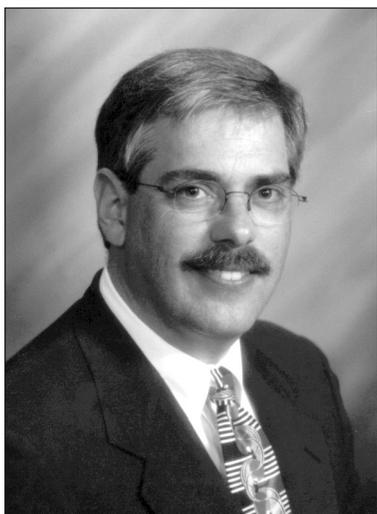


Newcomb Receives Distinguished UM-St. Louis Alumni Award



Rex Newcomb, O.D.

Dr. Rex Newcomb completed his Doctor of Optometry degree in 1984 at UM-St. Louis after graduating from Southwest Baptist University with a Bachelor of Science degree.

He entered private practice with Dr. David L. Kramer. This practice has grown to nine full-time and five part-time employees serving the towns of Marshfield and Buffalo, Missouri.

He served as president of the Missouri Optometric Association in 1997, leading them in their efforts for passage of a comprehensive managed care bill that included eye care professionals. Under his leadership, the MOA increased funding for UM-St. Louis' School of Optometry, where he currently

serves as a mentor to an optometry student.

He acted as host to the national convention of the American Optometric Association, served as a cabinet member of the North Central States Optometric Council in Minneapolis and represented the MOA at the President's Council last year.

His volunteer life extends to his community in Marshfield, where he is the past president of the Marshfield Lions Club, on the Board of Trustees for Marshfield child Development Center and contributes countless volunteer hours providing vision screening services for children. He and his wife, Susan, have two children, Mallory, 8, and Katie, 3.

Optometrist of the Year—Dr. John McGreal



John A. McGreal Jr., O.D.

Members of the Missouri Optometrist Association selected Dr. John McGreal, adjunct faculty member of the School of Optometry, as 1998 MOA Optometrist of the Year. The award was given at the Awards Luncheon at the annual meeting on October 9 at the Frontenac Hilton in St. Louis.

Dr. McGreal is a graduate of Albright College and the Pennsylvania College of Optometry. He was formerly Chief of Eye Services at the Greater Atlantic Health Service in Philadelphia, where he also had a private practice. He was a founding part-

ner in Vision Care Consultants, a managed care company in Pennsylvania. Currently, he is center director of the Missouri Eye Institute, An Omega Co-Management Center in St. Louis. He also serves as Regional Vice-President for Omega Health Systems, Inc. He is internationally recognized for his educational endeavors. He is a clinical examiner for the National Board of Examiners in Optometry, and is adjunct faculty at the Pennsylvania College of Optometry and the University of California Berkeley School of Optometry.

School Briefs

Alumni

Dr. Libbi A. Tracy ('88) and her husband Reid Nelson are proud to announce their birth of their son, Scott who was born in September of this year. Dr. Tracy is a contact lens specialist in Layton, Utah where she practices with an ophthalmology group. Congratulations on your son!

Dr. Valerie Barber Hallquist ('95) and her husband John are the proud parents of a 7 lb. 1 oz. son, Jackson Barber Hallquist. He was born on October 20, 1998 and was 20 inches long. Good luck with your new addition.

Faculty

Dr. Edward Bennett was an honored speaker at the Annual South American Eyecare Symposium in Bogota, Columbia, November 4-6, 1998.

Dr. Edward Bennett, Smythe J, Dr. Vinita Henry, Dr. Carl Bassi, Dr. Bruce Morgan, Miller W, Jeandervin M, Dr. Beth Henderson, Dr. Lora Elliott ('94), **Dr. Kristi Porter** ('95), and Barr JT published an article in *Optometry and Vision Science*, November, 1998 entitled The Effect of Topical Anesthetic Use on Initial Patient Satisfaction and Overall Success with Rigid Gas Permeable Contact Lenses.

Dr. Bennett, and Marren SE, published an article entitled Anesthetic Useful in Fitting, Dispensing RGP Lenses in *Primary Care Optometry News*. November, 1998.

