

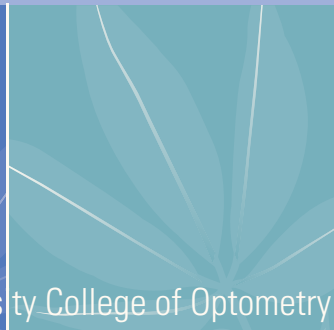
autumn 2007

# BuckEYE

optometry alumni magazine



## Optometry at Faith Mission







# welcome, class of 2011!

## **President**

Roger Saneholtz (OD'74)

## **Treasurer**

Terry L. Huston (OD'73, MBA, PhD)

## **Secretary**

Karla Rethman (OD'99)

## **Board Members**

James Bieber (OD'68)

Christine Beiling-Sheerer (OD'87)

Ryan Subler (OD'06)

## **Optometry Representative, Alumni Advisory Council**

David Dreffer (OD'68)

## **EYE Alumni Association Representative**

David Bejot (OD'93)

## **Student Representative**

Michele Avila ('08)

## **Dean**

Melvin Shipp (OD, MPH, DrPH)

## **Editor**

Jeffrey Myers (OD'84)

## **Contributing Editor & Faculty Liaison**

Robert D. Newcomb (OD'71, MPH)

## **Contributing Editors**

Barbara Fink (OD, MS'85, PhD'87)

Sally Haltom, Director of Student Affairs

John McCauley, Executive Assistant to the Dean

## **Art Director**

Kerri McTigue, OSU College of  
Optometry Instructional Media Center

## **Photographer**

Karen Stedfeld, OSU College of  
Optometry Instructional Media Center

## **Director of Development & Alumni Relations**

Gayle Glanville

## **OSU Alumni Association**

### **Director of Alumni Societies**

Craig Little

The Alumni Magazine is published by  
The Ohio State University Optometry  
Alumni & Friends.

Phone: (614) 292-2100

Fax: (614) 292-7201

### **Mailing Address:**

Optometry Alumni & Friends

338 West Tenth Avenue

Columbus, Ohio 43210-1280

<http://optometry.osu.edu/alumni>

[gglanville@optometry.osu.edu](mailto:gglanville@optometry.osu.edu)

*Optometry Alumni & Friends is a chartered alumni society of The Ohio State University Alumni Association, Inc.*



## Table of Contents



# 7

### Cover Story

Letter from the Dean . . . . .	4
Letter from the Alumni President . . .	5
Letter from the Editor . . . . .	6
Cover Story: Faith Mission . . . . .	7
Development: Miller Scholarship . . . .	13
Barr at Bausch & Lomb . . . . .	14
College News. . . . .	16
Focus on New Faculty. . . . .	24
About Alumni. . . . .	25



# 14

Dr. Barr at  
Bausch &  
Lomb



# 24

Dr. Melissa  
Walters



# From the Dean



Dear Optometry Alumni and Friends,

Welcome to the autumn issue of the second-year running award winning BuckEYE Optometry Alumni Magazine.

Let me begin by thanking the people behind the scenes of this publication for their excellent work. It is heartening to know that I am not alone in recognizing the talent and dedication that goes into producing this fine magazine.

Our feature article in this issue focuses on the clinical services we provide at Faith Mission. **Joan Nerd-erman (OD'86)** and her staff provide excellent care to the homeless and indigent people of Columbus. In some situations, a key component in breaking the cycle of poverty for someone is correcting his/her vision so that he/she can read the "want ads" and gain employment. In other situations, diagnosis and treatment of ocular disease such as diabetic retinopathy or glaucoma is life changing and inspires a sense of hope where once there was only despair. Externs and students, too, learn valuable lessons about the importance of giving back to the community and the obligation to provide eye care services to those in need regardless of ability to pay.

It is with a mixture of sadness and pride that we bid farewell to **Joe Barr (OD'77, MS'79)**, former E.F. Wildermuth Foundation Professor in Optometry and Associate Dean for Clinical Services and Professional Program. We thank Dr. Barr for his many years of dedicated service and tireless efforts to make this College the outstanding institution that it is. We wish him well in his new career at Bausch & Lomb, and we look forward to his visits home.

Congratulations to **Kelly Nichols (OD, MPH, PhD'01)** and **Jason Nichols (OD'99, MPH, PhD'04)** for their ground breaking work in trying to understand the complexities of dry eye and garnering a \$1.7M grant from the National Institutes of Health with which to do it. During this time of intense competition for research funding, this is an exceptional achievement.

Of course, there are many others who are featured in this issue of our newsletter. We are equally proud of them all and delight in celebrating the excellence of the OSU College of Optometry reflected in their achievements and service.

With warmest regards for an enjoyable and renewing holiday season,

**Melvin D. Shipp, OD, MPH, DrPH**

Dean, OSU College of Optometry





# From the President

Fall is here, and Ohio State Football has reloaded and is on another run for the National Championship. The highlight of the season thus far for Optometry Alumni and Friends came during Alumni Weekend. The Friday night event this year honored **Kevin Alexander (OD'76, MS'77, PhD'79)** for his many years of outstanding achievements for our profession. The evening was orchestrated by **Jeff Myers (OD'84)** and Gayle Glanville, and they could not have organized it any better. All of the presenters took their long-awaited get even shots at Kevin during his "roasting" after dinner. Kevin certainly held his own, as you would expect, during his rebuttal time.

The weekend continued on Saturday morning with our Alumni and Friends annual meeting, tour of the new Wildermuth addition to the College, and the tailgate. During this time, I was able to have a few minutes with Kevin and his wife, Carol. Kevin was genuinely grateful for the Friday evening event. He really appreciated the fact that the evening was a great big thank you for all that he has done for all of us in optometry. So the next time you see the "Great KA", be sure to just say thanks.

While we're still thinking about OSU and football, I'd like to do a little poll. As I walk around the parking lots headed to Buckeye football games, I'm always checking vanity plates. I even saw an OSU plate that said "Blu sux". I'm surprised that the state actually made it. I have three different plates: 74EYES, EYES74, and 74 OD. I would like to invite you to send pictures of your vanity plates with any information you would like to include and we'll post them in future editions of our magazine. This is the type of thing that gets us points, so to speak, with Archie Griffin and the OSU Alumni Association. During the Alumni Leadership Conference, Optometry Alumni and Friends was again recognized as having the best magazine of all alumni clubs and societies. Thanks again to Jeff Myers, Gayle Glanville, and OSU staff.

As always,

Affirm thy Friendship, O-HI-O!!

**Roger L. Saneholtz (OD'74)**

President, OSU Optometry Alumni & Friends



# From the Editor



## Guide Me Along

Earlier this year, my eldest daughter was married. Her choice was to go to Jamaica and be married on the beach. Often, the biggest decision the father of the bride really has is what to wear. Because this was going to be a small beach wedding, I am thinking that a sport coat, maybe even a new one, (under \$200) will be just fine for this event. Well, you can bet if I am writing about it, that didn't happen.

I had asked several times about the attire for the wedding. Finally, about 10 days prior to our departure, I insisted we do something. So, my wife, daughter and I go shopping. The first two department stores did not have anything that worked. 'Maybe a new suit is what you need,' I am told. We end up at a men's clothing store.

