

Message from the Dean

"I love it when a plan comes together"
Colonel John "Hannibal" Smith -- **The A-Team**

Greetings friends and colleagues!

Seven years ago we renewed our commitment to recruit the highest qualified students and deliver the finest professional and graduate education available. We maintain our intentional pursuit of those goals because success in those two endeavors is bound to positively influence the most public affirmation of our fine work - the quality of our alumni.

I am honored to report that a variety of measures demonstrate that our faculty, staff and students are meeting and exceeding those high expectations. Perhaps the most rigorous quantitative external measure of our success is the institutional performance on the NBEO examination. Our students are meeting and exceeding the national pass rates and attaining new highs for their overall scores on the three-part examination. Another measure, the pursuit of post-graduate training - residency and doctoral education - remains strong. There also continues to be considerable interest in independent practice opportunities following graduation, a testimony that our graduates commence their careers with substantial confidence in their business acumen.

I want to take this opportunity to acknowledge each member of the faculty and staff whose dedicated work serves as a reminder that success is realized through planning, organization and an uncompromising commitment to excellence. Also, along with sincere congratulations to the Class of 2007; a hearty "way to go" is in order. Forty-five new doctors commenced in May with the satisfaction that comes with knowing that their collective success on the NBEO examination is at a 12-year high! Ultimately it is each student following our lead who must complete the work necessary to realize such a high level of achievement.

Celebrate, Reflect, Renew!

Sincerely,



Larry J. Davis
Dean

Class of 2007



Forty-five students received their OD degrees and one doctoral degree was conferred during the commencement ceremony held on May 12, 2007 in the beautiful Touhill Performing Arts Center on the University of Missouri-St. Louis campus. Chancellor Thomas George, assisted by Dean Larry Davis, conferred the degrees. The new Doctors of Optometry then listened to the commencement address delivered by Dr. Jerry Christensen, Professor and Founding Dean, University of Missouri - St. Louis College of Optometry. Dr. Christensen spoke about two challenges to professional ethics in the 21st Century—the drive to lower the costs of health care, and the increasing absence of absolute values in our postmodern, relativistic culture.

Awards were presented to a number of students, with Natasha Jenkins receiving the Dean's award for outstanding academic performance. A reception followed along with a visual presentation of class memories. The members of this year's graduating class are:

Abigail L. Barnes
Ryan C. Barnes
Angela M. Basham
Deborah K. Bessler
Aaron M. Brewer
Thomas C. Brooks
Brian R. Carpenter
L. Mitchell Clary
Anthony P. DeWilde
Busisiwe R. Drake
Neal L. Eylar
Katherine A. Farris
Amy M. Foster
Nvinderpal Gill
Joshua A. Graf

Katie J. Hahn
Erin E. Hamilton
Trent C. Henderson
Kurt P. Hepworth
Darcy D. Herrman
Anthony W. Homan
Chase V. Hunter
Christopher J. Jaquinot
Natasha K. Jenkins
Brett D. Koons
Kimberly A. Layfield
Sneha G. Lin
Leah N. Mathews
Rachel E. Merriman
Sarah M. Moore

Blaire S. O'Brien
Desarae B. Pryor
Jason T. Riley
Brandi L. Robinson
Jessica D. Schmidt
Cale R. Seavers
David R. Smith
Vinita M. Solomon
Heidi C. Solomon
Jon B. Stoppel
Kevin D. Umbricht
Misty M. Watters
Megan L. Wilson
Carrie C. Wright
Sarah M. Zink

NEWS & NOTES

Jason Street, OD '00, and his wife, Jennifer, welcomed Grayson Tanner Roth Street to their family on January 30, 2007. Grayson weighed in at 7 lbs. 11 oz. and was 21" long. Congrats to the Streets!

James Hsiau, '09, received two honorable mentions for two photographs he submitted to the UMSL International Students Photo Contest. Congratulations!

Eight abstracts were accepted for the May Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology meeting. The basis for these originated from a patent application developed by Raymond Myers, OD, in 1996. The research involves a theoretical basis for modifying the crystalline lens using a laser to correct presbyopia and modify other forms of refractive error. Research and development for this work has become a multimillion dollar effort. The startup company is LaserSoft Vision Corporation, Richard Frey, President and CEO.

Bill Long, OD, PhD, will retire on September 1, 2007. Long has been a member of the College of Optometry faculty since its founding in 1980. He developed the College's optics curriculum, taught ocular photography and served as preceptor providing patient care in the Center for Eye Care for 25 years, most recently focusing his energies at the Harvester Eye Center. Congratulations, Bill. Have a great retirement!

