Greetings Friends and Colleagues,

It is my distinct honor and sincere pleasure to share this Fall 2011 edition of the EyeWire. In the following pages are numerous examples of faculty, staff, students, alumni and friends who exemplify the College values of growth, responsibility, discovery and community. We are privileged to be associated with a group of dedicated and distinguished individuals who pursue excellence within their particular spheres of influence.

I hope that like me, after absorbing all that is in these pages, you are left wondering...what's next? In the light of these recent accomplishments the future of our College community looks very good indeed! Wishing you all the best for a great fall season!

Best Regards,

Larry J. Davis, O.D.
Dean

UMSL Wins Spirit Award at Optometry’s Meeting

The lifeblood of the UMSL College of Optometry is it's students. Their energy, enthusiasm, and ability to work together for the betterment of the College of Optometry is admirable. It is not uncommon for applicants to decide to attend UMSL, instead of another College of Optometry, as a result of the closeness of our student body. That was never more apparent than at Optometry's Meeting, held in June at Salt Lake City. The UMSL College of Optometry had the highest percentage of students (29%) attend this meeting of any College of Optometry in the United States despite the distant location of the meeting. Furthermore, the UMSL College of Optometry students were awarded the very coveted “AOSA Optometry Student Bowl Spirit Award for Outstanding Creativity and Originality”.

The leadership exhibited by UMSL trustee Jennifer Sidun (’13), national AOSA Vice-President Alan Wegener (’12), and UMSL Chapter President Kevin Hoang (’13) was very instrumental in this award. Jennifer Sidun remembers it well: “The student bowl on Thursday was the most exciting time mainly since UMSL won the spirit award! This was the first time UMSL has ever won anything at the student bowl. The main reason we won
Dr. David Seibel ('87) was awarded the Dr. Rodger Kame Award in appreciation for outstanding service and dedication to the AOA Contact Lens and Cornea Section.

Melanie Linderer, OD ('03) was the 2011 Young OD of the Year for Missouri. She is currently a trustee of the MOA Board. She practices in Liberty, MO.

Dr. Barbara Brown ('88), Director, Student Recruitment and Admissions, received the 2011 “You Make a Difference Award for Outstanding Alumni Volunteer” presented June 2nd at the UMSL Alumni Association Annual Board Meeting.

Assistant Professor Erwin Wong, OD, PhD, and Wesley Kinerk, OD ('03), a doctorate student at UMSL presented a poster entitled: “Temporal characteristics of monoptic and dichoptic collinear lateral masking of contrast detection” at the annual Vision Sciences Society Meeting in Naples, FL, May 6 - 11.

"Continued, page 3"
UMSL Students Win Unprecedented Number of Competitive Awards

The UMSL College of Optometry has received much national recognition in recent months as a result of a remarkable performance by students being honored in national competitions. In addition to winning the coveted “AOSA Optometry Student Bowl Spirit Award” the following individuals have recently been honored.

AOA Dr. Seymour Galina Grant. On May 5th, the AOA announced the recipients of its two 2011 Scholarship Grant recipients. Dawn Tank (‘12) was selected for one of these two scholarships, the $2,500 Dr. Seymour Galina Grant. This scholarship gift, one of the earliest endowed gifts to Optometry Cares®, was established through a bequest from the late Seymour Galina, OD, a long-time AOA member. Dawn was awarded this honor by the Optometry Cares® Endowment Fund Advisory Committee over other nominees selected by their respective Colleges of Optometry.

Vision Monday’s 2011 Most Influential Women in Optical. Jessica Carson, O.D. (‘11) was honored as one of the 2011 recipients of Vision Monday’s 2011 Most Influential Women in Optical in the category of “Optometry Students.” Jessica was extremely active during her four years at UMSL and graduated first in her class academically, was selected as the Student Marshal for the graduation ceremony, and was president of the Beta Sigma Kappa Honor Society.

AOA Contact Lens and Cornea Section 2011 Student & Resident Essay 1st Place Travel Grant Winners. The UMSL College of Optometry continued its streak of excellence in this national competition, being awarded one of the four 1st place travel grants. Nicole Pogue (‘12) was honored for her paper entitled: “Factors Affecting Comfort in Contact Lens Wearers.” What was most remarkable about Nicole’s accomplishment was the fact that the other three honorees were all completing a residency in cornea and contact lenses.