My daughter has a relationship with the salesperson (I think I am in trouble), because they had bought the groom's suit there. He shakes my hand, and introduces himself. He asks about what we are looking to purchase and if there is an event. He asks what I do professionally. Turns out he has glaucoma and is treated by a colleague. He has me try several suits, narrowing the choices to a group he thinks fits well. Then he allows us to choose. 'We' decide that I need two suits. (I really think I am in trouble) So, he measures me and gets the suits fit properly.

What I didn't see happening was the clothing gnomes scurrying about the store finding the accessories that would go with the suits. When I had put my own clothes back on, I was escorted to a table where an array of shoes, socks, belts, suspenders, shirts and ties were displayed; all that perfectly match the suits 'we' had selected. No pressure was made to purchase anything by the salesperson; no, that's what family is for. (I know I am in trouble)

Needless to say, I spent well in excess of \$200; which exceeded my expectation and didn't make me very happy. When the suits were picked up, the salesperson had me try everything on and checked the fit. He was not satisfied with the pressing job that had been done and touched it up on the spot. Ultimately, the suits looked great and I have worn them numerous times.

My suit(s) purchase is an example of a 'guided purchase.' An eyewear purchase also fits this category. Few things in life anymore are truly guided purchases. You might think of others. They fit the definition if they are purchases that we infrequently make, we really should have a guide along with us to make the purchase, and it is truly customized just for us.

The parallels are there between the suit and an eyewear purchase. Connecting with the purchaser to know their needs, guiding them to a choice that fits them, informing the purchaser of the options available to them, being certain that all is correct at the time of product delivery, and that confirming comment by the salesperson, "This looks great on you" are elements common to both experiences. While I spent more than I had planned, I received value and was pleased with my purchase.

That caring attitude and desire to do the best thing for the patient is the attitude we need to convey. Long after the bill has been paid, our desire is that the patient feels that they received an excellent pair of eyewear, and the best service that could be provided. Guide them diligently toward what is best for them. Even if they spend a bit more than they expected, they will recognize it as service excellence in the long run.

**Jeffrey A. Myers (OD'84)**

BuckEYE Editor





Nathan Noakes ('08), Caitlin Filips ('08), Joan Nerderman (OD'86), and Peggy Buckman at the clinic at Faith Mission.

## Faith Mission Clinic Serves Truly Indigent in Outreach Program

by Jeffrey A. Myers (OD'84)

The Ohio State University College of Optometry operates, as a part of its mission, six outreach clinic programs. These are part-time clinics that students rotate through during their educational experience. Each targets special segments of the population, usually

individuals who are in financial need and who have difficulty receiving vision care.

Outreach programs are operated at the following locations, from ½ to three days per week: East Central Health

Center, Faith Mission Homeless Shelter, Home Visits/Nursing Home visits, Ohio State School for the Blind, South High Street Clinic, and Twin Valley Behavioral Health Center. All are in the greater Columbus area.





Each clinic is staffed by faculty of The Ohio State University College of Optometry and externs. Approximately 479 clinic days each year are provided through these outreach programs. The Ohio State University College of Optometry does more clinical outreach than any health profession college on the The Ohio State University campus. Services are provided to the patients at no cost if they have no means to pay. Select Optical in Columbus provides eyewear to those who cannot pay for eyewear at Faith Mission and South High Clinics.

Some of the patients seen through the outreach program do have means to pay for services and materials. For example, at the South High clinic, about

70% have Medicaid and another 9% have VSP's Sight for Students vouchers.

Faith Mission clinic functions at the Faith Mission Homeless Shelter in downtown Columbus for the last seven years. The clinic sees patients who are homeless and who qualify as working poor. These patients are predominantly adults and are indigent. No patients with financial means are seen in this clinic. If the patient has any third party coverage at all, they are directed to the South High Clinic.

The Faith Mission clinic operates two days/week, with **Joan Nerderman (OD'86)** as the attending optometrist and two student externs. About 12 to 18 comprehensive exams are performed

and 25 to 30 patients are provided some service each clinic day. Other professions come into the Faith Mission to serve the patients, but these other professions will only contribute a half day per month.

Dr. Nerderman has done a great job networking with different shelters and other social service agencies to identify the working poor. Some of those agencies are Senior Options, Community Connection, Maryhaven, and physicians in the free clinics. She has helped these groups to understand what optometry has to offer in terms of patients' overall health care, not just eyewear. The Faith Mission clinic is busy, with even greater need. Another day per week could be easily filled with





Opt IV Student Caitlin Filips ('08) measures monocular PD's for a patient at Faith Mission.

**"** I really am delighted with what we are able to do for patients here. Honestly, I can't see myself doing anything else right now. It is so satisfying and humbling to be able to provide care and a new start for so many people. **"**

---

*Joan Nerderman, OD*



Joan Nerderman (OD'86) helps a patient at the Faith Mission Clinic.

patients. There is a ready supply of patients at the shelter who will gladly fill any appointments that are available.

Most of the patients are helped with refractive solutions. The provision of eyewear often is the catalyst for the patient to be able to get back to work or to complete some sort of educational program to advance their situation. As a result of the eyewear through the clinic, some patients have been able to pass their Commercial Driver's License test to begin working. Others have been able to complete courses of study in alcohol and drug counseling just because they were able to read again.

While the majority of patients are helped considerably with the use of spectacles, there is a substantial amount of ocular disease seen in the clinic. Hypertensive and diabetic retinopathy are common, as one might expect in a population that is indigent and has not had access to health and, specifically, vision

---

**"One patient cried when I dispensed her glasses just because she could see and had not been able to for a long time... I had never fully realized how important vision could be for someone."**

**student extern at Faith Mission**

---

care. Also, as might be expected in a largely African-American and Hispanic population, a large amount of glaucoma exists. The challenge is to help patients understand the chronic nature of the disease and that, if left untreated, they could go blind. Dr. Nerderman reports that malignant melanomas, severe herpes simplex keratitis, AIDS, suspected victims of domestic abuse, and benign pituitary tumors have all been a part of the mix of patients at the clinic.

The real challenge is not in diagnosing these conditions, but in providing secondary and tertiary care to an indigent population that is not conscientious about follow-up care. Alcon has been a major supporter of the outreach by providing complimentary medications to the clinic. **Dawn Burgei (OD'04)** and Ocular Disease Clinic at the College have been gracious in helping with the difficult diagnoses.

Dr. Nerderman describes a 46 year old male who had lost his job and family ties due to alcohol addiction. He arrived with a complaint of blurred near vision. They could only correct him to 20/25, the nerves were a little pale, and on a screening field he had bi-temporal visual loss. So here he was, staying at a homeless shelter, and he needed additional care about a possible brain tumor. There was concern about where he would stay when the large benign pituitary tumor was removed. His wife decided to give him another chance and his parents reunited with him. He has fully recovered and even had full visual fields when last examined. While Dr. Nerderman and the health care community gave him an opportunity for good vision and life, it was the patient who took the opportunity to turn his life around, and he is now employed fulltime.

One of the effects of the Clinic from a teaching standpoint is the ability to expose optometry students to the





Opt IV Student  
**Nathan Noakes**  
(‘08) examines a  
patient at the Faith  
Mission Clinic.

experience of providing indigent care and reinforce the importance of providing care to all people, regardless of their financial situation. This clinical experience is providing the next generation of optometrists with the commitment and example of the importance of vision care to the indigent. In the words of one the student externs, “One patient cried when I dispensed her glasses just because she could see and had not been able to for a long time. Many other people thanked us repeatedly, explaining that they had not been able to fill out job applications or work because of their vision. I had never fully realized how important vision could be for someone.”

