Vol. 17, No. 1, Spring 2001

From the Dean

Is your reflection bright?

Dear Friends:

Each year, as we interview potential applicants, I am reminded of the things that attract eager students to our great profession. A desire to have some autonomy with work or attractive working hours compared to other health care professionals, are two common reasons applicants give. Another reason expressed by many, is a desire to assist others with their precious gift of sight.

One important potential recruitment factor takes no effort. Our patients, staff and guests to our practices are constantly watching how we approach our work. Do they see that person who presented as an applicant to optometric education, so enthusiastic to serve the needs of patients? This was illuminated to me clearly last fall as we celebrated the life of Dr. Bob Mobley at his memorial service. A recent graduate, who is serving the aging population in nursing homes, shared what captured her interest for optometry. "If it was not for Dr Mobley, I would not be an optometrist". What a compliment! The joy that Dr Mobley demonstrated as he cared for those most in need, influenced another to not only obtain the credentials to practice optometry but to serve in similar ways.

Remember that we all project an image of optometry. Caring and competent practitioners with a commitment to excellence are what make optometry great. Is your reflection bright?

Best Regards,

Larry J. Davis, O.D.
Associate Professor
Interim Dean

Founding of the School of Optometry

On May 8th, the School of Optometry celebrated its beginnings by honoring several people instrumental in its founding. Many people made the School of Optometry possible: The Honorable Harriett Woods, Al Schoenbeck, lobbyists, a labor union official, and the Honorable Wayne Goode, just to name a few. Many people worked long, tireless hours to make this school a reality. A few were there from the beginning, staying optimistic when others had lost hope.

Interim Dean Larry Davis honored five such individuals by presenting each of them with the School of Optometry Dean's Award for Meritorious Service. The honorees were Arnold B. Grobman, Ph.D., Chancellor Emeritus; the Honorable James "Jay" Russell; the Honorable Robert "Bob" A. Young; Associate Dean Gerald A. Franzel, O.D.; and Robert L. Mobley, O.D. (posthumously).

The Amcon Visiting Professor Series

The School of Optometry received a generous gift from Amcon, The Eyecare Supply Center. The Amcon Visiting Professor Series is the first of its kind for the School. This gift allows the faculty to invite noted eye and vision researchers to the campus in order to share the latest in techniques, procedures and data.

These lectures are scheduled for the fourth Tuesday of February, April, August and October, and are presented in the new Millennium Center. The first of the series was presented to a standing room only crowd by low vision rehabilitation researcher Ron Schuchard, Ph.D., of Emory University. The second was on May 28, 2001, by Tom Norton, Ph.D., Professor and expert in myopia development at the University of Alabama School of Optometry. Dr. Jay Pepose will discuss “Herpetic Eye Disease” on August 28, 2001. One hour of CE is offered.

Area alumni should have received an invitation. If you have not received one, please contact Barb Brown (314-516-6030). Additional information can be found at http://www.umsl.edu/divisions/optometry/news/amcon.html.
School Briefs

Alumni

AAO Fellows and Diplomate Alumni

At the Academy Meeting in Orlando in December, several of our alumni made the list. Congratulations!

Dr. James Elledge (’97) stationed in Europe, FAAO
Dr. Scott McKim (’95) Colorado Springs, CO, FAAO
Dr. Carl Ruoff (’95) Pensacola, FL, FAAO
LT John Carlson (’95) Millington, TN, FAAO
Dr. Vinita Henry (’85) St. Louis, MO, Diplomate in the Section on Cornea and Contact Lenses

Dr. John Gingrich (1990) is the Clinical Director of the Big Sky TLC Laser Eye Center in Billings, MT. Keep them seeing up in Big Sky land, John! Best wishes on the position.

Dr. Sharon Saum Burruss (’97) is moving to Statesboro, GA with husband George in June. George is a professor of criminology at Georgia Southern University. Sharon and George will be adopting a new daughter from China and they plan to travel to China to bring her home this Fall. Sharon and George, the Optometry Alumni wish you all the best!

Dr. Jerry Fay (’98) and his wife Connie became the proud parents of Steven 12/21/99. Jerry wanted to let us know that he has taken a new position with Pearle Vision in St. Paul, MN. Congratulations on both new developments!

Dr. Morris Lehrfeld (’91), his wife Jodi, and son Josh welcomed a new member to their family. Lindsey Rose was born 10/31/2000. Congratulations!

