

From the Dean

Is your reflection bright?

Dear Friends:

Each year, as we interview potential applicants, I am reminded of the things that attract eager students to our great profession. A desire to have some autonomy with work or attractive working hours compared to other health care professionals, are two common reasons applicants give. Another reason expressed by many, is a desire to assist others with their precious gift of sight.

One important potential recruitment factor takes no effort. Our patients, staff and guests to our practices are constantly watching how we approach our work. Do they see that person who presented as an applicant to optometric education, so enthusiastic to serve the needs of patients? This was illuminated to me clearly last fall as we celebrated the life of Dr. Bob Mobley at his memorial service. A recent graduate, who is serving the aging population in nursing homes, shared what captured her interest for optometry. "If it was not for Dr Mobley, I would not be an optometrist". What a compliment! The joy that Dr Mobley demonstrated as he cared for those most in need, influenced another to not only obtain the credentials to practice optometry but to serve in similar ways.

Remember that we all project an image of optometry. Caring and competent practitioners with a commitment to excellence are what make optometry great. Is your reflection bright?

Best Regards,

Larry J. Davis, O.D.
Associate Professor
Interim Dean

Founding of the School of Optometry



Dr. G. A. Franzel presented a speech at the founding celebration. The School of Optometry opened its doors in 1980 and graduated the first class in 1984. Over 675 alumni make up the proud graduates of the School of Optometry.

On May 8th, the School of Optometry celebrated its beginnings by honoring several people instrumental in its founding. Many people made the School of Optometry possible: The Honorable Harriett Woods, Al Schoenbeck, lobbyists, a labor union official, and the Honorable Wayne Goode, just to name a few. Many people worked long, tireless hours to make this school a reality. A few were there from the beginning, staying optimistic

when others had lost hope.

Interim Dean Larry Davis honored five such individuals by presenting each of them with the School of Optometry Dean's Award for Meritorious Service. The honorees were Arnold B. Grobman, Ph.D., Chancellor Emeritus; the Honorable James "Jay" Russell; the Honorable Robert "Bob" A. Young; Associate Dean Gerald A. Franzel, O.D.; and Robert L. Mobley, O.D. (posthumously).

The Amcon Visiting Professor Series

The School of Optometry received a generous gift from Amcon, The Eyecare Supply Center. The Amcon Visiting Professor Series is the first of its kind for the School. This gift allows the faculty to invite noted eye and vision researchers to the campus in order to share the latest in techniques, procedures and data.

These lectures are scheduled for the fourth Tuesday of February, April, August and October, and are presented in the new Millennium Center. The first of the series was presented to a standing room only crowd by low vision rehabili-

tation researcher Ron Schuchard, Ph.D., of Emory University. The second was on May 28, 2001, by Tom Norton, Ph.D., Professor and expert in myopia development at the University of Alabama School of Optometry. Dr. Jay Pepose will discuss "Herpetic Eye Disease" on August 28, 2001. One hour of CE is offered.

Area alumni should have received an invitation. If you have not received one, please contact Barb Brown (314-516-6030). Additional information can be found at <http://www.umsl.edu/divisions/optometry/news/amcon.html>.

School Briefs

Alumni

AAO Fellows and Diplomat Alumni

At the Academy Meeting in Orlando in December, several of our alumni made the list. Congratulations!

Dr. James Elledge ('97) stationed in Europe, FAAO

Dr. Scott McKim ('95) Colorado Springs, CO, FAAO

Dr. Carl Ruoff ('95) Pensacola, FL, FAAO

LT John Carlson ('95) Millington, TN, FAAO

Dr. Vinita Henry ('85) St. Louis, MO, Diplomat in the Section on Cornea and Contact Lenses

Dr. John Gingrich (1990) is the Clinical Director of the Big Sky TLC Laser Eye Center in Billings, MT. Keep them seeing up in Big Sky land, John! Best wishes on the position.