Ed Bennett, OD, MS, was an invited lecturer at the EFCLIN Congress in Venice, Italy in October, 2006; elected Vice-Chair of the American Academy Cornea and Contact Lens Section; authored a chapter entitled, "Contact lenses and the Aging Patient" for Rosenbloom and Morgan's "Vision and Aging" text; authored a chapter entitled, "Bifocal and Multifocal Contact Lenses" for the text, Contact

2007 White Coat Ceremony



White coats were awarded to 43 students during a ceremony on May 10, 2007, held in the Student Millennium Center on the University of Missouri-St. Louis campus. The white coat is a sign that the students have completed their first two years of professional education and have achieved the credentialing necessary to begin providing care as interns in the Center for Eye Care.

"Encouraging words" were provided by Timothy Wingert, OD, and Ed Jarka, OD. The coveted white coats were then presented to the students by John Crane, OD '91, and Ed Bennett, OD. The Optometric Oath was administered to the new clinicians by Brian Brunig, OD, '93, and a reception followed this professional rite-of-passage. The event was organized by the class of 2008.

Students receiving white coats this year are:

Mavis Armbruster
 Laura Bequette
 Kevin Biermann
 Bradley Borello
 Andrea Braden
 Fannie Coleman
 Nancy Cozzi
 Nathan Dieckow
 Jennifer Einhorn
 Jacquelyn Engelbrecht
 Stephanie Erker
 David Ernst
 Lewis Eyrich
 Jeffrey Harter
 Kurt Hofeldt
 James Hsiau
 Dawn Hurley
 Holly Klein
 Richard Kueker
 Amanda Lashley
 Wesley Lewis
 Kimberly Mark

Teresa Mathew
 Michael McFarland
 Susan Nixon
 Dane Peterson
 Michelle Pine
 Ryan Read
 Neil Sample
 Charlie Schlievert
 Matthew Schroeder
 Amy Seavers
 Brett Sobieralski
 Ann Tang
 Krista Tonniges
 Kenneth Trummel
 Vito Vricella
 Taylor Walden
 Katrina Washington
 Erin Watts
 Deanne Wehner
 Alan Wiggins
 Kaelyn Zaporski Cummings

NEWS & NOTES

Lenses (5th Edition), by Phillips and Speedwell; and served on the Program Committee of the Global Keratoconus Congress in Las Vegas, January, 2007. Good job, Ed!

Howard McAlister, OD, MPH, retired from the US Air Force Reserve on February 1, 2007 after 31 years of military service.

Matt Schroeder's, '09, family was doubly blessed on May 12, 2007, with the arrival of twins. Trevor Harrison weighed 4 lbs 3 ozs and was joined five minutes later by his sister, Miranda Jewel, who weighed 4 lbs 6 ozs. Both were 17" long. Congratulations to the Schroeders!

This past December, the College of Optometry collected nearly 100 pounds of food that was donated to the St. Louis Area Foodbank.

The College of Optometry's Judy Barohn, optician, worked with the optical manufacturer Europa and received a donation of 1,000 eye-glasses for the Family Health Care Center. These frames will provide patients with low cost, high-quality eyewear. Way to go, Judy!

Sara Martin, OD '05, married John Schmitz on October 17, 2006 in Ocho Rios, Jamaica. Sara practices in Overland, MO at Overland Optical and she and John will reside in Wentzville, MO. Congrats to Sara and John!

Jerry Christensen, OD, PhD, will retire on September 1, 2007. Christensen was the College of Optometry's founding dean. He was Dean from 1980 until 1995, and a professor from 1995 until retirement. Over the years he also taught orientation to the profession, bioethics, anatomy and physiology of the eye, monocular sensory processes, and optics. Jerry, congratulations and have a great retirement!

Brianne Hobbes, '10, was third-author on a paper entitled "An Arabidopsis Basic Helix-Loop-Helix Leucine Zipper Protein Modulates Metal Homeostasis and Auxin Conjugate Responsiveness" (2006), *Genetics*.

Megan Alberts, '10, was featured in an article the University of Missouri-St. Louis' newspaper, the Current, as a four-year member of UMSL's Riverwoman basketball team. She distinguished herself as a student-athlete and was honored on Senior Night, her last basketball game. A source close to the team praised Alberts, saying that she always made things happen when she is in the game due to her ball-handling skills, determination and leadership. Way to go, Megan!

