Baylor College of Dentistry where he initially earned his dental degree, then went on to pursue his Masters and Certificate in Orthodontics at the University of Kentucky. Dr. Tran is also an alumnus of the L.D. Pankey Institute and the McLaughlin two-year program. He has been in full-time private practice for nearly 20 years in Louisville, Kentucky. He has served in many capacities in organized dentistry such as president of the Kentucky Association of Orthodontists and a Kentucky delegate to the Southern Association of Orthodontists. He maintains a part-time clinical faculty position at the University of Louisville School of Dentistry and was previously on faculty at the University of Kentucky for over a decade. In addition, Dr. Tran lectures around the United States to fellow orthodontic colleagues on aesthetic orthodontic treatment.



Chuck Hill graduated from Indiana University in 1977 and has been with 3M Unitek for 30 years. Chuck's technical aptitude has led to his becoming an expert in the area of bonding. During these 30 years, he has developed his current insights into bonding techniques and the orthodontic specialty in response to the many efforts to eliminate the multiple issues related to bond failures and its costly inefficiencies. The time-tested techniques considered in his discussions of bonding and practice health are real-world and logical approaches to the varying ways that offices conduct their business and also respond to market challenges that have affected the orthodontic marketplace.



Mr. Mike Brewer has enjoyed a 41-year career in prevention in the healthcare industry. He has played an active role in 3M's school development programs and has lectured at the Chicago Mid-Winter Meeting, Mid-South Dental Congress, University of Tennessee, Louisiana State University, University of Mississippi and University of Iowa Dental Hygiene Schools. Mike earned a BS degree in Human Resources with a minor in Business Administration from Louisiana Tech University.



Your Full Time Faculty....Expanding the influence of UMKC Orthodontics

UMKC full-time faculty have a variety of obligations in addition to teaching and clinical activities. One other area where considerable effort is directed is that of research and research related activities. Drs. **Laura Iwasaki** and **Jeff Nickel** continue their service obligations as reviewers of grant applications submitted to a variety of NIDCR study sections and the AAOF. Drs. Iwasaki and Nickel are the principal investigators of two awards from NIH totaling \$3.5 million. This much-needed federal grant funding allows the continuation of their research into the variables that contribute to degenerative joint disease.

Additionally, Drs. Iwasaki and Nickel are co-investigators on grants awarded by the AAOF. Firstly, an Education Innovation Award provides funding to bring together investigators at University of Michigan, University of North Carolina, University of Kentucky, Virginia Commonwealth University, University of Connecticut, University of California San Francisco and UMKC. The projects' aim is to improve the



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Craig K. Little, DDS, MSc, PhD



success rate of junior faculty seeking grant funding, and promotion and tenure at universities. Secondly, it was recently announced that Drs. Nickel and Iwasaki, together with faculty members from University of North Carolina and Oregon Health Sciences University, were awarded an AAOF Center Award. The three-year award provides \$75,000 to support two Consortium on Orthodontic Advances in Science and Technology (COAST) Innovators' Workshops in 2014 and 2016. The aim of these workshops is to facilitate the development of collaborations amongst leaders in research endeavors relevant to the practice of orthodontics and dentofacial orthopedics. The 2014 Innovators' Workshop was held on September 11-14 in Itasca, Illinois. The next COAST Innovators' Workshop is slated for September 8-11, 2016.

News from the UMKC Orthodontic Residents

We are pleased that our senior residents, Drs. **Brittany Carpenter**, **Lori Peterson-Tima** and **Michael Ponkivar** will be completing their program in December. As of July 1, 2015, our new first-year residents will be Drs. **Andrew Eichholz** (Marquette University), **Mark Greenburg** (University of Colorado) and **Kelcey Loveland** (University of Las Vegas).

