Message From the Dean

More than meets the eye

“Strive not to be a success, but rather to be of value”
Albert Einstein

Greetings Friends and Colleagues--

Optometry is a great profession, offering a diversity of career paths and numerous personal and professional enrichment opportunities. The privilege of improving the sight and quality of life of our fellow citizens is without a doubt among the most inspiring aspects of our profession. It is therefore no surprise that individuals who possess caring attitudes and the desire to serve others have always been drawn into optometry. For many, that pursuit of improving the status quo extends well beyond the examination rooms and research laboratories.

In this issue of the Eye Wire we provide examples of individuals within our college family who have chosen to dedicate themselves to important causes that extend beyond their routine daily professional activities. In more ways than meet the eye, each provides an excellent additional example of why so many optometrists are satisfied with their career choice. Our students continue to excel and graduates of our programs certainly acquire the skills, knowledge and abilities necessary to serve as competent optometrists and vision scientists. It is a pleasure to recognize that they also are equipped with the drive to make positive differences in many other creative and significant ways as well.

Larry J. Davis, Dean

Representative Steven Tilley, O.D.
Serving the People of Southeast Missouri

As a student he was popular, respectful, competent and determined. As a successful optometrist, he has inspired many of his younger patients to pursue optometry as a career. Son of Everett Tilley, O.D., Steve practices optometry in Perryville, MO where he lives with his wife Kellie and children, Kourtney and Karin. Dr. Steve Tilley is, however, so much more than a valued member of the optometric community. He is also Representative Steven Tilley, representing District 106 in the Missouri House of Representatives. He was elected to the House in 2004 and, in 2008, he was elected Majority Floor Leader of the House of Representatives at the 94th Legislative Session and is currently Chair of the Ethics Committee. Why did he decide to pursue a political career?

“My experience in politics started at a young age. When Missouri Optometrists were trying to pass prescriptive authority in the mid 1980’s, my dad would take me to the capital to lobby legislators on the issue. I’ve been interested ever since.”

Dr. Tilley has also received numerous honors. He was among six individuals who received Outstanding Alumni Service Awards March 4 at the Capitol Plaza Hotel in Jefferson City, Mo. The University of Missouri Alliance of Alumni Associations and University of Missouri Extension presented the award. In addition, the Missouri Optometric Association has recognized him with a Young Optometrist of the Year Award and honored him with their Distinguished Service Award.

Steve’s drive to help others - both in serving their vision needs as well as serving as their advocate is a result, in part, of his own experiences at the College of Optometry. "I am very pleased with my choice of UMSL. I received a quality education, with a low student-to-faculty ratio that prepared me for practicing optometry." When asked what advice that you like to provide to our current students, he responded: "I would advise current students to take pride in our profession and to always stay involved, professionally and politically. Step forward and contribute; don’t sit back and let others do the work in which we should all take part." The people of Southeast Missouri are truly blessed to have Steve Tilley represent them in the Missouri House; the College of Optometry is very fortunate to have him as our graduate, our role model, and our advocate.
Dr. Tim Wingert and Dr. Gary Bachman made a presentation to the World Congress on Optometric Globalization April 2008 in London, England. The title of their presentation was "Flattening the Optometric World Through The Use of Web Based Education".

Dr. Carl Bassi and Micahel Howe were co-authors on a poster entitled “The Q3D: the reliability and validity of a new device to measure visual suppression.” The poster was presented at the AAPOS (American Association for Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus) meeting April 2-6, 2008 in Washington, DC. The abstract was chosen by the Scientific Committee at AAPOS as one of the “Best in Show.”

Wesley Kinerk, OD, ’03, was recently featured in an article on the official web site of the United Stated Air Force. Captain Kinerk was part of medical team on a mission to Thailand that provided care to people of all ages who usually don’t have access to health care. The link to this story is: http://www.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123084233.

UMSL Welcomes Dr. Tom Landgraf

The UMSL College of Optometry is proud to welcome its newest faculty member, Dr. Tom Landgraf. Dr. Landgraf is a graduate of Illinois College of Optometry, followed by the completion of a Residency in Primary Care Optometry at the Pennsylvania College of Optometry. He most recently served as Chief of the Advanced Care Ocular Disease Service at the Southern College of Optometry where he received numerous teaching awards. He is a nationally recognized lecturer on treatment and management of ocular disease and injections, and UMSL welcomes him to our faculty where he teaches in the ocular disease clinical and didactic tracks.

What attracted Dr. Landgraf to UMSL after 15 years at SCO? “I wanted to return to the Midwest to live and work. My parents grew up in St. Louis and I grew up in Chicago. I was very impressed with the faculty I met here during the interview process. It was also a good fit in terms of what I wanted to contribute to the optometry program at UMSL (i.e., Ocular Disease).”

His initial impressions of teaching at UMSL have been quite positive. “I am learning a lot and working hard. I have been very impressed with the students; they have all been consistent to ‘warm my heart’ as I have adjusted to a new home and career. I am impressed with how hard the faculty work here to ensure that the students at UMSL get a phenomenal optometric education.”

