

From the Dean

Our Mission of Service

...Through eye care centers and other outreach programs, the College provides exemplary service to the population of the state's largest metropolitan community.

Excerpt from the College Strategic Plan

Why do you want to be an optometrist? "I want to help people" is a frequent answer given by applicants to the schools and colleges of optometry. In this edition of the Eye Wire we share some of the many ways that our students, faculty and staff are indeed helping people by seeking to maximize the precious gift of sight. Optometry affords us a tremendous opportunity to have an immediate impact upon a patient's vision and quality of life. No doubt each of us remember observing the excitement of a child who prior to receiving their first pair of glasses experienced life only through degrees of blur. Or perhaps we remember the enthusiasm expressed following the renewed visual clarity in our patients following cataract extraction. We should not underestimate the improved quality of life that we share daily.

It is in part that sense of accomplishment that motivates us to continue the many service activities in the College, some of which are described in this edition of the Eye Wire. These and many other acts of kindness throughout the year often go unnoticed. The impact of our service extends well beyond the campus and eye care centers. Just this morning while preparing this introduction for

(Continued on page 2)

Dr. Larry Brown Provides Exams for Needy Geriatric Patients

By Denise Hollinshed, St. Louis Post-Dispatch, North Post



Dr. Larry Brown

Dr. Larry Brown, clinical assistant professor of optometry at the University of Missouri at St. Louis, provides eye care to

the uninsured. His work has helped save the vision and perhaps the lives of many he has treated because of what he has detected in his patients' eyes.

"A couple of months ago I had a client whose blood vessels in his eyes were white because they were full of fat," he said.

The man turned out to have high cholesterol, diabetes and Graves disease, all affecting his eyesight.

"He won the jackpot," Brown said. The man was in his 40s, wasn't getting good care until he came to the wellness clinic. Now he is being treated for his conditions and is on four medications.

Patients receive a comprehensive eye exam, including pupil dilation with portable ophthalmic equipment, to check eyesight and to look for more serious problems, such as glaucoma or diabetic eye disease, which could cause blindness.

Examinations take place once a month at the Health Resource Center on the lower level of the school build-

ing at St. Augustine Church, 1371 Hamilton Avenue, in the Hamilton Heights neighborhood in St. Louis.

Eligible patients receive care at no charge. "I see a lot of people who have glaucoma and don't know it," he said. Brown recalled seeing a 62-year-old woman whose mother had glaucoma and had completely lost her eyesight. He immediately started treatment for her. With glaucoma, he said, "You treat it forever to keep it under control."

"She wasn't quite at the point for Medicare or destitute for Medicaid," he said. "She was on her own."

Brown has provided eye exams at the center since October 1995. He sees about five to ten patients a month.

They're the lost group, said Brown, explaining that Medicaid of Missouri had discontinued its eye-

"Basically, the kinds of people I'm seeing are the ones stuck between Medicaid coverage and not having enough money to do this on their own." --Dr. Larry Brown

glasses benefit for participants older than 18.

Brown, who also provides eye care at several area nursing homes and adult-care centers, enjoys helping those in need.

"But there's only so much I can do out of the trunk of my car," he said. "Anyone with serious problems I refer out to our regular clinics for additional evaluation and treatment."

School Briefs

Alumni



Dr. Gary M. Poteet

Gary Poteet ('96) received his fellowship in the American Academy of Optometry during the annual meeting in San Diego. Gary is currently a partner at Snowy Range Vision Center in Laramie, Wyoming.

Other alumni receiving their fellowship include: **Neha Amin** ('99), **Wayne Gilmore** ('98), **Suzanne Hagan** ('99), **James G. Huntress** ('90), and **Carol Tam** ('00 Contact Lens Residency).

John Gingrich ('90) was named Regional Clinical Director for TLC Laser Eye Centers Tri Cities and Knoxville. He and his wife, Dabney, relocated July 1, 2002, to northeast Tennessee.

Mohammed Rafiectary ('88) received the Tennessee Optometric Association's 2002 Optometrist of the Year award in December 2002. Mo-- your classmates are very proud of you!

Sean P. Mulqueeny, ('91) just completed the merger of his practice, the Morey-Mulqueeny Eye Center, with Surevision Eye Center in Saint Louis. He is in the process of identifying a new site for his office in west Saint Louis County and should move into this location by late summer '03. If you need more information, please call the office manager, Joann DeRousse at 314.542.3600.