Dr. Nerderman acknowledges that she initially accepted the assignment at Faith Mission with a level of trepidation. But she quickly adds that it has been a most rewarding experience.

Opt IV Student **Caitlin Filips** (‘08) helping a patient select frames at the clinic at Faith Mission.





## Students Comment about Their Faith Mission Experience:

"I feel that interacting with these very appreciative patients has helped me to be more willing to work with the homeless in the future."

"I will definitely be involved in some way in community outreach"

"I would like to donate my services to a place like this because it was incredibly rewarding."

"Everyone deserves quality care."

"I will never turn down a person in need of eye care."

"I will definitely volunteer my time in the future to provide eye care to those that are in need."

"It just reminds me that giving your time and services to those in need is sometimes more rewarding than working for money."

"This was by far my favorite experience and I looked forward to showing up every day of my rotation."

"It felt good to be able to give back to the community to those who would otherwise go without care."

"I believe donating time and services to the community is very important and I plan to continue this in the future."

"I truly enjoyed giving eye exams to those who could not otherwise afford it."

"It is amazing to give back to someone the gift of sight who otherwise would not have received care."

"It was a great feeling to help those less fortunate."

"...we helped them see or get glasses which could be the first step in getting their lives back on track."

"I really am delighted with what we are able to do for patients here. Honestly, I can't see myself doing anything else right now. It is so satisfying and humbling to be able to provide care and a new start for so many people," she reports. She is also appreciative of the support of Select Optical who has



Peter Lothes,  
President of Select  
Optical, visiting  
Faith Mission.



Opt IV Student **Nathan Noakes ('08)** measures visual acuity at the Faith Mission Clinic.



provided the eyewear for Faith Mission since the beginning, and to the Ohio Optometric Foundation who recently provided a \$10,000 grant for the purchase of eyewear.

Dr. Nerderman would welcome the chance to discuss the needs of the underserved populations in communities in Ohio as well as other states. She also welcomes the opportunity to discuss how optometrists can become involved with free clinics. She can be reached at [jknerderman@optometry.osu.edu](mailto:jknerderman@optometry.osu.edu).

The College and the profession thank Dr. Nerderman for her commitment to caring for the indigent population and mentoring our students about caring for those less fortunate than ourselves.



Joan Nerderman (OD'86) at the Faith Mission Clinic.



Dr. Ralph (BS'51) and Annabel Miller of Colorado Springs, Colo., have established a scholarship fund to benefit one or more third- or fourth-year students who are studying optometry. The amount of support is based on financial need and academic merit.

A 1951 graduate of Ohio State, Ralph recalls there were 42 students in his class at Ohio State. He grew up on a farm in Walnut Creek, Ohio, and said he knew that when he returned from World War II that he wanted to select a new career path. He considered dentistry and medicine and even had an offer from a cousin, Walnut Creek's general practitioner, for financial assistance to study medicine. Deciding he preferred consistent work hours, Ralph chose the field of optometry and operated his practice for 36 years in nearby Sugar Creek, where many Amish and Mennonite families live.

"I am able to speak Pennsylvania Dutch and communicate with the Amish," he said. "Many knew my parents and that they were honest, hard-working people. Word-of-mouth helped my business, and I believe it is still the best form of advertising."

On his income, Ralph said he and Annabel, married 60 years in September, were able to build a home, raise three children in Sugar Creek and put them all through college. Their elder son graduated Phi Beta Kappa in chemistry from Ohio State and now oversees a genetics laboratory at the University of Idaho. Their younger son studied architecture at Ohio State. The couple's daughter worked as a teacher and has a son, Scott, the Millers' only grandchild. After Ralph retired from his practice, the Millers moved to Colorado to be close to their daughter.

"Optometry has provided us with a good life. Everything has gone very well for us," he said.

The Millers have received some heartfelt thank-you letters from students who have benefited from the scholarships. "I was able to go to college with help from the GI Bill. Otherwise, I may not have made it through," Ralph added. "So I'm glad to help some students lighten their debt after graduation. It means a lot to us to know that we're helping somebody."

## Barr Now at Bausch and Lomb

by Jeffrey A. Myers (OD'84)

When **Joseph T. Barr (OD'77, MS'79)** announced his retirement from The Ohio State University College of Optometry earlier this year to take the position as Vice President, Research and Development, Global Vision Care at Bausch & Lomb, many people were surprised. But a closer inspection of Dr. Barr's career would show that he really is returning to his roots.

Dr. Barr was born in Mansfield, Ohio and attended Lexington schools. As a teenager, besides painting houses, he worked at the Mid-Ohio Race Car Course, working concessions and growing up knowing the owners. There was probably not a nationally known race car driver in the 1960's and 70's that he did not see race at Mid-Ohio. His father was an optician who worked at Reese Optical labs in Mansfield. During part of his career, his father managed the plastic lens lab after the CR-39 material was introduced.

Dr. Barr's grandfather was Francis Pearl Barr, who was an optometrist in Rochester, NY; Indianapolis, IN; Columbus and Lexington, OH and is thought to have worked for Bausch & Lomb. He also served as the third president of the Ohio Optometric Association from 1906-09. He was one of the first optometry instructors at Ohio State for Dr. Charles Sheard.

While Dr. Barr attended Grove City College in Pennsylvania, primarily to play basketball, his original thought was that he would be a sports coach. He changed his plans to optometry during his undergraduate career and thought he would practice in a small town, which his father encouraged him to do.

While at Ohio State, he was involved in intramural basketball and was president of the Epsilon Psi Epsilon fraternity. His introduction to academic and clinical research was as a student employee in the lab of **Gerald Lowther (BS'66, OD'67, MS'69, PhD'72)**. Dr. Lowther was doing research on contact lenses and gave his student employee the responsibility of measuring soft contact lenses for quality and parameters. Dr. Lowther is the one who invited him to do the first two year fellowship in contact lenses, which has developed into the well known contact lens residency program.

During his clinical Fellowship program, he also worked with **Neil Bailey (BS'47, PhD'54)** in Dr. Bailey's private practice near the university campus. After completing his MS degree and spending a year in the College clinic, he took a position at Dow Corning after they bought Conforma Labs. His responsibility as manager of clinical and material research was to work toward

a silicon-based gas permeable contact lens. The goal was to make a silicon elastomer thinner and more comfortable. One of the lenses that he worked on and helped to bring to the market was the Silcon lens. He returned to the college in 1983.

While at Ohio State, he was Chief of the Contact Lens Service for 15 years and was Chief of Optometry Clinical Services for nine years. He feels that it was this latter position that afforded him the greatest opportunity for growth as it was at a point in time when Ohio was entering the therapeutic arena, and Ohio State was beginning the use of off-campus extern programs. These responsibilities forced him to educate himself significantly in the areas of disease management, as well as to learn how to balance the elements of business and clinical practice.

One of the most intellectually stimulating areas of his responsibility at the college was as a graduate advisor for graduate students. During his tenure, he advised more than two dozen graduate students. He finds the one-on-one interaction to be where he is most effective. He also greatly enjoys dealing with students who are highly motivated. Many of these graduate students have become lifelong friends with whom he has built excellent relationships. A



Gloria Scott-Tibbs sharing memories of Dr. Barr at his retirement party.



