Message From the Dean
Don’t Forget the Story

Everyone of us is a wonder. Everyone of us has a story. Kristin Hunter

Greetings Friends and Colleagues--

Quantitative performance measures are interwoven into the fabric of 21st Century Optometric Education. How many students do you enroll? Where do your students and graduates rank among peers? How many prospective students apply to your program? What percent of your students are women? What is the representation of ethnic and racial minorities? What measures do you track in order to ensure that graduates have acquired the skills, knowledge and abilities to be ethical and competent optometrists?

Those quantitative measures of success communicate something very important about our institution, but it is the stories behind the outcomes that actually define who we are. Each individual and collective accomplishment that influences those performance measures is associated with a story…or more accurately, many stories. Like the stories we grew up with, those stories that define us are full of real life experiences…joy, challenges, opportunities, dedication, heroism, perseverance, cooperation, friendship, exhilaration and occasionally disappointment. One thing for certain is that an important story may be told about each visible accomplishment, no matter how small.

(Continued on page 3)

Paths to Graduation Present Daunting Challenges

One member of the Class of 2008 entered the optometry program a few weeks after returning from 13 months in Iraq; one graduate began the program with a five month old infant and graduated, on schedule, with a second child expected in early July; a third graduate lived for her first 21 years in Albania and overcome numerous barriers, including prolonged separations from her husband (living in Greece) and the birth of their first child during her third year of this program. For Dan Friederich, Sara Pyatt, and Eneida Hafezi, May 10th, 2008 was the beautiful culmination of a journey that was anything but calm.

Dan Friederich’s motivation toward optometry first surfaced when he volunteered for the Gateway Disabled Ski Program in St. Louis. “For three years, I helped visually impaired children learn to ski. It was a very humbling and rewarding experience, and it made me interested in pursuing a career that involves enriching the lives of others - and improving people’s vision. As time passed, I found that optometry and I were a perfect match.”

Dan's path to a career in optometry, however, took an unexpected detour. “During my sophomore year at Truman State University in February 2001, I decided to join the Missouri Army National Guard. I joined the Army not only to serve and defend our nation, but also to pay for college tuition and room and board. …During my graduating semester and three days after I found out the great news that I had been accepted into the UMSL College of Optometry, I received my orders for deployment to Iraq. For the next 13 months, I was stationed in Iraq as a truck driver in a transportation company delivering supplies all around the country. My comfortable, safe life back home with family and friends was replaced by one filled with danger, discomfort, and uncertainty. There were many moments that I thought I would not live to see my loved ones or my ‘regular’ life again. After informing UMSL about the deployment, they informed me that my spot in the College would be held until I returned. What a relief! I will always be so grateful to the College for this decision - it gave me a feeling of stability in the midst of a lot of uncertainty. I was originally told I would arrive back in the U.S. in May 2004, but this was extended to June and then again to July. With less than three weeks remaining before the 1st day of school, I finally arrived back in the U.S.”

(Continued on page 2)

Certainly the sudden adjustment
Paths to Graduation (continued from page 1)

from soldier to student must have been very traumatic. Not so according to Dan. “I gladly welcomed the necessary adjustment of soldier to student. Thousands of soldiers do not come back from Iraq alive and in good health, and I was/am so grateful that I made it back OK. …Throughout optometry school, if I ever felt stressed or discouraged, I often thought to myself, it could be much, much worse. Don’t forget exactly where you just were and what you were just doing compared to what you get to do now. This, in my opinion, definitely enhanced my academic performance. After an experience like Iraq, nothing seems too tough to handle anymore, and high pressure situations are much more easily dealt with.” This was evidenced by an excellent academic career, including the awarding of numerous scholarships, as well as the opportunity to join a prestigious private practice. “I am very pleased to be joining Drs. Ghormley, Seibel, and Brawley as an associate in their successful practice at Vision Care Consultants (VCC), a private practice here in St. Louis that, among many other things, specializes in contact lenses.”

