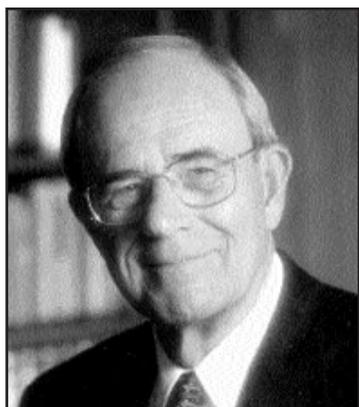


## Optometry Welcomes New Dean—Dr. Jack Bennett



Jack W. Bennett, O.D.

Dr. Jack Bennett began his term as Dean of the School of Optometry at UM-St. Louis on January 1, 1999 which marks his third School of Optometry in which he served as Dean.

Dr. Bennett is Dean Emeritus of the School of Optometry and Professor of Optometry at Indiana University in

Bloomington, Indiana. He holds a B.S. degree and Doctor of Optometry degree from Indiana University. Dr. Bennett was in private practice in Bloomington from 1959-70.

For the next five years, he was Director of Patient Care for the IU optometry clinics and Associate Professor of Optometry. He went to Ferris State University in Michigan in 1975 as the founding optometry dean.

He returned to Indiana University in 1988 as Dean of the School of Optometry. Bennett was named Indiana Optometrist of the Year in 1975, Professional Man of the Year by the Michigan Association of the Professions in 1983, and winner of the Keyman Service Award presented in 1984 by the Michigan Optometric Association. He had been honored by the Indiana Optometric Association with its Distinguished Service to Optometry, Meritorious Service, and Lifetime Achievement Awards. He has been elect-

ed as a Fellow in both the American Academy of Optometry and the National Academies of Practice and has been designated as a Sagamore of the Wabash by Indiana Governor Frank O'Bannon.

He has served as president of the Indiana Optometric Association, the Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry, and served for five years on the Board of Trustees of the American Optometric Association. He has recently been appointed to the Clinical Affairs Education committee of the MOA.

His experience affords a national perspective on the role of professional optometry and optometric education. Dr. Bennett commented that with his experience, the support committed by the university decision makers and the Deans of other Schools, faculty, staff and students, great strides can be made in a relatively short period of time.

Welcome, Dr. Bennett!  
(See related article on page 3)

## East St. Louis Eye Center Receives \$20,000 for Local Eye Care

The East St. Louis Eye Center, in cooperation with the Lions Regional Eye Care Program of Southern Illinois, received a \$20,000 matching Federal grant for providing services to East St. Louis area residents with limited incomes and no other health care means. The Metro-East Vision Care Project will provide East St. Louis citizens with a safety net to cover comprehensive vision services for those individuals who might otherwise “fall

through the cracks” for lack of insurance coverage or private resources to fund necessary vision care. Funding for the Metro-East Vision Project will benefit up to 3,200 children, adults, and senior citizens through screenings, vision examinations, eye wear, and therapies from glaucoma treatment and minor surgery to visual training.

The Metro-East Vision Project will be made possible through an alliance which includes UM-St. Louis,

Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville, the Lions Club, Enterprise Community Health Focus Group, Casino Queen Foundation, St. Clair County Headstart District and the East St. Louis School District.

The East St. Louis Eye Center, a unique collaboration between UM-St. Louis and Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville, has served more than 3,000 Metro-East residents since 1994.

**School Briefs**

**Alumni**

**Dr. Rebecca (Sparks) Dougherty** ('98) and her husband Stuart live in Derby, Kansas where Becky practices at Vista EyeCare. Her professional goal to open her own private practice in a few years.

**Faculty**

**Dr. Edward Bennett** was awarded the "Irving Fatt Memorial Lecture" which he provided at the Thirteenth Annual Morton D. Sarver Lecture Series on Contact Lenses and the Cornea at the University of California at Berkeley on January 23-24, 1999.

