Message From the Dean

Preparing the Next Generation

“…to promote and provide improved eye and health care for people throughout the country by preparing the next generation of optometrists and vision researchers.” (from College of Optometry Vision, Mission and Values)

Greetings Friends and Colleagues--

The aspirations and dedication of our colleagues, past and present, provide graduates of our schools and colleges unprecedented opportunities to serve patients and advance eye care and vision research throughout the world. As optometric educators we have the privilege and responsibility to emulate that spirit of engagement for our students. Each year faculty carry forth that tradition by their role as leaders in organizations throughout the vision science and optometric communities.

This issue of the EyeWire shares several examples of engagement and service by our students, faculty, staff and alumni. Among those recognized is the UMSL Chapter of the National Optometric Student Association (NOSA). It is consistently recognized among the most active NOSA chapters in optometric education. For that we are very proud, and grateful, too, for the ongoing and steadfast commitment of our UMSL NOSA members. It is that faithful commitment which has

Class of 2014: Active and Engaged

When the members of the Class of 2014 gathered on campus for their comprehensive fall College of Optometry orientation program, many had already participated in earlier opportunities to begin introductions to the classmates who will share much of their lives over the next four years.

For the formal orientation program on August 19th and 20th, the 40 future Doctors of Optometry arrived apprehensive but excited about beginning their journey which should culminate in May, 2014 with a beautiful graduation ceremony at the Touhill Performing Arts center.

The program consisted of welcoming comments from Dr. Ed Bennett, Director of Student Services, and Dean Larry Davis. The students also heard from Dr. Tom Cullinane, representing the Missouri Optometric Association; Dr. Barb Aalbers, representing the St. Louis Optometric Society; and Stacy Liles, Student/Faculty Membership Manager of the American Optometric Association. Other presentations included information about optometric residency programs (Dr. Vinita Henry, Director of Residencies), the National Optometric Student Association (Vanessa Braimah, Class of ’13), the American Academy of Optometry (Dr. Ed Bennett), the Upper Class Advisory Program (Sarah Morris, Class of ’13), and the Student Ethics and Honor Code (Brooke Grah, Class of ’13).

One of the primary goals of the orientation program is for the new class to become better informed of what they can expect during the course of their UMSL College of Optometry journey. Dr. Bennett discussed the important academic responsibilities and expectations, Dean Davis reviewed fundamental factors that will optimize learning, Dr. Barbara Brown discussed the significance of being part of a new community, and Kevin Sewell of Vistakon presented an informative segment about

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Dr. Ed Bennett presented a course on gas-permeable management of complex cases at Optometry's Meeting in Orlando, FL, in June. He also published an article entitled "Innovations in Gas Permeable Multifocal Contact Lenses" in the September issue of Clinical Optometry.

Tonia Batts (‘11) was selected as the UMSL College of Optometry recipient of the 2010 Carl Zeiss Vision Fellowship. For the second consecutive year Tonia was also awarded honors in the AOA Photo Contest, with two photographs receiving 4th place awards.

Dr. Karen Rosen (‘84) was featured in an “UMSL Educated Leaders” segment in the July 2-8, 2010 edition of the St. Louis Business Journal.

Dr. Mark Curtis (‘96) was the Missouri Optometric Association “OD of the Year.”

Dr. Brian Ross (‘03) was awarded the “Young OD of the Year” honor from the Indiana Optometric Association.

Dr. Jason Eubank (‘01) was awarded the Kansas Optometric Association “Young OD of the Year” honor.

Eyad Yehyawi (‘04) and Melinda Schwarz were married on July 24th in Marengo, Iowa (below).

Dr. Deborah Kerber (‘92) was recently honored as the St. Louis Optometric Society “OD of the Year.”