Karla Zadnik (OD, PhD) and Joe Barr (OD'77, MS'79) at his retirement reception.



number of them also work with him at Bausch & Lomb.

The research project for which Dr. Barr is probably most well known is the Collaborative Longitudinal Evaluation of Keratoconus (CLEK) Study, the first multi-center optometric study sponsored by an NEI grant. He has served as part of the executive committee for this project since its inception. He served as the Principal Investigator for the planning grant and has served as Director of the Photography Reading Center at Ohio State during the entire length of the grant.

In his new position at Bausch & Lomb, he is learning about how truly global Bausch & Lomb is. Only one third of their sales are domestic. Even though he has only been on the job a few months, he has already traveled internationally. His responsibilities include all research and development for lens care and lenses at Bausch & Lomb. Project managers in each of these areas report directly to him, and each project manager has their own project teams. Bausch & Lomb has manufacturing facilities in the United States, Italy, Scotland, Ireland, Brazil, & China. He says the different ways in which contact lenses are marketed throughout the world has been eye-opening. He has enjoyed every minute of the responsibility thus far and finds it rewarding to help others with technical and administrative questions, as well as ways in which they can improve themselves.



Dr. Barr's family (Janet, his cousin Denny Hollern, Beth, Brayden, and Craig) at his retirement reception.



Joe Barr (OD'77, MS'79), Janet, Beth, Brayden, Craig Krenzle, and Jennifer on vacation.

So why leave the comfort out of a position as associate dean at The Ohio State University College of Optometry? Dr. Barr explains that he has been quite satisfied with the list of accomplishments that he has been involved with at Ohio State during his tenure at the college. His tenure qualified him for retirement after 25 years of service at Ohio State. His daughters are grown and independent, though the family remains very close. And he was looking for an opportunity that would be very challenging. The position at Bausch & Lomb could be considered a "stretch goal" for him.

He has lectured hundreds of times on four continents, and has over 150 publications to his credit. He has served as Editor of "Contact Lens Spectrum" for 20 years and "CL Today" for most of a decade. He's been recognized by the American Academy of Optometry on two occasions: once with the Garland Clay Award and also with the William Feinbloom Award. He has received the Leo Award from the National Eye Research Foundation, and the Joseph Dallos Award and Industry Enhancement Award from the Contact Lens Manufacturers Association.

He considers himself very fortunate to have had excellent mentors early in his career. People like former Deans Richard Hill, OD, PhD, and **John Schoessler (BS'65, OD'66, MS'68, PhD'71)**; Gerald Lowther, and Neil Bailey are some of his most prestigious mentors. He also states that, "No one could be more supportive than my wife Janet in my career endeavors." Currently Dr. Barr commutes from Columbus to Rochester, New York weekly for work and returns to Columbus on the weekends. This allows him to stay close to family, and to continue to see Ohio State football games in person.

He's been married to Janet, OSU RPH'77 for more than 30 years and they have two daughters: Jennifer and Elizabeth. Beth is married to Craig Krenzle. Beth and Craig love their son Brayden and another grandchild is on the way for them. Jennifer is single and works for Victoria's Secret in Columbus. Like their parents, both girls graduated from The Ohio State University.

Congratulations to Dr. Barr for accepting this new challenge and best wishes for a successful career at Bausch & Lomb.



Opt IV student **Andrew Emch ('08)** is awarded the AOF-Carl Zeiss Fellowship.

Sponsored by Carl Zeiss Vision and administered by the AOF, the Fellowships honor outstanding achievement by third-year optometry students. Each Fellowship includes a \$5,000 award for each of the fellows, made

directly to the financial aid office at the student's college to offset the fourth year of optometric education.

## Emch receives the 2007 AOF-Carl Zeiss Vision Fellowship

The American Optometric Foundation has announced the inaugural class of AOF-Carl Zeiss Vision Fellows. The class consists of 19 optometry students, one selected from every college of optometry in Canada, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Congratulations to **Andrew Emch ('08)** on receiving the AOF-Carl Zeiss Vision Fellowship from the OSU College of Optometry.

## ASCO Elects New Leaders

At the Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry (ASCO) meeting last June in Boston, **Dean Melvin Shipp (OD, MPH, DrPH)** was elected Secretary-Treasurer for the 2007-2008 academic year. **Arol Augsburg (OD/MS '71)** was elected Member-at-large;

and **Gerald Lowther (OD '67, MS '69, PhD '72)** was elected President-Elect. Other OSU alumni on the ASCO board are **James Sheedy (OD/MS '74, PhD '77)**, **Kevin Alexander (OD '76, MS '77, PhD '79)**, and **David Loshin (OD '75, PhD '77)**.

## Prevent Blindness Ohio Awards Fellowship In Vision Research To Kristen Oblad

To bring awareness to the critical importance of vision research, Prevent Blindness Ohio (PBO) launched the Prevent Blindness Ohio's Young Investigators Student Fellowship Award for Female Scholars in Vision Research. PBO is pleased to announce that **Kristen Oblad ('08)** from The Ohio State University College of Optometry has

been named a fellowship grant recipient for 2007.

She is working to develop a new contact lens solution that will improve the comfort of contact lens wear, especially for those affected by dry eye. According to Oblad, "When you first plan a research project, you focus on the question at hand and how to get it answered. Important aspects like how will I pay for this get put in the background. I'm grateful that Prevent Blindness Ohio has generously supported the pursuit of knowledge through research."



Dean Mel Shipp, Kristen Oblad ('08), and Sherill K. Williams-President and CEO Prevent Blindness Ohio.

## 2007 British Contact Lens Association Meeting

Four members of the College attended the 2007 British Contact Lens Association's annual meeting in Manchester, England this past May. **Jeffrey J. Walline, (OD, PhD '02)**, presented a paper entitled "Fitting Kids and Teens with Contact Lenses" reporting some of the findings from the Contact Lenses in Pediatrics (CLIP) Study, which he worked on with **Lisa A. Jones (PhD)**. **Kelly K. Nichols (OD, MPH, PhD '00)**, presented on her work in dry eye with the paper "Patient Reported Symptoms in Dry Eye." Tear film presentations were made by **Jason J. Nichols (OD '99, MPH, PhD '04)** entitled "The Role of the Precorneal Tear Film" and "Solutions' Effect on the Tear Film." The Drs. Nichols, Dr. Jones and Dr. Walline are pictured at the gala held at Old Trafford, the home of the Manchester United football team.



Drs. Jason Nichols, Kelly Nichols, Lisa Jones, and Jeff Walline at the gala.





## Cornea & Contact Lens Symposium

The Ohio State University College of Optometry was recently host to the Gas Permeable Lens Institute's Cornea and Contact Lens Resident Education Symposium held August 24-26th. Contact lens residents from across the nation took part in three days of lectures and hands-on workshops covering every gas permeable fitting topic from

torics, multifocals, and orthokeratology to irregular cornea and post-surgical fitting.

These future contact lens leaders participated in a series of interactive and educational lectures followed by patient grand rounds sessions including a hands-on medication workshop. The residents learned from today's

contact lens experts and leaders who shared cases and fitting tips. They included Ed Bennett (OD, MSED), **Joe Barr (OD'77, MS'79)**, Craig Norman (FCLSA), **Keith Ames (OD'77)**, **Loretta Szczotka-Flynn (OD'92)**, **Tom Quinn (OD'79, MS'81)**, **Eric Ritchey (OD'01, MS'03)**, **Kathryn Richdale (OD'02, MS'05)**,

and Kelly Kingsbury (OD). The residents also interacted with members of the Contact Lens Manufacturers Association who were able to attend.

