



## From the Dean

### BOUNDing toward Excellence

The Eye Wire is an opportunity for us to share some of the numerous accomplishments within the School of Optometry. It is just one of many ways to recognize the fine work created by our faculty, staff and students. We certainly have much to be thankful for these past months. Most recently, as many of you already know, we were the recipients of some timely and tremendously positive feedback about the dedicated work that went into the self-study and subsequent site visit that took place in November 2001. Although we were prepared for the visit--and we knew it--the prompt decision by the Accreditation Council on Optometric Education (ACOE) granting the school an unconditional accreditation through 2008 was more than we dared anticipate. What a remarkable accomplishment and compliment to our faculty, staff and students.

Accolades for such highly visible milestones come quite naturally. Recognizing the less obvious ways in which our students and co-workers engender success from day to day takes effort. Each of us can contribute to these efforts. I am often given the pleasure of learning that one of our students, faculty or staff was the recipient of individual recognition or appreciation, either formally or informally. Such recognition may come from an organization well-served, from a satisfied patient, from an appreciative colleague.

(Continued on page 2)

## Interim Dean Larry Davis Announces Unconditional Accreditation for School

By Tom Hockett

The Accreditation Council on Optometric Education has extended the accreditation of the School of Optometry at the University of Missouri-St. Louis through November 2008. The council voted on the issue at its winter meeting in February, following 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.

"The faculty, staff, administration and students worked for more than 18 months to develop a fresh strategic plan and comprehensive self study," said Dr. Larry J. Davis, interim dean of the optometry school. "That plan mapped a course for redefining nearly every process within the school, along with the development of increased synergy among various components of our professional and graduate programs."

The ACOE is the only accrediting body for professional optometric degree programs, optometric residency programs and optometric technician programs in the United States and Canada. Both the U.S. Department of Education and the Council on Higher Education Accreditation recognize the council as an authority on the quality of programs the council accredits.

The council evaluated the school using nine assessment standards, including mission statement, facilities,

research and curriculum. In a report by the ACOE, its 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 council strongly urges the school to maintain its stated commitment to continue to plan for its future."

Davis said that accreditation is vital to the school because its optometry students much graduate from an accredited program in order to qualify for the national board exam and state licensing.

"This process has helped all of the faculty and staff to discover talents and abilities that were previously unrealized," he added. "The school continues to be in a position for great things to happen."

The School of Optometry was established on UMSL's South Campus in 1980. The school's professional program offers the Doctor of Optometry Degree. The postgraduate programs include optometric residencies and continuing education. The school also operates a graduate program in physiological optics leading to master's and doctoral degrees.

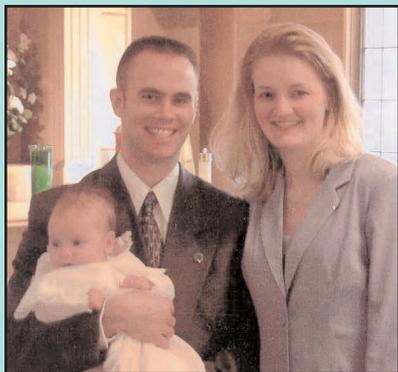
- University Eye Center  
South Campus, Marillac Hall
- Optometric Center,  
3940 Lindell Blvd. in St. Louis
- Harvester Eye Center, 11  
Charlestowne Plaza in  
Harvester, Missouri
- East St. Louis Eye Center,  
411 E. Broadway in East St. Louis,  
Illinois

School Briefs

Alumni

Dr. Michele (Haley) Rice (2001) and Michael Rice wish to introduce the newest Rice family member, "On January 9, 2002 our new baby girl, Skyler Melinda Rice, was born into this world. She arrived at 7:17 a.m. at the Fort Leonard Wood Hospital. She was 19 inches and 7 pounds 7.2 oz." Congratulations to the Rice Family!

Dr. Paul Michael Bernier ('87) was the recipient of the Dr. Charles Bertram Alumni Award of Distinction by the Great Lakes Valley Conference. Dr. Bernier also writes that he and his wife Shelly had their fourth child, Matthew Michael. The newest Bernier was welcomed by his siblings Derek (9), Gabrielle (7) and Alexandria (4).