Nicole Pogue (‘12)

Sarah Morris (‘13) award-winning photo

AOA Optometry’s Meeting Photo Competition. Another national competition for which the UMSL College of Optometry has achieved success in recent years is the photo contest. UMSL achieved success

Continued, page 4
Abigail Sophia Berg was welcomed into the Berg family by Mom (Sarah), Dad (Parker, ’14) and big sister Emily (age 3) on August 8, 2011.

Jeremy Dohogne (’14) and wife Mallory welcomed Lisa Brielle into the world on June 10th.

College of Optometry faculty members Drs. Pam and Chris Gilmartin celebrated the birth of their daughter, Anna, on July 16th.

Drs. Neal Eylar (’07) and his wife Ann Eylar (’08) celebrated the birth of their son, Brooks Landon, on June 15th.

UMSL Students Win Unprecedented Number of Competitive Awards

cont. from page 3

again this year with a 1st place award to Sarah Morris (’13). Sarah's award-winning photo shows her practicing binocular indirect ophthalmoscopy on classmate Steve Branstetter.

Transitions Optical 2011 “Students of Vision” Scholarship Recipients. Optometry and opticianry students from across North America submitted projects for the 2011 Students of Vision Scholarship from Transitions Optical, Inc. Supported by the Transitions Healthy Sight for Life Fund, 15 entries demonstrating this year's “Multicultural” theme were selected as scholarship winners, including several from the UMSL College of Optometry. Natalie Nguyen (’12) and Nicole Pogue (’12) won for their video in the category of “Multi-Media.” Jessica Kopala (’14) was also honored in this competition.

2011 Association of Schools and Colleges Envision Video Competition. The Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry (ASCO) provides three awards to optometry students nationwide via their Envision Video Competition. Members of ASCO's Student Affairs Committee judged these videos based upon how effectively they educated potential applicants and the general public about the profession of optometry in addition to its creativity, ingenuity, and humor. The third place recipient - with a $1,000 cash award - was Brigette Colley (’13) and Kurt Bennett (’13).

Katie Gettinger (’15). What is remarkable about this achievement was the fact it was awarded to an incoming optometry student. You can see Katie's exceptional award-winning video at: http://youtube.com/watch?v=gsRHcaRB78

Dr. Stanley Pearle Scholarship Fund. Brigette Colley (’13) was awarded one of only two $2,000 Dr. Stanley Pearle Scholarship awards from the OneSight Research Foundation. In addition, Brigette with Kurt Bennett (’13) had the opportunity to present their project via the “WalMart Project Foresight National Scholarship Competition” at Optometry’s Meeting in Salt Lake City.

International Vision Expo Travel Grant. Tuesday Warner (’12) was one of the recipients of a $1,000 travel grant to attend either Vision Expo East 2011 (New York City) or Vision Expo West 2011 (Las Vegas).

