Message From the Dean

Year-end Thoughts for 2010

Greetings Friends and Colleagues--

It is my distinct pleasure to share this year end edition of the EyeWire. As you see each week there are many exciting activities that take place in the life of the College.

We are fortunate to have a group of creative faculty, dedicated student staff, talented student body and supportive friends and alumni.

2011 promises to be a very important one for the future of optometric education in Missouri. Wishing you all the best in the coming year!

Sincerely,

Larry J. Davis, Dean

College of Optometry Graduates Honored at the MOA

Graduates of the UMSL College of Optometry swept the awards presented at the Annual Meeting of the Missouri Optometric Association (MOA), held October 14-17 in St. Louis. The recipient of the MOA “Optometrist of the Year” was Dr. Scott Ream (’87), who practices in Thayer Missouri. Dr. Ream was introduced by Dr. Kyle Brost (’87) who spoke well of his many accomplishments: “How about community involvement?” He's been district director for the Boy Scouts of America. He's been president of the Thayer-Mammoth Springs Rotary Club. He's been a two term President of the Thayer Public School Foundation, a three term President of the Oregon County Chapter of the American Cancer Society, and a five term President of the Thayer Area Chamber of Commerce. How about humanitarian efforts? This optometrist has made 24 trips to third world countries with the Volunteers of Optometric Services to Humanity (VOSH). He has volunteered his time as a Special Olympics optometrist. How about service to the profession? He is a past President of this organization (MOA) and has also served regionally as a past President of the North Central States Optometric Council.” Dr. Brost then summarized all of the numerous MOA and AOA committee and leadership responsibilities assumed by Dr. Ream as well as several honors he has received. He concluded with the following tribute: “In summation, this optometrist has exhibited unparalleled commitment to the profession. He has done everything asked of him, and has done everything exceptionally well.” Congratulations Dr. Ream for a well deserved honor.

Continued on page 2
Researchers Invent Device to Measure Visual Suppression

Visual suppression results from a change in the brain that results in loss of vision in an eye. The most commonly encountered eye disease that is associated with visual suppression is amblyopia (lazy eye). The Q3D is an improvement on a device, the Worth 4 dot that has been in use by clinicians for over 60 years. It can measure suppression in calibrated 0.1 log unit steps up to a total suppression of 3 log units (100X loss in sensitivity). This allows a clinician to detect more subtle problems and can be used as a way to measure treatment (patching, vision training, optical penalization, surgery) outcomes.

The Q3D is simple for patients (asking to see a light) and takes less a minute to perform. It was evaluated in clinical trials at UM St Louis College of Optometry and at Cardinal Glennon Hospital in St Louis. The device is also be used in a trial at the USC Department of Ophthalmology in a trial to evaluate patients with optic neuropathy.

Graduates Honored (cont. from page 1)

In addition, Melanie Linderer (’03) was awarded the MOA “Young OD of the Year” award. Dr. Linderer, who practices in Liberty, Missouri is continuing the excellence in practice that she showed as an outstanding student-clinician at the College of Optometry. Renee Newman (’12) was awarded the Missouri Optometric Student Association Student Leader Award. Renee has been a leader in several student organizations including two years as President of the Fellowship of Christian Optometrists.

The College of Optometry also had a booth at the exhibit hall which allowed alumni to visit. The College of Optometry reception at the MOA was attended by Chancellor Thomas George, his wife Dr. Barbara Harbach (Professor, Department of Music), and Provost Glen Cope.
They could not have started more differently. One (Katie Howard) was from rural southeast Missouri, attending a small undergraduate institution in Arkansas and was admitted into the College of Optometry after only two years of undergraduate school. The other (Jennifer Lawson Howard) graduated from the University of Tulsa in Oklahoma with a father and stepmother who both had a private practice in Tulsa. This story is how the path they took resulted in a togetherness that could only occur with family. According to Katie their first meeting was fortuitous: “I found Jennifer’s name on the list of people needing a roommate. I decided to give her a call to see if she wanted to room together and I literally called her during the middle of an Oklahoma tornado. I remember asking her if I needed to call her back since it was a bad time with the severe weather, and she acted like it was no big deal. I should have seen that as a sign that her “laid-back style” would mesh well with me. During our first semester, we got to know each other better. I mentioned a few times to her about meeting my brother, but it wasn’t until second semester, first year, that they finally met. It was in April, and my brother, David, drove up from Dexter to go to a Cards game with us. It obviously was a good first impression and first meeting for both of them-ha!”