The feeling is mutual with the students. Shawn Yamell, second year Class Representative comments: “All of the students enjoy being taught by Dr. Landgraf. He always maintains a positive attitude and is great at motivating us to be excited about expanding our knowledge in ocular disease. The experience he brings to the table is invaluable to our learning.” Classmate Erin O’Neal agrees: “Dr. Landgraf realizes that we need his guidance and experience to be successful and is willing to help in any way he can. He always supports a positive learning environment for the students. He is an educator who is challenging and encouraging. He talks to us personally and learned all of our names so that he can talk to us on a personal level. He’s just a good person and UMSL is truly blessed to have him.”

Macular Degeneration Course Successful

On March 09, 2008, the UMSL College of Optometry presented a seminar on Macular Degeneration with presentations from faculty members Carl Bassi, Ph.D., John Crane, O.D., Edward Jarka O.D., M.S., and Thomas Landgraf, O.D. Guest speaker Joe Pizzamenti, O.D., is a member of the faculty at NOVA Southeastern University. One hundred and twenty attendees from seven states participated in the seminar, which included didactic and case based presentations supported by panel discussions, grand rounds and break-out workshops. Topics presented included etiology/evaluation of Age-Related Macular Degeneration (ARMD), new technologies in ARMD management, macular pigmentation, and current research in ARMD.
UMSL First to Have an Academy Practitioner Liaison Program

From left to right: Dr. Rex Ghormley; Teresa Mathew, ‘09; Dr. Larry Davis, Dean; Dr. Edward Bennett, Faculty Liaison.

When Dr. Rick Weisbarth, President of the American Academy of Optometry (AAO), contacted Faculty Liaison, Ed Bennett, about initiating a new program that would engage a local Fellow of the Academy to assist with student fellowship information and education, they both agreed upon who that individual should be, Dr. Rex Ghormley, Past President of the AAO. On April 4th, Dr. Ghormley and Student Fellows, Rachelle Penka and Dan Friederich provided a presentation to approximately 100 UMSL optometry students on the benefits of both student membership and Fellowship in the Academy. It was announced that Teresa Mathew, ‘09, was awarded the AOF Carl Zeiss Vision Fellow award. The luncheon program was sponsored by the American Academy of Optometry.

COLLEGE EXPANDS SERVICES FOR MOBILE EYE CARE TO SENIOR CITIZENS

Through the efforts of UMSL faculty member, Dr. Ray Myers, the College of Optometry has already established approximately 20 sites for providing mobile eye care to senior citizens in Illinois and Missouri in the first half of 2008. These sites incorporate the senior citizen centers and apartments sponsored by the St. Louis Agency on Aging, the Southwest Illinois Agency on Aging, the Gateway Lions & Partners, Lions Districts, UM-St. Louis College of Optometry, and Lenscrafters/Fairview Heights. According to Dr. Myers, “More than 10 individuals are involved in the arrangements for each site, and I am appreciative of everyone's assistance. We could not do this without several years of experience which let us expand this program due to the interest at the various centers and apartments. Both in St. Louis and in Illinois the challenge in the coming year will be to get Lions Clubs and the new St. Louis-wide Lions Districts to become more involved and extend the senior services beyond these mobile van sites.”

NEWS & NOTES

Congratulations to Dr. Timothy Wingert who has been promoted to Professor of Optometry. Also in the news, Dr. Wingert was appointed by Governor Matt Blunt to serve on the Children’s Vision Commission to help meet the vision needs of Missouri’s children.

Brett Sobieralski, ‘09, was awarded the “Carol Freihaut Trustee of the Year Award” as voted on by the Executive Council and Executive Director of the American Optometric Student Association.

Kimberly Mark (left), a third-year optometry student at the University of Missouri-St. Louis, helps Gabriel Gregson (center) while Sherri Gregson looks on during the inaugural Easter Egg Hunt for the Visually Impaired on March 16 at UMSL. Hosted by the university’s National Optometric Student Association (NOSA), the event featured Easter eggs that beeped, allowing the participants to seek them out by listening.
NEWS & NOTES

First Classmates, Now Leaders in Optometry

Pictured on the left is 3rd year student Amy Seavers with 2nd year student Brianne Hobbs after completing the 1/2 marathon on Sunday, April 6 at the St. Louis marathon.

>> Amy Seavers - 1/2 marathon time 1 hour 43 minutes 47 seconds age group 25-29, placed 34th in age group and 126 overall womens division
>> Brianne Hobbs - 1/2 marathon time 1 hour 35 minutes 20 seconds age group 20-24, placed 13th in age group and 33rd in overall womens division

>> Aaron Franzel, O.D. - full marathon time 4 hours 07 minutes 33 seconds, placed 61st in age group and 546 overall mens division

Julie Gram (Administrative Associate in the Dean’s office) submitted a photo that was selected for the cover for the most recent issue of Bellerive, the UM-St. Louis Literary Magazine which features poetry, narrative pieces and artwork from students, faculty and staff members.