Dr. Sharon Saum Burruss ('97) is moving to Satesboro, GA with husband George in June. George is a professor of criminology at Georgia Southern University. Sharon and George will be adopting a new daughter from China and they plan to travel to China to bring her home this Fall. Sharon and George, the Optometry Alumni wish you all the best!

Dr. Jerry Fay ('98) and his wife Connie became the proud parents of Steven 12/21/99. Jerry wanted to let us know that he has taken a new position with Pearle Vision in St. Paul, MN. Congratulations on both new developments!

Dr. Morris Lehrfeld ('91), his wife Jodi, and son Josh welcomed a new member to their family. Lindsey Rose was born 10/31/2000. Congratulations! (email: Docmo531@aol.com)

Dr. Elizabeth Sasko Mclemore ('94) and Tim (married in St. Louis after graduation on July 30, 1994) are the very proud parents of 14 month old daughter, Emily. Elizabeth said in a recent email, "If you want you can say 'Aloha from Hawaii,' and put my e-mail address in:

(School Briefs continued on page 3)

"What's Right with St. Louis" Award Winner

by Barbara Willis Brown, O.D. ('88)

The Gateway Lions and Partners has been selected as one of the "What's Right with St. Louis" award winners for 2001. The award will be presented in the area of "Fostering Regional Cooperation" and will be presented at the Sheldon Concert Hall on June 7th.

Since July, 2000, Gateway Lions & Partners has included the vision activities of the Lions Districts of Missouri and Illinois encompassing most of the St. Louis region. Additional professional Partners include the Washington University Department of Ophthalmology School of Medicine which furnishes the surgery and the ophthalmological consultation; St. Mary's Hospital of East St. Louis where many surgeries are performed; and Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville, joint sponsor of the East St. Louis Eye Center. This is a cooperative relationship which brings eye and vision care to medically indigent patients in the greater St. Louis Metropolitan area.

Gateway Lions & Partners can be considered an "Eye Center without

Walls" where the community services ordinarily provided by the Lions, from examinations to surgery can be performed at all UMSL sites, rather than at one site. Because of the special relationships of the Partners, surgeries generated both by the Lions and in UMSL's general patient population of the UMSL Eye Centers often occur at St. Mary's Hospital. UM-St. Louis Interns observe the surgeries, as well as participate in pre and post-surgical care. Barnes-Jewish Hospital is a backup for surgeries done especially by sub-specialists.

Since its inception, the Partnership has produced 30 surgeries, 18 of them at St. Mary's and another 10 at Barnes Hospital. 14 were either performed for the Lions or are pending.

"What's Right with the Region" began as an uplifting celebration of community success stories to accompany the FOCUS annual meeting.

Congratulations to Drs. (and "Lions" as both are members of Gateway Lions) Ray Myers and Steve Grondalski for the efforts in this area!

Where Are They?

There are several alumni with whom we have lost contact. If you know any of these alumni, please let them know that we would love to stay in touch, but have lost their address and telephone number.

Please contact Barb Brown (314-516-6030), email: BrownBW@umsl.edu.

Thanks to those of you who helped us find five fellow alumni listed in the last EyeWire.



Melissa Benson
Steven D. Bresnahan
Jason Diehl
James B. Elledge
Debbie Franzel
Karen S. Galvin
Cathy Heller
David Hoel
Ron D. Loflin
Harvey Mack
Carla Matz
Jason E. McDowell
Sandra Peters
Darren Plank
David E. Semon
Christine Siebert
Mark Siefkes
Janet G. Smith
Robert G. Soltys
Craig Steinberg
Susan Whipple

Distinguished Alumni

The School of Optometry has produced some very outstanding professional optometrists. Many have been recognized in very ways. If you have someone you feel should be nominated for the UM-St. Louis' Distinguished Alumni award, please let Barb Brown know. The nominations must be made by mid-January annually, and the awardee is presented at the Founders Dinner in September. The awardee must be willing to attend this event. Our past awardees are: Anne Ream (Class of '84, awarded 1992); David B. Seibel (Class of '87, awarded 1996); Rex Newcomb (Class of '84, awarded 1998); Lee Ann Barrett (Class of '85, awarded 1999) and Karen B. Rosen (Class of '84, awarded 2000). Barb Brown can be reached at 314-516-6030 or by email at BrownBW@umsl.edu.