Jennifer and Katie ended up living together throughout optometry school. Interestingly, not only did they develop a very close friendship but Jennifer ultimately became engaged to David and they soon married. Like sisters, they did not want to be separated. “We already were constants in each others’ lives through our friendship,’’ indicated Katie, “and soon we would be sisters. The thought of practicing together was great, and I knew that if I had to choose a doctor to work with, it would no doubt be Jennifer.”

However, upon graduation, they initially took different paths. Katie took a position in Florence, Alabama whereas Jennifer opened her own private practice called Dexter Family Eye Care, LLC in Dexter, MO. They both shared the idea of furthering their education to help them with the rigors of private practice. While Jennifer was completing a Master's degree in Public Health, Katie completed a Master's degree in Business Administration. However, they could not stay separated for long. As Katie relates: “I think I always knew deep down that I wanted to be at home working with Jennifer, so I returned in May 2009 and began working with Jennifer. Currently, I work with Jennifer, and also at a rural community health clinic, Southeast Missouri Health Network. Things are going well and we are finally working together.”

Dr. Barbara Brown (’88) was honored as the “Riverstars Employee of the Month” for the UMSL campus for the month of November. Each month, the Human Resources department recognizes an outstanding employee who excels in a particular area. Dr. Brown was honored for providing “Outstanding Customer Service.”

Diane (Werkmeister) Wilson (’88) was recently honored by Vision Monday as one of the 40 most influential women in the optical industry. Dr. Wilson is President of Arnold EyeCare center. She has been an active member of the Arnold Rotary Club and also has been active in Volunteers of Optometric Services to Humanity (VOSH). She organizes yearly mission trips to Haiti and Guatemala, where she provides optometric care, including medical management and glasses to those in need.

Dr. Allison (Ali) Hall (’03) and her husband, Mel, are pleased to announce the birth of their daughter, Hannah Nicole Hall, on August 22, 2010, weighing 6lb 14.6 oz. length 19 3/4 inches.
NEWS & NOTES

Jennifer (Lawson) Howard (‘08) and her husband David are the proud parents of Samuel David, born October 19th.

Ryan and Abi Barnes (‘07) had a baby, Raymond Oliver (7 lbs., 11 oz.) born October 22nd.

Barbara Rooney Aalbers (‘03), President of the St. Louis Optometric Society, introduced Michael Arthur Rooney (6 lbs., 13 oz.) into the world on November 20th.

Jessica Trigg Mai (‘08) and husband Jeremy welcomed Kyler Clayton (7 lb., 4 oz.) into the world on December 1st.

Optometry Students Excel in Campus Intramurals

The UMSL College of Optometry has always been very involved in campus intramural sports and these activities have served as a great stress reliever while also allowing class members to become more engaged with their class as well as other classes. Sports in which the College of Optometry has participated have included volleyball, flag football, basketball, soccer, and softball with many of these involving co-ed teams. In fact, the Class of 2014 had two co-ed volleyball teams which is not uncommon for first year classes. In addition, the only two ladies flag football teams on campus belonged to optometry and the Classes of 2013 and 2014 had a spirited championship game.

Four UMSL College of Optometry teams distinguished themselves in a very favorable manner during the Fall, 2010 season. The floor hockey team won the campus championship. The team consisted of both members of the Class of 2012 (Patrick Stark, Eric Stoltz, Dustin Wiles, and Arthur Wang) and Class of 2013 (Will Waldie, Rob Ensley, Mason Seelinger, and Seth Bachelier). According to Arthur Wang: “We entered the playoffs seeded first after winning 3 games and losing once in round robin. We won the semifinals game 4-1 and then beat the PIKEs 7-4 in the finals! Patrick was our goalie throughout the tournament and was probably the MVP.”

The combined Class of 2012 and Class of 2014 men's flag football also distinguished itself, losing in overtime in the campus championship against an exceptional undergraduate team.

