

Commencement 2005



Hearty congratulations are due the forty-four students who received their OD degrees in a ceremony held on May 14, 2005 in the impressive Touhill Performing Arts Center. Chancellor Thomas George, PhD, assisted by Dean Larry Davis, OD, conferred the degrees. The commencement address was delivered by Jerald Strickland, OD, PhD, Interim Senior Vice President of Academic Affairs, University of Houston, and immediate past Dean of the College of Optometry, University of Houston. Awards were presented to numerous students and a reception followed. The members of this year's graduating class are:

Photo by Heart of America /Chappell Graduation Images

Kenyon B. Anderson
David Robert Bane
Wendy Katherine Bartosik
Cheryl Lynn Bergin
Dolly Ann Campbell
Diane M. Curry
Michelle Renee Ramsey Durham
Alison Marie Duy
Tod S. Gerhardt
Frankie F. Goolsby
Jeremy Lynn Guenther
Christopher S. Gunn
Heather Dawn Hanson
Angela Marie Heppermann
Shawna L. Hill

Sarah Davis Hubbard
Troy William Johnson
Ariann Kalkowski
Abby Charlene Kilgore
Chad Eric Klein
Cinnamon M. Langford
Marian Meng-Ying Lee
Sara Ellen Martin
Kathryn Rebecca McCampbell
Amber L. McCormick-Gossage
Lucias Daniel Meyer
Julia Elizabeth Mills
Jacqueline Rose Minier
John William Mixon Jr.
Tina Renae Porzukowiak

Shelley Maria Richards
Charles John Rudolph, III
Matthew Wray Ruhl
Deena D. Sandall
Kelli Y. Shaon
Sabrina Marie Shultz
Scott Smalley
Jimmy D. Smart
Sara Taylor Strasser
Demond Rayshawn Webster
Clayton Carl Westphal
Jill Lynn Williamson
Michael A. Wheeler
Kaylin K. Young

PAST TIME

Twenty years ago, or so – 1984-1985

▼ Thirty-one students graduated in May of 1984—the inaugural graduating class. Twenty-six students graduated in May of 1985, the College's second graduating class.

▼ Robert Koetting, OD, addressed the second graduating class at an Honors Convocation held the night before commencement at the Sheraton Westport Inn.

▼ In the fall of 1985, the College offered a multi-week Diagnostic Pharmaceutical Agents course, and the dates for a Therapeutic Pharmaceutical Agents course were to be announced soon.

Ten years ago, or so – 1994-1995

▼ A grand opening was held for the East St. Louis Eye Center

▼ A fourth Shadow Ball was held in the Fall of 1995 at the Ritz-Carlton Hotel in Clayton with the proceeds going to provide indigent eye care.

▼ Tuition was \$11,485 for residents and \$22,445 for non-residents

▼ Thirty-nine students were in the graduating class of 1994, and thirty-six students graduated in 1995.

▼ In 1994, the College awarded its first graduate degree in Physiological Optics, a Masters degree awarded to Barbara Steinman, OD.

▼ The College was one of 15 participating clinics to begin enrollment of subjects for the Collaborative Longitudinal Evaluation of Keratoconus (CLEK) study sponsored by the National Eye Institute of the National Institutes of Health. Larry Davis, OD, was the UMSL investigator.

Message from the Dean

Friends and Colleagues—

It is a pleasure to share this issue of the EYEwire and introduce our new editor Dr. Jerry Christensen. As founding dean, he is uniquely qualified to serve our college in such a capacity. I hope that you enjoy learning of the many positive personal and collective accomplishments from our faculty, staff and students. The addition of Jerry promises to produce consistent and timely news from us to you. As always we welcome your feedback. Enjoy the summer!

ljdavis@umsl.edu



We're 25 Years Old!

No, really, it's true! Our College of Optometry turned 25 on June 1, 2005. It's also true that what one optometric historian wrote about the profession of optometry some sixty years ago, that "it is a wonder the profession did not die a'borning", applies equally well to our College's birth. To say that it had a somewhat "iffy" start would be a masterful understatement. Some of the main events that preceded its inception are listed below:

- ◆ The Marillac Campus was purchased by the University of Missouri for the purpose of housing a yet-to-be-established school of optometry

- ◆ Despite the support of the legislature, the Governor refused to sign the bill establishing the school

- ◆ The UMSL campus was given the go-ahead by the UM system administration to begin the establishment of an optometry program

- ◆ A dean's search was initiated and a dean designate identified

- ◆ The President of the UM System recommended against the school's start-up, and the Board of Curators voted not to have a school of optometry

- ◆ Optometrists of the Missouri Optometric Association, prevailed upon the legislature to mandate a school of optometry at the UMSL campus

- ◆ On June 1, 1980, the program began in an uncertain environment.

Like any political and academic endeavor, there was much more to it than this sparse outline indicates.

However, two men held onto their vision of a Missouri-based optometry school with bulldog-like tenacity during the many ups, downs, and delays: Jerry Franzel, OD, and the late Robert Mobley, OD.

