

From the Dean

The More that Things Change...

To Our Alumni and Friends--

This fall marks the third September that I have served as dean in the School of Optometry. Each year I am excited about the opportunity to observe another class of wide-eyed and enthusiastic first year students enter our program. Only commencement surpasses the significance of this event. What is in store for these future optometrists?

No doubt by now you are aware of the "Big" announcements that have rippled through the University of Missouri System in recent months. First, the large cut to the base budget for higher education although old news is a harsh reality that continues to have an impact upon the decisions across not only the U.M.-System but also all institutions of higher education in Missouri. One result is that students and parents will face increased costs to attend colleges and universities in Missouri. Another important decision is that the leadership for the University of Missouri System will soon change. It is expected that a replacement for President Manuel Pacheco will be named before the end of 2002. Some in the media are speculating that the next University president may be less of an academic with more experience in the political and public service sector than in higher education. Third, Blanche Touhill, Chancellor of the St. Louis campus will retire at the end of this calendar year following a notable 12-year period as Chancellor, and one

(Continued on page 2)

New Dean of UM-St. Louis School of Optometry Appointed

By Tom Hockett



Dr. Larry J. Davis

Dr. Larry Davis has accepted an appointment as dean of the School of Optometry at the University of Missouri-St. Louis. His appointment became effective July 15, 2002.

"Leadership requires such a diverse and largely intangible set of skills," Davis said. "I am humbled by the opportunity to serve in this capacity."

Davis is an associate professor of optometry at UM-St. Louis and has been a member of the school's faculty since 1993. From April 2000 until his appointment as dean, he served as act-

ing dean, then interim dean, in place of former dean Dr. Jack Bennett, who passed away in May 2000.

Under Davis' leadership, the faculty, staff and administration completed a comprehensive self-study that included developing a new strategic-and-outcomes-assessment plan and a review and revision of the school's administrative structure, process and procedures.

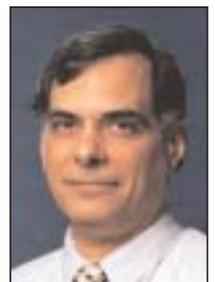
In February, the Accreditation Council on Optometric Education extended unconditional accreditation to the school through November 2008. Accreditation followed a successful site visit to the school in November. According to the ACOE, accreditation means the school has met the council's standards of educational effectiveness and has shown a commitment to quality assessment and improvement.

(Continued on page 4)

CDC Grant Received to Fund "Every Child Ready to See and Learn"

The School of Optometry has received a \$222,522 grant award from the Division of Adolescent & School Programs in the Center for Disease Control. The study will enhance our awareness of eye and vision abnormalities in school age children in the St. Louis metropolitan area and help to identify strategies to better manage them. As Principal Investigator, Dr. Ralph Garzia, Assistant Dean for Clinical Programs, will direct the project, "Every Child Ready to See and Learn". Under his leadership, clinical faculty and students will bring direct vision care to area schools, thereby addressing accessibility of services and

cost of care concerns which have been identified as issues restricting caregivers' abilities to meet healthcare needs of their families. In addition, the grant will facilitate development of a rich database in order to study relationships between vision problems, student engagement and academic performance in children from diverse ethnic, racial and socioeconomic backgrounds.



Dr. Ralph P. Garzia

School Briefs

Alumni



Dr. **Jennifer (Wise) Bodley** ('97) and her husband, Chris would like to announce the birth of their son, Logan Christopher Bodley. He was born on March 15, 2002. He was 8 lbs 8 oz and 20 3/4 inches. The Bodley family lives in Las Vegas and would love to hear from any old friends who come through "Sin City." Good Luck!

Dr. **Melissa (Benson) Brown** ('00) was married on June 29, 2001 and moved to Joplin, Missouri.

Drs. James and **Kristy** ('95) **Porter** and big sister Krislyn, are proud to announce the birth of Kaitlyn Elizabeth. She was born May 13, 2002 in Newburgh, IN. She weighed 8 lbs 9 oz and was 20.5 inches long. Additionally, James recently became Vice President of Medical Affairs at Deaconess Hospital in Evanston, IN. Congratulations to the entire Porter Family!

Dr. **Jennifer Sortor** ('98) married Robert Waller on April 20, 2002 in Springfield, Illinois. Congratulations!

