

From the Office of the Dean

"Take a Look Around"

Dear Friends:

Each Spring, the faculty and staff participate in an exciting and dramatic event which is the culmination of all that we do as we fulfill the mission of the University of Missouri Saint Louis School of Optometry. It is a time to recognize that those enthusiastic and capable faces that began their optometric education just four years earlier move on to become part of our great profession. Commencement is particularly noteworthy this year as we pause to recognize that June 1st, 1980 was the day that the formation of our faculty and staff began.

On June 1st, 1980 another change agent, Cable News Network (CNN) made its debut. Over the next two decades, 24 hour news would change the news media in a dramatic way. Similarly, I see that over the past twenty years our graduates have been an integral part of the changing profession at the local, state and national levels. Over the next few days I hope that you will do two things. First, assist us in identifying your classmates who have served in leadership roles since graduation (page 2 blue insert). Second, I hope that you plan to attend the 20th Anniversary celebration for the School of Optometry scheduled for August 19, 2000. It will be a time to reflect on the past two decades and give you a chance to "Take a Look Around."

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

2000 Honors Convocation



Over 350 guests filled the Ambassadeur Ballroom at the St. Louis Frontenac Hilton for the Class of 2000 Honors Convocation on May 19. Congratulations and good luck!

Angela Marie Adkins
Kathy L. Anderson
Suzanne Lynn Bachman
Linda Marie Bayerkohler
Todd Eric Bellamy
Melissa Yvonne Benson
David Wayne Christensen
Cheryl Lynn Davidson
Jason Richard Diehl
Audrey Lois Dockins
Jenna Lovie Dulas
Heather Fay Eddington
Angela Jo Ernst
Jason Petterson Fronk
Bryan Clive Gironella
Andrea Marie Grier
Todd Patrick Hamilton
Stephanie Rae Hart
Jessica Dixon Heinke
Vivian M. Jensen

Shane Ray Kannarr
Amber Aneke Karpel
Ekaterina Knobel
Olivia Thuy Le
Brian G. Lojka
Jennifer K. Mahurin
Marla Renae McHugh
Michael Matthew Merlenbach
Gregory Darin O'Bryan
Heidi Quy Thi Pham
Eldon Ray Repsher
Benjamin Thomas Secoy
Kristin Ann Sorenson
Jason Travers Street
Agnes Lan Tran
Matthew Ray Vanover
Chad Michael Waggoner
Mark Francis Wahlmeier
Sabrina Warhola
Paul Evan Webb
Samuel Jason Webb
Paul Alan Whitten
Michael Audy Williams
Courtney Lee Zuehls

School Briefs

Alumni

Are You an Optometric Leader?

During the 20th Anniversary celebration this summer, the School of Optometry would like to highlight our alumni who have become leaders in optometry. We particularly need to identify those from states other than Missouri. If you know someone who has become, is becoming, or has been a leader, please drop an email to Barb Brown at BrownBW@umsl.edu Please feel free to let us know about you or anyone else of whom you know. Thank you!

Dr. Richard G'Sell ('99) was selected as a 1999-2000 Outstanding Contributor to Education by the Board of Education of the Ferguson-Florissant School District.

Dr. Diane Palombi ('85) has opened her own practice—Palombi Eye Care Center, Wentzville, MO. Congratulations and good luck!

Faculty

Dr. Edward S. Bennett published an article entitled: "Safety and Simplicity: Caring for RGP Contact Lenses" in the May issue of Refractive Eyecare.

Dr. Edward S. Bennett presented four continuing education courses at the Annual Meeting of the Minnesota Optometric Association, March, 2000. He also presented four continuing education courses at Eye Quest, Chicago, IL, May, 2000.

Dr. Jeffrey L. Weaver, adjunct faculty member and director of the American Optometric Association's Clinical Care Group, has received the U.S. Army's Pershing Award for outstanding academic achievement.

Dr. Timothy Wingert and **Dr. Jeffrey Weaver** presented a poster at

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Celebrating Twenty Years of Vision and Optometric Education

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

The School of Optometry will celebrate the 20th Anniversary of the opening of the school this summer. We are planning a celebration at the School, and hope that you will make plans to join us! Saturday, August 19th at 6:30 p.m. the School of Optometry will host a reception in honor of this occasion. More details are being planned, and an invitation will be sent to you in July.

Plan to bring the entire family and enjoy the evening. There will be a short program, followed by time for alums to gather with their classmates and get caught up on life.

There is a continuing education program on Sunday, for anyone needing to catch some CE hours. Information about this program will be sent from Dr. G.A. Franzel. (See page 4.)

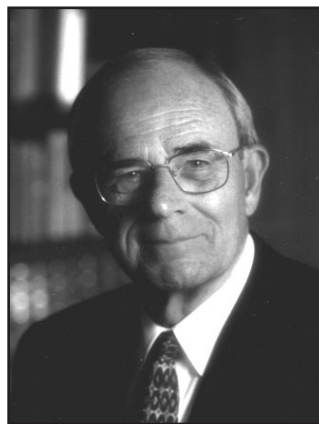
McAlister Receives Merit Award



W. Howard McAlister, O.D.

Dr. W. Howard McAlister was awarded the order of Military Medical Merit at the Armed Forces Optometric Society in February. Membership in the Order of Military Medical Merit recognizes those individuals who have clearly demonstrated the highest standards of integrity and moral character, displayed an outstanding degree of professional competence, served in the Army Medical department with selflessness and have made a sustained contribution to the betterment of Army Medicine. Congratulations!