1991 Class Reunion

It's Been Ten Years!

When: June 30, 2001 11a.m. - ??
Where: Humbolt South Shelter, Tower Grove Park, 4255 Arsenal, St. Louis

Bring a picnic lunch including all your supplies. The information has been mailed to each member of the 1991 class for whom the School has a current address. Bring charcoal and toys for kids and yourselves! Picnic tables and bar-b-que pits on site.

Questions: Contact Mary Migneco at 314-772-6715 or email at migneco5@ix.netcom.com
 Who are we still missing? If anyone knows current contact information for Debbie Franzel, please let either Barb Brown (314-516-6030 at the School) or Mary know so that she can get the letter mailed to her.

1992 Class Reunion

It isn't too early to begin. Would the class representative responsible for putting the 1992 Class Ten Year Reunion together, please contact Barb Brown, 314-516-6030 or by email at BrownBW@umsl.edu.



School Liasons

The students want the alumni to know which groups are currently being represented on campus. There are liaison relationships with: AAO, AFOS, AOA-PAC, APHA, COVD, NOA (NOSA), OLA, ASCO/NBEO/ARBO, AFVA, AOA (AOSA), MOA (MOSA), and SLOS. The students are busy staying in contact with professional optometry.



Have a great summer!

School Briefs

emmclemore@pr110.med.navy.mil
 Thanks!" Elizabeth is currently a Lieutenant in the US Navy. Congratulations to Tim and Elizabeth!

Dr. Suzanne Hagan, ('99)
 Proud Grandmother Suzanne is announcing the birth of her first grandchild. Julia Christine Behlmann, born April 5, 2001. She weighed in at 6 pounds 10 ounces and was 19 1/2 inches long. Congratulations, Suzanne!

Dr. Mike Murphy wanted his classmates in the 1985 graduating class to know that he took first place in "Weapons forms, advanced under black belt men and women 18 and older" and first place "Open hand forms advanced under black belt men 35 and older."

Faculty

Dr. Vengu Lakshminarayanan has been selected as an "ITP Scholar" by the Institute of Theoretical Physics, Santa Barbara, for the period 2001-2003. He was one of six chosen nationwide based on his research in theoretical optics.

Dr. Lakshminarayanan has been appointed (2001-2003) as a United States Representative to the International Commission on Optics, as a member of the United States Advisory Committee of the National Research Council. The NRC advises the US Congress and the White House.

Dr. Aaron Franzel ('89) celebrated his ten year anniversary as a faculty member with the School of Optometry.

Dr. William Long celebrated his 20 year anniversary with the School of Optometry.

Staff

Sharon L. Davis was an invited panelist at the Health Careers Conference at the University of California-Riverside on April 28, 2001.

Cheryl Cann (library) celebrated 20 years as an employee of the School of Optometry.

Calendar - 2001

June 27-July 1

AOA Congress
Boston, MA

July 10

SLOS Meeting

August 10,20

Ocular Pharmaceutical
Update - 8 hrs. C.E.
UM-St. Louis, Optometry
(314) 516-5615

August 14

SLOS Meeting

August 28

Amcon Professor Series
Jay Pepose, M. D., Ph. D.
"Herpetic Eye Disease"

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

Did you know . . .

In 1980 with much work by several people over more than a decade, HB1868 sponsored by Jay Russell and SB 930 sponsored by Harriett Woods were passed into law and signed by Governor Joe Teasdale. The result? The School of Optometry at the University of Missouri-St. Louis.

See a complete list of all faculty and staff email addresses!



**Visit our
web site at:
[www.umsl.edu/
~optometry.html](http://www.umsl.edu/~optometry.html)**

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