With a huge cheering section present to encourage them, they played an outstanding game. Tareq Nabhan (‘12), who has an exceptional background in many sports, coordinates intramurals for his class and commented on this game: “We were a hybrid of 1st and 3rd years, yet we played without distinction and with the welcomed responsibility of representing our program. It was an honor to play in front of a sideline packed with our decorated classmates and our professors; their support meant everything.”

Finally, the ladies campus volleyball championship game featured two College of Optometry teams. The Class of 2012 intramural volleyball team, Optometrist Prime, won the girls championship for the third year in a row. Team members included Heidi Ensley, Tuesday Warner, Renee Newman, and Jessica Young. They played the Class of 2014 girls team, Green Machine, for the championship.

UMSL College of Optometry Flag Football Team (left to right): Dean Schultz, Brad Englebarfs, Alan Wegener, Dan Puls, Tareq Nabhan, Mike Waclawski, Andrew Piester, Nathan Eaves, Jeremey Dohogne, and Dustin Wiles.
The College of Optometry had a prominent role in San Francisco where faculty and graduates presented (at minimum) 7 scientific presentations including the following:

1. Anthony DeWilde OD (‘07): “Atypical Manifestations of a Central Retinal Artery Occlusion”
2. Kim Kohne OD (‘04): “Purtscher’s Retinopathy”
3. Jamie Gold OD (‘10), Julie DeKinder OD, Vinita Henry OD, and Ed Bennett OD, MSEd: “Contact Lens Fitting Following Blepharoplasty Surgery”
4. Tim Wingert OD, Howard McAlister OD: “Results from a VOSH Mission to SAMOA”
5. Vandana Rajaram PhD (UMSL ‘05): “Use of the pattern Visual Evoked Potential to predict visual acuity potential in young adults”
7. Jessica Carson (‘11), Jordan Jones (‘11), and Jeff Weaver, OD, MBA, MS (Adjunct Professor): “Tonometer tip disinfection methods and nosocomial infections”

In addition, eight individuals with an UMSL affiliation were awarded their Fellow at the Saturday night honors banquet. Those honored included: Antione Barnett, OD (‘08), Jennifer (Einhorn) Brown, OD (‘09), Dan Dillinger, OD (‘03), Julie Hutchinson, OD (Assistant Adjunct Professor), Adam Lee, OD (‘08), Arraya Paksin-Hall, OD (‘02), Sandhya Subramaniam MS (UMSL ‘03), Le Truong, OD (‘03)

Ed Bennett OD, MSEd, Assistant Dean of Student Services and Alumni Relations, presided as Chair of the Section on Cornea, Contact Lenses and Refractive Technologies during the four day meeting. Dean Larry Davis presided over the annual College of Optometry Alumni Reception which was attended by College alumni and students.

Campus Intramural (continued from page 4)

UMSL College of Optometry Campus Girls Volleyball Champions and Runner-ups. Top Row (left to right): Cara Finn (‘14), Tuesday Warner (‘12), Heidi Ensley (‘12), Renee Newman (‘12), Jessica Young (‘12), and Andrea Peerson (‘14). Bottom Row (left to right): Sarah Griffin (‘14), Alaina Mudder (‘14), Hilary Morrow (‘14), and Katie Van den Einde (‘14)
A Sincere Thank You to Our Donors

The College of Optometry's success is due, in part, to the generosity of its alumni and friends. Donors help provide academic resources, scholarships, clinical care and more. The people listed below contributed to the College last fiscal year (July 1, 2009-June 30, 2010). Their assistance is greatly appreciated. If your name is on this list, thank you. We hope to have your continued support in the future.

A sincere thank you is extended to our generous donors for Fiscal Year 2010.

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James E. “Jim” Sheedy, OD, MS, Ph.D. was honored at the ninth annual Fechner Day. Dr. Sheedy has an impressive background with over 80 peer-reviewed published articles, chapters and books while being awarded over $2,000,000 in external funding. He has received numerous honors including both the Distinguished Achievement Award and the William Feibloom Award from the American Academy of Optometry. He is currently Director of the Vision Performance Institute at the Pacific University College of Optometry.