For the typical first year optometry student, the increased number of class hours, supplemented by a more competitive student body, often results in quite a formidable adjustment to this demanding environment. Imagine initiating the optometric education journey with a five month old infant. That was the challenge presented to Sara Pyatt. She has been successful by finding that balance between family and school. “Finding a winning balance between being a parent and an optometric student has been the most challenging thing in my life. To be successful at each one is a challenge in itself! So, the combination is very stressful. My goal from the onset was to be the best mother I could, and not have any regrets about the time (or lack of time) spent with my daughter, while also striving to do my very best in optometry school. This goal proved to be more challenging than I had anticipated.”

To add to Sara’s challenges, she had to live an hour away from UMSL during her entire four years at UMSL. Her mother was her child’s primary caregiver, and Sara and her husband decided to live halfway between UMSL and her mother. This presented both time management and expense considerations to Sara and her family. “For me, this 130 mile round trip everyday to UMSL meant more expenses (~$100/wk in gas), and 2 hours out of my day driving back and forth. A typical day while in optometry school extended from 5 a.m. to 5 p.m., followed by preparing dinner/cleaning house/laundry/spending time with my daughter until her 7 or 8 p.m. bedtime, and then staying up to study until 12 or 1 a.m. This was not sufficient time set aside for studying, so most of my time over the weekend was spent studying and catching up from the previous week. I could not have succeeded without the help of my mother and my husband. While my mother cared for my child during the day, my husband helped me during the evenings and on the weekends. I owe a lot to these important people in my life, and I will always be grateful for their unending support.”

Sara and her husband planned on having a second child soon after her completion of optometry school. Her pregnancy during her fourth clinical rotation presented the expected end-of-the-day backaches and fatigue, but otherwise did not slow her down on her rotations. Baby Pyatt is due July 2, 2008 (he came early, see page 7). She plans on starting work in mid-August. Her journey - although not easy - is one that Sara Pyatt traveled very successfully. “I started optometry school with a five month old infant, and ended with a four year old pre-schooler! It was quite a journey, but I am proud to say through it all, my child has always come first. I did not want her childhood to be affected by my choice to enter such a rigorous program. Putting optometry school second is not optimum, and some of my test scores over the years may have reflected that, but all in all I feel I was able to balance both motherhood and optometry school and be successful in both endeavors.”

Imagine growing up in Albania in the 1980s. Your parents are well educated and they have high expectations for their children. You decide in elementary school that you want to become a doctor. You graduate from high school with a 4.0 Grade Point Average and - needing to finish in the top 100 of 1000 applicants to be admitted to the only medical school in Albania - you finish 20th! For Eneida Hafezi, however, her dream was rapidly turning into a nightmare. “That summer of 1997, when I was preparing for the MCAT, Albania was a complete chaos. There were unpredictable shootings everywhere and all the time; my mother and my sister almost got shot one day in our living room. Young girls, college students were kidnapped and disappeared in the middle of the day. No one could travel from one city to another because of frequent gang groups that would stop the cars and kill people. I did not get out of my house for at least three months because it was not safe. It was time for us to make the biggest and the hardest decision of our lives, to leave our country and head to the United States of America where we could make our dreams come true.”

In the United States, Eneida had to rapidly overcome both language and culture barriers; from having many friends to having no friends at all; from being in a professional program to starting over in an undergraduate program. “I felt much stressed out and disappointed at
first, but I could not go back. My only choice was to try to go forward. I graduated from Saint Louis University with a BA in Biology Degree and a Magna Cum Laude Honor in January of 2002.” Between her academic advisor and her own research, she realized that optometry was exactly the profession she was looking for. Furthermore, “I knew what school I wanted to go to. That school was the UMSL College of Optometry. My interview was on December 23, 2003 and on the same day, right after the interview, I received an email offering me a place for the class of 2008. That email meant the world to me; it was the greatest reward I could ever get for my hard work and dedication. I printed it out, I bought a frame, and to this day, that email is on my wall, and I guarantee you it will always be hanging on the wall, next to my diploma.”