**Dr. Carol Peck** and Dr. Kent Harrington published a paper entitled "Spatial Disparity Affects Visual-Auditory Interactions in Human Sensorimotor Processing" in *Experimental Brain Research*, v. 122, pp. 247-252.

**Dr. Edward Bennett, J. Smyth, Dr. Vinita Henry, Dr. Carl Bassi, Dr. Bruce Morgan, Dr. Beth Henderson** and **Dr. Lora Elliot** published an article entitled "Effect of topical Anesthetic Use on Initial Patient Satisfaction and Overall Success with Rigid Gas Permeable Contact Lenses" in the November 1998 issue of *Optometry and Vision Science*.

**Dr. Joseph H. Maino** (clinical associate professor of Optometry) published a chapter in *Principles of Geriatric Medicine and Gerontology* (McGraw-Hill, 1999, pp. 435-455) entitled "Principles of Rehabilitation in Older Patients." The textbook is considered a "classic" in the area of gerontology and geriatric medicine. This represents the first time an optometrist was asked to contribute to a book of this type.

**Dr. Edward S. Bennett** published an article in the February 1999 issue of *New O.D.* entitled "Don't Let Your Best Patients Disappear."

*(School Briefs continued on page 3)*



**Mrs. Mary M. Gilbert**

**Mrs. Mary M. Gilbert Gives \$10,000 Scholarship**

The School of Optometry is pleased to announce the Mary M. Gilbert Scholarship. Mrs. Gilbert has generously given \$10,000 for an endowed scholarship to benefit optometry students in financial need.

Mrs. Gilbert first became aware of the needs of the optometry students through her friendship with Dr. Robert A. Koetting, a long-time supporter of the School of Optometry. She has been the chairperson for four of the five Shadow Ball fundraisers. Mrs. Gilbert spent countless hours of her time and energy raising money for eye care programs to benefit children whose parents could not afford to provide adequate vision care. Recognizing the need for more financial aid for optometry students, she recommended proceeds from the fifth Shadow Ball be put aside for a scholarship for optometry students.

Over the past 14 years, Mrs. Gilbert has helped raise over \$150,000 for community vision care programs, facility renovations and most recently, scholarships for optometry students. The School of Optometry wishes to thank Mrs. Gilbert for her generosity and thoughtfulness. We are truly grateful!

**Heart of America Photos**



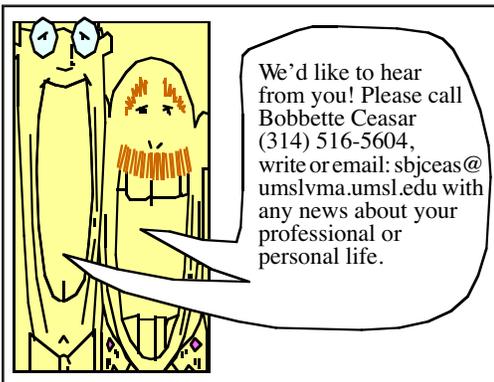
## Musings of the Dean

by Jack W. Bennett, O.D.

I want you to know how pleased I am to be at the University of Missouri-St. Louis as the new dean of your School of Optometry. I accepted the challenge presented by the position after a very careful consideration and review. I discovered several things which convinced me this was a position I could really get excited about. I found: an institution in an environment and location that present great opportunities to develop some innovative and interesting programs; a core of dedicated and able faculty and staff; a student body that is diverse in background but similar in its outstanding academic credentials and attitude; a campus and university administration that is supportive of efforts to continue the school's development as a truly outstanding academic and clinical institution; strong and active state and local optometric associations with which to partner for the benefit of all; a significant number of Missouri and St. Louis area optometrists who have adopted the school with their support and assistance; and a small but active cadre of alumni who are beginning to play a significant role in the profession and its organizations.

