Greetings to all; I hope that you’ve had a productive spring 2017. I am extremely honored to have the opportunity to serve as your appointed Representative to the Council on Orthodontic Education (COE) and look forward to continuing our pursuit of orthodontic and academic excellence in the coming years.

I would like to begin my first report by expressing sincere thanks to Dr. Scott Conley for his tremendous efforts, as the previous GLAO COE Representative, over the past several years. Scott served our constituency well through unparalleled activism and the highest degree of professionalism. He worked to not only keep the GLAO well informed but to ensure that we had the strongest possible voice on a national level. I wish him continued success in his new role as chair at the University of Buffalo and am certain that he will continue his positive professional impact within the AAO.

2017 Ram S. Nanda Educational Leadership Conference
Society of Orthodontic Educators Meeting at the AAO:
This year’s Society of Educators meeting was another great success and had its largest turnout to date, with over 210 officially registered attendees. Besides many of the faces you would expect to see at our national educators conference, there were approximately a dozen newly appointed orthodontic educators and half dozen orthodontic residents interested in pursuing a career in academia. The meeting honored two notable orthodontic educators, Dr. Ram Nanda and the late Dr. “Slick” Vanarsdall. Dr. Nanda provide a wonderful account of his professional journey and the tremendous advancements the profession has seen during his career. Additionally, Dr. David Musich provided a moving tribute to the professional achievements and amazing impact of Dr. Vanarsdall. The meeting also showcased a dynamic presentation on “Effective Teaching Strategies in a Competency-Based Clinical Environment” by Dr. Marcia Ditmyer, Assistant Dean for Assessment and Instruction at the UNLV, School of Dental Medicine and AAL Senior Consultant. Attendees also engaged in an informative discussion about the newly created ADAT for resident selection. The ADAT session featured a distinguished panel of orthodontic educators including Drs. Carla Evans, Geoffrey Greenlee, Sarandeep Huja, and Sam Williamson who shared their various thoughts about the current and future usefulness of the ADAT as a metric for residency program applications. This particular topic was also extensively discussed at the American Dental Education Association (ADEA) Annual Session in Long Beach, California in late March of this year. For additional information about the ADAT exam structure, results from the pilot year, and recent presentations about the ADAT, visit the ADA website via the following link: http://www.ada.org/en/education-careers/advanced-dental-admission-test/presentations-and-news

Along with the aforementioned components, this year’s meeting continued to promote professional advancement and engagement by holding an AAOF Application workshop and ADEA Section on Orthodontics breakout session. Both sessions were well attended and allowed attendees to gain addition insight into how to be more successful with AAOF applications and how individuals can become more engaged in the larger sphere of organized dental education, respectively.

I would like to thank the 2016-2017 Society of Educators leadership including Drs. Richard Ballard, Jose Bosio, Wally McCarlie, and Kelton Stewart as well as the critical AAO staff for their efforts in orchestrating the SOE meeting this year. I hope that you all will plan to attend the SOE Educational Leadership Conference in Washington, DC in 2018.
Regional Recognition & Accolades:
I would like to recognize some special GLAO members for recent successes. First, I would like to congratulate Dr. Ahmed Ghoneima from the Indiana University School of Dentistry, Department of Orthodontics and Oral Facial Genetics for being elected as the new Secretary of the ADEA Section on Orthodontics. Dr. Ghoneima was installed as the new Secretary in April during the 2017 ADEA meeting and will become the Chair-elect and Chair over the next 3 years. Job well done Dr. Ghoneima!

The Thomas M. Graber Award is one of the most prestigious research awards within our specialty. During the 2017 AAO Annual meeting, Dr. Fouad-Hassan Ebrahim, from the University of Michigan, received one of the Graber Awards of Special Merit for his research entitled: “Accuracy of Cone Beam Computed Tomography in Assessing the Internal Trabecular Structure of the Mandibular Condyle”. A special congratulations to Dr. Ebrahim and the University of Michigan for this tremendous accomplishment!

Finally, the greatest testament of our abilities and effectiveness as educators is the success of our students. Just prior to the AAO meeting, the ABO released the results from the February ABO Clinical Examination and the GLAO had four doctors who passed the exam and gained the title of Diplomate of the American Board of Orthodontics. Congratulations to:

Dr. Maysaa Khojah  
Dr. David Mika II  
Dr. Nozha Sawan  
Dr. Sarah Thompson

for the successful completion of the certification process, we are very proud of each you!

Questions, Comments, or Concerns:
If you have any questions, concerns, accolades, or items related to orthodontic education that you would like to bring to the council’s notice, please feel free to contact me via email or telephone. My email is keltstew@iu.edu and I can be reached by telephone at 317-278-1087.

I look forward to seeing you at the 2017 GLAO/MSO/SWSO Annual Session in New Orleans.

Kelton T. Stewart  
Baldwin Endowed Associate Professor, Indiana University School of Dentistry  
Diplomate, American Board of Orthodontics