(School Briefs continued on page 3)

Dr. Edward Jarka Welcomed as Eye Center Coordinator

By Maria Taylor

The College of Optometry is pleased to announce the addition of Dr. Edward Jarka as Center Coordinator at our affiliated, off-campus clinic sites. These include the Optometric Center in the Central West End of St. Louis, and the East St. Louis Center in East St. Louis, Illinois. He also has an office at the University Eye Center located on the South Campus of UM-St. Louis.

Dr. Jarka brings a background of valuable experiences with him. Most recently, he was a practicing optometrist at the Danville Eye Clinic & Cataract Center/Gailey Eye Clinic in Danville, Illinois, where he was also a Consultant to the Danville Veterans Medical Center. Prior to this, he was a Research Optometrist at CIBA Vision Corporation in Atlanta, Georgia.

He obtained his M.S. from Western Illinois University in Macomb, Illinois and his Doctor of Optometry at the Illinois College of Optometry.

Dr. Jarka was born in Aurora,



Dr. Edward Jarka

Illinois. He has been married to his wife, Martha, for 21 years. She is a Systems Manager for Walgreens Accounting Center. They have two children, Carrie, 17, and Tommy, 12. Both children are active in sports. Every member of the family is a huge Cardinal baseball fan. Dr. Jarka's hobbies include watching his children participate in sporting events, playing guitar, and watching most sports.

From the Dean (cont. from page 1)

our Spring Eye Wire, another example of the numerous ways that our students improve the quality of life of many in our community was illuminated to me. The annual "Sprint For Sight", an extra-curricular student driven service activity held this past weekend, was featured in the St. Louis Post-Dispatch, as was Amanda Strom, a 3rd year professional degree student at the College. Proceeds from the 2003 Sprint For Sight event were allocated to Delta Gamma Society to be used for their efforts to assist children who are visually impaired. Similar examples of noteworthy service occur daily in organizations including the Student Volunteers for Optometric Service to Humanity (SVOSH), the National Optometric Student Association (NOSA) and the Fellowship of Christian Optometrists (FCO) and the American Optometric Student Association (AOSA),

These exemplary service activities do not end when our students complete their degree. Optometrists are frequent contributors to the vital service activities within their communities. The community service contributions of our alumni daily enrich the lives of those living in countless communities throughout the region and beyond.

"It is a pleasant thought that when you help a fellow up a steep hill, you get nearer to the top yourself"

Reynolds Price

Best regards,
Larry J. Davis, OD
Dean

Alumna Elected as First Woman to HOACLS Board

At this year's Heart of America Contact Lens Society meeting in Kansas City, MO, Joni LaFerla ('93) was elected to the Board of Directors of the Heart of America Contact Lens Society. Dr. LaFerla is the first woman to be on the Board of Directors in its 41 year history. This year's event had 23 speakers presenting forty-three dif-

ferent topics for doctors and twenty-three topics for paraoptometric. The Heart of American Contact Lens Society was founded to provide post-graduate education in the theory and application of contact lenses. The first meeting in May, 1962 had three main speakers.

2003 Heart of America Contact Lens Society

For the second year the exhibit hall at the HOA included a table top display from the UM-St. Louis College of Optometry. There were photos of the classes of 1988 (15 years), 1993 (10 years), 1998 (5 years) and 2002 (1 year). Stop by next year (February 13-15, 2004) and find your photo on the composites for 1984 (20 years), 1989 (15 years), 1994 (10 years), 1999 (5 years), and 2003 (1 year).



Optometry students admire the new recruitment display for the college.

Dr. Koetting Receives Award

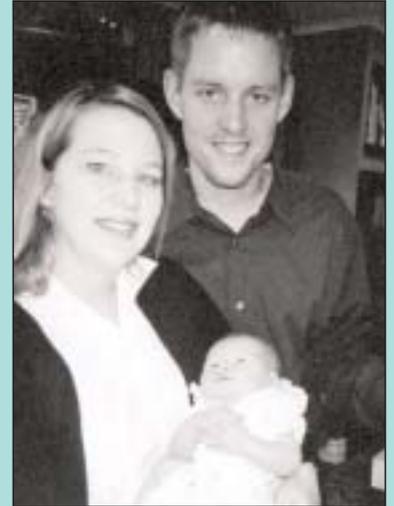


Pictured (l) Dr. Robert Koetting and (r) Dr. Larry Davis, Dean.