Dr. Jack Bennett —1932-2000



Jack W. Bennett, O.D.

Jack W. Bennett, Dean of the School of Optometry at UM-St. Louis, passed away April 28, 2000 in Bloomington, Indiana. Dr. Bennett asked that his duties be given to Dr. Larry J.

Davis who is now serving as Acting Dean. Dr. Bennett served as Dean from January 1999 until April 2000.

Dr. Bennett was dean emeritus of Indiana University School of Optometry and the founding dean of the college of Optometry at Ferris State University in Michigan. During his time at UM-St. Louis he made a point of visiting local societies and becoming acquainted with state optometric leaders to strengthen the relationships between the school and optometric organizations.

Donations to scholarships in his name have been established at UM-St. Louis, Ferris State, and Indiana University.

He will be dearly missed.

School of Optometry and Lion's Club Continue a Successful Relationship

By Raymond I. Myers, O.D.

I am pleased to report that Dr. Steve Grondalski, Mai Ly, and I spoke at a seminar for the Lions District 1-CN meeting on April 14, 2000. The District Governor wanted to have the different clubs familiar with the East St. Louis Eye Center as well as the Gateway Lions for Sight/Hearing Program. The District Governor wanted UM-St. Louis-VOSH, represented by Vice President Mai Ly, because of the prominence of the program as well as to invite clubs to send their eye-glasses to the UM-St. Louis-VOSH.

Most of the hour actually concerned UM-St. Louis, eyesight assistance in general, and VOSH because other time was devoted during the two days to recognizing the Gateway Plan. Dr. Grondalski did an outstanding job of conveying the satisfaction that Lions patients feel both from the service of Lions as well as in the treatment of conditions they would not otherwise receive without their help.

Dr. Grondalski recorded a video segment with an appreciative 62 year old who would not have otherwise had an exam/glasses, and her glaucoma diagnosed and treated. Mai conveyed what it was like to go on a VOSH trip, something which another Lion member from Chicago had done with District officers meeting a couple of months earlier. She also appealed for the clubs to send their collected eye-glasses to UM-St. Louis-VOSH.

There were various references to them by speakers during the rest of the weekend especially in "humanizing" the service of vision care and in conveying the full scope of what our services will be like (in comparison with the traditional medical Lions model).

I would like to thank them for their service to the East St. Louis Center and to the School of Optometry.

Ciba Donates Funds for Student Resource/Seminar Room



Pictured from left to right: Dr. Edward Bennett, Acting Dean Larry Davis, Ciba Representative Dr. Sally Dillehay, and Dr. Vinita Henry.

Ciba Vision has generously donated the necessary funds for the renovation of an electrodiagnostic room into a state of the art Student Resource/ Seminar Room complete with a computer, VCR/TV, reference books, videos, educational CD's for students to use when they are between patients. The room will also be used for contact lens seminars which were previously held in the hallway. Thanks to Ciba for enhancing the clinical experience of our students.

School Briefs

the AOA Congress in Las Vegas, June 21-25, 2000, entitled "Pharmaceutical Company Tracking of Optometrist Prescribing Frequency."

Dr. Alexander Harris, Chief of Student Externships, was awarded Optometrist of the Year by the St. Louis Optometric Society.

Alumni Personals

Drs. Larry Richardson ('91) and **Nancy Nichols** ('91) are expecting their first child in September 2000. Congratulations and good luck!

Dr. Loree (Ebbinghaus) Wagner ('95) and **Dr. Robert Wagner** ('96) were blessed with their first child on January 10, 2000. Sydney Lauren Wagner weighed 6 lbs. 10 oz. and was 20 1/2 inches long. Rob is practicing with Family Vision Care Specialists in Lakewood, CO and Loree is practicing with Family Vision Center in Westminster, CO.

Dr. Bethany Busemeyer ('96) was married on September 18, 1999 and moved to Milford, Michigan. Her husband, Weston "Wes" Munzel is a city planner from Michigan. Congratulations!

Dr. Clive Gironella (2000) and **Dr. Kate Buffington** ('99) were married on July 9, 2000 in Minocqua, WI. They will continue to live in Minocqua where Kate is practicing at the Vision Center/Minocqua Eyes.

Dr. John ('88) and **Michelle Eigenbrodt** are the proud parents of two children, Nicole (age 5) and Benjamin (age 1).

Dr. Dan Weaver ('88) would like to collect the email addresses of his fellow classmates. His email address is DanielWeaver@worldnet.att.net

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School Briefs

Are you famous?

Those of you who posed for pictures at the 2000 Honors Convocation may be on our website. Check it out: <http://www.umsl.edu/divisions/optometry/news/newspag.html>.

Student News

Congratulations to **Michele Haley** ('01) who was awarded the First Place Corning Scholarship of \$4,000. The award was given by Corning Incorporated and the American Optometric Foundation.

HAVE A SAFE SUMMER!

Calendar

August 8

SLOS Meeting

August 19

20th Anniversary Celebration
School of Optometry, 6:30 p.m.
(see page 2)


August 20 (Sunday)

UM-St. Louis and OEI present:
•New Developements in the Management of Glaucoma
•Diabetic Retinopathy
•Corneal Surgical Complications
Guest Lecturer: Richard F. Multack, O.D., D. O.

JC Penney Building
UM-St. Louis

Registration and course information:
Dr. Al Bucar (847) 838-2020

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)

Stay **up-to-date!** Stay **informed!**

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