Dr. Elizabeth Sasko Mclemore (’94) and Tim (married in St. Louis after graduation on July 30, 1994) are the very proud parents of 14 month old daughter, Emily. Elizabeth said in a recent email, “If you want you can say ‘Aloha from Hawaii,’ and put my e-mail address in:

(email: Docmo531@aol.com)

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“Where Are They?”

There are several alumni with whom we have lost contact. If you know any of these alumni, please let them know that we would love to stay in touch, but have lost their address and telephone number.

Please contact Barb Brown (314-516-6030), email: BrownBW@umsl.edu.

Thanks to those of you who helped us find five fellow alumni listed in the last EyeWire.

Melissa Benson
Steven D. Bresnahan
Jason Diehl
James B. Elledge
Debbie Franzel
Karen S. Galvin
Cathy Heller
David Hoel
Ron D. Loflin
Harvey Mack
Carla Matz
Jason E. McDowell
Sandra Peters
Darren Plank
David E. Semon
Christine Siebert
Mark Stiefkes
Janet G. Smith
Robert G. Soltys
Craig Steinberg
Susan Whipple

(School Briefs continued on page 3)
Distinguished Alumni

The School of Optometry has produced some very outstanding professional optometrists. Many have been recognized in very ways. If you have someone you feel should be nominated for the UM-St. Louis' Distinguished Alumni award, please let Barb Brown know. The nominations must be made by mid-January annually, and the awardee is presented at the Founders Dinner in September. The awardee must be willing to attend this event. Our past awardees are: Anne Ream (Class of '84, awarded 1992); David B. Seibel (Class of '87, awarded 1996); Rex Newcomb (Class of '84, awarded 1998); Lee Ann Barrett (Class of '85, awarded 1999) and Karen B. Rosen (Class of '84, awarded 2000). Barb Brown can be reached at 314-516-6030 or by email at BrownBW@umsl.edu.

1991 Class Reunion

It's Been Ten Years!

When: June 30, 2001 11a.m. - ??
Where: Humbolt South Shelter, Tower Grove Park, 4255 Arsenal, St. Louis

Bring a picnic lunch including all your supplies. The information has been mailed to each member of the 1991 class for whom the School has a current address. Bring charcoal and toys for kids and yourselves! Picnic tables and bar-b-que pits on site.

Questions: Contact Mary Migneco at 314-772-6715 or email at migneco5@ix.netcom.com
Who are we still missing? If anyone knows current contact information for Debbie Franzel, please let either Barb Brown (314-516-6030 at the School) or Mary know so that she can get the letter mailed to her.

1992 Class Reunion

It isn't too early to begin. Would the class representative responsible for putting the 1992 Class Ten Year Reunion together, please contact Barb Brown, 314-516-6030 or by email at BrownBW@umsl.edu.

School Liasons

The students want the alumni to know which groups are currently being represented on campus. There are liaison relationships with: AAO, AFOS, AOA-PAC, APHA, COVD, NOA (NOSA), OLA, ASCO/NBEO/ARBO, AFVA, AOA (AOSA), MOA (MOSA), and SLOS. The students are busy staying in contact with professional optometry.

Have a great summer!
Calendar - 2001

June 27-July 1
AOA Congress
Boston, MA

July 10
SLOS Meeting

August 10, 20
Ocular Pharmaceutical
Update - 8 hrs. C.E.
UM-St. Louis, Optometry
(314) 516-5615

August 14
SLOS Meeting

August 28
Amcon Professor Series
Jay Pepose, M.D., Ph. D.
“Herpetic Eye Disease”

We have two new email addresses for the convenience of the alumni and friends. Feel free to update us on any happenings in your professional or personal life.

EyeWire@umsl.edu
Optometry@umsl.edu

Did you know . . .

In 1980 with much work by several people over more than a decade, HB 1868 sponsored by Jay Russell and SB 930 sponsored by Harriett Woods were passed into law and signed by Governor Joe Teasdale. The result? The School of Optometry at the University of Missouri-St. Louis.

Visit our web site at:
www.umsl.edu/~optometry.html

See a complete list of all faculty and staff email addresses!

Stay up-to-date! Stay informed!

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Editor's Note: Please send news and
address changes to:
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Missouri-St. Louis.