There certainly are some problems to be addressed; the highest student fees of any optometry school in the country; a physical plant that is at best marginally adequate; some difficulties in translating today's health care systems into an adequate patient base for the clinical education of our students; and the need to augment the present faculty with some additional personnel and additional expertise in the areas of clinical education, teaching, research, and service to name a few. There are more I am sure, including some I am not even aware of yet. I am aware however that with all the positive opportunities and human and other resources mentioned, we can adequately address the problems and help the UM-St. Louis School of Optometry move towards its considerable potential.

I will use this venue and others to periodically keep you apprised of our activities and our progress. I would hope you will not only help us along the way but feel free to let me know your opinions of how we are doing and where we are going and your suggestions on how to get there. It will take all of us and it will take time. I've got plenty of time. Won't you join me?



## Bennett Receives CLOA Award

Dr. Edward S. Bennett received the "Honor Award" from the Contact Lens Association of Ophthalmologists for participation as a faculty member for 10 CLAO Annual Scientific Meetings. He was also the Co-Chair and lecturer of the RGP Symposium at the CLOA Annual Meeting, January 25, 1999 in Las Vegas, Nevada. Congratulations!

## School Briefs

**Dr. Jeffery Weaver**, director of the AOA Clinical Care Center, and **Dr. Gary Bachman** were featured in a Video News Release (VNR) taped by Essilor in late 1998. The subject was the anti-reflection coating CRIZAL. They did a study comparing AR coated and uncoated spectacles with the Missouri Highway Patrol. The video was launched in November 1998 and has reached 10 million viewers. Of those, 8 million were from the Health Network's "Ask the Doctor" program which built a 15 minute segment around the VNR. The study will also be published in the February issue of the *AOA Journal*.

Congratulations to **Dr. Aaron Franzel** and his wife, Ellen, on their February 20, 1999 nuptials! Best Wishes!

### Staff

**Sharon L. Davis** has agreed to serve on the Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry (ASCO) Student Affairs subcommittee on Student Recruitment. Ms. Davis has also been reappointed to the ASCO National Placement Task Force.

### Students

**Shawna Heddinghaus** ('99) is a member of the Leukemia Society's Team in Training Program and will be running a marathon in Anchorage, Alaska on June 19, 1999. She has committed to raising \$3,800 to help find a cure for leukemia. She would appreciate any donations for the fundraiser which can be made payable to the Leukemia Society. Please mail to: Shawna Heddinghaus, 2357 A Menard, St. Louis, MO 63104.

Congratulations to the following students on their recent awards! **Kay Smarzynski** '99 (Robert A. Koetting Scholarship), **Kate Buffington** '99 (A. M. Skeffington Memorial Scholarship), **Neha Amin** '99 (Heart of America Contact Lens Society Grant), **Heather Eddington** '00 (Heart of America/American Academy of Optometry Student Travel Grant Award to attend the December 1999 meeting in Seattle, Washington.) Great job!

Mark your calendars for the Honors Convocation!  
**Friday, May 14, 1999**  
 Renaissance Hotel

**Calendar**

**April 13**

St. Louis Optometric Society Meeting  
 "Keratoconus Update"  
 Clayton Holiday Inn

**April 18**

Missouri Eye Institute C.E.  
 Call to register, 569-2020

**April 20**

Grand Rounds 2 hrs. Glaucoma  
 O'Donnell Eye Institute

**May 11**

St. Louis Optometric Society Meeting  
 "Visuals Fields"  
 Clayton Holiday Inn

**May 14**

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

**June 4-5**

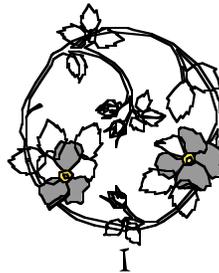
MOA Leadership Retreat  
 Lake of the Ozarks

**June 15**

SLOS Annual Installation &  
 Awards Banquet

**July 16-18**

1989 School of Optometry  
 Class Reunion  
 St. Louis Airport Hilton



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

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 web site at:  
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