Meet the UMKC Orthodontic Residents

Class of 2014



Dr. Brittany Carpenter

U. Tennessee 2012
Hometown: Conway, Arkansas



Dr. Lori Peterson

UNMC, 2012
Hometown: Green River, Wyoming



Dr. Michael Ponkivar

U. Maryland, 2012
Hometown: St. Catherines, Ontario, Canada

Class of 2015



Dr. Danielle Gilbert

U. of Alabama at Birmingham, 2013
Hometown: Birmingham, Alabama



Dr. Matthew McCoy

Creighton University, 2013
Hometown: Salt Lake City, Utah



Dr. Kristen Sander

UMKC, 2013
Hometown: Wichita, Kansas



Class of 2016

Dr. Whitney Hewitt

UMKC, 2014
Hometown: St. Charles, MO



Dr. Andrew McDonald

Creighton University, 2014
Hometown: Tucson, AZ



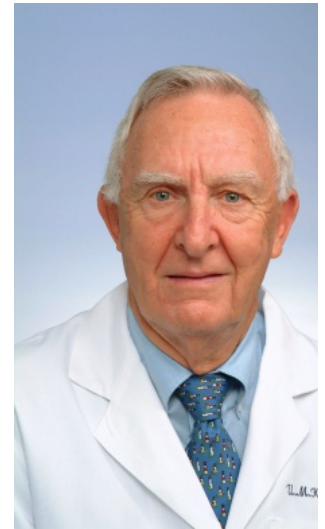
Dr. Steven Shaw

Baylor University, 2014
Hometown: McKinney, TX

Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for the Muehlebach Orthodontic Seminar Room

After four years of tearing down and rebuilding, the Department of Orthodontics and Dentofacial Orthopedics has a fully functional seminar room! The completion of the ceilings, walls and floor coverings in the spring of 2013 was followed by installation of furniture and state-of-the-art electronics in the spring of 2014. Alumni and friends of the department raised over \$140,000 to cover the cost of a total make-over of the 300 square foot space.

The dedication ceremony of the seminar room was held on December 12, 2014. The room was dedicated to the legacy of Dr. **George Muehlebach**, who was a part-time clinical instructor in the Orthodontic Department from September 1980 until his untimely death in 2005. He was much beloved as an instructor by all the residents he came in contact with over his twenty-five years of teaching.



The newly renovated room is now being used for regular orthodontic seminars and case reviews. The furniture can be rearranged to allow for larger groups of residents engaged in interdisciplinary seminars.



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AAO and Associated Entities

American Association of Orthodontists Foundation (AAOF)

COLLECTIONS PROJECT UPDATE

Latest update on the AAO Foundation Craniofacial Growth Legacy Collections Project is now on the AAOF web site.

<<http://www.aaofoundation.net/Portals/0/pdf/AAOF-Legacy-Collection-Status-Report-Jan-July-2014.pdf> >

AWARDS PROGRAM

The deadline for proposals for this annual funding round is December 15, with proposals encouraged from junior/mid-career and part-time faculty, residents and collaborative projects.

For a listing of those Awards funded the previous funding round, including four from the MSO.

<<http://www.aaofoundation.net/AwardsProgram/SummaryofAwardResults.aspx> >.

Final Reports for 370 projects already funded are also on the web site.

<<http://www.aaofoundation.net/AwardsProgram/SummaryofAwardResults.aspx> >.

AAOF at the Illinois Society of Orthodontists

Recently the AAOF presented at the Illinois Society of Orthodontists meeting and received \$1,000 from the ISO.

WAYS TO SUPPORT THE AAO FOUNDATION

Named Awards

Interested in leaving a legacy to orthodontics? Then, consider donating \$250,000 to the AAOF and name one of the Foundation Awards. Contact the AAOF EVP (800.424.2841, #546) for more information.

Keystone Society

One way to way to support the mission of the AAOF (“to support orthodontic education and research”) is to include the AAOF in your estate plans and, thus, become a member of the Foundation’s ***Keystone Society***.

<<http://aaofoundation.net/Campaign/KeystoneSociety.aspx>>

See the Foundation’s ***electronic library*** on estate planning and planned giving, or e-mail rhazel@aaortho.org. <http://www.gftpln.org/Home.do?orgId=1095>>

Year End Giving

Interested in making a year-end gift to the AAO Foundation? Here are some of the **Ways to Give** to the AAOF:

<<http://aaofoundation.net/Campaign/WaystoGive.aspx>>

FOR MORE INFORMATION

The AAO Foundation web site may be reached either through the AAO Members web site (www.AAOmembers.org) or directly at www.aaofoundation.net.