Dr. Tara (Eckland) Lukkarinen ('98) (pictured above) and her husband would like to announce the birth of their first child, Ryan Joshua, born January 1, 2002 at 8:34 AM. Joshua was the New Year's Baby in Lodi, CA, and he weighed in at 8 lbs 12 oz and was 21 in long. The alumni hope the new parents are getting some sleep!

Dr. Salena Pho ('01) and her husband, Rin S. Maa, wanted to let her classmates know that she and her baby are doing well. Salena and Rin had a girl, Savannah Mimi Maa, born on March 9th at 9:08 pm at St. John's Mercy Medical Center in St. Louis County. Savannah weighed in at 7 lbs 2 oz and was 19.5 inches long.

(School Briefs continued on page 7)

Dean Candidates Visit Campus

In January, the University of Missouri-St. Louis invited applications and nominations for the position of Dean of the School of Optometry. This past May, three candidates made their presentations to administration, faculty, students and staff. Dr. Linda Casser, Associate Dean of Academic Programs, Pacific University College

of Optometry in Portland, Oregon visited May 6th and 7th. Dr. Larry Davis, Interim Dean of the UM-St. Louis School of Optometry made his presentation on May 9th and 10th. Finally, Dr. Jack Terry, Veterans' Affairs Medical Center, Huntington, West Virginia presented on May 13th and 14th.

Anne Ream Honored as Trailblazer at UM-St. Louis

By Teresa Tucker



Pictured from left to right Chancellor Touhill and Dr. Anne C. Ream.

The University of Missouri-St. Louis kicked off Women's History Month with the 7th annual Trailblazer Award Ceremony on Monday, March 4 at the University's Millennium Student Center.

The ceremony honors UM-St. Louis women who have "blazed a trail" for women in their chosen professional fields. Chancellor Blanche Touhill presented this year's awards to five trailblazers, including Anne C. Ream, a member of the University of Missouri System Board of Curators.

Anne Ream was a member of the first graduating class of the UM-St. Louis School of Optometry in 1984. In 1995, she was the first female named as president of the Missouri Optometric Association. She was also the first female president of the Missouri Optometric Foundation where she served for ten years. Ream was the first optometrist to receive a Distinguished Alumni Award from UM-St. Louis.

In 2001, Gov. Bob Holden appointed Ream to the Board of Curators.

She continues to be a trailblazer in the field of optometry through private practice with offices throughout Missouri in Houston, Mountain View, Thayer, and West Plains.

From the Dean (cont. from page 1)

We cannot underestimate the significance of each success and each gesture, however small or large, as we are BOUNDing toward excellence.

Those who play that important role in Building Others Up Not Down (BOUNDers) deserve to be recognized. I want to personally thank you for what you are doing for this program. If you are a dedicated BOUNDer, I hope that you will continue in your important role. If you are just starting, the School along with our great profession is bound to benefit.

Best Regards,

Larry J. Davis, OD  
Interim Dean

## Honors Convocation 2002



### Congratulations and Good Luck Class of 2002!

Nicci Renee Bachand\*\*  
James Clay Bigham  
Karen Ann Blackmore\*\*  
Kathleen J. Boland\*  
Carrie Margaret Breusing\*\*  
Emily Lynn Burkett\*  
Scott M. Burks  
Timothy J. Buydos  
Bradley Alan Byergo\*\*  
Jennifer Peeples Carter  
Amber Leigh Cline  
Mark Alan Dalton  
Tuyet Kathleen Doan  
Mercy Angela Elahi  
Patti Lynn Fries\*  
Jennifer Lynn Gooch  
Ricki-Lee Halling  
Susan A. Holt  
Brandon Karl Hunter\*\*  
Camilla Renee Jones  
Ketul B. Joshi\*