The residents' enthusiasm for gas permeable contact lens knowledge was inspiring and lends itself to excellent patient care both now and in the future.

## The College Welcomes Dr. Heather Chandler

The Ohio State University College of Optometry is pleased to welcome Dr. Heather Chandler to the faculty as an assistant professor. Dr. Chandler comes to Optometry from the Department of Veterinary Biosciences in the College of Veterinary Medicine, where she began her PhD work in 2002. Prior to her arrival at Ohio State, she earned her BS at the University of Calgary in Calgary, Canada. Dr. Chandler has conducted postdoctoral research on evaluating the potential role of estrogen receptor alpha in cataract formation, immunohistochemistry, western blotting, and RT-PCR on normal canine lens and cataracts.



"Buckeye Bob" Newcomb (OD'71, MPH) and Brutus Buckeye showing their team spirit at the College's "Bucks for Charity" kick-off event!





Kelly Nichols (OD, MPH, PhD'01)

## Grant Awarded to the Contact Lens and Tear Film Laboratory

**Kelly Nichols (OD, MPH, PhD'01)** and the Contact Lens and Tear Film Laboratory at The Ohio State University College of Optometry have been awarded \$1.7 million from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to study "Dry Eye in Postmenopause."

For the next five years, Nichols and her team will study 500 women, age 50 or older, to explore the factors associated with dry eye in postmenopausal women. Dry eye is two to three times more common in women than in men and is particularly common in women who have reached menopause.

Nichols and her colleagues will use various laboratory techniques to examine three components relevant to the dry eye process. They will check participants for: (1) abnormalities in the amounts of lipids found in tears, (2) changes in the thickness of tears, and (3) changes in the structure of the meibomian glands. Results will be compared between women with dry eye and women without dry eye.

Dr. Nichols' collaborators on the project include Kari Green-Church, Ph.D., director of The Ohio State University's Mass Spectrometry and Proteomics Facility, and Dr. P. Ewen King-Smith who has developed noninvasive interferometric methods for studying the tear film thickness. Additional collaborators include endocrinologist Rebecca

Jackson, MD, a principal investigator for the Women's Health Initiative of the NIH, and **Jason Nichols (OD'99, MPH, PhD'04)**. Lisa Jones, PhD, is director of the Optometry Coordinating Center and leads a team of biostatisticians.

Dr. Nichols suggests, "Not everyone with dry eye disease responds to the same treatment. Even though two people with the disease may have the same symptoms, there can be very different causes behind those symptoms." Understanding the multiple causes of dry eye will lead to the development of better treatments.



The Contact Lens and Tear Film Laboratory Team

## Cultural Competence in the Optometric Curriculum

**Barbara Fink (OD, MS'85, PhD'87)**, Chair, Diversity Enhancement Committee, The Ohio State University College of Optometry, attended the first meeting of the ASCO Cultural Competence Curriculum Task Force which took place in Rockville, Maryland on August 1 – 3, 2007.

The purpose of the meeting was to develop guidelines for teaching cultural competence in the optometric curriculum. The goal is to produce a document by March, 2008 that can be present-

ed to ASCO. It will include the rationale for cultural competence training including:

- demographic factors
- health disparity issues
- economic incentives
- quality of life issues

Training workshops will be presented during the summer of 2008 that will include clinic directors, so that cultural competence training will be part of the clinical experience as well.

The Ohio State University College of Optometry has already

begun incorporating cultural competence education in the curriculum. In Optometry 402, Rights and Responsibilities of Optometrists, students discuss the book *The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down* by Anne Fadiman about the clash between a hospital in California and Hmong beliefs.

Optometry students also participate in the National Coalition Building Institute (NCBI) day-long prejudice-reduction and self-evaluation workshop.

This year, Dr. Michelle Shipp provided a lecture on Healthcare Disparities.

The Ohio State University College of Optometry continues to develop its cultural competence curriculum to better address the attitudes, knowledge base, and skills needed in clinical practice. Activities will include hands-on interactive exercises, clinical experience with diverse patient populations, and student assessment.



# T35 Research Opportunities for Optometry Students

The official title of the program is "Short Term Training: Students in Health Professional Schools." At The Ohio State University College of Optometry, it is most commonly referred to as the "T35" program. It is a three-month paid research internship that allows ten students to be exposed to research at the University following their first year in the optometry program. The broad objective of the program is to expose students to the excitement and challenge of scientific inquiry by immersion in a strong research environment.

Mark Bullimore (MCOptom, PhD) has been the Program Director of the T35 program since he wrote the first grant application in 1997. The College of Optometry has received 10 consecutive years of funding for this program. Other schools and college of optometry with T35 programs include: UAB, Houston, Berkeley, Indiana, New England College of Optometry, and SUNY.

At The Ohio State University, ten trainees are supported each year, with the goal of encouraging them to embark on a career in eye research. The training has a number of components:

- participation in research
- seminar series attendance
- introduction to research ethics

At the end of the summer, the trainees make a short presentation to faculty, graduate students, and other trainees. The standard of presentations is very high.

The stipend for the students is about \$5100 for three months.

So far, 97 students have participated in the T35 program. Five trainees have been underrepresented minorities including four in the last five years. Twenty six trainees have earned a Master's degree, usually concurrently with the OD degree, and another 28 are enrolled in our graduate program. Two former trainees are in our PhD program: **Eric Ritchey (OD '01, MS '03)**, and **Brad Dougherty (OD/MS '07)**.

A third, **Melissa Bailey (OD/MS '01, PhD '05)**, is a member of faculty.

Trainees from the first nine years of the program have been authors or co-authors on around 150 papers or posters at the meetings of the American Academy of Optometry or the Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology (ARVO) and have published over 30 papers.

The research projects conducted by the T35 trainees cover the entire spectrum of vision science. In addition to working in the College of Optometry, students have also worked at Children's Hospital, in the College of Veterinary Medicine, and in the Department of Neuroscience. The T35 trainees for the Summer of 2007 are listed in the graph below.

Dr. Bullimore stated: "The trainees represent the best students that our College has to

"It's really inspiring to work with such enthusiastic, motivated, and intelligent young people."

Dr. Mark Bullimore

offer. I'm always excited to see students present at meetings. I can remember many examples of our students exhibiting grace under fire at the podium. It's really inspiring to work with such enthusiastic, motivated, and intelligent young people. I should also mention that many of the younger faculty members are excellent at mentoring the trainees."

Trainee	Advisor	Project
Marc Burcham	Raasch	A subjective refraction using M, J0 and J45
Amber Colling	Bullimore	A comparison of three methods of measuring corneal thickness in normal and thinned corneas
Lauren Ernst	Bailey	Ciliary body dimensions and the relationship to refractive error
Nicholas Graham	Jones	The relation between race/ethnicity and refractive error
Erich Hinel	Nichols, J	Relation between lipid layer thickness and tear film thinning
Bernadine Kalenkoski	Flom and Raasch	Visual characteristics as predictors of success or failure in the Ohio Bioptic Driver Program
Dustin Mitchell	Fischer (Neuroscience)	In vivo detection of ganglion cell death and the effects of sodium nitroprusside on chick photoreceptors
Chris Paulett	Nichols, K	Concentration and composition of tears of patients with and without Sjögrens disease
Todd Wendell	Fink	Physiological response of the cornea to SynergEyes hybrid contact lenses
Kara Williams	Walline	Bifocal lens inhibition of myopia progression

## Improving Diversity of Optometric Learners (IDOL) Program



Kim Heard, Nadine Barghout, Myricka Moorman, Michael Do, Yuki Oda, Bobby Ayala, Amilia Uppal, Srim Placides, and Zahra Ahmed.