If you should have any questions, please call **Robert Hazel**, AAOF EVP, at 800/424-2841, #ext. 546 (rhazel@aaortho.org), or me at your convenience.

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American Association of Orthodontists Political Action Committee (AAOPAC)

AAOPAC will meet with COGA during the Professional Advocacy Conference in Washington, DC, March 2-3, 2015.

This year the Presidents-elect Conference will be meeting in conjunction with the Professional Advocacy Conference to leverage the skills and talents of AAO leaders in new ways.

I encourage all members to consider attending the Professional Advocacy Conference. It will be an important opportunity for the AAO to begin building relationships with the new Congress.

Now, more than ever, we need your voice, as well as, your financial support.

Please contact me if you have any concerns or ideas.

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AMERICAN BOARD OF ORTHODONTICS (ABO)

It is a privilege to serve the MSO as the director to The American Board of Orthodontics (ABO). The ABO supports the efforts of orthodontists, both certified and not certified, to encourage excellence in providing orthodontic care. The ABO is a strong supporter of the university programs and the College of Diplomates Advocacy program in the university system to encourage board certification. During 2014 the ABO examined 188 new graduates displaying cases from their resident program. The numbers of new graduates participating in the certification process has increased each year due to the success of the advocacy program chaired by Dr. **John Kanyusik** from Mankato, Minnesota. The success rate of examination completion range has been between 68% to 88% since the inception of the Initial Certification program.

By virtue of becoming an orthodontist, we all have committed to being lifelong learners. The more we learn and develop our clinical orthodontic skills the better each of us in delivering high quality care our patients should expect and do deserve. During my year as ABO President it has become evident to me that younger orthodontists need and desire mentorship. Please consider mentoring those who are new to our wonderful specialty by inviting them, through your help and encouragement, to become board certified. They will be grateful and thank you many times for your support.

The ABO has been spending time developing a new and better organized website. The hope at this point is to have it operational by March or April of 2015. There will be some new and exciting features that will encourage the public to seek the care from a board certified orthodontist. Navigation is being designed to make finding what is needed faster and with intuition. The ABO website becomes a very important public relations tool for certified orthodontists since the American Association of Orthodontists has placed the ABO designation on the second page of your information on their website. I encourage all ABO certified orthodontists to place your ABO designation on your website and include a link to the ABO website so the public can learn what a certified orthodontist is. You also may go to americanboardortho.com and copy the explanation what a board certified orthodontist is and include it on your website.

The ABO Fall Retreat of three working days during the first week of September was very successful. The Written Committee was able to finalize the written examination for April 14-17, 2015. The examination will be given at Pearson-VUE Testing Centers and registration closes January 15, 2015.

The Clinical Examination Committee finalized the certification renewal requirements. Certification renewal is required every ten years to maintain board certification. All certification renewal examinations will require two cases treated since the last renewal and with a DI of 20 or greater. An examinee may substitute a Class II or a four quadrant extraction case with a DI of 10 or greater. Both cases may be an extraction case or a Class II case.

During the August 2014 clinical examination the MSO certified nine new diplomates. I would like to congratulate them for doing the work that is required to become certified. They are: Dr. **Richard A. Clabaugh**, Overland Park, Kansas, a graduate of SLU; Dr. **Andrew M. Clark**, Glen Ellyn, Illinois, a graduate of UROC; Dr. **Grant C. Collins**, Rochester, Minnesota, a graduate of Mayo; Dr. **Robertzon Guloy**, Chicago, Illinois, a graduate of JU; Dr. **Hugh J. Murdoch**, Minneapolis, Minnesota, a graduate of Marquette; Dr. **Elliot L. Saperstein**, Paradise Valley, Arizona, a graduate of University of Michigan; Dr. **Charles A. Schumacher**, Effingham, Illinois, a graduate of UMKC; Dr. **Emilla Taneva**, Chicago, Illinois, a graduate of UIC; and Dr. Vina Z. Zinn, Ann Arbor, Michigan, a graduate of University of Michigan. If you know any of these newly certified orthodontists please congratulate them.