4
The UMSL College of Optometry was an active participant in the Eyes on Diversity program held at the College on four Saturdays in May and June. It was held in the Pre-Clinic area and the main lecture room. Coordinated by Dr. Angel Novel (‘03), the purpose of this program was to expose minority high school juniors and seniors to the career field of optometry. This is in hopes that these students may consider the field of optometry as a possible career choice. There were nine participants including seven who were entering their senior year of high school and two who were entering their freshman year of college. According to NOSA President Vanessa Braimah (‘13): “There was a different educational opportunity each week. The first week there was a lecture on the Anatomy of the eye and the students were able to dissect a cow eyeball, which the students particularly enjoyed. There were several lectures given on the history of Optometry, and basic clinical skills such as color vision, stereopsis, and visual acuity. Furthermore, there was an interactive component, in which the students were able to visit our pre-clinical area and learn several components of an eye exam, such as how to properly take a visual acuity, color vision testing, stereopsis, and eye drop insertion. In addition, there were two guest lecturers who emphasized leadership and diversity training. Another excellent component of the program is that the students had the opportunity to shadow a local African American optometrist in the St. Louis area. The final week, the students presented an essay written about what they learned while shadowing the optometrist for the day. I am honored that I was able to participate in this inaugural program that I know will have an impact on the optometry community for many years to come. I look forward to subsequent years having a larger participant base and a longer program. I think it is excellent that the students had the opportunity to be immersed in real optometry topics and educational opportunities. The students were learning and experiencing many of the skills and lectures, including the dissection procedures that first year optometry students are exposed to. If you would like to be more informed, you can "like" our page on Facebook at Eyes On Diversity.”
The UMSL College of Optometry had the new student orientation on August 18th and 19th and welcomed 46 potential optometrists to the program. They were welcomed by Dean Larry Davis, Assistant Dean of Student Services and Alumni Relations Ed Bennett, and Faculty Coordinator of Admissions Angel Novel. The Class of 2015 is represented with individuals from 11 states as well as India. They have a wealth of work experience in the profession in addition to numerous leadership roles in their respective colleges. Seven members participated in collegiate athletics while nine others have a music and performing arts background. There is a former Homecoming Queen as well as a Homecoming King candidate in this class. One member (see awards) was honored by the Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry (ASCO) for her award-winning video while another Class of 2015 representative was a finalist for Miss Missouri.

The undergraduate institution with the most representatives in this class was Truman State University with seven members. This is not by coincidence. The Pre-Optometry Club at Truman State University was initiated by two members of the Class of 2013, Amber Mayberry and Brigette Colley, in the Spring of 2006 when they were both freshmen. Their leadership for four years at Truman State has been instrumental in the number and quality of individuals from Truman State who are now attending the College of Optometry.

Class of 2015 Bring Talent and Leadership to the College of Optometry

U.S. Naval Hospital (USNH) Yokosuka announced that branch Health Clinic (BHC) Atsugi’s Lt. Kyle Dohm (06) has been selected to receive the U.S. Navy 2010 Stanley H. Freed Junior Optometrist of the Year Award. This press release was also the subject of a profile on Dr. Dohm by Ryan Heinz for the “UMSL Newsroom”. Dr. Dohm was officially notified of the award in a letter from the U.S. Navy’s Medical Service Corps Director, Rear Admiral Eleanor Valentin. “This award recognizes the professional who exhibits the highest Navy Core Values, professionalism, initiative, leadership, and dedication to the practice of Optometry,” said Valentin in the letter. “I look forward to serving with you as we lead Navy Medicine into the future.” According to his award nomination, Dr. Dohm has been an exceptional optometrist and naval officer since receiving his commission in 2006. As the only Aerospace Optometrist on mainland Japan, he maintains a large practice in Atsugi and routinely travels to branch health clinics to provide care. A subject matter expert in his area, he has authored multiple professional articles and routinely lectures on aeromedicine with a focus on ophthalmology and optometry matters.

DR. KYLE DOHM IS AWARDED U.S. NAVY OPTOMETRIST OF THE YEAR AWARD
The UMSL National Optometric Student Association is Well Represented at the National NOA Convention

One of the most important points of pride for the UMSL College of Optometry is the student chapter of the National Optometric Association. The UMSL NOSA organization has been very involved in community service for a number of years under the direction of faculty advisor, Dr. Alex Harris (‘86). President Vanessa Braimah has performed her responsibilities very well and NOSA was well represented at the annual NOA convention in San Diego, July 28-31. Dr. Harris was presented with a NOSA advisor award and several UMSL alumni were present including NOA Executive Board members Dr. Kimberly Mark (‘09) and Meeting Planner, Dr. Melantha Nephew (‘04).
Dr. Linda Marks, Clinical Assistant Professor was featured in a video presentation on the UM System media program entitled: “Advancing Missouri”. The accompanying article emphasized that the Mobile Eye Clinic, which is coordinated by Dr. Marks, represents a collaborative effort by the College of Optometry and provides vision care for many area children who might not otherwise receive the care they need. She emphasizes a dual benefit of this mobile eye care program: 1) allows many children to be seen and the opportunity to diagnose conditions in which parents can then take the child for further care, and 2) provides good exposure and experience to optometry students while providing them with a unique experience in seeing how important it is to be involved in the community.