Dr. Robert Koetting received the Dean's Award for Meritorious Service at the HOA conference. Dr Koetting has served optometry for over 55 years including 13 years as a member of the College of Optometry Advisory Board. Dr Koetting's contributions to optometric education also include service to the American Optometric Foundation where he served two terms as Vice-President. He is an Honorary Founder of the University of Missouri St. Louis College of

Optometry. He is also an accomplished author serving as Editor of *Vision*—a publication of the Missouri Optometric Association for the last 12 years. His most recent works include, *History of the American Optometric Association Centennial Commemorative Booklet, A Century of Progress, A Millennium of Promise* completed in 1997, the *Missouri Optometric Association History* booklet completed in 2001 and *History of the Friends of UM St. Louis* completed in 2003. His practice management savvy is widely recognized in the optometric community. He was awarded Volunteer of the Year from the University of Missouri-St. Louis in 1991 and received the Chancellor's Medallion in 1995. The Dean's Award is given periodically to a person who has demonstrated original and profound devotion and service to enhance optometric education and the delivery of eye and vision care services to the citizens of Missouri and the region. Congratulations!

School Briefs



Shawna, Toby and Lillian

Toby and **Shawna** ('99) **Heddinghaus** welcomed **Lillian Claire Heddinghaus** on October 7, 2002 at 3:31 pm. She was 7.0 pounds and 21.0 inches long. Congratulations!

Captain **Brian Foutch** ('99) and his wife **Becky** recently welcomed twins **Madeline Grace**, 5 lb 6 oz, and **Kenneth Regan**, 5 lb 9 oz, into the Foutch family. They were delivered on Feb 15th, 2003 at Camp Lester Naval Hospital, Okinawa, Japan. Brian reports, "Mom and kiddos doing well." Good luck!

Captain **Patti Fries** ('02) missed the HOA alumni event due to the 9" of snow, but wanted her classmates to know that she is doing well. She is practicing very full scope optometry, and is teaching with an extern on the premises. She notes, "it was quite a switch to go from student to teacher in one big swoop." Keep up the good work.

Mark Curtis ('96 and College of Optometry Advisory Board member) wrote recently: "I'm going to be working till the day I die to pay for weddings, because we're going to have twin girls!" The twins join older sister **Sarah Rose**, Mark added, "My luck, all three of them will want to get married in a one month time span." Mark and **Julie**, the UMSL Optometry alumni wish you both well, and lots of sleep prior to the girls' arrival!

School Briefs



Emma Olivia McDougal

Scott McDougal ('01) and his wife, Amanda, were blessed with a baby girl, Emma Olivia, on October 17, 2002. She was born in Cape Girardeau and weighed 7 lbs. 9 oz. and was 20 1/2 inches long. All are doing well. Best wishes to the entire McDougal family!

Faculty

Dr. **Edward S. Bennett** was an invited lecturer and received the "Kevin Tuohy Memorial Lecture Award" from the Contact Lens Society of America at the Contact Lens and Eyecare Symposium, Orlando, FL, January 2003.

Dr. **Bennett** was also elected Secretary of the Cornea and Contact Lens Section of the American Academy of Optometry; he also provided a paper entitled "Why GP lenses will not be virtually obsolete in 2010" at the meeting in December, 2002 in San Diego.

Dr. **Vinita Henry** was appointed to the UM-St. Louis Chancellor Search Committee.

Dr. **Vasudevan Lakshminarayanan** was a member of the faculty of the Winter College on Biophotonics and Optical Imaging held at the International Center for Theoretical Physics at Trieste, Italy. He also gave invited lectures at Universidad Complutense, Madrid and at the Royal Belgian Academy of Sciences at Brussels. In addition, he is a Member, Technical Program Committee of TechnoLas 03, meeting on lasers and applications, Havana, Cuba, July 2003.