Dr. Rema Shabany ('98) and **Dr. Raymond Myers** had an editorial published in the September issue of *Optometry and Visual Science* entitled "Explaining Presbyopia to Patients."

Dr. Monica Harris and Dr. Ralph Garzia presented a two hour course on dyslexia and optometric management of learning related vision problems at the MOA annual meeting in October at the Frontenac Hilton in St. Louis.

(School Briefs continued on page 3)

MOSTARS Higher Education Savings Program

Of note for your children and our future students: during the 1998 Missouri Legislative Session, the Missouri General Assembly created a state savings program that allows individuals to establish state-sponsored savings accounts for qualified postsecondary educational expenses. The contributions to these accounts, up to \$8,000 annually, and interest earnings will not be taxed by the state. The

accounts will also allow contributors to take advantage of certain federal tax incentives related to postsecondary educational savings. The Missouri State Treasurer's office will be the investor of the contributions and funds and will begin accepting deposits in 1999. For more information this program contact the MOSTARS Information Center toll-free at (800) 473-6757 or (573) 751-3940.

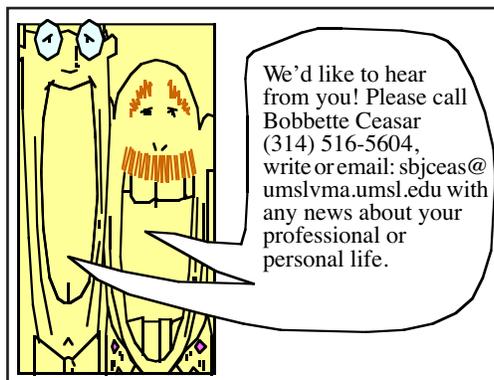
Debt Management Program

The vast majority of students in the health care professions use some form of financial aid to help finance their education and for most of them it is in the form of loans. The increased use of financial aid can be attributed to increases in the cost of education and the ease of access to financial aid sources. Students can also augment the funds they have to work with through the use of credit cards. The daily barrage of unsolicited credit card offers are tempting, and highlight the ease of access to credit. Yet, each time a student borrows money, they are committing a part of their future financial resources.

Since today's students have tremendous access to financial resources the School of Optometry wants to ensure that our students have

the proper tools to make appropriate choices not only in financing their education but as well as managing their personal and professional finances. For this reason the School of Optometry has developed a Debt Management Program. It is one way we hope to help students maximize the benefit of their education and realize the greatest return on their investment.

Details of the program have been disseminated to the faculty, staff and students. For those wishing to have a copy of the program, please contact Susan Mason by phone at (314) 516-7002, fax (314) 516-6708, email Susan_Mason@umsl.edu or mail to Susan Mason, University of Missouri-St. Louis, School of Optometry, 8001 Natural Bridge Rd., St. Louis, MO 63121-4499.



Thanks to Our Alumni Donors

The School of Optometry is proud to announce that we received over \$1,245 for the alumni scholarship fund from our generous alumni.

If you would like to make a contribution to the Optometry Alumni Scholarship or establish your own scholarship to benefit optometry students at the University of Missouri - St. Louis, please contact Susan Mason at (314) 516 - 7002.

See to Learn Program

The University of Missouri-St. Louis School of Optometry is currently participating in the award-winning See to Learn® Program for pre-school children. The program was initiated by the Kansas Optometric Association Public Awareness Committee which is chaired by Dr. Karen Aldridge ('92). The program has been very successful in Kansas and most of all, it has allowed optometrists to help thousands of children reach their full academic potential.

See to Learn® is a three-step program designed to educate families about the importance of receiving regular preventative vision care. Often vision screenings held in elementary schools are perceived as comprehensive exams when in reality some visual problems may go undetected. Dr. Aaron Franzel, Chief of Pediatric and Binocular Vision service, states "many



visual anomalies are not detected by a typical vision screening in the school cafeteria or the pediatrician's office. This program will not only allow us to provide visual assessments to three year olds free of charge, but will give us the opportunity to educate parents about the importance of preventative vision care for the whole family."