If you do have any questions about board certification please go to the website at americanboardortho.com or e-mail me.

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COUNCIL ON COMMUNICATIONS (COC)

Meetings

The Council on Communications met via conference call on October 17, 2014 and face-to-face in St. Louis on November 12 and 13, 2014.

Consumer Awareness Program

Advertising

The 2014-15 commercials and ads debuted in October, and the new materials are available for members through Market Your Practice on aaoinfo.org to use to promote ourselves and our practices.

TV commercials are airing in the U.S. on *HGTV, DIY, Cooking, Food, Lifetime* and *USA*. In Canada, TV commercials are airing on the *W* network and a French-language network in Quebec.

Web banner ads are running in the U.S. and Canada, as are radio commercials on Pandora and TV commercials on *Hulu* and *Pandora TV*. Print ads are running in Puerto Rico. The media buy is posted on the member website at <https://www.aaoinfo.org/node/3647>. The weekly schedule of TV commercials for U.S. cable outlets is posted in the Practice Management Community at <https://www.aaoinfo.org/communities/topic/ao-advertising-1#topbar>. No commercials will air in December 2014 or February 2015 on cable TV outlets in the U.S.

Updated mylifemysmile.org.

The website for consumers, mylifemysmile.org, has been updated. It features the faces seen in the new AAO TV commercials and ads. Messages on the home page deliver direct messages that distinguish orthodontists as specialists, as well as a more prominent placement of the Find an Orthodontist service.

Public Relations

The Council was updated on public relations activity, including the increase in traffic to the mylifemysmile.org press room (attributed to the National Orthodontic Health Month partnership with chef **John Besh**, whose recipes were featured on mylifemysmile.org), as well as an update on outreach to traditional media and bloggers about the *What Makes Me Smile* initiative on mylifemysmile.org. That initiative consists of current and past patients of AAO members being invited to upload “selfies” to <http://mylifemysmile.org/what-makes-me-smile-submit> and provide a quote about what makes them smile, which ties into the theme of the new TV commercials. The name and city of the AAO member who treated the patient is displayed with the patient’s photo, name and quote about what makes them smile).

The PR firm provides content for the AAO’s consumer Facebook and Twitter social media outlets. Members can use this material on their social media outlets, rather than

creating our own posts. The easiest way may be to follow the AAO's consumer pages and simply hit the "share" button to add AAO content to our social media pages.

The PR firm is working with staff to provide fresh content to be added regularly to mylifemysmile.org.

Council asked the PR firm to work in union with staff to set up a press room on aaoinfo.org. While a press room does exist on mylifemysmile.org and members are welcome to use those materials, the Council felt that members would be more apt to look for the information on aaoinfo.org.

Market Tracking Study

The Council met with its new market tracking study vendor, Decision Analyst, to review data for Q3 2014. The company took over the tracking project as of July 1, 2014. The vendor reports that the size of the market has remained relatively stable.

Data show that one in three orthodontic patients and one in 10 consumers who feel they have an orthodontic imperfection have researched orthodontic correction on the Internet. More orthodontic patients reported having visited the AAO's consumer website, mylifemysmile.org, in Q3 2014 than in the past. 91% of those who visited the site said that they are using, or plan to use, an orthodontist they found on the website. This information underscores the importance of making sure the AAO has our practice website addresses on file. When the address is part of our AAO records, the website address automatically appears with our other contact information when we are "found" on the Find an Orthodontist service. The website address lets interested consumers click over to our websites from the AAO's.

Future Meetings

The Council will meet monthly via telephone conference calls in December 2014, and in January, February, March and April 2015. The Council's next face-to-face meeting is scheduled for May 29-30, 2015 in St. Louis.

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COUNCIL ON ORTHODONTIC EDUCATION (COE)

The Council met for its annual meeting in St. Louis on October 26-27 at the AAO headquarters.