The link to this story is: http://umsystem.edu/stories/mobile-eye-care

Gabe Burton Wins INSPIRE “Mentor of the Year Award”

Gabe Burton (’12) was awarded the UrbanFUTURE INSPIRE Mentor of the Year award on May 4th at a very nice ceremony honoring academic excellence of young people, their teachers, and their mentors. This is the highest award given to a mentor of middle school students. He was recognized for his dedication - well beyond the call of duty - in his work as a student mentor. Tim Weiss, UrbanFUTURE Development Manager, commented: “Gabe is truly an asset as a volunteer for UrbanFUTURE and has shown the utmost dedication as a mentor. We love recognizing Gabe’s tremendous work and how students from UMSL can have a positive impact in the St. Louis Community.” While he was receiving his award, the inscription on the wall directly behind him read: “But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar like wings on eagles. They will run and not grow weary. They will walk and not be faint. (Isaiah 40:28-31)” For Gabe Burton, no truer words could be spoken and in less than one year the profession of optometry will gain another individual sincerely dedicated to helping others.
UMSL MOSA Screens Special Olympics Athletes

On May 26th, 2011 a group of thirteen optometry students and five pre-optometry students had the opportunity to volunteer with the Missouri Optometric Association at the Special Olympics Lions Club International Opening Eyes Vision Screening in Springfield, Missouri. At this event 192 athletes were screened with fourteen of them referred for further care. 75 of those athletes were provided with glasses, 36 of which were made onsite for patients to take home that day! There were also 21 pairs of sports/swim goggles that were ordered for these patients.

According to UMSL MOSA President Carrie McDowell ('13): “This was a wonderful way to give back to the community and to utilize the skills we have been studying in clinic. The athletes were extremely grateful and appreciative. Some truly amazing people were met that day as patients, volunteers, and families.”

Dr. Barbara Brown Wins Unprecedented Second University Award

Dr. Barbara Brown (‘88) was recently announced as the 2011 recipient of the Chancellor's Award for Staff Excellence. This is the highest university award for this category and reflects an unprecedented second time a staff member has received this award while serving in the same position. Dr. Brown will be honored at the Ritz Carlton Hotel on Thursday, September 15th during the University of Missouri-St. Louis Founders Award ceremonies. This second award is especially meaningful as she was nominated as a result of being awarded the UMSL Riverstars Employee of the Month Award in November, 2010 for “Outstanding Customer Service”. According to Dr. Ed Bennett, Assistant Dean of Student Services and Alumni Relations: “This is such deserving recognition to a remarkable individual. Dr. Brown is so dedicated to our students. When she was nominated for the Riverstars Award, an online survey was sent to all of our current students. She was ranked, on average, 4.8 on a 5 scale for customer service. More remarkable, however, was the fact that we received comments from 62 students, all of which were complimentary of her abilities. She continues to bring positive recognition to the College of Optometry while also playing a vital role in our ability to recruit competitive students to our program.”
Dr. Karen Rosen Assumes the Presidency of the
St. Louis Optometric Society

In a beautiful ceremony attended by a very large number of St. Louis Optometric Association members as well as local ophthalmologists, Dr. Karen Rosen (‘84) was installed as SLOS President on Tuesday evening, June 14th. A long-time supporter of the UMSL College of Optometry, Dr. Rosen and her husband, Dr. Steve Rosen, are also well known for their numerous mission trips to foreign countries to help those in need of eye care. It is also notable to mention that all of the SLOS Officers and award recipients were all either UMSL graduates or are affiliated with the College of Optometry. The President-Elect is Dr. Paul Whitten (‘00); the Vice-President is Dr. Erin Sullivan (‘03); the Secretary is Dr. Jason Riley (‘07); the Treasurer is Dr. Kim Layfield (‘07); the Sergeant of Arms is Dr. Erin Niehoff (‘09), and the Immediate Past President is Dr. Barb Aalbers (‘03).