The Improving Diversity of Optometric Learners (IDOL) Program was held August 20-24, 2007 at The Ohio State University College of Optometry. The program received funding from the Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry (ASCO) and Optometric Educators, Inc. (OEI). The objective of the IDOL Program is to introduce talented minority college students to the profession of optometry and impress upon them the importance of diversity in health care professionals that will provide care to a diverse patient population.

*"The mentors  
we met and doctors  
we shadowed were  
an irreplaceable ex-  
perience that would  
rarely be found  
anywhere else."  
— Amila Uppal*

Dr. Jeff Walline and other members of the Diversity Enhancement Committee developed a week-long curriculum to introduce students to optometry through a variety of activities: by providing them with experience in an optometry practice, by exposing them to optometrists practicing in a variety of settings and optometry students, by teaching the basics of eyes and vision, and by helping them understand the importance of diversity among health care professionals. A sample schedule for the program is shown in Table 1.

### Thanks to IDOL Program Instructors:

Jeff Walline (OD, PhD'02)

Mel Shipp (OD, MPH, DrPH)

Greg Good (OD'75, PhD'81)

Michael Earley (OD/MS'88, PhD'92)

Cynthia Heard (OD'92)

Vondolee Delgado Nixon (PhD)

Melissa Walters (OD'99)

Melissa Bailey (OD'01, PhD'04)

Kara Williams ('10)

Jackie Davis (OD'81)

Clint Capelle

Justin Greist

Paul Todd

Sally Haltom

Rose Wilson-Hill  
(Office of Minority Affairs)

Rebecca Nelson  
(Multicultural Center)

### SAMPLE SCHEDULE OF THE IDOL PROGRAM

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
9:00	Welcome	1/2 shadow doc 1/2 shadow student	Careers for eye docs	1/2 shadow doc 1/2 shadow student	Fin. Aid & Applying
10:00	Ocular Anatomy class		Using instruments		Student panel
11:00					
12:00	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
1:00	Need for minority OD	Correcting vision	Eye diseases	What is diversity?	What defines success in practice
2:00	Class on how we see			Doctor panel	
3:00			Using instruments		Wrap-up





Yuki Oda, Myricka Moorman, and Bobby Ayala

*“Everything was great.  
What I really liked was how  
well-rounded the program was.  
It encompassed a little bit of  
everything.”*

*– Oscar “Bobby” Ayala*

During the week, students wore white lab coats and received Optometry Admission Test Sample Exams, an OAT Prep book by Kaplan, and The Pact, a novel written by three inner-city African American males who worked together to survive medical and dental school.

Nine students participated in the program. Three of the students were from out-of-state, and the rest were from central Ohio.

Two students said that the IDOL program “changed their lives.”

All of the students volunteered without being asked to act as ambassadors for the program because they had such a great time and learned so much.

In summary, we hope that all of these bright, energetic, young students become motivated to pursue a career in optometry. The IDOL Program certainly provided them with the information they need to become successful and gave them the motivation to do so.



Michael Do and Nadine Barghout.

Myricka Moorman, Bobby Ayala, Kim Heard, and Amila Uppal.





Dr. Alexander's mentor Ruth Morris (BS'43) gives him a hug at the pep rally.

## Kevin Alexander Honored at Alumni Weekend 2007

Ohio State University's Alumni Reunion Weekend was held September 7 through the 9th. The University hosted reunions of all colleges, departments and units. Optometry's events included a banquet on Friday evening, honoring **Kevin Alexander (OD'76, MS'77, PhD'79)**, who became President of the American Optometric Association this year. Dr. Alexander was presented with the H. Ward Ewalt Medal for outstanding service to the profession.

On Saturday at the college, alumni had brats for breakfast at our indoor tailgate party, and toured the new E. F. Wildermuth Optometric Research Clinic. All of the Buckeyes were in Ohio Stadium to cheer the football team on to victory over the University of Akron. Saturday following the game, several classes met individually to renew old bonds, and forge new ones. Mark your calendars for next year – September 5-6, 2008 (football vs. Ohio University).



David Bejot (OD'93), Sarah Newman (OD'97), and Dr. Alexander



Dean Mel Shipp, Dr. Alexander, and Greg Good (OD'75, PhD'81)



The Alexander Family: (l to r) Jenna Alexander, Nick Alexander, Carol Brown (OD'87), Dr. Alexander, and Lindsay McKittrick.

## Focus on Residents

On July 19, 13 new residents from the College's seven affiliated residency programs came to campus for orientation, education, personal goal setting, and a review of clinical procedures.

Residency director **Robert D. Newcomb (OD'71, MPH)** hosted the day-long program, which began with a welcome by Dean Melvin Shipp (OD, MPH, DrPH). The residents were all appointed as auxiliary Clinical Instructors during their one-year of advanced training.

**Nicole Abrashoff (OD'06)**, who recently completed her VA residency program at the Columbus and Chillicothe VA's, then told the residents "What I wish I knew BEFORE my residency program."

**Gil Pierce (OD'89, MS'92, PhD'94)** provided an update on glaucoma diagnosis and management during lunch, which was generously sponsored by Mr. Aaron Adams from Alcon Laboratories.

Following lunch, Associate Dean Karla Zadnik (OD, PhD) shared her thoughts on "How to Read the Literature" and urged the residents to keep abreast of new research studies during the next year and throughout their optometric careers.

Following the didactic portion of the orientation program, the residents practiced some clinical procedures (gonioscopy, scleral depression, and punctal dilation and irrigation) under the expert supervision of Dr. Newcomb, **Greg Kiracofe (OD'81)** from the Dayton VAMC, and **Andy Weibel (OD'95)** and **Brett Irvin (OD/MS'02)** from the Columbus VAOPC. The program concluded with an Optical Coherent Tomography (OCT) demonstration by college of optometry clinical staff members Mat Johnson and Tim Davie.

Residents	Location
Kristi Liu (SCO OD '07)	Dayton VA
Kelly Richmond (OSU OD '07)	Dayton VA
Alison Palmer (OSU OD '07)	The Eye Center of Toledo
Anthony Dirr (OSU OD '07)	Cincinnati Eye Institute
Sara Betterly (ICO OD '07)	Cleveland VA
Shauna Lushko (PCO OD '07)	Cleveland VA
Vinita Solomon (UMSL OD '07)	Cleveland VA
Corrie Weitzel (OSU OD, MS '07)	Cleveland VA
Glendy Lau (IAUPR OD '07)	Ohio Eye Alliance
Jennifer Schmeltzer (OSU OD '07)	Columbus and Chillicothe VAs
Anders Hansson (ICO OD '07)	Columbus and Chillicothe VAs
Kristy Chmielewski (PCO OD '07)	Columbus and Chillicothe VAs
William Hileman (ICO OD '07)	Columbus and Chillicothe VAs
Brooke Smith (PCO OD '07)	Hampton, Virginia, VA





# The 2008 Binocular Vision & Pediatrics Forum *and the* Children's Learning Forum

April 17-18, 2008 Holiday Inn, Columbus, Ohio

This is a unique conference that takes a **multi-disciplinary** approach to working with children with learning issues.