We were pleased to welcome Dr. **Brent Larson** (University of Minnesota) this year as our Board Liaison member. We also welcomed Dr. **Christina Texeira** from New York University, the new NESO member replacing Dr. **Leslie Will** (Boston University). A variety of agenda items were discussed including Match sanctions, the concept of establishing a post-match MATCH, CODA standards, *inter alia*.

It also was exciting to discuss the future for the Society of Orthodontic Educators (SOE) and work on the preliminary agenda for San Francisco. The SOE conference will be taking place on Friday, May 15, 2015 and the honoree will be Dr. **Charles J. Burstone** and his lecture is titled, *Faculty Advancement Today: How to Swim with the Sharks*. The main topics of discussion will be will be faculty support and faculty advancement, following on from Dr. Burstone's lecture, the National Match services and the possibility of establishing a post-match MATCH, followed by defining and assessing clinical competence. It promises to be an educators' day you will not want to miss. Motion View has again agreed to kindly sponsor the reception at the end of the day.

Our SOE website also is making rapid progress, so watch for its launch in the near future. We will be hosting our new officers' election on the new SOE website as well as updating the San Francisco agenda on the new website. I was honored to be appointed chair of the SOE this year and am humbled to have been chosen to serve the AAO in that capacity.

If not before, I look forward to seeing all the MSO members in San Francisco. We are looking forward to a better than ever turn-out, and remember, the SOE Educators' Conference is open to all educators – both full- and part-time and all are very strongly encouraged to attend.

Best wishes and kind regards.

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COUNCIL ON GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS (COGA)

The AAO Council on Governmental Affairs met at the Marriott Marquis in Washington D.C. on June 8-10, 2014. Our legislative counsel provided updates on the 2014 congressional agenda including appropriations; student loan relief; HHS leadership changes; essential health benefits; the employer mandate; status of the Affordable Care Act Implementation; immigration reform; tax reform including repeal of the medical device tax; and changes to flexible spending accounts.

Our congressional “asks” of highest priority are:

- Protect Flexible Spending Accounts (FSA’s) and eliminate the \$2,500 annual cap that went into effect January 1, 2013. Studies show over 60% of orthodontic families pay for treatment using FSA’s. COGA members recommended that it be most reasonable for the AAO to work with the ADA and other dental and healthcare groups to advance a proposal to tie the total available amount in flexible spending accounts to the number of dependents in a family. Representative **Steve Stivers** will be working to move this proposal ahead in Congress.
- Repeal the 2.3% Excise Tax on Medical Devices that began January 1, 2013. Medical device manufacturers, producers and importers have indicated they will likely pass any cost onto the provider, thus our members are left with the difficult decision of either absorbing the tax or passing the cost onto our patients.
- Adopt Tax Reform for Small Businesses by streamlining provisions that complicate operations and impose significant compliance costs on the small businesses that are the primary engine of job creation in the U.S.
- Ease the Burden of Student Loan Debt by changing tax laws to allow all professionals who incur significant student loan debt to deduct the interest costs of those loans regardless of their income level. The Budget Control Act of 2011 created added challenges by eliminating the federal subsidized (interest-free) loans for graduate students while a student is in school. AAO supports making federal subsidized loans available to graduate students.

One very important improvement came to FSA’s in 2014, where the Department of the Treasury announced a change in the use-or-lose rule to allow employers to permit FSA participants to rollover up to \$500 of unused funds to the next plan year. Therefore, our patients can now hold \$3,000 in their FSA accounts. We will continue to ask for improvements in this much-used benefit.

Recommendation was made that staff prepare a handbook that would include relevant, as well as historical information pertaining to the Council. This would be an invaluable tool to new members joining the Council. Squire Patton Boggs, AAO staff and Trustees would be asked to contribute to the handbook as well.