Eneida’s future husband in Albania went to work in Greece while she came to the U.S. When she revisited Albania in June, 2003 he proposed to her and they were married three weeks later. The times with her husband would be too few and the separation brought heartache. “It was very, very hard leaving my husband back home, but he told me that I could not give up, that I had to follow my dream and that he would always be there for me. We were told that he would be able to join me shortly after, but it has now been five years that we have been married, and he is still not here because the Immigration process of our case is taking too long. It is very hard emotionally not having your husband there with you to celebrate your accomplishments.”

During her optometric training, Eneida was only able to travel to Albania two times a year to see her husband, whose support gave her the strength to go on. In a rigorous, demanding professional program in a relatively new country, how could Eneida’s life become more challenging? In her third year of optometry school, Eneida became the proud parent of a baby girl, Erena, once again without her husband there to share the experience of their daughter’s birth. “It is very difficult to balance being a parent and a graduate student especially when you are a “single parent” like me. I have to admit, however, that I could not have done it without the great help of my wonderful family. My mother takes care of my daughter during the day when I am in clinic, and my father, my sister and brother help in the evening whenever I am studying. My biggest challenges have been studying for the last two Boards Exams. I would come home from clinic, feed my baby, give her a bath, put her to bed, and then study until late at night, also waking up during the night with the baby. The lack of sleep made it even harder to study the next day.” Eneida also learned that her father-in-law had passed away just seven days before she was scheduled to take the NBEO Part Three examination. She could not go home to be with her husband. “Immigration office informed me that if I went back I might not be able to come back to the US. Knowing my situation, my husband and his family called me and told me that I could not put nine years of sacrifice at risk.”

She does not, however, regret her decision to pursue optometry. “Overall I enjoyed the time I spent at UMSL. I loved the opportunity that the school and Dr. Harris gave me to complete one clinical rotation in Albania. That was also a great opportunity for me to go and spend some time with my husband and other family, and a great opportunity for my husband to see his daughter for the first time. I have already accepted a job offer here in St. Louis, MO. I have to thank Dr. Brown for the wonderful job she does helping students find jobs. As much as I would love to stay in the US, if my husband is not able to join me in the near future, our daughter and I have to join him, so that we can be one happy family.”

Every member of the Class of 2008 can be very proud of reaching their goal of becoming a Doctor of Optometry. For Dan Friederich, Sara Pyatt, and Eneida Hafezi the hurdles were many and set very high as they pursued their optometric school journey. These three special graduates not only reached their destination, they reached it with academic excellence, with great pride, and with a sense of tremendous achievement.

---

Message From the Dean

(Continued from page 1)

Everyone, every institution, every organization, every practice has a story. Those stories are critically important to recognize and appreciate who we are and to remember the experiences that influenced us along the way. When we concentrate solely on the typical measures of success we risk losing the story and the ability to fully recognize the significance of our achievements. Stories are not only more interesting but they also serve as important points of connection: the past with the present; the familiar with the unknown; the potential with the proven; the possible with the impossible. We would welcome the opportunity to share the stories that have helped to define your success. Your stories may be forwarded to our editor, Dr. Edward Bennett ebennett@umsl.edu or myself ljdevi@umsl.edu. Thank you for contributing to our story.

All the best,

Larry J. Davis, Dean
Class of 2008 Graduation: A Beautiful Celebration for a Very Deserving Class

On May 10, 2008, in a magnificent setting, the crown jewel of UMSL's campus, the Blanche Touhill Center, the UMSL College of Optometry held its graduation ceremony in front of a nearly full theatre. The exceptional sounds of vocalist Elizabeth Smith and the UMSL Symphonic Band, led by conductor Gary Brandes, set the tone for what would be a very exciting and fulfilling evening as 37 members of the Class of 2008 received their Doctor of Optometry degree from Chancellor Tom George and Dean Larry Davis. Although several graduates distinguished themselves via receiving scholarships and other honors during this spectacular ceremony, without a doubt, the most significant moment for each of our featured guests, was the calling of their name, the symbolic hooding process and the conferring of their degree, all in front of loved ones, many of whom had traveled long distances to share in this special moment. This was a happy ending which represented the culmination of a lengthy, rigorous and sometimes stressful journey.