The ideal age for children to have a comprehensive eye exam is at three years of age—before they enter school. "We want to dispel the notion that children do not need an eye exam until first grade," said Franzel. According to statistics from the American Optometric Association, 20% of kindergarten students have a vision problem that could hinder their learning ability.

Dr. Franzel, program coordinator, is actively promoting the See to Learn® Program at day care centers and Head Start programs across the region.

McAlister Wins AMSUS Award

Dr. W. Howard McAlister, Associate Professor and Director of Residencies, was awarded the Association of Military Surgeons of the United States Optometry Outstanding Service and Recognition Award on November 8, 1998. The award was approved in 1992 and was developed to recognize individuals who have contributed significantly to the advancement of Optometry and have provided selfless dedication, leadership and

service to their branch of service. This award was sponsored through an educational grant by Humphrey Instruments.

Dr. McAlister was also the recipient of the United States Public Health Service Chief Professional Officer Award in recognition of outstanding leadership and support of the optometry section of the Association of Military Surgeons of the United States.

Congratulations on your achievements!

School Briefs

Dr. Myers was co-author on two papers with Ronald Krueger, M.D., given during the International Society of Refractive Surgery, entitled "Experimental increase in elasticity following Nd:Yag laser photodisruption of paired cadaver eyes," and "Age dependent changes in the elasticity of the human crystalline lens." Both papers received "Best-of-Session" awards.

Dr. Vengu Lakshminarayanan presented eight posters/talks at the annual meeting of the Optical Society of America in Baltimore, in October. He also received an OSA Fellow award.

Dr. Vengu Lakshminarayanan will be giving an invited talk on waveguiding in photoreceptors at the 75th Anniversary Celebration Symposium of the University of California School of Optometry on December 15, 1998.

Dr. Jeffery Weaver, director of the AOA Clinical Care Center, was quoted in a feature article in the new Health & Fitness section of the Nov. 3, 1998.

Dr. Jeffery Weaver and **Dr. W. Howard McAlister** completed the U.S. Army Medical Command course on Medical Management of Nuclear Biological and Chemical Casualties in November 1998.

Dr. Robert Bernskoetter ('96) was named Young O.D. of the Year at the Annual Missouri Optometric Association award luncheon on October 9, 1998.

Missouri Optometric Student Association Leadership Awards were given to optometry students: **Michael Williams** ('00), **Michelle Haley** ('01) and **Heather Eddington** ('00). Congratulations!

Heart of America Contact Lens Society

Feb 12, 13, & 14, 1999

Kansas City, MO

Calendar

December 8

St. Louis Optometric Society Meeting
"Computer Technology Update"
Clayton Holiday Inn

December 10-14

American Academy of Optometry
San Francisco Hilton
San Francisco, CA
Reception in Vista Room

1999**January 11, 1999**

TPA
For info. call Lis (314) 516-5615

February 12, 1999

Heart of America
Alumni Reception, 8:00 - 10:00 p.m.
Hyatt Regency Crown Center
Kansas City, MO

March 21-22

Mid-America Vision Conference

May 14

Honors Convocation and Banquet
5:00 - 10:00 p.m.
Renaissance St. Louis Hotel

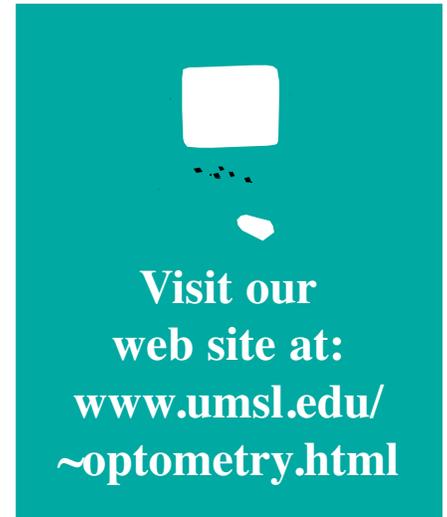
July 16-18

1989 Class Reunion
St. Louis Airport Hilton

Happy Holidays



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



Stay up-to-date! Stay informed!

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