The Optometrist of the Year Award was presented to Dr. Robert Goerss (‘01). The 2011 Lifetime Achievement Award was presented to Dr. Gary Bachman, Associate professor of Optometry at the UMSL College of Optometry. Dr. Barb Aalbers was recognized for outstanding service as President of the St. Louis Optometric Society.

Outgoing SLOS President Dr. Barb Aalbers is being recognized by incoming President, Dr. Karen Rosen.
Bachman Receives Lifetime Achievement Award from SLOS

Dr. Gary Bachman

William G. “Gary” Bachman, OD, MS, Associate Professor of Optometry, was recently awarded the prestigious Lifetime Achievement Award by the St. Louis Optometric Society. His impressive journey includes military optometry, aeromedical research, numerous educational roles in a wide variety of settings, contributions to scientific literature, community service, and valued participation in local, state and national professional organizations throughout his career(s).

Dr. Bachman received his OD degree from Southern College of Optometry and joined our ranks here at UMSL after having spent two decades practicing optometry and providing leadership in the US Army, including stints as Chief of Optometry Services in military capacities in Germany and Thailand. While in the military, he also earned a Masters degree in Physiological Optics from the University of Alabama in Birmingham, and served as a research and flight qualified optometrist with air assault certification at the Aeromedical Research lab at Fort Rucker while also teaching at the School of Aviation Medicine.

After retiring from the US Army in 1988 with the rank of Lt. Colonel, Dr. Bachman began his second career here at the College of Optometry at UMSL, where he has thus far logged 23 years. If one were counting, this would mean that he has taught more than 1,000 future optometrists.

Dr. Tim Wingert, Professor, good friend and colleague at the College of Optometry made the formal presentation of the Lifetime Achievement Award at the June 2011 SLOS meeting. Wingert summarized Dr. Bachman’s many professional contributions: “Dr. Bachman is a native Missourian who has for many years been active in the St. Louis Optometric Association, the Missouri Optometric Association, and served in numerous volunteer capacities with the American Optometric Association…. He is a Fellow of the American Academy of Optometry and has published numerous scientific articles in the optometric literature as well as in other scientific journals.” Many of our readers have likely been members of Dr. Bachman’s audience for one or more of his numerous continuing education presentations to the optometric community over the years.

Dr. Bachman is also a long-time valued consultant to the Missouri Highway Patrol where he researches visual requirements in order to screen and make recommendations for acceptance and retention of troopers. His studies of the visual effects of laser eye protective devices worn by military aircrew are designed to determine the effects of these absorptive and holographic devices on color vision and color adaptation.

Finally, Wingert noted that Dr. Bachman’s contributions to the optometric community extend well beyond the classroom with promises of future decades of the Bachman influence: “he heads a family where all of his children became optometrists.” Congratulations on your achievements, Dr. Bachman!

NEWS & NOTES

Dr. Stephanie Erker (’09) and husband Ryan welcomed the birth of their daughter, Emma Marie, on June 8th.

Dan and Jenna Kryder (’12) are pleased to announce the birth of William Daniel Kryder at 12:08 am on September 12th. He was 8 lbs, 2 oz and 20 inches long. Congratulations to Dan, Jenna and big brother, Keaton!
2011-2012 Optometry Alumni Events

We’d love to c u!

October 16, 2011 — MOA Convention, Chateau on the Lake, Branson, MO. (www.moeyecare.org) Join us for breakfast before CE.


NEW! AOA Alumni Reception! Look for more details coming soon!

Stay connected!

Class reunions! Are you a member of one of these classes: 1987, 1992, 1997, 2002, or 2007? Look for more plans in a letter coming early this fall.

Join us on Facebook, LinkedIn or Twitter! Find us by searching UMSL College of Optometry. Our Facebook page launched mid-July and already has over 200 fans. Please join in and stay connected!

On Facebook, we offer UMSL Alumni Apparel which benefits the student chapter of the American Academy of Optometry.

Stay connected—wear it proudly!

Please contact Dr. Barbara W. Brown at (314) 516-6030 or optometry@umsl.edu. Check on-line at http://optometry.umsl.edu

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If you have missed a previous issue of the EyeWire you can locate the archive page as well as the current issue at:

http://optometry.umsl.edu/news/EyeWireArchives.html