Susanne Sunjin Kendel  
Bradley Campbell Lewis  
Mitzi Herndon Lewis  
Christa Kay Lows  
Josia Davinia Marriott  
Emily Greer Marsh\*  
Jarod Lance McCullough\*\*  
Kathleen Ann Miraflores\*  
Kelly Joy Nelson\*  
Matthew Everett Ozment  
Arraya Paksin  
Tan-Long Pham  
Douglas Goodwin Rose  
Michael Anthony Santarlas  
Kirsten Kate Shields  
Kory Phillip Thoma\*  
Nhan Thomas Van Tran  
Kevin Kent Trummel\*  
Julie C. VanCardo  
Aaron Brent Westerlund  
Chi-Wai Doris Wong

\*\* *Dean's List with Honors*

\* *Dean's List*

The 18th Annual Honors Convocation was held on May 17, to honor the graduates of the School of Optometry Class of 2002. Over 350 family members, friends and graduates attended the banquet which was held at the beautiful Hilton St. Louis Frontenac Hotel. Attendees feasted upon a sumptuous dinner of filet mignon and chicken breasts with boursin cheese sauce and fresh spring vegetables. After the award ceremony, the class representatives featured a wonderful presentation of each graduate's plans for their future in the profession. Congratulations Class of 2002! Good Luck!

### Residents

#### *School of Optometry*

Contact Lens Residency  
-Carol Tam, O.D.

#### Pediatric Residency

-Paula Johnson, O.D.

#### *Kansas City Veterans*

#### *Administration Medical Center*

Primary Care/Low Vision  
Rehabilitation Optometry  
Residency

-Sarah Gerdes, O.D.

-Sandy Wurst, O.D.

-Rob Weixeldorfer, O.D.



## 2002 Honors Convocation Awards

### A.M. Skeffington Memorial Scholarship

*Sponsored by the A.M. Skeffington Memorial Fund*

For excellence in Binocular Vision Anomalies, Pediatric Optometry, Binocular Vision and Space Perception as well as an interest in the principals of A.M. Skeffington and Optometric Extension Program.

- **Kathleen J. Boland**



### COVD Award for Excellence in Vision Therapy

*Sponsored by the College of Optometrists in Vision Development*

Awarded to the graduate who has demonstrated a strong interest and clinical skills in the area of vision therapy.

- **Amber Leigh Cline**



### Clinical Binocular Vision/Vision Therapy Award

*Sponsored by the School of Optometry*

Awarded to the graduate in recognition of clinical performance in the area of binocular vision/vision therapy.

- **Karen Ann Blackmore and Kathleen J. Boland**



### Charles C. Matlock Memorial Award

*Sponsored by the Charles C. Matlock Family*

Awarded to the graduate who has achieved distinction in the area of pediatric optometry.

- **Scott M. Burks**

### Clinical Excellence Award

*Sponsored by the RGP Lens Institute*

Awarded to the graduate who exhibits exceptional interest in the fitting and application of rigid gas permeable contact lenses.

- **Nicci Renee Bachand**



### Vistakon Award of Excellence in Contact Lens Patient Care

*Sponsored by Vistakon*

Awarded to the graduate who provided outstanding clinical contact lens patient care as indicated by knowledge of subject matter and demonstrated clinical skills in managing contact lens patients.

- **Brandon Karl Hunter**



### Contact Lens Clinical Award

*Sponsored by Paragon Vision Sciences*

Awarded to the graduates who have demonstrated clinical excellence in the field of contact lenses.

- **Emily Greer Marsh and Kory Phillip Thoma**



### Marchon Eyewear Practice Management Award

*Sponsored by Marchon Eyewear, Inc.*

Awarded to the graduate who demonstrated the most outstanding clinical and dispensing skills in practice management.

- **Patti Lynn Fries**



### Clinical Optometry Award

*Sponsored by Ozarks Optical Laboratories, Inc.*

Awarded to the graduate whose clinical skills and professional demeanor have been judged outstanding.

- **Brandon Karl Hunter**



### Laser Vision Centers Award

*Sponsored by Laser Vision Centers, Inc.*

Awarded to the graduate with outstanding achievement in the field of ophthalmic lasers.

- **Arraya Paksin**



### Ocular Instruments Award of Excellence

*Sponsored by Ocular Instruments*  
Awarded to the graduate for outstanding performance in the study of ocular disease.

