

Message from the Dean

"We are committed to the pursuit of excellence, charity and compassion toward others, and to improved quality of life for those who live and work within our community."

Excerpt from College Vision,
Mission, and Values

Friends and Colleagues—

Each year approximately 5,000 patients, many of whom would otherwise lack care, receive eye and vision care within one of the four Centers for Eye Care operated by the College. Thousands more are screened and treated through the Mobile Examination Center, our affiliations and partnerships with neighborhood community health centers, school districts and a variety of community service programs. We highly value these collaborations which enrich the lives of so many throughout the St. Louis metropolitan area.

In the midst of recent shifts to Missouri Medicaid, it is increasingly more difficult to sustain these worthwhile activities. The "Sight for St. Louis" committee chaired by Drs. Karen '84 and Steven Rosen seeks to ensure that no one in need lacks access to excellent eye and vision care. Mark your calendar for Thursday March 23, 2006. The Sight For St. Louis promises to be an evening of fun and camaraderie increasing awareness and generating resources in order to help close the gap for unmet eye and vision care throughout the region.

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Fulbright Scholar



Timothy A. Wingert, O.D.

The College of Optometry's Tim Wingert, OD, may be the first optometrist ever to be awarded a prestigious Fulbright Scholarship, sponsored by the U.S. State Department. Wingert will spend a semester at the Poznan University of Medical Sciences, Department of Optometry and Biology

and Visual Sciences, in Poznan, Poland.

For four months, beginning in February, 2006, Wingert will conduct research on refractive errors in children and lecture on clinical refraction, low vision and other topics. A 1979 graduate of Illinois College of Optometry, Wingert has done research on the validity of clinical testing procedures, access to optometric services, and the delivery of optometric services to various populations, including nursing home residents.

Wingert is looking forward to the experience and expects it to broaden his view of optometry. When asked what he hoped would result from his semester in Poznan, Wingert replied, "I hope my insights into our profession and its history will be of help to those in Poznan, and that I will return from Poland with a broader view of optometry in Europe that will help in my teaching and research in the College of Optometry." Congratulations, Dr. Wingert!

Henry Honored

Vinita Henry, OD '85, is the recipient of this year's Chancellor's Award For Excellence for a non-regular faculty member (nontenure track and at least 75% time). Henry, the first optometry faculty member to be so honored, was recently promoted to the rank of Clinical Professor. Over the years, her teaching has been praised by many students.

Congratulations, Dr. Henry!



Vinita Allee Henry, O.D.

PAST TIME

Twenty years ago, or so – 1984-1985

▼ House Bill 675 was passed, allowing the Board of Curators to set out-of-state optometry tuition.

▼ The residency program in contact lenses was begun, and the first resident was Vinita Henry, OD '85.

▼ The UMSL Health Sciences Library moved into the recently renovated, former chapel on the Marillac Campus.

Ten years ago, or so – 1994-1995

▼ Presentations were made to the Board of Curators to attempt to halt the rising tuition triggered by the Board's five-year plan for full-cost-of-education tuition. Over 100 optometry students were in attendance.

▼ Anne Ream, OD '84, was inaugurated as MOA President; she was both the first woman and the first UMSL graduate to hold that office.

▼ Ralph Garzia, OD completed four months as Interim Dean and David Loshin, OD, PhD, was named Dean of the School of Optometry.

▼ Grand Rounds were initiated as part of the College's clinical education program.

▼ Three-hundred and sixty-seven applications were received for the forty seats in the 1995-96 entering class. This was more applications per slot than any other optometric program in the country for the third year in a row.

▼ Dr. David Seibel, OD '87, became the first College of Optometry graduate to achieve diplomate status. Seibel became a diplomate of the Cornea and Contact Lens Section of the American Academy of Optometry.

Optometry Adds New Scholarships

The mission of the College of Optometry is to promote and provide improved eye and health care for people throughout the country by preparing the next generation of optometrists and vision researchers. During the last year, seven new scholarships were added to assist students with very high financial need. We extend our sincere thanks to each of our generous donors. Your gifts do make a difference!

New Scholarships

- Anne C. Ream, O.D. Scholarship
- Midland, Ozarks, Sutherlin Optical Labs Scholarship
- William R. Jackson, Jr, OD, Memorial Scholarship by Missouri Optometric Foundation
- Vision Service Plan Scholarship
- Terry Ingraham Optometry Diversity Scholarship (Vistakon)
- Optometry Alumni and Friends Scholarship
- CIBA Vision Optometric Leadership Scholarship

Class of 2009



The College of Optometry welcomes the class of 2009 as they begin their optometric studies. The class is comprised of 44 students who have traveled to UMSL from 14 different states. Nineteen students had only a short trip from within Missouri, and half of the class are female. The class is well qualified with an average GPA of just above a 3.4.

We are glad to have all of you join us and wish you the best during your four years of professional study!

Seibel Receives Award

David Seibel, OD '87, (pictured right) received the 2005 American Optometric Student Association Founders Award, presented to an individual for outstanding contributions to the AOSA.