(School Briefs continued on page 5)

Dr. Janene Sims and Optometry Interns Will Screen Over 4,000 Patients by Year End



College of Optometry interns look on as Dr. Janene Sims examines a patient at the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Health Fair.

Dr. Janene Sims, research fellow and coordinator of the vision screening program, joined the College of Optometry in September of 2001. Every Tuesday morning since that time, she and the optometry externs from the primary care service, have been traveling to schools in the St. Louis area, both city and county, to provide complimentary vision screenings to children in kindergarten through 8th grade. When school is not in session during the summer months, Dr. Sims and the externs screen preschoolers at day care centers or screen adults in the community at corporate sponsored health fairs. Over 3,500 patients have been seen since September 2001.

Dr. **Barbara W. Brown** ('88), Advancement Officer for the College of Optometry, receives numerous requests for vision screenings from the St. Louis School Districts including the Special School District, daycare centers and businesses. When Dr. Brown receives a request, it is forwarded to Dr. Sims who coordinates the screening. "On a good day we can see about 100 children in a morning session. By the end of the semester we



College of Optometry intern examines a patient at the Inner City Outreach Center.

will have seen over 4,000 kids," stated Sims. The vision screening benefits both the patient and the externs who take advantage of the wonderful opportunity to hone their clinical skills. While not a full, comprehensive eye exam, tests at the screening include visual acuity, cover test, retinoscopy, color vision and ophthalmoscopy. As many as 25%-30% of the patients are referred for a more thorough eye examination.

The vision screening program works in conjunction with the Indigent Eye Care program. For example, one particular family had three daughters who failed the

2001-2002 Vision Screenings
Total = 2,058

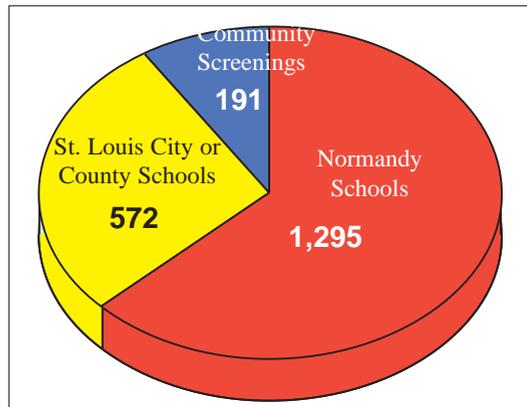


Figure 1

(Continued on page 5)

Dr. Janene Sims and Optometry Interns

(continued from page 4)



College of Optometry interns at Pattonville Middle School Health and Safety Day.

screening, resulting in each needing corrective lenses. The family had very limited funds for eyecare and were unable to provide their children with glasses. Dr. Sims made one quick phone call to Dr. Brown who replied, "let me see what I can do." After Dr. Brown chose the appropriate fund, the College of Optometry provided three little girls with three pair of glasses and three great big smiles. There are four privately funded Indigent Care accounts from which to draw funds: low vision, Optometric Center, East St. Louis, and a general fund which is bro-

ken into four subcategories (general, pediatrics, low vision, and special needs contact lenses). Please see the related article on page 6. For the 2002-2003 school year, eight students have been helped in the Special School District, eight from the Youth Build program, 13 children with special needs unrelated to the Special School District, 41 special needs adults and one senior citizen.

The vision screening program has become so popular that appointments were booked solid through June 2003 as early as last December 2002. Currently, there is a waiting list for

2002-2003 Vision Screenings

Total = 1,605 (as of 3/7/03)

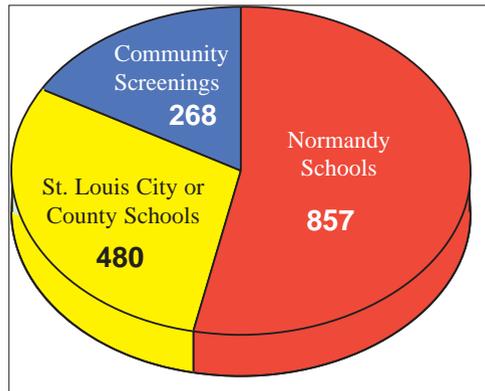


Figure 2

the 2003-2004 school year. Administrators are discussing the possibility of adding a Thursday morning session to the schedule in order to meet community requests.

