

From the Dean

It Takes TEAMwork

It has been said that there is no greater pleasure than observing when well laid plans come together. Some noteworthy accomplishments within the School over the past several months have reinforced the spirit of that statement. Many exciting initiatives are in progress at the School. An essential part of the many accomplishments over these past months is the ways in which the faculty, staff and students have shown that Together Everyone Accomplishes More (TEAM).

First of all, in early November, a site team from the Accreditation Council on Optometric Education (ACOE) observed the various operations of our program and interviewed representatives from nearly every area of activity within the School. The initial feedback, which could not be more promising, was made possible through the commitment, dedication and teamwork demonstrated during the two and one half days in which the site team was here. The many months of preparation and planning placed us in the position to show off a bit. What a pleasure it was to observe such optimism.

Another exciting development which was made possible through the commitment and hard work of a diverse TEAM of individuals not only within the School of Optometry but also the campus, the University of Missouri system and many in the governments of the city, state and national arenas, was the announcement by Senator Christopher "Kit" Bond regarding our successful request to

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Senator Bond Announces \$500,000 Grant for School of Optometry Mobile Unit



Senator Christopher "Kit" Bond (R)

Senator Christopher "Kit" Bond (R) visited the School of Optometry on November 26, 2001 to announce a \$500,000 appropriation for a mobile unit to provide vision screenings and eye exams on site to children at schools and preschools in the St. Louis metropolitan area.

The funds, appropriated through the VA-HUD spending bill, will be used to purchase, renovate and configure a mobile clinical facility capable of placing our students and faculty on site at schools and other facilities as necessary. Saying that "These dollars will allow more kids

to receive quality eye care service," Senator Bond stated that "We must not lose sight of St. Louis' children."

The mobile unit will provide the opportunity for access to vision screenings and eye examinations to children in the metropolitan community. It is anticipated that the unit will be ready for operation by early 2003.

Senator Bond thanked the School for its continued community outreach program, and applauded this new effort to provide convenient, quality eye care, telling the crowd that "No child should be left behind in this effort to protect and enhance healthy vision."

UMSL Faculty Receive Air Force Grant

Gary Bachman, O.D., M.S., and Carl Bassi, Ph.D., have been awarded a grant of nearly \$81,000 from the U.S. Air Force, for their proposal titled "Experimental Assessment of Color Constancy and Color Adaptation with Laser Eye Protection Filters".

The different technologies used in laser eye protection can distort color vision, affecting the vision performance of aircrew members. Drs. Bachman and Bassi will conduct experiments assess-

ing color vision in subjects wearing protective interference filters supplied by the Air Force Research Laboratory, Brooks Air Force Base, TX.

The overall goal of the project is to determine the minimum amount of adaptation time aircrew need in order to achieve normal color vision. Drs. Bachman and Bassi will present their findings to scientists and engineers at the Air Force Research Laboratory at the conclusion of the project.

School Briefs

Alumni

Dr. **Richard Wilson** ('97) was named Missouri Optometric Association's Young OD of the Year in 2001. The alumni of the School of Optometry salute you!!

Drs. **Aaron Caldwell** ('01) and **Dawn Lyons** ('01) were recently engaged and are living in Rochester Hills, Michigan. Aaron reports, "We are both practicing at D.O.C and are enjoying our first year out of school." Congratulations and best wishes to you both!

Dr. **Mary** ('99) and Daniel **Gregory** had their first baby, Aaron Daniel Gregory, on September 19, 2001. He weighed 7 lbs, 7 oz and was 20 inches long. Mary and Daniel, congratulations!

Dr. **Cathy** (Heller) **Edwards** ('90), husband Curtis and 2-1/2 year old daughter Emily moved from New York to Farmington, CT in mid-November. Cathy is no longer one of our lost alumnae! Good luck in your new community and home.

Dr. **Lisa** (OD, '93, Gerontology, '97) and Robert (Education, '98) **Chabot** are the proud parents of Sophia. Sophia was born Friday, October 12, 2001. Good luck!

Dr. **Jennifer Mahurin** ('00) wanted everyone to know that her son Mikey turned one year old September 26th. Happy belated birthday Mikey!

Dr. **Salena Pho** ('01) and her husband Rin S. Maa are expecting their first child in March 2002. Congratulations to the Maa-Pho household.

Dr. **David C. Hoel** ('98) wanted his classmates to know that he and his wife had a son, Nathan, born December 29, 1999. Nathan, now 2, and his folks live in Chillicothe.

Dr. **Julie Steinhauer** ('01) let us know that on November 28, 2001, she began practicing at Tri-County Eye Care in Jerseyville, IL. She will

(School Briefs continued on page 3)

School of Optometry Welcomes Research Fellow Janene Sims, O.D.



Dr. Janene Sims

Dr. Janene Sims joined the School as a Research Fellow this past July. Dr. Sims earned her O.D. degree at the UAB School of Optometry ('96), where she also completed a Family Practice Residency. She served as a National Eye Institute postdoc fellow of the Collaborative Longitudinal Evaluation of Ethnicity and Refractive Error (CLEERE) Study at UAB, and was a Clinical Assistant Professor at

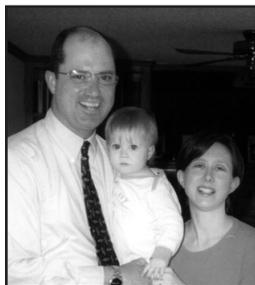
the UAB School of Optometry.