## • SCHEDULE •

### Binocular Vision and Pediatrics Forum Thursday, April 17, 2008

- 8:30** Registration
- 9:00** Infant Eye Examinations  
Don Lyon, OD (2 hours)
- 11:00** Optometric Evaluation of Children with Special Needs  
Don Lyon, OD (1 hour)
- 12:00** Lunch (on your own)
- 1:30** Vision Therapy for Non-Strabismic Binocular Vision Disorders  
Don Lyon, OD (2 hours)
- 3:30** Strabismus  
Don Lyon, OD (1 hour)

### Children's Learning Forum Friday, April 18, 2008

- 8:30** Registration
- 9:00** Educational Implications of Traumatic Brain Injury in Children  
Keith Owen Yeates, PhD (1 hour)
- 10:00** Common Vision Disorders in the School Population  
Don Lyon, OD (1 hour)
- 11:00** Evidence Based Interventions For Children With Autism Spectrum Disorder  
Jane Case-Smith, EdD, OT (1 hour)
- 12:00** Lunch
- 1:15** Why Telling Children Doesn't Work...(when words get in the way)  
Yvonne Gustafson, PhD (1 hour)
- 2:15** Teaching at Point of Difficulty  
Lea McGee, EdD (1 hour)
- 3:15** Auditory Processing and Learning Deficits: Hearing's Piece of the Puzzle  
Ursula M. Goss, MA (1 hour)

## • CONTINUING EDUCATION CREDITS •

**Optometrists:** 12 hours of CE submitted to the Ohio State Board of Optometry and COPE.

**Teachers:** Submit certificate to school district for professional development plan.

**Audiologists/Speech-Language Pathologists:** The Department of Speech and Hearing Science of The Ohio State University is approved by the Continuing Education Board of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) to provide continuing education activities in speech-language pathology and audiology. This program is offered for 0.6 CEUs (Intermediate level; Professional area). ASHA CE provider approval does not imply endorsement of course content, specific products, or clinical procedures.

**Occupational Therapists:** 6 hours of CE submitted in Ohio.

### Registration Form

Please complete one form per person. This form may be copied.

name \_\_\_\_\_ profession \_\_\_\_\_

address \_\_\_\_\_

city \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_ zip \_\_\_\_\_

phone number \_\_\_\_\_ fax number \_\_\_\_\_

**Questions?** Contact Dr. Marjean Kulp at (614) 688-3336 or kulp.6@osu.edu. Or visit the website at <http://optometry.osu.edu>. Registration includes 12 hours of education, continental breakfast, and Friday lunch.

Profession	Thursday only	Friday only	Thursday & Friday
Optometrists	\$150	\$150	\$270
Paraoptometrics	\$130	\$150	\$250

*\*For registrations postmarked after April 3, 2008, add \$15 per person.*

#### Register for the following

- Binocular Vision & Pediatrics Forum (Thursday only) \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Binocular Vision & Pediatrics Forum and Children's Learning Forum (Thursday and Friday) \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Children's Learning Forum (Friday only) \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Friday Lunch Preference: ☐ Vegetarian ☐ Non-vegetarian
- Special Dietary Needs: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please make checks payable to:** The Ohio State University

**Mail checks/purchase orders and registration form to:**

Attn: Dr. Marjean Kulp  
Binocular Vision & Pediatrics Forum, OSU College of Optometry  
338 West Tenth Avenue  
Columbus, OH 43210

# Melissa Walters (OD'99)

## Returning to OSU College of Optometry

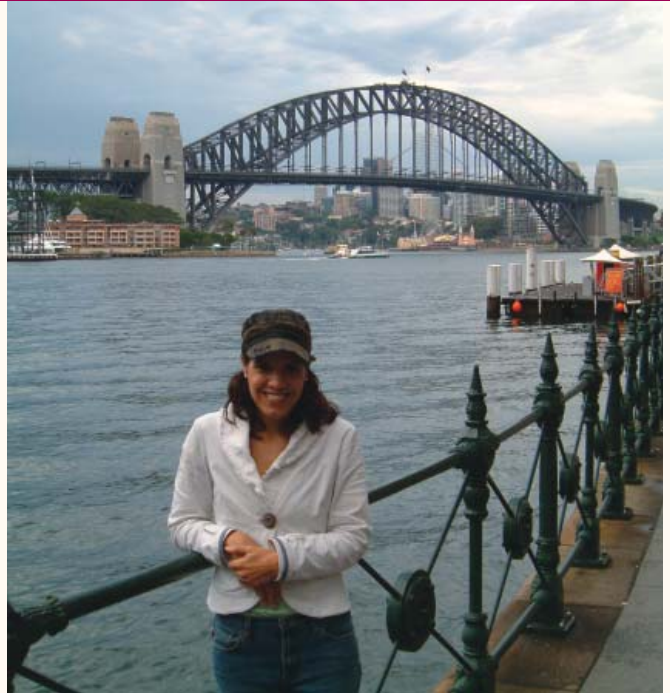
**Melissa Walters (OD '99)** has returned to her alma mater to teach in our Primary Vision Care (PVC) and Ocular Disease (OD) clinics. She brings a wealth of unusual patient care experiences to her role as one of our newest clinical educators, even though she has only been an optometrist for eight years.

Immediately after her graduation, she completed a one-year residency in the Indian Health Service (IHS) in Kayenta, AR. Needless to say, this town was a lot different than Columbus and her hometown of Akron. Her typical day in the clinic was busy with young and old patients in need of primary and some secondary eye care. She told us "We were the only medical facility for 100 miles, and subsequently were able to practice to the absolute limits of our therapeutic licenses." She liked practicing in the IHS because there was a sense of family within the clinic, and there was great respect reciprocated between the medical staff and the patients.

Following her residency, she was chosen for a Post Grad II program in Boston, MA, under the direction of Dr. Thomas Freddo (now Dean at the Waterloo, Ontario, Canada, School of Optometry). During this year, she worked at Boston Medical Center and rotated with second and third-year ophthalmology residents in cornea, retina, pediatrics, pathology, and neuro-ophthalmology.

In 2001, she accepted a Commissioned Officer position in the US Public Health Service and was assigned to a clinic in Tohatchi, NM. Here she taught externs students from the Southern California College of Optometry and honed her skills as a clinical educator. It was also here that she met her husband, who is from Australia, and this pleasant development began yet another interesting chapter in Dr. Walters' professional career.

In 2003, she and her husband moved to Australia where she worked in both corporate and



Melissa Walters (OD'99) in Sydney, Australia

"The students have such an enthusiasm for learning and refreshing outlook for our profession. The College offers such a diverse setting with state of the art equipment, many specialties, research opportunities, and laboratory facilities. I am home at Ohio State and feel blessed to be a part of such a dynamic profession."

ophthalmology settings. While in the land down under, she experienced optometry in its infancy pushing for professional rights and therapeutic expansion. "This opened my eyes in appreciation for the accomplishments of the American Optometric Association in the USA," Dr. Walters said, "...however, as time passed I longed to return home to family, friends, and my profession as a doctor of optometry."