- **Brandon Karl Hunter**



### Low Vision Award

*Sponsored by Winchester Optical*  
Awarded to the graduate who has demonstrated interest and exceptional clinical proficiency in the area of low vision.

- **Josia Davinia Marriott**



**William Feinbloom Low Vision Award**

*Sponsored by Designs for Vision, Inc.*

Awarded to the graduate who has demonstrated excellence in both the didactic and clinical aspects of low vision care.

- **Karen Ann Blackmore**



**Student Ambassador Award**

*Sponsored by Student Affairs*

Awarded to the graduate for outstanding contributions in the Student Ambassador Program of the Office of Student Affairs.

- **Kevin Kent Trummel**



**Vision Service Plan Scholarship**

*Sponsored by Vision Service Plan*

Awarded to two 4th year students who have demonstrated excellence in primary eye care, are in the top half of their class, and have a commitment to enter the independent practice of optometry.

- **Amber Leigh Cline and Patti Lynn Fries**



**Robert A. Koetting Scholarship**

*Sponsored by the Dr. Robert A. Koetting, O.D. Scholarship Fund*

Awarded to the graduate who has demonstrated scholastic excellence and leadership.

- **Carrie Margaret Breusing**



**Alcon Fourth Year Award**

*Sponsored by Alcon Labs*

Awarded by Alcon to a graduate for a case report using an Alcon product.

- **Mark Alan Dalton**



**Silver Medal Award**

*Sponsored by Beta Sigma Kappa*

Awarded to a graduate for outstanding scholarship.

- **Karen Ann Blackmore**



**Dean's Award**

*Sponsored by the School of Optometry*

Awarded to the graduate for outstanding scholarship.

- **Karen Ann Blackmore**



**Student Marshal**

A graduate selected by the faculty, based on high academic standing, outstanding character, and involvement in University and/or professional activities.

- **Carrie Margaret Breusing**



**M. Earl McClellan Award**

*Sponsored by the Missouri Optometric Foundation*

Awarded to the graduate exhibiting outstanding scholarship.

- **Karen Ann Blackmore**



**William R. Jackson Jr., O.D. Memorial Scholarship**

*Sponsored by the Missouri Optometric Foundation*

Awarded to three graduating students who best exemplify independent professional optometry. Three students are selected by peer vote by members of the graduating class. The nominees are personally interviewed and the recipients are chosen by the Missouri Optometric Foundation Board of Directors. The nominees must be able to come to the interview the day of the Honors Convocation.

- **Katie Boland, Brad Byergo, Brad Lewis, and Kory Thoma**



## 2002 Honors Convocation Photos



## UMSL, Pepose Vision Institute Create Low Cost Surgery Program for Metro-East Police, Firefighters

John Parisi describes his vision as "terrible," but by mid-week the 52-year-old sergeant and K-9 officer for the Sauget Police Department was able to carry out his law enforcement duties without the aid of eyeglasses or contacts.

Parisi underwent laser vision correction at the Pepose Vision Institute (PVI) in Chesterfield. The surgery is part of a program sponsored by the School of Optometry at the University of Missouri-St. Louis and PVI.

The program offers law enforcement officers and firefighters from the Metro East the chance to undergo LASIK, a refractive eye surgery that treats nearsightedness, farsightedness and astigmatism.

According to nationwide industry surveys, the procedure can cost as much as \$2,500 per eye, but under the

collaborative program, Parisi will see clearly for a mere \$60. "If it weren't for this program there is no way I could get the surgery done," Parisi said.

The program began in December, and since then about 30 patients have undergone surgery. Among them are parole officers, Illinois State Police troopers, FBI agents and county sheriff's deputies.

"After September 11 many people donated money to support the families of police and firefighters killed in the terrorists attacks, but few programs are in place that support local police and fire departments," said Dr. Steven Grondalski, Clinical Assistant Professor of Optometry at UMSL. "This LASIK program gives back to our local heroes in a tangible way."