Dr. Carl Bassi, Director of Research and Graduate Studies, once again introduced our honored guest and entertained the audience with the history and impact of Gustav Fechner. Dr. Sheedy delivered the Fechner Day lecture on the topic of "Vision as the Basis for Mind and Human Behavior" to a completely filled SGA Chamber in the Millennium Student Center. As the tradition continues, following the lecture the summer fellowship students presented posters from their summer research and everyone enjoyed German chocolate cake.
Second Annual “Optometry’s Got Talent”

The College of Optometry prides itself on the diversity on individuals who comprise the program. Students who are well-rounded and were very engaged in extracurricular activities in high school and college often are successful - not only at the College of Optometry - but later in their professional career. An area where the College of Optometry is excelling is with students who have a background in the performing arts. With that in mind, the UMSL National Optometric Student Association (NOSA) hosted the second annual Artistic Vision Talent Showcase on November 5th. Eric Jerde (‘12) - as he did so effectively last year - entertained the audience in his role as Master of Ceremonies. The performances were - once again - remarkable. With an audience of approximately 80 students, faculty, and staff, seven performances were given, all by optometry students and they were very well received by those who attended. Talented singer and guitarist Jake Hayward (‘13) combined his vocals with the dancing provided by theatre veteran Carrie McDowell (‘13) to the classic Phantom of the Opera selection “Music of the Night” and they were awarded first place for their outstanding performance. Second place went to an amazing singer with a phenomenal voice (and last year’s inaugural event winner) Angel Husher (‘13) for her vocal rendition of “Hallelujah”. Third place went to another very talented performer, Suzanne Lakamp, who was highlighted recently on Channel 5 for her association with the St. Louis Ballroom Club. Suzy entertained everyone with a “Cha Cha Cha” ballroom dance. For Angel, it personified what an important and necessary outlet this is for optometry students. “The NOSA sponsored Talent Show will no doubt be a tradition for years to come. It truly is amazing how much unbelievably talented people are here at the College of Optometry. We have some of the most incredible dancers, singers, piano players, guitar players, and other musicians that I have ever seen. I love to perform, and it is such an honor to be given an opportunity to sing on stage. As we all know Optometry School is not only gut-wrenching stressful hard work, but it can also leave one feeling incompetent and unworthy of the task at hand. This talent show allows us to get past those feelings and express another side of ourselves beyond academics. It provides us with a reassuring outlet, and most importantly it leaves the performers, audience members, and the school for that matter with a sense of contagious enjoyment and pride. I cannot wait for next year's talent show!”

The UMSL College of Optometry is proud to have perhaps the most dedicated and successful NOSA chapter in the country. Every month they provide screenings, and numerous other programs to assist and educate individuals in the greater St. Louis Community. “Optometry’s Got Talent” not only serves as a great vehicle for students to display their many talents but also serves as a very successful fundraiser, raising approximately $320 for the St. Louis Public Schools Foundation Eyeglasses for Kids (KidSmart) program. NOSA President Vanessa Braimah (‘13) summarizes the impact of this program quite well: “This year's Artistic Vision Talent Show "Optometry's Got Talent" was a wonderful opportunity to unite the Optometry community. As students, we often only see each other in an academic setting, so it was refreshing to see the diverse range of talent that fellow classmates and peers possess. In addition, NOSA was able to raise money for KidSmart, and bring together the Optometry community for an incredible night of quality entertainment.”
Upcoming CE Events

Nutrition and the Eye IV, April 16 & 17, 2011
Saturday & Sunday - 12 hrs COPE/CEE
Coordinator: Stuart Richer, O.D., Ph. D.

Coding Update 2011, May 9, 2011
Monday evening - 4 hrs COPE/CEE
Speaker: John McGreal, O.D.

Annual Optometry Academe, August 14, 2011
Sunday - 8 hrs COPE/CEE
"What Went Wrong & Why Adventures in Anterior Segment Care,"
Paul Karpecki, O.D.
"AMD Practical . . . A Pro-Active Approach Retinal Findings with
Systemic Diseases," Jeffrey Gerson, O.D.

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education at 314-516-5615 or email her at ellerbusch@umsl.edu.

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