The commencement speaker is one of the most influential optometric leaders in the world, Dr. Linda Casser. Dr. Casser is currently Associate Executive Director of Clinical Examinations for the National Board of Examiners in Optometry and is the past Associate Dean for Academic Programs at the Pacific University College of Optometry. Author of numerous texts, she is also a past recipient of the Indiana Optometric Association “OD of the Year” award as well as 1997 American Optometric Association “Optometrist of the Year.” Her address inspired the Class of 2008 to demonstrate excellence in patient care, to be a leader to both patients and in the community and, finally, to seek happiness in their personal life. Her comments were very poignant. “It is my sincere pleasure to welcome you to this vibrant profession as Doctors of Optometry. Today is also a celebration of your dedication and commitment. Your lives have been enriched forever; you now have the opportunity to continue to enrich the lives of others in very special and unique ways. Your patients will be counting on you to be the best Doctor of Optometry you can be. Please do all that you can to deserve the stature in which they will hold you, both personally and professionally. In my view, excellence in patient care is the minimum standard. I interpret the word leadership very broadly—it is not a position or title; it is how we live our lives—communicating, decision-making, role modeling, demonstrating sound judgment, being appropriately proactive, living a life of integrity and caring, possessing character, doing the right thing. We need leadership in all walks of life and in all of our relationships. I advocate for excellence, continued dedication, and hard work in your professional lives, and I am confident that this approach will provide an enormous source of satisfaction and fulfillment to each of you. At the same time, I encourage you not to miss the moments of happiness in your personal lives. I offer my sincerest congratulations to the profession's newest Doctors of Optometry, the members of the Class of 2008. You are in an enviable position today—for most, this is the endpoint of your formal academic career yet boundless additional opportunities lie ahead to provide excellence in patient care, to demonstrate leadership in all that you do, and to experience life's countless moments of happiness. I applaud you for everything that you have accomplished; I look forward to all that you will do, and all that you will become.”

Dr. Rex Newcomb, a graduate of the UMSL College of Optometry Class of 1984, and a past president of the Missouri Optometric Association, encouraged the graduates to represent their profession well and give back to their profession, including the UMSL College of Optometry. “You and your colleagues have embarked in one of the best, if not the best health care professions. As a practicing optometrist in Missouri, I welcome you to OPTOMETRY “The Primary Eye Care Profession.” The best years of your life lay ahead of you. Optometry is a profession that gives back to you each day. It's not a job. It's not even work. It's a profession. You might be asking yourself, “What is the difference?” A job is something you go to do for money, go home, and leave it behind you. A profession is something that you live out. It's a way of life. You have now chosen to become leaders of your communities, civic organizations, your churches or synagogues, and who knows, there may even be a few political leaders sitting behind me. You now take on the duty of giving back to that which will give so dearly to you. It's estimated the income that you will achieve because of your education here at the University of Missouri - St. Louis College of Optometry will allow you to make more than 95% of the entire population of the world. Being a professional means you will strive to make everything you encounter, better than when you found it. For you see, you are no

(Continued on page 8)
Class of 2010 Honored at the 9TH Annual White Coat Ceremony

There are three significant events in the optometric educational journey: the first is the date on which an offer of admission is made; the third and final is the day of graduation. The intermediate or second significant event is the day clinical privileges are awarded. For 42 members of the Class of 2010, May 8th, 2008 was the day they were awarded their white coat, symbolic of having the privilege of providing direct patient care. A record number of friends and family attended the ceremony held at the J.C. Penney auditorium.