The House of Delegates passed a motion at its 2014 session to revise the definition of “Medically Necessary Orthodontic Care” and directed that COGA review this policy on

an annual basis. COGA members brought forward a motion on June 9, that the Board recommend to the HOD that Policy 3-95, Medically Necessary Orthodontic Care be revised to the following: “Medically necessary orthodontic care is defined as the treatment of a malocclusion (including craniofacial abnormalities/anomalies) that compromises the patient’s ~~physical, emotional or dental~~ health. This treatment should be based on a comprehensive assessment and diagnosis done by an orthodontist, in consultation with other healthcare providers when indicated.” On vote, motion carried.

COGA plans to update the cover photos on the “congressional leave behind” for 2015 and update the entire brochure on an annual basis. COGA discussed legislative strategy and reviewed how to best position the AAO in the coming years. The Council reviewed the Goals and Outcomes/Measurements pertaining to Advocacy (Governmental Affairs) in the AAO’s Strategic Plan. Specifically, the Council was directed by the BOT to discuss issues related to meetings schedule, use of technology and the general effectiveness of the current governmental relations program. Mr. **Kevin Dillard** provided history of the Council over the last 12 years where COGA efficiency has shortened meetings and time out of office for volunteers dramatically. Also the use of technologies such as Cap Wiz, eBulletins, Facebook, Twitter, Rap Index have improved AAO knowledge, exposure and presence. COGA agrees that new term limits for Council members going from eight years to six will facilitate new and younger members being more involved.

COGA provided positive input to continue with two face-to-face meetings in D.C. per year where the summer meeting structure allows for more “nuts and bolts” work for COGA. The winter meeting with the Advocacy Conference is largely consumed with the schedule and plan of the conference itself. COGA felt that visibility itself on Capitol Hill is a measure of success where feedback from legislators/staff is that “we like seeing you in D.C.” AAO bringing the Council to D.C. at least twice a year communicated to our legislators the importance of meeting with them and the importance of the legislation of priority to the AAO. COGA discussed varying the type of meetings in D.C. in order to maximize the visibility of the AAO (bring new/younger members one quarter, COGA the next, the BOT another time). Legislative counsel suggested that perhaps twice a year is not enough if the AAO wishes to pass legislation and, thus, meet with key people often. Squire Patton Boggs indicated significant organizations such as the AAO currently are spending more time in D.C., not less. To build a strong grassroots support structure and keep our members knowledgeable in the area requires significant time and continual effort.

COGA members agreed that the Professional Advocacy Conference is a useful tool in identifying and cultivating Key Contacts (members of the AAO who are willing and able to communicate the AAO’s agenda to their members of Congress). COGA and AAOPAC members were charged with personally inviting two AAO members who have either never attended or attended once or twice. COGA and AAOPAC members also agreed to personally call each member of their constituency attending the 2015 Presidents-Elect

Conference and stress the importance of why they should stay for the Professional Advocacy Conference and visits to “Capitol Hill.”

COGA held a joint closed session with AAOPAC in order to discuss the recent merger between Squire Sanders and Patton Boggs. It was determined that there is overall satisfaction with the level of service being received. However, both groups will continue to monitor the service.

COGA and AAOPAC met with the following legislators on June 9-10 to discuss the AAO’s legislative agenda and put the AAO’s requests in Congressional Spotlight: Senator **Pat Roberts** and Representatives **Michelle Grisham, Diane Black, Steve Stivers, Kevin Yoder, Steve Daines, Cory Gardner** and **Michael Burgess**.

The HOD voted to hold a Presidents-Elect Conference in conjunction with the 2015 Professional Advocacy Conference. Therefore, COGA and AAOPAC will next meet March 1-2. The Presidents-Elect Conference on March 2 will be highlighted with a Keynote speaker followed by a joint President-Elect and Advocacy Conference Dinner/VIP reception that evening. On March 3, all attendees will listen to congressional speaker presentations in morning with Capitol Hill visits in afternoon.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve the MSO as your COGA representative.