Before they were doctors, Joni LaFerla and Greg Goetzinger were classmates at Southwest Missouri State. They attended biology classes together in pursuit of being accepted in Optometry school. They became even better friends when they worked their way through optometry school, graduating in the UMSL Class of 1993. Once graduated, they both completed residency programs and went their separate ways although they always stayed in contact. Joni and her husband, (UMSL Cornea and Contact Lens Residency graduate) Dr. Jeff LaFerla, visited Greg when he was stationed in Heidelberg, Germany in 1994. Both Dr. LaFerla and Dr. Goetzinger ended up back in Missouri settling into group Optometry and Ophthalmology practices before deciding to open their own private optometry practices. Dr. Goetzinger built a busy practice in Carthage, MO. Drs. LaFerla are growing their practice in Kansas City.

Since graduation from Optometry school, both Dr. LaFerla and Dr. Goetzinger have been involved in Missouri optometry, both locally and at the state level. In October, 2007, Dr. Goetzinger was elected MOA president and in February, 2008, Dr. LaFerla was the first woman president elected to the Heart of America Contact Lens Society Board of Directors. Both Dr. LaFerla and Dr. Goetzinger enjoy the challenges of leadership; both appreciate time with their families, and both doctors recognize the value of friendship.

Annual August Academe
Oral Ocular Therapeutics Update
8 COPE/CEE hours total

August 17, 2008 - Sunday
http://optometry.umsl.edu/ce/08AugAca.html
It's impossible to know Eyad Yehyawi, OD, '04, and not think very highly of him as a person, as a student, and currently as an optometric leader. A collegiate athlete who prided himself in maintaining an outstanding level of fitness, Dr. Yehyawi - as a result of a congenital heart defect - suffered a stroke during the last week of his residency program at the St. Louis Veteran's Administration hospital. After six months and a positive report about his health, he returned to not only an aggressive fitness regimen but he also established a nutrition program for both weight loss and optimum nutrition. As a result, his success story was featured in the June/July, 2007 issue of Men's Fitness. His program, outlined in this article, is being used by athletes all over the country. His story was also a feature article in the Iowa Today newspaper. Since that time he has frequently been responding to requests asking his advice on how to approach nutrition as well as methods of training. The result is a book he is currently authoring entitled “Transformation: Unlock Your True Potential.” He feels there is a great need for such a text. “I wanted to write a book that educated people as to WHY we change, WHY this food or training method helps or hurts us, and how to devise the perfect program for you as an individual. So many manuals are devised around

‘the perfect program’ and when an individual fails or can't do the workout exactly, they feel as if they have failed. I believe you must understand why a method works so you can adjust and make changes accordingly based on your body type, schedule and preferences. So, I detailed everything for people: hormones, nutrition, cardio, and training methods.” A successful optometrist in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, it is quite evident that Dr. Eyad Yehyawi's passion for improving the quality of one's life far transcends their visual needs. He is an exceptional role model for our profession and, without doubt, will continue to positively impact the health and performance of athletes throughout the United States.

**NEWS & NOTES**

Dr. Ed Bennett was on the planning committee of the 2008 Global Keratoconus Congress, held January, 2008 in Las Vegas, NV. He also authored an article entitled “Contact Lens Correction of Presbyopia” which was published in the May 2008 issue of Clinical And Experimental Optometry.

Dr. Cheryl Bergin, ‘05, was featured in the March, 2008 issue of *Women in Optometry*.

Second year optometry student Derek Peveler and wife Beth brought Landon Peveler into the world on March 3rd.

Ivetta (Siedlecki) Daccache OD (graduate of the Residency in Cornea and Contact Lens) and her husband Tony brought Noelle into the world on December 26, 2007.
Continuing Education in the News

GP Specialty Lens Practice Today and Tomorrow

The second annual GP Specialty Lens Practice Today and Tomorrow symposium will be held **Sunday, May 4th** at the JC Penney Conference Center. It will feature Dr. Paul Rose, developer of the Rose K series of contact lenses for the correction of keratoconus and post-surgical patients. An entertaining and informative speaker, Dr. Rose will present on the clinical management of the irregular cornea in the morning program and will assist in the moderation of a series of specialty GP patients (keratoconus, post-surgical, multifocal and toric) who will be presented in the afternoon via the assistance of a projection slit lamp. Other faculty participating in this program will be Drs. Tom Quinn, Bob Grohe and Ed Bennett. You can register at: http://optometry.umsl.edu/ce/GP08a.html.

Coding Update 2008

The foremost authority on the ever-increasingly important topic of coding and billing, Dr. John McGreal will be providing a four hour program on the topic of “Understanding the New Medicare Guidelines” on Monday evening, **May 5th** at the JC Penney Conference Center. Learn how to properly charge for services, evaluate your fee schedule, adequately document the medical record, and reduce risk in the audit. Sample forms and case studies will be used for clinical correlation. You can register at: http://optometry.umsl.edu/ce/08Coding.html.