Dr. **Susan (Nolte) Rollenhagen** ('99) and husband Jon Rollenhagen, announce the birth of their first baby, Elizabeth Genevieve, born on April 25, 2001. The couple works in and is building a house in Topeka, KS.

(School Briefs continued on page 3)

Beta Sigma Kappa Tops Scholarship Goal

By Barbara Willis Brown, OD

Forty members of the optometric honorary society Beta Sigma Kappa gave up an evening during the week of September 23rd to call alumni/ae to raise money for scholarships. The goal was to raise \$3,000 for in-need scholarships. This goal would provide six \$500 scholarships next semester for students having the most financial need. At the writing of this article, six scholarships will be provided, with the possibility of more! Daily additional alumni/ae are phoning in to make a pledge toward the scholarships. While the alumnus/a was encouraged to give to any scholarship accepting gifts, indigent eyecare was offered as well. Additionally, the BSK members updated alumni/ae files and records so that accurate information is maintained for mailing and email transmissions.

It is possible that their very hard work will pay off with an endowment of another scholarship. An endowment

of a scholarship allows the scholarship to provide funding to students in perpetuity by using only the interest earned and leaving the principal invested. The School currently has several endowed scholarships for third and fourth year students, only one for a first year student and one for a second year student. The alumna and alumnus considering establishing this endowment are interested in closing the gap in scholarship availability for entering students.

The largest endowment has been established by Dr. Edward (1994) and Mrs. Carroll Bellingrath. Their scholarship provides three \$1,000 scholarships a year. Additionally, the School has one endowment to assist with low vision care. If you are interested in establishing an endowment for use as a scholarship or to help with indigent eyecare, please contact Dr. Barbara Brown (1988) at 314-516-6030 or at BrownBW@umsl.edu.

From the Dean (cont. from page 1)

that has been defined by growth, expansion and the establishment of U.M. St Louis as a major regional institution. Each of the above changes will have an impact upon the School of Optometry—to what degree only time will tell.

No matter what changes are in store, our Mission will not change. The faculty, staff and administration will continue to pursue excellence in teaching, research, patient care and service; we will recruit and enroll the highest qualified students; we will seek to provide affordable and outstanding basic science and clinical education within our professional and graduate degree programs; we will seek to contribute new knowledge through our expanding research activities; we will provide outstanding and compassionate clinical care for our patients; and we will seek to serve our students, our patients, our community and each other with distinction. That cannot change.

Lastly, thanks go out to our committed faculty, staff, students, alumni and friends for their dedication to this program—a commitment that I will seek to sustain.

... *the more they remain the same.*

Best Regards,
Larry J. Davis, OD
Dean

A Patient's Guide to Orthokeratology Non-Surgical Vision Improvement

By Dr. Bruce Morgan

Can you imagine the joy of waking up in the morning and not having to wear glasses or contact lenses during the day? It would free you up for a host of activities that you may otherwise avoid because of your need to wear glasses or contact lenses.

There is a revolutionary non-surgical contact lens treatment that improves your natural vision in a matter of hours. This new medical method is called Orthokeratology, or Ortho-K, and it works. Ortho-K is safe, rapid, and effective. Your nearsightedness and astigmatism may improve dramatically the day after your first fitting with the new Ortho-K therapy. The Ortho-K procedure is achieved in a unique way, with the wearing of specially designed contact lenses. These lenses are custom designed to gently change the shape of your cornea (the front curvature of your eye) to safely and gently improve your vision. The best analogy for Ortho-K is "orthodontics for the eye". The corneal shape is altered by the gentle pressure from custom designed contact lenses. When the force is removed, the cornea "remembers" the shape, but slowly returns to its original curvature.

This marvelous new method of vision improvement is accomplished most often over a period of days or several weeks to attain better vision.

Ortho-K is safe, effective, and best of all, non-surgical and reversible.

Most of the visual changes that occur rapidly with Ortho-K happen in the first few days and weeks. Because of the rapid improvement in vision, there is a need for frequent examinations during the initial phase of treatment. Following the accelerated change to better vision, stabilization procedures then follow at a slower pace over the next few months. Most patients achieve significant results in the first week. Once maximum results are attained, retainer wear is initiated. Retainer contact lenses are worn as necessary to stabilize the results. If lens wear is discontinued, the cornea will simply return to its original shape within a few weeks.