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COUNCIL ON ORTHODONTIC HEALTH CARE (COHC)

The COHC last met in St. Louis in July 2014, although we have met by conference call and had numerous email discussions since then. The main topic of discussion continues to be the impact of the Affordable Care Act on orthodontic patients, specifically those with orthodontic benefits for cases that are deemed medically necessary. The COHC has been working hard to sort through the details of these new insurance benefits and has had discussions with the National Association of Dental Plans on how to interpret the medical necessity of orthodontic cases. The COHC will continue to collaborate with agencies both inside and outside the AAO to come to a resolution that will be effective and efficient for our members, our patients and the payers. Here is a link to information on the AAO web site related to this issue:

<https://www.aaoinfo.org/news/2014/11/affordable-care-act-requirements-medically-necessary-orthodontic-treatment> (If the hyperlink does not work, copy and paste into your browser.)

You also may contact **Ann Sebaugh** at the AAO Dental Benefit Advisory Service if you have questions on coding or submitting for these cases. She can be reached at 800-424-2841.

The COHC is developing an additional coding resource to help AAO members navigate the implementation of *ICD-10* coding as it becomes mandatory in October 2015. AAO has contracted with a noted coding expert to translate all appropriate CDT and existing *ICD-9* codes that apply to orthodontics into *ICD-10* format for publication and distribution to the AAO membership. At present, content for the guide is being sought from Council members and AAO members that are known to treat craniofacial cases to ensure that no significant content that should be included is overlooked.

The National Association of Dental Plans (NADP) has requested the AAO's help to ensure that appropriate fee information is reported to insurance payers on orthodontic claims that are submitted for payment. Practices are requested to submit **total case fees** on the initial claim form when orthodontic treatment begins. Many offices submit allowable fee amounts instead and the data metrics being collected are inconsistent and skewed. When total fees are reported versus use of allowable fees, the usual, customary and reasonable (UCR) amounts seen on a geographical basis will increase. UCR fees are used by payer actuaries to develop provider fee schedules. Any increase in UCR may result in positive adjustments to fee schedules across the country.

Please continue to refer to the AAO web site for further information on these and other activities of the COHC.

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COUNCIL ON INSURANCE (COI)

This will be the last correspondence from the Council on Insurance (COI). Back in May the AAO House of Delegates passed a resolution reorganizing the Council into an AAO Board Committee. The actual resolution read: *RESOLVED, that the Council on Insurance (COI) be restructured at the close of the 2015 Annual Session from a council to a Board committee of five with terms and appointments following similar guidelines set up for the Committee on Technology as described in background information for this resolution with COI input.* The Council met earlier this month and is in final discussions about the specifics of the reorganization. The biggest part of the transition will be a reduction of members serving on the Council (currently 9) to those serving on the committee (5 members beginning May 2015 following the HOD). The new committee will be made up of AAO member orthodontists without any the requirement that each constituency will be represented on the committee. It looks as if I will be able to remain on as Chairman of the newly-formed committee. The entire transformation will be approved by the Board of Trustees at a February 2015 meeting and presented back to the House of Delegates in May 2015.

Pearl and Associates, the AAO broker for endorsed insurance products, also previewed a new online AAO insurance web page that will be rolled out in January 2015. The new web page will allow current AAO insureds or those interested in becoming an AAO insured to browse products and get quotes online. Members also can manage policy beneficiaries, change coverage limits and pay premiums online. The user-friendly site also will enable browsers to easily connect to an insurance specialist if questions arise. This new platform is a welcome improvement from how the endorsed products were managed previously. It is the COI's intent to add value to AAO membership. Endorsed insurance products with the backing of the AAO is one great way to give members this value. Be sure to watch for formal announcements in the weeks to come.

If you have any questions about the changes occurring or insurance products offered please don't hesitate to contact me.

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COUNCIL ON MEMBERSHIP, ETHICS AND JUDICIAL CONCERNS (COMEJC)

The Council on Membership, Ethics and Judicial Concerns (COMEJC) is one of eight AAO councils consisting of eight council members, each appointed by their respective constituent trustees. It holds one face-to-face meeting during January each year while combining its meeting with the Council on New and Younger Members every other year. COMEJC's responsibilities cover three general areas.

This Council studies all matters and develops programs that relate to membership, including the recruitment of all qualified orthodontists as members. Criteria for existing membership categories, and occasional new ones, are reviewed periodically to enhance membership opportunity for North American as well as other orthodontists world-wide.