The introductory remarks, provided eloquently by Dr. Linda Casser, reminded the Class of 2010, not only of the significance of this occasion, but also the responsibilities associated with it. “You are now successfully half-way through a rigorous and comprehensive professional academic program. Upon the conferring of your degree in another two short years, you will be Doctors of Optometry. Do your best to strive for excellence in patient care, integrating and applying all that you have learned to this point and what you will continue to learn over the course of your academic and professional careers. I encourage you to work confidently and proactively with your attending faculty and preceptors to learn from and interact with them as much as you can---before you know it you will be providing care independently as licensed practitioners and will have fewer individuals to call upon for guidance and input. I wish you the very best continued success in what lies ahead. You are in an enviable position today---you have completed a substantial component of your program, yet boundless additional opportunities lie ahead to provide excellence in patient care and to demonstrate leadership in all that you do.”

For these 42 clinicians, the past two years of the stresses associated with a rigorous academic program accompanied by the performance of countless practice examinations ultimately resulted in demonstrating sufficient proficiency to provide direct patient care. Congratulations to the members of the Class of 2010 for their successful attainment of this very important privilege.

NEWS & NOTES

Dr. William “Bill” Scoggin (’86), of Camdenton, Missouri, passed away on Friday, May 23, 2008 after a long and courageous battle with cancer. To the best of our knowledge, Bill’s passing, sorrowfully, is the College of Optometry’s first loss among our alumni. He will be missed as a caring friend and a compassionate clinician. Our thoughts are with Dr. Diana (nee Meade) Scoggin (’86) and Bill’s family at this sad and difficult time. There will be forthcoming opportunities to contribute to an award in his memory in the coming months.

W. Gary Bachman, O.D., M.S., W. Howard McAlister, O.D., M.A., M.P.H., Jeffrey L. Weaver, O.D., M.S. and Timothy A. Wingert, O.D. made several presentations at the World Council of Optometry meeting in London, England in April: “Flattening the Optometric World through the Use of Web-Based Education” (Drs. Wingert, Bachman); “Optometric Clinical Practice Guidelines: Defining Optometric Care in the United States” (Drs. Weaver, McAlister, Wingert poster); “Board Certification, Competence Assessment and Specialization in Optometry: A History of the Issues in the United States” (Dr. Weaver poster); and “The Use of Inter-Country Exchanges to Broader Optometric Education” (Dr. Wingert poster with Bogdan Miskowiak, M.D., Ph.D., Univ. of Medical Sciences, Poznan, Poland and Joseph Pizzimenti, O.D., Nova Southeastern University College of Optometry).

Upcoming Continuing Education Events ....

Illinois Ocular Therapeutic Agents - Aug 16 & 17, 2008
Acadame - Oral Agents Update - Aug 17, 2008
http://optometry.umsl.edu

---

News & Notes

Dr. William “Bill” Scoggin (’86), of Camdenton, Missouri, passed away on Friday, May 23, 2008 after a long and courageous battle with cancer. To the best of our knowledge, Bill’s passing, sorrowfully, is the College of Optometry’s first loss among our alumni. He will be missed as a caring friend and a compassionate clinician. Our thoughts are with Dr. Diana (nee Meade) Scoggin (’86) and Bill’s family at this sad and difficult time. There will be forthcoming opportunities to contribute to an award in his memory in the coming months.

W. Gary Bachman, O.D., M.S., W. Howard McAlister, O.D., M.A., M.P.H., Jeffrey L. Weaver, O.D., M.S. and Timothy A. Wingert, O.D. made several presentations at the World Council of Optometry meeting in London, England in April: “Flattening the Optometric World through the Use of Web-Based Education” (Drs. Wingert, Bachman); “Optometric Clinical Practice Guidelines: Defining Optometric Care in the United States” (Drs. Weaver, McAlister, Wingert poster); “Board Certification, Competence Assessment and Specialization in Optometry: A History of the Issues in the United States” (Dr. Weaver poster); and “The Use of Inter-Country Exchanges to Broader Optometric Education” (Dr. Wingert poster with Bogdan Miskowiak, M.D., Ph.D., Univ. of Medical Sciences, Poznan, Poland and Joseph Pizzimenti, O.D., Nova Southeastern University College of Optometry).

Upcoming Continuing Education Events ....