Honors and Awards for 2010

The Vision Service Plan Scholarship
Jamie Gold and Maria Wehner

The Dr. Robert A. Koetting, O.D. Scholarship
Brianne Hobbs

The Mary Gilbert Scholarship
Jessica McEllhiney

The 2010 American Academy of Optometry Carl Zeiss Vision Scholarship
Whitney Coleman

Student Marshal
Brianne Hobbs

Essilor of America Award in Ophthalmic Optics
Amanda Mesner

Ocular Instruments Award in Ocular Disease
Brianne Hobbs

Marchon Eyeware Practice Management Award
James Scherman

Eye Care Achievement Award sponsored by MiraMed
Kristen Schumer

Alcon Award of Clinical Excellence
James Scherman

The College of Optometrists in Vision Development Award for Excellence in Vision Therapy
Angela Foshage

The Clinical Binocular Vision/Vision Therapy Award
Marie Wehner and Jenny Redfern

The Charles C. Matlock Memorial Award
Tina Dunkin

The Clinical Excellence Award sponsored by GP Lens Institute
James Scherman

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UMSL College of Optometry Has a Very Prominent Leadership Role in the National Optometric Association

The 2010 National Optometric Association convention, held July 14th - 18th in San Juan, Puerto Rico was well attended by UMSL National Optometric Student Association (NOSA) members and featured the election of many UMSL College of Optometry graduates to leadership positions. This included Dr. Carol Merritt ('89) as Immediate Past President, Dr. Melantha Nephew ('04) as Secretary/Meeting Planner, and Dr. Kimberly Mark ('09) as Assistant Secretary/Editor.

The UMSL College of Optometry is proud to have one of the most active and productive NOSA chapters in the country and this was recognized at the NOA meeting. Allison Coleman ('12), President of the UMSL NOSA Chapter in 2009-10, was given a very prestigious honor, the Cave Memorial Award. In addition, Allison was elected as the NOSA National Corresponding Secretary for 2010-11.

Classmates Drs. Aaney Andrud ('08) and Melissa Massey ('08) are both proud new mothers. Shown together are Aaney's son, Xavier Christopher Declama, and Melissa's daughter, Sylvia Claire Massey.

Congratulations to Melissa Lorber ('12) on the recent birth of her second child, Madeline.

Dr. Barbara Aalbers ('03) was elected as the 2010-11 President of the St. Louis Optometric Society.

The OneSight Research Foundation announced that Natalie Brothers ('11) is a recipient of a Dr. Stanley Pearle Scholarship.

Guoqiang Li, Ph. D, has been awarded a new three-year grant from National Institute of Health for $522,000. He plans to perform research in optical coherence microscopy for eye and other biomedical imaging. Dr. Li also received the designation of “Senior Member of the Optical Society of America.”

Brianne Hobbs '10 and Jamie Gold were featured in the article The Class of 2010 Prepares to Make Its Mark” in the June, 2010 Women in Optometry Supplement to Review of Optometry.
the life of a first year optometry student. Finally, current student leaders provided an always-popular forum for questions and answers, including pearls of wisdom from their own experiences designed to help our new students adjust to both the rigors and rewards of the program.

However, the most important goal of orientation is, as always, for the students to get to know their new extended family. Through Facebook and the annual Spring mixer organized by Dr. Brown and held in April, some initial contacts had already been made. Through several small group sessions at orientation, the Class of 2014 became much more familiar with their classmates, including their backgrounds, their interests, and perhaps some unique attributes and abilities possessed by each member. It was very evident that this class likely will be one of the most engaged - both within the class and ultimately within student organizations as well. A large number of the members have either studied overseas or performed mission trips in other countries. Two members have served their country with honor through their military involvement. Of generational/historical interest is the fact that the grandfather of one of the members of this class was the individual who initiated the Volunteers of Optometric Services to Humanity (VOSH).

We wish all the best to the newest members of the UMSL College of Optometry family. May you reach your goals and may your future be filled with happiness and both professional and personal fulfillment.

**Class of 2014 continued from page 1**

**UMSL College of Optometry Awarded Optometric Education Diversity Grant**

Dr. Angel Novel (‘02) received an Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry (ASCO) grant in the amount of $3500 via the ASCO Mini-Grant program from the ASCO Optometry Diversity and Cultural Competency Committee. The goal of the Optometric Diversity Mini-Grant Program - funded via grants from The Vision Care Institute™, LLC and Luxottica Retail - is to develop and implement activities/programs that are designed to recruit and/or retain under-represented minority students, financially disadvantaged students, and first-generation college students. Programs may include, but are not limited to, summer bridge programs for undergraduate students, mentoring and guidance programs for first-year optometry students, and partnerships with organizations, high schools, community colleges and undergraduate programs to promote optometry as a career among under-represented groups.