Many of the risks associated with Orthokeratology are the same as those for traditional contact lenses. Because the patient is monitored very closely, these risks are minimized.

In general, the ideal candidate for Ortho-K has nearsightedness that does not exceed 4.00 diopters or astigmatism greater than 1.50 diopters. Candidates must have healthy corneas and people with certain medical conditions or women who are pregnant may not be good candidates for Orthokeratology.

School Briefs



Congratulations go out to Dr. **Mitzi Herndon** ('02) and Dr. **Brad Lewis** ('02) who were married this past summer. Photo submitted by proud dad and alumnus, Dr. **Lynn Herndon** ('84).

Dr. **Ellen L. Weiss** ('92) is serving as the secretary/treasurer of the Nebraska Optometric Association, and will be the 2003 Vice-President.

Dr. **Rebecca Wartman** ('87) is the first female to serve as president (served as President 2001-2002, now immediate past president) of the North Carolina Optometric Association.

Dr. **Bryan Bowen** (Class of 2001) has joined the Optometry Department at the Veterans Administration Medical Center in Poplar Bluff, MO, after completing his residency at the Fayetteville VAMC. Best of luck Bryan!



Introducing . . . Savannah Mimi Maa! This adorable six month old is the daughter of Dr. **Salena Pho** ('01) and Rin Maa. Great photo!

(School Briefs continued on page 4)

March 5-7

UM-St. Louis School of Optometry &
The Ophthalmic Education Institute presents

Las Vegas

18 hours CE including
9 hours Certified/Transcript Quality Courses

Flamingo Las Vegas Hotel

Tuition \$398.00 includes lunches and breaks

2003

School Briefs



Dr. **Lawrence Ernst** ('90) had a real crash at his office recently, and wanted to share with fellow alumni and alumnae what it looks like when a patient hits the gas instead of the brakes and runs into his waiting room. Drive-thru optometry?

Faculty

The Office of Research Administration announced that Dr. **Ralph Garzia** has been awarded \$222,522 for "Every Child Ready to See and Learn" by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The funding opportunity was facilitated by Dr. **Barbara W. Brown** ('88).

Drs. **Ed Bennett**, **John Crane**, and **Vinita Henry** attended a Ciba Educator's Workshop on April 18-21, 2002. Dr. Crane won a \$2,000 scholarship for a UM-St. Louis student.

Dr. **Ed Bennett** was quoted in a FitDV.com story about accelerated orthokeratology, a vision treatment that utilizes rigid contact lenses to reshape the cornea to improve vision. Dr. Bennett tests accelerated orthokeratology lenses for the Food and Drug Administration.

Dr. **Ed Bennett** was awarded "Teacher of the Year" by the optometry students at the annual EyeBall Banquet on October 18, 2002.

(School Briefs continued on page 5)

Dr. Jeff Walline Visits UM-St. Louis School of Optometry

Jeff Walline, O.K., Ph.D. from the Ohio State University—College of Optometry presented a noon seminar for us entitled "Contact Lens and Myopia Prevention on October 3, 2002. Dr. Walline is a graduate of the University of California at Berkeley—School of Optometry (O.D.)



Dr. Jeff Walline

and the Ohio State University—College of Optometry (Ph.D.) He is a past recipient of the American Optometric Foundation Ezell Fellowship Award. His research on the prevention of myopia in children is currently funded by the National Eye Institute.

New Dean of UM-St. Louis School of Optometry Appointed

(Continued from page 1)

"We will continue to take the necessary steps to pursue continuous personal process and people improvement as we strive for excellence in teaching, research, patient care and service," Davis said.

Before joining UM-St. Louis, Davis was an assistant professor of ophthalmology at the Saint Louis University School of Medicine.

He earned his optometry degree in 1987 from Indiana University and completed a residency in cornea and contact lenses at UM-St. Louis in 1988.

He's a Diplomate of the Cornea and Contact Lens Section of the American

Academy of Optometry and principal investigator for one of 15 participating clinics in the Collaborative Longitudinal Evaluation of Keratoconus study that runs through 2004. Davis is active in a number of professional organizations, including the American Academy of Optometry and the Missouri Optometric Association. He's also a past president of the Saint Louis Optometric Society.