Dr. Sims joins the Collaborative Longitudinal Evaluation of Keratoconus (CLEK) Study at the UMSL School of Optometry as a Co-Investigator. She is also conducting graduate research investigating how the Stiles-Crawford Effect is altered in patients with Primary Open Angle Glaucoma. Her research may lead to a screening mechanism for the early detection of some types of glaucoma.

Dr. Sims also coordinates and conducts all the vision screenings for local school children, supervising the third- and fourth-year interns. From September through December, 880 children in grades K-7 were screened; 195 students failed the vision screening and were referred for further examination. Dr. Sims is working hard to expand the School's considerable community outreach efforts; all available screening times have been filled for the next several months.

Please join us in welcoming Dr. Sims to the UMSL School of Optometry!

Alumni Photo Updates



Brian ('92) and Karen ('94) Stephens are pictured with their daughter, Claire. She is one year old and is adored by her mom and dad. Brian recently lectured at the UM-St. Louis TPA continuing education conference held January 6-20, 2002 in St. Louis.



Suzanne ('99) and JC Hagan with their first grandchild Julia Christine Behlmann, born in April 2001. Suzanne reports, "For me, being a grandparent is even more wonderful than I thought it would be, and I thought it would be great."



A few members of the Class of 1991. Pictured are: Morris Lehrfeld, Rob Labbie and Mary Migneco. The Class reunion was held at Tower Grove Park in South St. Louis.



Sincere Thanks to School of Optometry Donors

Distinguished Donors

The annual Founders Dinner was held in September to honor the Distinguished Donors of the University. The School of Optometry very much appreciates the support of its friends, alumni and corporate donors.

The donors in the Dean's Circle and above, donors who have made a contribution of \$1,000 or more, were again acknowledged in the inaugural Dean's Circle Reception hosted by the Chancellor at the Chancellor's Residence in November. This event was attended also by the Deans and Directors of the School of Optometry.



Scholarship Donors, Mrs. Mary Gilbert and Dr. Robert Koetting.

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A special thanks goes out to our Lions Clubs partners for their assistance with our indigent eyecare program within the Center for Eye Care:

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- Midtown Lions Club
- RECC of Southern Illinois
- Southside Lions Club
- Webster Lions Club



Dr. Robert Koetting with Cinnamon Langford and Carrie Breussing.

School Briefs

be initiating a vision therapy program in the office, including sport vision therapy, and focusing on pediatrics. Julie, your fellow classmates and alumni applaud your excitement and enthusiasm, and note back to you, "We wish you the best!"

Dr. **Lisa McKim** ('95) completed a Fellowship into the College of Optometrists in Vision Development at their annual meeting in St. Louis in October 2001. Congratulations on your achievement!



Dr. Nancy Torgerson (l), COVID President, and Dr. Lisa McKim (r).

Dr. **Scott McKim** ('95) has been promoted from a Captain to a Major in the Air Force. Great job!

Drs. **Carl Ruoff** ('95), **David Semon** ('96) and **John Carlson** ('95) have been promoted to Lieutenant Commanders in the Navy.

Dr. **Laura Barnes** (current graduate student) has been promoted to Major in the Air Force.

Dr. **Jeffrey Weaver** has been promoted to a Lieutenant Colonel in the Army Reserves.

Dr. **Howard McAlister** has been named the new Section Chair for the Public Health Section of the American Academy of Optometry.

Dr. **Timothy Wingert** has been named the new Diplomate Chair for the Public Health Section of the American Academy of Optometry.

Congratulations to ALL of you!

Dean's Column (continued from page 1)

acquire a mobile eye unit for the School of Optometry. It is hoped that by the next calendar year we will have a TEAM of faculty, staff and students serving the St. Louis community through this new model of eye and vision care delivery.

Next, a unique collaborative effort between the faculty and administration within the School of Optometry and our professional colleagues in the Missouri Optometric Association in cooperation with others outside of Missouri is "The Advanced Clinical Procedures Course", scheduled for March 2002. For the first time, optometrists in our great state will participate in a course partially delivered

through an asynchronous on-line format. After completing six hours of work, including the self-paced assessments during the open period a few weeks prior to the on-site component, participants will travel to southwest Missouri in order to complete the remaining 14 hours of the course. Technology offers tremendous opportunities for the delivery of not only continuing education but optometric education as well. Additional examples of the ways in which technology is applied to teaching and learning will be communicated to you over the coming months.

In closing, I hope that in some way while our world has had to deal with

tragedy these recent months, you have had the opportunity to observe or learn of the many good activities in the School. As always you, our friends and colleagues, have an open invitation to call, write or visit should your travels bring you to St. Louis.

From our TEAM to yours,

Larry J. Davis, OD
Interim Dean
Associate Professor

Something to look forward to: Watch your mailbox for the first annual edition of the School of Optometry 12-month Calendar!

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