Despite all this, our professional program began operations and has thrived. This spring the College graduated its 22nd class. In addition, countless patients have been helped at our College's clinics and by our students and faculty in a multitude of clinical settings across the country. Many research studies, both scientific and clinical, have been conducted by our faculty and graduate students. Numerous high-quality continuing education courses have been offered to the profession by our program since its inception.

Over a twenty-year span, many things change, indeed most of them—leadership, faculty, staff, facilities, clinical programs, research programs, and teaching techniques. Then there is the exponential increase in all forms of technology used in teaching, research and clinical endeavors (the first computer the college purchased possessed 48K of memory!).

However, one thing has remained constant over the past quarter-of-a-century. We have remained steadfast in our resolve to educate and graduate the finest optometrists.

White Coat Ceremony



Forty-three students received their white coats in a ceremony on May 12, 2005. These students have completed their first two years of professional education and achieved the credentialing necessary to begin providing care as interns in the Center for Eye Care. Congratulations to each of them!

Timothy Wingert, OD, and John Crane, OD '91, provided them with "encouraging words." John Crane, OD, and Edward Bennett, OD, presented the student interns with their coveted white coats. The Optometric Oath was administered to the new clinicians by Edward Jarka, OD, and a reception followed. This professional rite-of-passage was organized by the class of 2006.

The students who received their white coats are:

Ryan Barnes	Josh Graf	Sarah Moore
Angela Basham	Katie Hahn	Erin Phillips
Deborah Bessler	Trent Henderson	Jason Riley
Aaron Brewer	Kurt P. Hepworth	Brandi Robinson
Thomas Brooks	Darcy Herrman	Jessica Schmidt
Brian Carpenter	Chase Hunter	Misty Scott
Abigail Cassidy	Christopher Jacquinet	Cale R. Seavers
Mitchell Clary	Natasha Jenkins	David R. Smith
Anthony DeWilde	Kimberly Jenniges	Vinita Solomon
Busisiwe Drake	Brett Koons	Heidi Squires
Neal Eylar	Sneha Lin	Jon Stoppel
Katherine Farris	Leah N. Mathews	Kevin Umbright
Amy Foster	Blaire McAfee	Megan Wilson
Nvinderpal Gill	Rachel Merriman	Carrie Wright
		Sarah Zink



Growth • Responsibility • Discovery • Community

NEWS AND NOTES

▲ Troy Johnson, OD '05, will have an article published in the next issue of Primary Care and Optometry News. The article is entitled, "Be aware of potential polypharmacy when managing glaucoma: use caution when prescribing both doxycycline and a prostaglandin analog." The article was written while Johnson was a student in the College of Optometry.

▲ Joni LaFerla, OD '93, of Kansas City, MO was re-elected as Heart of America Contact Lens Society's Director of Publicity.

▲ Chris Sorenson, OD '85, licensed in Arizona, has been elected to ARBO.

▲ Vinita Henry, OD '85, and Ray Myers, OD, will be promoted to the rank of Clinical Professor, effective September 1, 2005. Congratulations!

▲ Avery Claire Lows was welcomed into the family by proud mom, Christa Lows, OD '02, two months early on April 3, 2005. Mom and Avery Claire are doing fine now. Congratulations, Christa and Kent!

▲ Lauren Marie Bigham was born to Clay, OD '02, and Allyson (nee Conn), OD '03, on April 14, 2005. Congratulations, Clay and Allyson!

▲ Joseph Maino, OD, will be promoted to Adjunct Professor, and Debbie Hettler, OD, and Sean Mulqueeny, OD '91, will be promoted to Adjunct Associate Professor effective September 1, 2005. Congratulations!

▲ The pass rate of our students on Part I (August, 2004) and Part II (December, 2004) of the NBEO examination was higher than the national average

▲ Howard McAlister, OD, MPH, MS, MS, received his third Masters degree, this one in International Relations from Webster University. It is his intention to engage in international public health.

Continued on page 4

▲ Howard McAlister, OD, has been awarded a fellowship from the World Council of Optometry to travel to Geneva, Switzerland to pursue projects with the World Health organization and the World Trade Organization. He will be the first optometrist to work directly with these organizations. Congratulations, Dr. McAlister.

▲ Laura Barnes, OD, PhD '03, received the Air Force "Scientist of the Year" award for 2004. Barnes directs a major research program in eye safety at Brooks Air Force Base in San Antonio, Texas.

▲ Edward Bennett, OD, MEd, was honored at the American Optometric Association Annual Meeting in Dallas, Texas with the Contact Lens Cornea Section Lifetime Achievement Award, the most prestigious award granted by the section.

▲ Tim Wingert, OD, has been awarded a Fulbright Scholarship to spend a semester at Poznan University of Medical Sciences in Poznan, Poland. Look for a complete story on Wingert's award and plans in the next EYEwire.

Annual August Academe

Sunday, August 14, 2005
Eight hours COPE CE
Tuition \$248 (includes lunch)
8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
North Campus, UM-St. Louis
Call Lis for more information:
(314) 516-5615

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If you prefer to receive your newsletter electronically, please email Dr. Christensen and provide your email address. Thanks! (If we already have your email address there is no need to re-submit it.)

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 be directed to indigent eye and vision care. Stay tuned for further details.



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