The goal of the UMSL College of Optometry’s program, in collaboration with the UMSL Bridge Program, is to expose, recruit, and retain under-represented students with regards to optometry. The UMSL Bridge Program is a strong community catalyst for preparing high school students for the rigors of college. With assistance from this program, Eyes on Diversity will create a two-fold program that targets both high school juniors and seniors and optometry students. The program is a five-week technical course that is designed to introduce fifteen students to optometry and will be achieved by employing two optometry students to assist with the technical skills portion of the program. Via a collaborative effort, optometry students will be given the opportunity to work with diverse student backgrounds.

**Fechner Day October 22, 2010**

Gustav Fechner is considered to be the founder of visual psychophysics. Legend has it that Fechner came up with his famous equation to relate perception to the log of stimulus intensity on October 22nd. This year will be the ninth annual Fechner Day celebration in the College of Optometry, when we invite a speaker with an expertise in psychophysics, have presentations from our summer fellowship students, and enjoy German chocolate cake. This year’s speaker will be James E. Sheedy, OD, PhD, Director Vision Performance Institute, Pacific University, College of Optometry. The title of the lecture will be “Vision as the Basis for Mind and Human Behavior.” The lecture will be at noon in room SGA in the Millennium Student Center. One hour of CE credit will be available.

**CE Event—October 26, 2010**

Dr. Paul Rose will be presenting an evening seminar on the contact lens management of keratoconus on Tuesday evening, October 26th on the UM-St. Louis campus. Call Lis Ellerbusch for more information (314) 516-5615.
Honors and Awards for 2010
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The Contact Lens Faculty Clinical Excellence Award
Justin Crowe and Jamie Gold

Contact Lens Clinical Award
Shawn Yarnell and Marie Wehner

Vistakon Award of Excellence in Contact Lens Patient Care
Derek Swader

The Award for Excellence in Low Vision Award
Kristin Scott

The David J. Kerko Low Vision Award, sponsored by Winchester Optics
Nixon Dodd

The Eschenbach Optik Award
Derek Swader

The William Feinbloom Low Vision Award, sponsored by Designs for Living, Inc.
Eliot Masek

Student Service Award
Jason Bechtoldt, Jessica McEllhiney and Amy Garbo

Student Ambassador Award
Jamie Gold

Silver Medal Award, sponsored by Beta Sigma Kappa
Brianne Hobbs

Dean’s Award (sponsored by the College of Optometry) and the M. Earl McClellan Award (sponsored by the Missouri Optometric Foundation)
Brianne Hobbs

Missouri Optometric Foundation Award for Excellent in Clinical Skills
Amy Garbo

William R. Jackson Jr., O.D. Memorial Scholarship is administered by the Missouri Optometric Foundation
Ryan Losh, Jill Radkowiec and Shawn Yarnell

Beta Sigma Kappa Honorary Society
Rebecca Aspholm
Michael Atteberry
Lacey Brenner
Whitney Coleman
Kylie Divine
Nixon Dodd
Angela Foshage
Amy Garbo
Jamie Gold
Ryan Hill
Brianne Hobbs
Alexa Martin
Jessica McEllhiney
Amanda Mesner
Erin O’Neal
Jill Radkowiec
Jennifer Redfern
James Scherman
Kristen Schumer
Derek Swader
Dustin Tressler
Philip Walters
Marie Wehner
Shawn Yarnell
Tyler Young

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The College of Optometry Mourns the Loss of Dr. Leonard Naeger

