GLAO Leadership Spotlight – Marian Wolford

Where are you from originally and where are you practicing now?

I am originally from southwestern Pennsylvania (about 45 minutes south of Pittsburgh). I currently reside and practice in Erie, Pennsylvania.

Where did you train? And what was your favorite part about your program?

I completed my orthodontic residency at University of Detroit Mercy, my pediatric dental residency at Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh, and my dental school and undergraduate studies at the University of Pittsburgh.

My favorite part of orthodontic training was the wealth of experience imparted to us by the large number of part-time and full-time faculty. Ironically, early in my training, I found being taught different methodologies to be uncomfortable because, as a resident, you are looking for one consistent way to approach treatment. Having multiple faculties presenting different approaches while trying to grasp underlying treatment mechanics was very challenging. By graduation and early in practice, however, I found the varied approaches to be quite valuable. It opened my mind to many options when treatment planning as well as day-to-day problem solving in difficult cases.

What is one thing that you did over the last year to improve your practice/school?

We streamlined our digital printing of retainers for our practice. Scans can be done on a non-patient day, and we can accommodate patients who have lost retainers more efficiently. The process is especially beneficial to our out-of-town patients and college students. The scan is on file, and if patients have consistently worn their retainers, we can easily print a new model, fabricate the retainer, and mail to them.

What hobbies do you enjoy outside of orthodontics?

I enjoy sailing on Lake Erie with my husband and family during the summers. There is something about sailing that is both calming and restorative. In addition, it requires constant attention to adjust the sails to change direction and react to weather conditions to efficiently capture the wind and reach your destination. This is not unlike orthodontic treatment. I also enjoy traveling, evening sky-watching, and cooking.

Why are you involved in the GLAO?

I am involved in the GLAO because I believe in the value of our profession and participating in its direction. The autonomy of our profession is impacted by government regulation, venture capital interest, and insurance reimbursements; and I believe having a seat at the table is extremely important. In addition, it is important to have resources for members over the continuum of their careers, and I find it rewarding to participate in maintaining those resources.