Kent Harrington, (OD, '88, PhD '04) and Laura Barnes, (PhD '03), have been selected for promotion to Colonel and Lt Colonel, respectively, by the US Air Force. They were the only officers in the Human Effectiveness Directorate selected for promotion on this year's Colonel/Lt Colonel promotion boards.

Optometry students conducted a vision screening held in the MSC on April 25, 2007. They handed out over 150 pamphlets with info about the College with reminders about student rates on vision exams and glasses/CL's at the Center for Eye Care. They also had over 40 people sit down and have entrance exams done as well. Good job to everyone, and thanks again for helping.

Beatrice Reed, OD, '89, was sworn in as the new President of the Arkansas Optometric Association at the 101st Spring Convention, April 19-22nd in Little Rock, AR. Congratulations, Dr. Reed!

Class of 2007 Awards

- Student Marshal-*Natasha Jenkins*
- Vision Service Plan Awards-*Rachel Merriman, Misty Watters*
- Dr. Robert A. Koetting, Scholarship (New 4th Year Student)- *Carrie Wright*
- Mary Gilbert Scholarship-*Aaron Brewer*
- Ophthalmic Optics Excellence (Sponsored by Essilor of America)-*Joshua Graf*
- Excellence in Ocular Disease Award (Sponsored by Ocular Instruments)- *L. Mitchell Clary*
- Marchon Eyewear Practice Management Award-*Natasha Jenkins*
- Alcon Award of Clinical Excellence-*Abigail Barnes*
- Alcon Award of Clinical Excellence (Sponsored by Essilor of America)- *Katie Hahn*
- College of Optometrists in Vision Development Award for Excellence in Vision Therapy-*Blaire O'Brien*
- Clinical Binocular Vision/Vision Therapy Awards-*Misty Watters, Carrie Wright*
- Charles C. Matlock Memorial Award (Sponsored by the Charles Matlock family)- *Deborah Bessler*
- Clinical Excellence Award (Sponsored by RGP Lens Institute)-*Jason Riley*
- Contact Lens Faculty Clinical Excellence Award-*Natasha Jenkins, Kimberly Layfield*
- Contact Lens Clinical Award (Sponsored by Paragon Vision Sciences)-*Deborah Bessler, Joshua Graf, Christopher Jacquinet, Rachel Merriman*
- Vistakon Award of Excellence in Contact Lens Patient Care (Sponsored by the American Optometric Foundation)-*Misty Watters*
- David J. Kerko Low Vision Award (Sponsored by Winchester Optics)- *L. Mitchell Clary*
- William Feinbloom Low Vision Award (Sponsored by Designs for Living, Inc.)- *Abigail Barnes*
- Student Service Award-*Angela M. Basham, Busisiwe Drake*
- Student Ambassador Award-*Abigail Barnes*
- Excellence in Clinical Optometry (Sponsored by Missouri Optometric Foundation)-*Natasha Kelly Jenkins*
- Silver Medal Award (Sponsored by Beta Sigma Kappa)-*Natasha Jenkins*
- Dean's Award (Sponsored by the College of Optometry) and the M. Earl McClellan Award (Sponsored by Missouri Optometric Foundation)- *Natasha Jenkins*
- William R. Jackson Jr., OD Memorial Scholarship (Administered by Missouri Optometric Foundation) *Josh Graf, Sneha Lin, and Leah Mathews*

Christina M. Sorenson, OD Elected President of ARBO



Dr. Christina Sorenson

At its recent annual meeting in Boston, Massachusetts, the Association of Regulatory Boards of Optometry (ARBO) elected Dr. Christina M. Sorenson, '85, of Scottsdale, Arizona, as President. Dr. Sorenson was originally

elected to the ARBO Board of Directors in 2004 and served as ARBO's Secretary-Treasurer in 2005 and Vice President in 2006.

Dr. Sorenson states, "I am thrilled and honored to serve as President of the Association of Regulatory Boards of Optometry this year. I look forward to a productive and exciting term."

Dr. Sorenson is a graduate of Kansas University and the University of Missouri - St. Louis College of Optometry and is a Fellow of the American Academy of Optometry. She was appointed to the Arizona State Board of Optometry in 2001.

Dr. Sorenson is the Optometry Department Supervisor at the Mayo Clinic in Scottsdale.

ARBO is the international association of boards which regulate the practice of optometry for the public welfare.

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

Thank you, Dr. Christensen for all your hard work as the Editor of the EyeWire since 2005. We appreciate your guidance and dedication to our College publication. Congratulations on your retirement!



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