The College of Optometry sincerely thanks Dr. Janene Sims, Dr. Barbara W. Brown, the optometry externs and all donors who have given generously to the indigent eye care program and the screening program for their support and hard work by "enriching lives through vision."

Contributions are needed year round. To make a contribution please contact Dr. Barbara W. Brown at 314-516-6030 or BrownBW@umsl.edu.



College of Optometry intern examines a patient at the Inner City Outreach Center.

School Briefs

Dr. Gary Bachman and Dr. Rod Tahrán of Essilor USA had a paper entitled "Update on Spectacle Lens Coatings" published in the November-December issue of *Comprehensive Ophthalmology Update*.

Dr. W. Howard McAlister received a certificate of appreciation for serving for the past seven years as an adjunct faculty member of the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College.

Students

Congratulations to **Brian Ross** ('03) and **Jennifer Klinger** ('03) who received grants at the Heart of America Contact Lens Society Congress in February, 2003.

Bethany Curtis ('04) received a travel grant from the AAO "Heart" Chapter.

Congratulations to the students and faculty members below for presenting the following posters:

AVRO May 2002

"Apparent Accommodation and Horizontal Vergence in Bilateral Pseudophakias," **Seshadri Jayasree**

"Effects of Magnification on the Horopter for Fixation Distances of 40 cm and 75 cm"

Jeremy A. Beatty, ('04)
Vasudevan Lakshminarayanan

"Normative Data and Effects of Refractive Status and Correction Type on the 40cm Longitudinal Horopter"

Jeremy A. Beatty, ('04)
Vasudevan Lakshminarayanan

"Repeatability of Longitudinal Horopter Data for Fixation Distances of 40cm and 75cm"

Jeremy A. Beatty, ('04)
Vasudevan Lakshminarayanan

"Effect of Oblique Astigmatism on Cyclodeviations"

Subramaniam Sandhya

(School Briefs continued on page 6)

School Briefs

Posters (continued)

OSA September 2002

“Effect of Contrast and Refractive Error on Depth of Focus”
Aruna Rajagopalan, Sandhya Subramaniam, Jerry Christensen

AAO December 2002

“Color Vision and Stereopsis in Dementia: A re-analysis”
Aparna Raghuram, Vasudevan Lakshminarayanan

Fractal Dimensions in Ocular Disease”
Vasudevan Lakshminarayanan, Aparna Raghuram

“Comparison of Depth of Focus Between Spectacle and Contact Lens Wearers”
Sandhya V. Subramaniam, Aruna S. Rajagopalan, Jerry Christensen

“Comparison of Nerve Fiber Layer Thickness with Refractive Status and Axial Length”
Aruna S. Rajagopalan, Sandhya Subramaniam, Jerry Christensen, Jayasree Seshadri

“Induced Disparity and the AFPP Horoptoe”
Jeremy A. Beatty (‘04), Vandana Rajaram, and Vasudevan Lakshminarayanan

Student Personals

Shannon Elwood (fourth year student, ‘03) and his wife, Leigh, have one additional item to be thankful for this year. They welcomed Madalyn Jean as the first addition to their family. Madalyn Jean was born at 11:44 am on Sat, Nov. 23. She weighed 6 lbs 15 oz. and was 19.5 inches long. Congratulations!



Do You Know a Budding Optometrist?

By Dr. Barbara W. Brown

In the life of every optometrist, a little recruiting must happen. Sometimes this recruiting takes the shape of speaking at a high school career day or speaking to a specific class. If you find yourself in such a place, please notify Dr. Barb Brown (314-516-6030 or BrownBW@umsl.edu) and she can provide some helpful materials.

If you've had a student curious about optometry and you'd like to push them just a bit, please let them know of our Pre-optometry Workshops. Information about what is contained in the workshop is available at www.umsl.edu/divisions/optometry/workshop.html. These workshops are provided to students at no charge, and family members are encouraged to attend (family member lunches are \$10). The next workshop is Saturday, May 31, 2003.