Illinois Ocular Therapeutic Agents - Aug 16 & 17, 2008
Acadame - Oral Agents Update - Aug 17, 2008
http://optometry.umsl.edu
NEWS & NOTES

Drs. Ed Bennett and Vinita Henry ('85) were on the faculty of the 47th Annual Heart of America Contact Lens and Primary Care Congress, February, 2008 in Kansas City, MO.

At the annual meeting of the Armed Forces Optometric Society, Dr. William H. McAlister received the Reserve Forces Optometrist of the Year award.

Drs. Tim Wingert and Howard McAlister have been appointed as Fellows in the Center for International Studies for the 2008-2009 academic year.

Several faculty members will be presenting posters at the AOA Annual Meeting in Seattle in June 2008: “An Episode of Optometric Support in Operation Iraqi Freedom” – W. Howard McAlister, O.D., M.A., M.P.H., Timothy A. Wingert, O.D., Jeffrey L. Weaver, O.D., M.S., and Richard C. Schlievert ('09) and “Successful Management of Two Cases of Reduced Stereopsis in Highway Patrol Applicants” – W. Gary Bachman, O.D., M.S. Ed Bennett, O.D., M.S.Ed. will be presenting two continuing education courses pertaining to GP case grand rounds.

More accolades for our 2008 alums: The Class of 2008 had a 100% pass rate (37/37) on both NBEO Part II and the TMOD examinations. Congratulations to our graduates for a job well done.

Please join us in congratulating Dan Friederich, Brett Sobieralski and Mavis Armbruster, who were selected as 2008 award recipients by the AOA. Well done everyone! Your UMSL family is very proud of your accomplishments.

UMSL Residency Graduate Distinguishes Himself on Wall Street

It seems as though every time you open a leading optometric journal, his name appears. Whether it’s authoring an article on trends in the ophthalmic industry for Optometric Management or his annual report on contact lens company growth and future predictions for Contact Lens Spectrum, it is quite evident that the opinions of Dr. Jeff Johnson are highly coveted and, in fact, he is the leading ophthalmic financial analyst in the country. What may be a well kept secret, however, is that the UMSL College of Optometry played a role in paving the way for his very successful - albeit nontraditional - optometric career path.

Jeff graduated from the Illinois College of Optometry with honors in 1997. He had a definite plan in mind upon graduation. “I feel it is important to build relationships that will provide a path to my future success. I wanted to associate with someone successful in the cornea and contact lens industry with the hope that this would open doors for me down the road. The UMSL College of Optometry had an international reputation in the area of contact lenses and I felt that by accepting the Cornea and Contact Lens Residency position, I would lay the foundation for a future career. In fact, it was while I was attending the Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Optometry - a benefit of my residency program - that I had the opportunity to interact with the Director of the Contact Lens Clinic at the Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary. The dialogue initiated at this meeting resulted in my selection for a prestigious position in their refractive department. This allowed me to develop a positive relationship with the department and ultimately resulted in a faculty position at Harvard University. I also felt prepared to associate in a research capacity and ultimately was lead author on several articles published in peer-reviewed journals.”

After three years at Harvard, Jeff was looking for a new opportunity where his background could be utilized to meet new challenges. This resulted in his acceptance into the Northwestern University Kellogg School of Management, currently the number one ranked business school in the country. While he was completing his M.B.A. degree at Kellogg, he spent a summer interning at Robert W. Baird & Associates, a prestigious Wall Street firm, located in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. This resulted in a job offer and Jeff has now been associated with this firm for over six years and currently holds the position of Vice-President and Senior Research Analyst - Medical Technology. It was evident that they were pleased with his work ethic, dedication and knowledge level and he was equally impressed with his decision to be associated with this company. “This was the only Wall Street firm of note that covered eye care/ophthalmic stocks at that time and after four years as an associate at Baird, I assumed the senior leadership position covering medical devices. My coverage universe includes ophthalmic, orthopedic implant, dental, and radiation therapy stocks and it is my job to make buy, sell or hold recommendations regarding these stocks to large institutional money managers throughout the world. Basically, it is my job to know everything about these companies, including their strengths, weaknesses, and earnings potential.”