Under Grondalski's supervision, students from UMSL's School of Optometry provide surgery candidates with a free vision screening at the school's East St. Louis Eye Center. After a successful screening, candidates pay the \$60 fee for a more thorough pre-operative exam that's also conducted by students. Pepose Vision Institute cornea physician fellows then perform the surgeries, and Dr. Jay S. Pepose, PVI Director, supervises. Following surgery, patients return to the East St. Louis Eye Center where optometry students conduct post-operative exams at one day, one week, one month and three months.

"From different people I've talked with, the surgery is amazing," Parisi said. "It's such an inconvenience having to wear glasses and contacts, and I'm just looking forward to seeing more clearly."

## Viva Las Vegas 2002!

By Amy Schroeder

"Las Vegas 2002" was a resounding success, marking another promising year for this new tradition in CE programming. The annual, three-day spring event is sponsored by the School of Optometry in cooperation with the Ophthalmic Education Institute. "Las Vegas 2002," held this past March at the Imperial Palace hotel, provided practicing ODs a comprehensive and varied program of CE courses, worth eighteen hours of CE, nine hours of which were COPE approved.

Fifty-seven attendees from twenty-seven states and Canada gathered to attend the event. Lis Ellerbusch, who coordinated the event, had the opportunity to speak with many of them during their time in Las Vegas. Lis was thrilled to report that their feedback was overwhelmingly positive, indicating strong appreciation for the caliber of speakers and the value of attending quality CE sessions, back to back, in a unique area of the country. She added that they expressed their gratitude for smaller but equally important things like the quality of the

complimentary buffet lunches. Next year, we will be moving the event to the Flamingo hotel, in hopes of an even better overall experience.

Speakers included our own Aaron Franzel, O.D., Steven J. Grondalski, O.D., John McGreal, O.D., Bruce Morgan, O.D., Leonard Naeger, Ph.D., and Jeffrey Weaver, O.D., as well as Stuart Richer, O.D., Ph.D. and Steve Viola, Ph.D. They covered a broad range of topics including pharmacology, disease management, visual processing during reading, and others. Sessions were scheduled successively from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. each day so that attendees could attend any and every session of their choice.

Dr. G. A. Franzel, the creative force behind the programming, said of the recent event, "It was great fun, and it was well attended. But most importantly, because of Lis's hard work and diligence during the weeks leading up to Las Vegas 2002, it all went off without a hitch, from the minute we got off the plane. Next year we can expect to enjoy the same level of success or more."

## UMSL Optometry Students Give Free Eye Exams

By Tom Hockett

Four students from the School of Optometry at the University of Missouri-St. Louis gave free eye exams Tuesday, March 19 to about 160 children at Lafayette Elementary School in the Soulard neighborhood of St. Louis. Optometry students screened children from first, second, fourth and fifth grades at Lafayette for vision acuity and eye health.

The eye exams were part of a pilot program sponsored by the optometry school, the St. Louis Public

Schools and the Gateway Lions Club. Under the program, children with poor acuity or eye health, and financial need, are eligible for aid provided by the Lions Club.

The screenings were coordinated by: Janet Cahill, school nurse at Lafayette; Ray Myers, Clinical Associate Professor at the optometry school; and Lack Levy, Eye Committee Chair at the Gateway Lions Club.

## School Briefs

Dr. **Mohammad Rafieetary** ('88) is working at the Charles Retina Institute, a vitreoretina practice in Memphis. The founder is Steve Charles, an internationally known vitreoretinal surgeon. Mo joined the practice in 1996 leaving Southern College of Optometry where he was an Assistant Professor and the Chief of Ocular Disease Service. His major responsibilities in the office include patient care, diabetics, macular degeneration, etc. He writes, "I don't do primary care or low vision, but mainly medical optometry. I also provide continuing education and referral issues for our referring optometrists (more than 100 ODs refer to our office)." Way to go, Mo!

### Faculty

Several faculty members presented at the International Meeting of the American Academy of Optometry in Munich, Germany, April 11-15, 2002. Dr. **Timothy Wingert** and Dr. **Jeffrey L. Weaver** presented a poster entitled "Prevalence of Vision Problems in Children Entering School in Kentucky." Drs. **W. Howard McAlister**, **Jeffrey Weaver**, **Timothy Wingert** and **Scott Burks** ('02) presented a poster entitled "Vision Readiness of U.S. Army Soldiers in Germany."