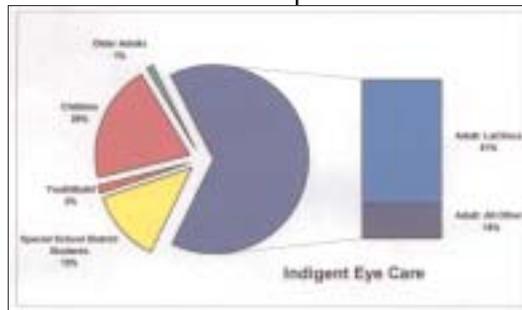
The topics are:

- Explore the profession of optometry and the UM-St. Louis College of Optometry program
- Learn about our admission requirements and where these courses may be taken
- Find out about the Optometry Admission Test (OAT) and when it should be taken
- Learn how to select a professional school based on your personal needs
- Learn about application procedures
- Learn how to estimate cost of optometric education
- Develop a budget
- Learn how to finance your education
- Receive a school and campus tour (self-guided tours on Saturdays)
- Talk with current students
- Discuss housing options
- Have your questions answered
- Hear from a faculty member panel

Indigent Eye Care Program

By Dr. Barbara W. Brown

In the process of providing our communities with access to quality eye care, the College of Optometry provides 100 patients with eye care who may not otherwise be able to afford it through our Indigent Eye Care program. The breakdown of our indigent patient care is in the chart at right. We offer services to very specific patient populations.



to the children identified through the special school district (these are children with often multiple handicaps), we provide help to students in any school district for whom the social worker or school nurse has requested assistance in obtaining eyecare and eyeglasses. Some of these students need more than eye glasses; at least two a year need low vision aids.

For example, we have partnered with YouthBuild which is an opportunity for high risk youth and young adults to obtain their GED while securing on-the-job training in construction skills. Often, these youth and young adults are working to avoid the welfare rolls and trying to obtain skills, but can't see. In addition

Cost for caring for special needs children and adults is not provided by state funding. However, their care offers our students experience beyond words. Those interested in contributing to one of these programs should contact Dr. Barbara W. Brown at (314) 516-6030 or Brown BW@umsl.edu.

Calendar 2003

April

6-7 Mid-America Vision Conference

Doubletree Airport Club Hotel,
St. Louis, **8 hours CE**
Tuition: \$185.00 includes
breakfast buffet

For more information
please call Lis (314) 516-5615.

8 SLOS Meeting

“Corneal Refractive Therapy”

17 Grand Rounds 6-8:00 p.m.

27 Glaucoma Management

St. James Hospital
Olympia Fields, IL
6 hours of T.Q., certified or
approved CE

For more information please call
Dr. Al Bucar (847) 838-2020.

May

3 The Corneal Classic Annual
Charity Golf Tournament

(hosted by the American
Optometric Student Association)
Where: Belk Park Golf Course,
Wood River, Illinois

Proceeds from the tournament
benefit St. Louis Society for the
Blind, and also will provide
student travel grants to the AOA
Congress/AOSA Conference in
San Diego this June.

Anyone interested in hole sponsor
ship, gift donation, or registration
forms, please contact Seth Thibault
by phone at 314-518-6407, or
seth_thibault@hotmail.com.

May (cont.)

13 SLOS Meeting

14 Senior Seminar 2003

Speaker: John McGreal, O.D.
Millennium Center, UM-St. Louis
North Campus
4 hours CE

Tuition: \$75.00 includes
dinner buffet

For more information
please call Lis (314) 516-5615

16 Honors Convocation

Hilton St. Louis Frontenac

4-9 ARVO Annual Meeting

Ft. Lauderdale, FL

June

16 Grand Rounds 6-8:00 p.m.

17 Southwest Illinois Optometric
Society Interprofessional
Reception/CE Presentation

-All St. Louis and Illinois
optometrists and ophthalmologists
invited; 6:30PM; NoonDay Club at
the Metropolitan Building in
Downtown St. Louis.
Speaker: Dr. Ronald R. Krueger,
Director of Refractive Surgery
at Cleveland Clinic Foundation, OH

July

17 Grand Rounds 6-8:00 p.m.

August

18-19 New Student Orientation

20 Classes Begin

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We have an email address for the con-
venience of the alumni and friends.
Feel free to update us on any happen-
ings in your professional or personal
life.

Optometry@umsl.edu

Visit our web site at:
www.umsl.edu/~optometry.html

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to reduce printing and mailing costs, while at the
same time increase the quality of our publica-
tions.

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email or written correspondence. (Please see top
of page) Thank you for your cooperation!