Scholarship Endowment Balances Nearly Double in 2004-05

Sparked by the UM-System Matching Scholarship Initiative, the scholarship endowment balances in the College of Optometry increased by 82% during FY 05. Seven new scholarships were established last year. As of July 1st 2005, the total endowed scholarship balance for the college was \$907,820.

	July 1, 2004	July 1, 2005
Endowed Scholarships		
Bellingrath Scholarship	\$42,115	\$43,574
Mary M. Gilbert Scholarship	\$10,109	\$10,431
William R. Jackson, Jr., O.D., Memorial Scholarship	\$373,084	\$384,953
Dr. Robert A. Koetting Scholarship for Fourth Year Optometry Students	\$40,903	\$42,204
Women in Optometry Scholarship	\$8,907	\$9,255
Jack W. Bennett Scholarship	\$15,760	\$16,261
Anne C. Ream, O.D. Scholarship		\$30,850
Midland, Ozarks, Sutherlin Optical Labs Scholarship		\$31,060
William R. Jackson, Jr., O.D., Memorial Scholarship by Missouri Optometric Foundation		\$185,138
Vision Service Plan Scholarship		\$30,562
Terry Ingraham Optometry Diversity Scholarship (Vistakon)		\$61,227
Optometry Alumni and Friends Scholarship		\$31,997
CIBA Vision Optometric Leadership Scholarship		\$30,307
Balance, Beginning Fiscal Year	\$490,878	\$907,820



Mark Curtis, OD, '96, Chair of the Advisory Board for the College of Optometry, proudly displays his family's winning float in the Warrensburg, Missouri Fourth of July parade. Mark said "for the fourth year in a row, the Curtis crew won again! This year we won the 'Most Original Creation.'" Whatever floats your boat, Mark!

NEWS AND NOTES

▼ Four highly qualified freshmen (each were number one in their high school graduating class) began their undergraduate education in the Honor's College in August 2005, with the expectation that they will pursue an OD degree in the 3+4 program. Such a program consists of 3 years of undergraduate study and 4 years of our professional OD program, with an undergraduate degree awarded after their first year in the College of Optometry.

▼ Pete Gubany, OD '84, is part owner of the new Spyglass restaurant at 255 Union Boulevard in St. Louis. The cuisine is American with Mediterranean touches. Gubany also owns Erker's Eyewear in Kirkwood, MO.

▼ Kim, OD '04, and Jeff Kohne welcomed Joshua Copeland Kohne into their family on July 29, 2005. Joshua was 6 lbs 2 oz and 19 inches long.

▼ Alison House, OD '87, is the Colorado Optometric Association's new President Elect.

▼ LeeAnn Barrett, OD '85, is running for AOA Trustee in the 2006 AOA elections.

▼ Lawrence Kent Harrington, OD '87, MS '98, PhD '04, has published a paper, "Luminous efficiency and the measurement of daytime displays, signals and visors", in the May 2005 issue of Aviation, Space and Environmental Vision. Co-authors are faculty members Carl Bassi, PhD, and Carol Peck, PhD.

▼ Larry J. Davis, OD, is serving a year-long term as President of the Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry (ASCO), June 2005-June 2006.

▼ Dr. Julie DeKinder, OD, has joined our faculty. Her appointment as Clinical Assistant Professor began August 1. Welcome, Dr. DeKinder!

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▼ Faculty member Irwin Wong, OD, PhD, is lead author on two recently published papers: "Second-order spatial summation in amblyopia" in *Vision Research*, 45:2799-2809, 2005, and "Spatial interactions reveal inhibitory cortical networks in human amblyopia" in *Vision Research*, 45:2810-2819, 2005.

▼ Larry Davis, OD, is co-author of an article entitled "Repeatability of Corneal Topography Measurement in Keratoconus with the TMS-1", *Optometry and Vision Science*, 82:5, 2005. Other authors include Timothy T. McMahon, Robert Anderson, Cynthia Roberts, Ashraf Mahmoud, Loretta Szczotka, Thomas Raasch, Nina Friedman and the CLEK Study Group.

▼ Cameron Bateman, OD '06, has a new son. Nolan Tyge Bateman was born August 16, 2005 and weighed in at 6 pounds, 14 ounces. Congratulations, Cameron!

▼ Debbie Bessler, OD '07, gave birth to a baby girl, Regan Lillian on Saturday, August 27. Regan weighed 8 pounds, 14 ounces and is 21 inches long and has strawberry blonde hair and blue eyes. Congratulations, Debbie!

▼ Vasudevan ("Vengu") Lakshminarayanan, PhD, was appointed by the President of the National Academy of Sciences to represent the United States as Chair of the Delegation to the 20th Congress of the International Commission for Optics in Changchung, China.

▼ The following staff and faculty were honored this year for their years of service to the university: Maria Ahrens (5), Ella Nichols (10), Rufus Dyle (15), Lis Ellerbusch (15), Julie Gram (15), Dr. Jerry Christensen (25), Dr. William Long (25). Congratulations!

Mark Your Calendar

A special evening event, *Sight for St. Louis*, will feature a reception, silent auction and entertainment on Thursday, March 23, 2006. Proceeds will benefit indigent eye care.

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