His awards include UM-St. Louis' 1999 Outstanding Optometric Educator of the Year and the Saint Louis Optometric Society's 2002 Distinguished Optometrist of the Year.



Student Affairs Coordinator Sharon L. Davis Retires

After 34 years of service to the University of Missouri-St. Louis, Sharon Davis deservedly surrendered herself to The Good Life and retired from the School of Optometry in September 2002. Virtually all alums of the School of Optometry will remember Sharon, who started her career with the School of Optometry in 1980 as the first staff member. She has served as lead staff member and Coordinator of the School's Office of Student Affairs, contributing much to our recruiting efforts and to the development and ongoing implementation of services for optometry students on campus. Sharon assisted 17 graduating classes including over 650 students who successfully completed their O.D. degrees. Sharon was honored at a retirement reception hosted by the School in late August 2002, where she was recognized with a plaque commemorating her years of service, and presented with a compilation of photos collected over the years.

UM-St. Louis Signs Eye-Care Pact with Southern Illinois Lions

UM-St. Louis Optometry School to Care for Low-Income Residents

Low-income residents living in southern Illinois have greater access to eye-care following the signing of an agreement between the School of Optometry at the University of Missouri-St. Louis and the Lions Club Regional Eye-Care Committee.

The two-page, indefinite agreement lays out the specific provisions for the school to provide eye-care for low-income residents referred by the committee to the school.

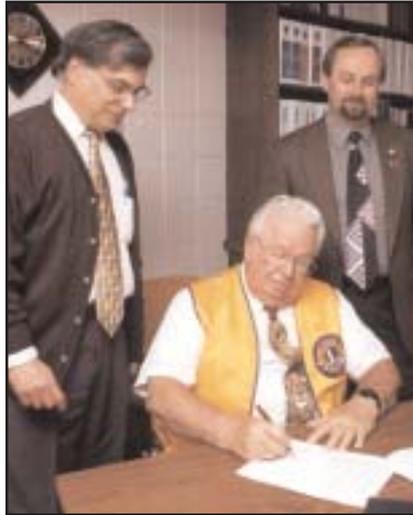
"This agreement is an opportunity for students, faculty, staff and administrators at the School of Optometry to work with the Regional Eye-Care Committee in order to assist people who, if it were not for the program, might not receive the eye-care they need," said Dr. Larry Davis, dean of the optometry school.

The committee represents a union of about 800 Lions Club members. Clubs that belong to the committee are: Belleville, Cahokia, Carlyle, Caseyville, Centralia, Collinsville, Lebanon, Mascoutah, Mt. Carmel, Mt. Vernon, Nashville, New Baden, Fairview Heights, Okawville, Olney, St. Jacob, Smithton, Swansea, Troy, Valmeyer, Waterloo, and Woodriver.

According to Jack Stults, committee chair and member of the Mt. Vernon club, the committee has raised about \$25,000 annually over the last three years, and since the committee's inception, nearly 50 low-income patients have received eye surgery throughout its efforts.

"The committee enables individual clubs to pool their funding and provide more eye-care for a greater number of people," Stults said. "One club could not afford to do this alone."

The Lions Club Regional Eye-Care Committee screens applicants for financial eligibility and refers patients to UM-St. Louis' School of Optometry.



Pictured (left to right) are: Dr. Ralph Garzia, assistant dean for clinical programs at the School of Optometry at the University of Missouri-St. Louis; Jack Stults, chair of the Lions Club Regional Eye-Care Committee and member of the Lions Club in Mt. Vernon, IL; and Dr. Larry Davis, dean of the optometry school.

Faculty and students at one of six eye-care centers staffed by the school throughout the St. Louis area will then provide services.

Eye-care services include: comprehensive examinations, eyeglasses, disease treatment and prevention, surgery referral and pre-and post-operative care.

The agreement was signed May 28, 2002 at UM-St. Louis' School of Optometry in north St. Louis County. Attending the signing with Davis and Stults, were: Leroy Gruber, co-founder of the eye-care committee and member of the Fairview Heights club; Dr. Ray Myers, clinical associate professor at the school; and Dr. Ralph Garzia, assistant dean for clinical programs at the school.