Dr. Leonard Naeger, Adjunct Associate Professor who served on the faculty in the College of Optometry for 29+ years as the first and only instructor for General Pharmacology, passed away July 26th while out of the country conducting a continuing education program. Dr. Naeger was professor of pharmacology at the St. Louis College of Pharmacy (STLCOP) for nearly 40 years. During his long and distinguished career, he served as pharmacology course master at nine Missouri colleges and universities, course lecturer for several local universities, and presented continuing education programs for more than 12 health professions. He earned his bachelor's degree in pharmacy in 1963 and a master's degree in hospital pharmacy in 1965, both from STLCOP. He returned to the college as a faculty member in 1970. In 1999, Dr. Naeger was presented with the Alumni Association's Service to the College award. Ten years later, he received the College's Distinguished Service Award in recognition for his loyalty to the College and the pharmacy profession.

For graduates of the College of Optometry, Dr. Naeger will not only be remembered as a passionate and knowledgeable pharmacology instructor but also as the individual who helped many optometrists in the state of Missouri in their education to become certified to use therapeutic drugs. According to Dean Larry Davis: “Nearly every optometrist licensed in Missouri is familiar with the enthusiastic and energetic instructional style that defined Dr. Naeger’s approach to teaching and learning. In addition to nurturing the professional development of students, Dr. Naeger lectured to many generations of optometrists via continuing education programs.”

We will miss the exuberance that he brought to the classroom.

Dr. Vinita Henry Elected Chair of the Association of Optometric Contact Lens Educators (AOCLE)

Vinita Henry, OD, FAAO ('85) was elected Chair of the Association of Optometric Contact Lens Educators (AOCLE) at their annual meeting, held June 3-6, at the University of Alabama in Birmingham. The Association of Optometric Contact Lens Educators is committed to fostering the highest levels of education in the areas of cornea and contact lenses and supporting the faculty in these areas at each of the North American schools and colleges of optometry. In addition to their annual workshop, held at one of their 19 member Schools and Colleges of Optometry, the AOCLE has a living library on their website (www.aocle.org) and, among their many programs is a Contact Lens Faculty Development Program.

Dr. Henry is currently Clinical Professor, Interim Director of Clinic Operations, Chief of the Contact Lens Service, and Director of Residencies at the UMSL College of Optometry. She is also on the Board of Trustees for Hannibal-LaGrange College. She is a Diplomate in the Cornea, Contact Lenses & Refractive Technologies Section of the American Academy of Optometry and, in addition to authoring three contact lens texts, has contributed chapters to seven other texts and has over 35 published articles. She was also the 2005 recipient of the campus-wide faculty Chancellor’s Award for Excellence.
Honors and Awards for 2010
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Gold Key Society

Michael Atteberry
Geneva Cleveland
Whitney Coleman
Kylie Divine
Amy Garbo
Jamie Gold
Brianne Hobbs
Shawn Yarnell

Dean's List with Honors

Justin Crowe
Amy Garbo
Brianne Hobbs
Marie Wehner
Shawn Yarnell

Dean's List

Rebecca Aspholm
Whitney Coleman
Kylie Divine
Nixon Dodd
Tina Dunkin
Angela Foshage
Jamie Gold
Jessica McEllhiney
Amanda Mesner
Jennifer Redfern
Kristen Schumer
Derek Swader
Philip Walters

UMSL College of Optometry
Well Represented at Optometry's Meeting

The College of Optometry had an outstanding representation from its student American Optometric Student Association membership at Optometry’s Meeting this past June in Orlando. In fact, over two-thirds of the Class of 2012 was present in addition to students from the other classes. Chris Boschen ('11) represented the College very well, and was a finalist in the 19th Annual Optometry Student Bowl. UMSL students and faculty came to show their support at this traditional optometry competitive event.
served optometry throughout the decades that promises to advance optometry into the next generation.

For the first time in the history of the College we began the fall semester without Dr. Leonard Neager to lead instruction in general pharmacology. He influenced the careers of our graduates and alumni for nearly 30 years and will be truly missed. We all should do as well in preparing the next generation of optometrists and vision researchers.

All the best,

Larry J. Davis, Dean

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The EYEwire is published by the Office of the Dean at the University of Missouri-St. Louis College of Optometry.

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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/EyeWire Archives.html