(Continued on page 7)
The College of Optometry Collaborates With the College of Education in the Pupil Project

There are endless benefits associated with collaboration in any form. A very important such collaboration, positively impacting the lives of many young people is the Pupil Project. This program, initiated in 2002, combines the expertise and resources of members of the College of Optometry and College of Education faculty in the management of learning-related vision problems. A team of optometrists, school psychologists, special educators and physical therapists provide optometric, psychological and educational clinical evaluation, diagnosis and remediation for children with learning-related vision problems. Over 200 students to date have benefited from the Pupil Project, most of whom had failed with traditional school interventions. According to Dean Larry Davis, this program is invaluable in serving the needs of children in this area. “The Pupil Project has restored hope for many families of children throughout the St. Louis region. It serves as an excellent example of the positive impact and synergy that can result from an interdisciplinary approach to challenging problems.”

The Pupil Project has also resulted in fostering other collaborative programs between these two Colleges. A new cooperative Ph.D. program with a focus area of Learning Related Vision Problems was initiated this past year. This represents the only program in the United States that is jointly sponsored between a College of Optometry and a College of Education.

UMSL Residency Graduate

(Continued from page 6)

Jeff and his wife Mary live in Milwaukee with their two children Daisy (3) and Lincoln (1). Their third child is due in October. It is evident that Dr. Jeff Johnson’s very successful career is a result of hard work, dedication and intelligence. However, he credits an important part of his success to the time he spent at UMSL. “One of the best decisions I have ever made in my life was to accept the Cornea and Contact Lens Residency position at the UMSL College of Optometry.”

NEWS & NOTES

Congratulations to all the College of Optometry residents for successfully completing their programs:

• Kimberly Ann Layfield, O.D.
• Blaire S. O’Brien, O.D.
• Carrie C. Wright, O.D.
• Austin C. Krohn, O.D.
• Yun-Ping Moore, O.D.
• Ashley Rone, O.D.
• Breanne Michelle Niebuhr, O.D.
• Anthony P. DeWilde, O.D.
• Amy L. Langford, O.D.

Congratulations to Dr. Blaire O’Brien, ‘07, and her husband on the birth of Hannah Elizabeth. She was born on May 3, 2008 at 5:15 a.m. She was 7 pounds even and 20.25 inches long.

Congratulations to Dr. Sara Pyatt, ‘08, (see related story on page 2) and her husband on the birth of their second child. Carter Joseph Pyatt was born on Friday, June 13, 2008 at 9:38 p.m. and was 6 pounds 11 ounces and 19.75 in long. Best wishes to you!
longer a user of the system which you are becoming a part of…rather you are now a mender and a healer. You are going to be expected, and I believe, rightfully so, to join your State Optometric Associations, the American Optometric Association, and even local Optometric Societies. These are your voices in government, and like it or not, we are a governed profession. Consider your dues as your maintenance agreements for your profession. Join and be active. Be proud of the profession you have taken on. Likewise, give as you can to the various scholarships through organizations like the Missouri Optometric Foundation, or directly through the College of Optometry. It is only through the proliferation of alumni and their gifts that these scholarships will continue to grow.”

“Remember, as a professional, it's no longer the obvious question, “How will my actions impact my life?” You now have to ask yourself, “How will my actions impact my profession or even the perception of my profession?” Do nothing to embarrass yourself or your peers. Be active, be generous, and be supportive. Go forward with your careers and serve the profession of optometry proudly. We have a great heritage. It is now upon your shoulders that the future of optometry will rest, and I charge you to serve it with pride and dignity. Thank you, and Good Luck in your future!”

The UMSL College has been the beneficiary of the Class of 2008 via their academic and clinical performance, their unity, and their leadership. We wish them all the success in the world as our future role models and as our future leaders.

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

Dr. Edward Bennett, Editor
EBennett@umsl.edu

Janice White, Designer
janice.white@umsl.edu

Dr. Larry J. Davis, Dean
ljdavis@umsl.edu

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