In addition to his poster at the international meeting, Dr. **Timothy Wingert** also gave a presentation entitled "Optometry in Europe."

Congratulations to Dr. **Aaron** ('90) and Ellen **Franzel** on the adoption of their son, Micah Daniel. Micah was born on February 23, 2002, weighed 8 lb. 5 oz. and was 21 inches long. Micah joins his big sister Sarah who outranks him by 16 months! Congratulations on your new son!

In January, Dr. **Ray Myers** made arrangements for members of the Southwest Illinois Optometric Society to join SLOS members for Dr. Tom Hobbs' presentation on fitting 30 day extended wear lenses. Dr. Myers will handle the paper work required for Illinois continuing education credits at qualifying presentations.

## School Briefs

On April 5th, **Dr. Carl Bassi** received a Meritorious Service Award from the Students with Disabilities Association at the University of Missouri-St. Louis. The ceremony was held during the Twenty-Second Annual Awareness Week, April 1-5.

### Students

**Bradley A. Byergo** ('02) received a \$2,000 scholarship from the Heart of America Contact Lens Society on February 17-19, 2002. Congratulations!

**Nguyen Tran**, ('03) was the recipient of the 2002 Travel Grant of \$750 presented by the Heart of America chapter of the American Academy of Optometry. Good job!

Graduate students **Vandana Rajaram, Shaine Joseph, Jeremy Beatty, Aleksey Borodyanskiy**, and **Dr. Vasudevan Lakshiminarayanan** had four abstracts at the American Academy of Optometry meeting in Philadelphia, December 2001. Additionally, **Vandana Rajaram, Shiane Joseph, Jeremy Beatty, Aparna Raghuram, Sandhya Subramian**, and **Aruna Rajagopal** all received Travel Fellowships from AAO to attend the annual meeting and present their work.

**Jeremy Beatty** received the NEI travel Award from ARVO where he presented a poster at the meeting in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida on May 5-10, 2002. **Vandana Rajaram, Shaine Joseph, Jeremy Beatty** and **Vasudevan Lakshminarayanan** have four abstracts accepted for ARVO.

**Srinivasa Varadharajan "Rajan"** successfully defended his Ph.D. thesis on "Wavelet Applications in Electrophysiology."

**Mark** ('02) and **Lynda Dalton** had a baby girl, **Amanda Janyne** on February 18, 2002. She weighed 2 lbs 9 oz. Congratulations to the Dalton family!

## Calendar 2002

### July

- 1 Summer II externships begin
- 4 Independence Day
- 11 Sola Optical Research and Vistakon Grants applications due
- 18 Grand Rounds 6:00 pm-8:00 pm SGA Chamber
- 19 Pre-Absence Request and Post-Absence Follow-up form due for board exams

### August

- 6 NBEO Exam Part I Basic Science
- 6-7 All 3rd years Basic Science
- 7 NBEO Exam Retake; TMOD All 4th years
- 12 Glaucoma Foundation Research Grants applications due
- 19 Fall I Externships begin
- 19-20 New Student Orientation for first years
- 21 Fall Semester begins 8:00 am
- 22 State Board offered
- 23 NBEO Exam Retake; Part III Patient care, all fourth years
- 24-25 MOA Pre-Convention Board Meeting

### September

- 2 Labor Day
- 6 Rosh Hashanah begins at sundown
- 9 Students with academic concerns check in with faculty
- 10 UM Research Board Grant and NEI Small Grants for PilotResearch applications due
- 12 Founders Dinner
- 14 Yom Kippur begins at sundown
- 27 UM-St. Louis Research Award grant applications due
- 29-30 SA Annual Meeting

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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.

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[Optometry@umsl.edu](mailto:Optometry@umsl.edu)

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

The EyeWire can be delivered directly to your email address. Please assist us by sending your email address to [optometry@umsl.edu](mailto:optometry@umsl.edu) and enter EyeWire in the subject heading.

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Thank you for your cooperation!