School Briefs

Dr. and Mrs. **Ralph Garzia** are the proud grandparents of their new granddaughter, Rosalie Mary Garzia who was born to their son Nicholas and his wife Karen on July 14, 2002.

Dr. **Larry Brown** ('95) and his wife Pauline, would like to announce the newest addition to their family, son William Joseph, born on August 23, 2002. William weighed in at 8 lbs., 6 oz. Dorothy and Eleanore are excited about their younger brother.

Dr. **Lisa** (Berry) **Dibler** ('93) and her husband Lindsay along with big brother Luke and big sister Lane, would like to announce the addition of a brand new baby boy, Lincoln Phillip Dibler who was born April 7, 2002 and weighed in at 9 lbs., 6 oz.

Dr. **Paula Johnson** and her husband Bobby would like to announce the birth of their second son, Parker Dylan, who was born on June 27, 2002, and weighed in at 7 lbs. 11 oz. Big brother Drew is very proud!

Accreditation Acknowledgement

In her State of the University speech, given September 18, 2002, Chancellor Blanch Touhill stated, "...The School of Optometry has received an extension of its accreditation from the Accreditation Council on Optometric Education. In its report, the assessment team wrote, 'The Council is impressed by the considerable and focused effort on the part of the dean and administration, faculty, staff and students.' The assessment team was delighted with the school's push toward the future and so am I.

"Following a very successful term as interim dean, Larry Davis was named dean of the School of Optometry. As I mentioned earlier, Larry was instrumental in leading the school toward its re-accreditation...."

Calendar 2002-03

October

- 10-13 MOA Annual Convention
- 10 Optometry Advisory Board Meeting at MOA
- 11 Alum Reception at MOA
- 14 Columbus Day
- 15-17 Practice Management Seminar
- 20-23 AAO Annual Meeting
- 21 Fall II Externship begins
- 22-26 Annual COVD Meeting
- 28 Pre-Absence Request and Post-Absence Follow-up form due for board exams
- 31 Halloween



November

- 7 Ramadhan
- 26 Thanksgiving Holiday begins 11:00 p.m.
- 28 Thanksgiving
- 30 Hanukkah



December

- 2 Classes resume 8:00 a.m.
- 10-11 NBEO Exam Retake Part II Clinical Science All 4th years
- 10-11 Intensive Study Days
- 11 Classes end 11:00 p.m.
- 11-12 NBEO Exam Retake Part I Basic Science All 3rd years
- 12 Final Examinations Begin
- 12-16 AAO Annual Meeting in San Diego, CA
- 20 Fall Semester closes end of day
- 25 Christmas
- 26 Kwanza



January

- 1 New Years Day
- 12 Fall Commencement
- 13 Class work begins 8:00 a.m.
- 20 Dr. Martin Luther King Holiday



The EyeWire is published by the Office of the Dean at the University of Missouri-St. Louis School of Optometry. Please send news and address changes to:

Janice White, Editor & Designer
 School of Optometry, UM-St. Louis,
 8001 Natural Bridge Road,
 St. Louis, MO 63121-4499
 Tel: (314) 516-5566
 Fax: (314) 516-6708
 E-Mail: janice.white@umsl.edu

Contributors: Dr. Larry Davis, Julie Gram, Barbara Nahlik, Maria Taylor, Dr. Barbara W. Brown, Tom Hockett

Dean: Larry J. Davis, O.D.

We have two new email addresses for the convenience of the alumni and friends. Feel free to update us on any happenings in your professional or personal life.

EyeWire@umsl.edu
Optometry@umsl.edu

Visit our web site at:
www.umsl.edu/~optometry.html

NOTE:

The EyeWire can be delivered directly to your email address.

Please assist us by sending your email address to optometry@umsl.edu and enter EyeWire in the subject heading.

Our preferred method of publishing many school documents is via the web. This format allows us to reduce printing and mailing costs, while at the same time increase the quality of our publications.

Please assist us in our continued efforts to maintain communication with alumni and friends. A limited number of paper copies will continue to be available. If you desire to remain on the regular mailing list, please indicate such by phone, email or written correspondence. (Please see top of page)

Thank you for your cooperation!