COMEJC also is charged to study, maintain and promote the *Principles of Ethics* of the AAO. As treatment, communications and other modalities evolve related to the specialty of orthodontics, periodic review of how such new technologies impact ethical principles is needed. A mechanism is in place to provide modification or enhancement of our *Principles of Ethics* following a recommendation for such by the Council.

Also, related the ethical principles of the AAO, COMEJC serves as the Association's body to hear disciplinary proceedings and appeals in accordance with our bylaws. Any complaints brought to the AAO by other practitioners or consumers are reviewed and investigated, if appropriate, by committees of COMJEC to determine their validity. If violations exist of the *Principles of Ethics*, to which all members have pledged to abide as a condition of membership, COMEJC considers appropriate disciplinary actions.

MSO members may contact me at any time with concerns related to COMEJC matters.

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Council on New and Younger Members (CONYM)

Not much new to report from CONYM at this time. We will be having our annual face-to-face meeting in St. Louis on January 16-17. We currently are working on putting together a speaker/program for this year's Annual Session in San Francisco.

If have any concerns about the activities of this Council, please feel free to contact me.

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COUNCIL ON ORTHODONTIC PRACTICE (COOP)

COOP met in St. Louis on September 27, 2014.

The 2014 Practice Transition Seminar featured well-known orthodontic transition consultants **Eric Ploumis**, **Chris Bentson** and **Doug Copple** of Bentson Clark & Copple, and **Jonathan Martin** of Roger K. Hill & Company/McGill & Hill Group. Their presentations encompassed legal, management and financial topics. A post-seminar reception provided networking opportunities for the consultants and participants.

The *AAO Career Fair* was offered following *The New and Younger Members Conference*. The *AAO Career Fair* was a new opportunity for job providers and job seekers to learn about the current orthodontic job market. These two events provided advance cross-marketing opportunities with COOP's Practice Transition Seminar.

An upgraded online *Practice Opportunities & Career* system was launched last fall with a fresh look, improved navigation and a variety of new dynamic features designed to aid the end-user. A fee-for-service is now in place for non-members with listings.

That the 2015 Video Competition will be open to all AAO members and staff with monetary prizes awarded to residents/new and younger members, general members and orthodontic staff. Watch for more details as we get closer to the 2015 Annual Session.

Four years ago AAO launched the *AAO Voluntary Staff Certification Program*[®]. Those who complete and pass the online qualifying exam and educational or work experience earn the recognition of *Specialized Orthodontic Assistant*[®] (SOA). Certification is valid for three years. A certification prep course for orthodontic chairside staff was approved for inclusion as a program of the 2015 AAO Annual Session. The course materials will be designed to help prepare a staff member to take the *AAO Voluntary Certification Program*[®] online examination to earn the credential *Specialized Orthodontic Assistant*[®].

Orthodontic Staff Club current membership as of September 12 is 6,073 *Orthodontic Staff Club* participants. For the nominal fee of \$50 you can sign up your entire office, giving them access to a large library of archived material.

During 2014–2015 a series of eight webinars have been planned for *The Business of Orthodontics Webinar* series, co-sponsored by the AAO Insurance Company (AAOIC). The Webinars will cover the core competencies of finances, practice strategies/management/human resources and legal. The live events and archived series are offered at no charge for all AAO members. Nineteen (19) lectures are archived on the *AAO Online Lecture Business of Orthodontics* site.

In addition, a series of 18 webinars have been planned for doctors and/or staff. Lectures will be on clinical and practice management topics. Each is designed with one or more audiences in mind, including AAO active and student members, plus the orthodontic staff team. The series of topics was determined based upon feedback received from Webinar participant evaluations, resident, Council and Board of Trustees input.

Kevin Dillard, AAO General Counsel, has completed the *Comprehensive Contract Guide*. It was published in the October 2014 *Bulletin*, and is available for download on the AAO website.

As always, if you have any questions or suggestions on how the AAO could better serve you or your practice, please let me know.

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