We are indeed fortunate that she made the career decision to come back to Ohio State, and help us prepare our students for practice in the 21st century.

Melissa and husband Chris on their honeymoon at the Great Barrier Reef.



Melissa hiking in New Mexico





**1955** **Jim King (BS '55)** is recovering from a subdural hemotoma. He spent 1 month in intensive care and another month in rehab. He is happy to report that his recovery is going well. He regrets he was unable to attend the Alumni Weekend, but looks forward to attending next year with other members of his class **Dick Ball (BS'55, MS'58)**, **Lowell Hone (BS'55, OD'77)**, and **Will Stamp (BS'55)**, plus **Don Lewis (BS'54)**.

**1961** **Gerald E. Lowther (OD '67, MS '69, PhD '72)**, a former faculty member at three optometric educational institutions (OSU, FSU, UAB) and current dean at a fourth (IU) has announced his plans to retire after 10 years of service at the Indiana University School of Optometry. Dr. Lowther, an internationally-recognized expert in the areas of corneal physiology, tear chemistry, and contact lens practice, has presented over 250 papers, posters, and courses at local, state, regional, national, and international meetings. He is a previous editor of *International Contact Lens Clinic*, a Distinguished Scholar in the National Academies of Practice, and a past-president of the American Academy of Optometry. Congratulations Jerry! You make all OSU optometrists proud!!

**1969** **Ronald Cooke (OD '69)** is President and Chief Executive Officer of Diversified Ophthalmics in Cincinnati, OH.



Karla Bucknall (OD'81) and Jim King (BS'55) at the South Dakota Optometry Society Convention in Rapid City, SD in September 2007.

**1971** **Arol Augsburger (OD,MS '71)** has been named "OD of the Year" by the Illinois Optometric Association. Since he has previously been OD of the Year in two other state optometric associations (OH and AL), he is believed to be the only optometrist ever to achieve this outstanding honor three times! Dr. Augsburger is the current President of the Illinois College of Optometry.

**1976** **John Laurent (OD, MS '76)** is now retired from the US Navy and has been accepted into the Contact Lens Residency program at the University of Alabama in Birmingham. Here is a photograph of him riding a wet elephant at the Elephant Conservation Center in Lam-pang, Thailand.

**1984** **Roger Filips (OD '84)** provided a wonderful guest lecture for our Opt IV students on September 26. His topics were (1) medical optometry and (2) good business management techniques in private practice. He is the author of "Clinical Pearls for Optometry, 2nd edition" (Anadem, 2006), and practices in Hartington, NE.

**1984** Congratulations to **William Lapple (OD '84)** for being selected 2007 Optometrist of the Year in New York. Dr. Lapple is a past president of the New York State Optometric Association; and lives in LeRoy, NY, with his wife Angela and children Stephanie and John. He is in a group practice there with another optometrist and an ophthalmologist.

**1982** **Susan Quinn (OD '82)** received the 2007 Warren G. and Ruth P. Morris Optometrist of the Year Award from the Ohio Optometric Association. Dr. Quinn practices in Athens, OH, and is a former President of the Ohio State Board of Optometry.



Dr. John Laurent

**1984** Cheryl Archer (OD '84) was named by Vision Monday, the Newsmagazine for the Eye Care Industry, as one of the twenty most influential women in optical for 2007.

She is senior partner and president of a four-office, six-doctor group practice in western Ohio, and served as President of the Ohio Optometric Association in 2006-2007. Congratulations Cheryl!!

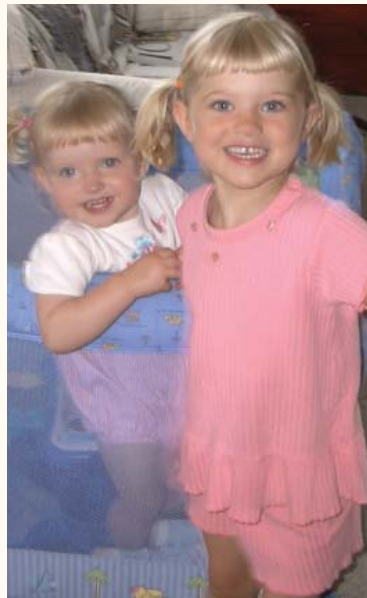
**1986** Harry Bowers (OD '86) sends greetings from Soddo, Ethiopia, where he is helping to establish a school of optometry at Soddo Christian Hospital ([www.soddo.org](http://www.soddo.org)). There are 80 million people living in Ethiopia, and no optical or optometric program in the country. He writes, "We just had three ophthalmologists here for two weeks and we did 120 cataract operations in nine days, so I am quite busy with many things." He would love to hear from his US colleagues and friends; contact him at [thebowersinafrica@yahoo.com](mailto:thebowersinafrica@yahoo.com).



Harry Bowers (center) assisting with a girl with a lid tumor in Soddo, Ethiopia. The chief surgeon (right) is a local Ethiopian, trained in England.

**1992** Dennis Light, (OD '92) has moved back to Ohio and is now a full-time staff optometrist at the Dayton VA Medical Center. He was previously a staff optometrist at the Eastern Colorado VA Healthcare System in Pueblo, CO.

**1993** Susan J. Gromacki (OD '93, MS '93) sends greetings from Ann Arbor, MI, where she is practicing part-time while her husband, Scott, works on his PhD degree. They are the proud parents of two daughters, Sarah (age 5) and Stephanie (age 2).



Stephanie and Sarah Gromacki

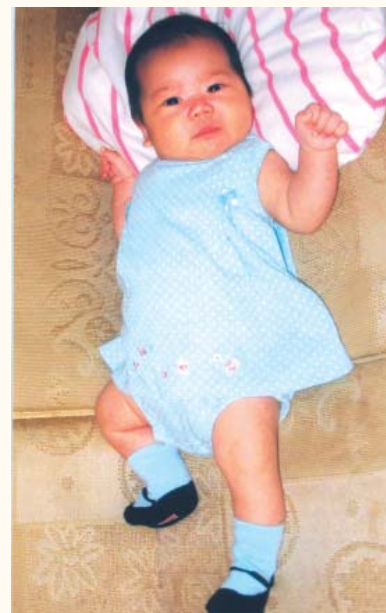
**1997** Elizabeth "Beth" Muckley (OD '97) received the 2007 Jack Keith Young Optometrist of the Year Award from the Ohio Optometric Association. Dr. Muckley practices with the Northeast Ohio Eye Surgeons group in Stow and Kent, and is a member of the EastWest Eye Conference planning committee.

**1997** The Class of 97 hosted their individual 10 year reunion during the OSU Alumni Reunion Weekend. It was great to catch up and see old friends. A scrapbook was presented to each guest with updates on classmates along with favorite and worst memories of school (most everyone said studying for boards as their worst!). "It is a testimony to the closeness of our class to have 20 members return. Our classmates came from as far as Massachusetts and South Carolina to attend."



Class of '97 at the Alumni Weekend

**1999** Ann Huynh Nguyen and Thanh M. Nguyen happily announce the birth of their third child., Jolie Thanh-Nhan, on May 15, 2007. Jolie joins older sister Sophia, 4 1/2 years old, and brother Richie, 2 1/2 years old. Ann writes, "We are very blessed indeed!"



Jolie Thanh-Nhan



**2004** Ella Grace Berntsen was born on May 20, 2007 to **David Berntsen (OD, MS '04)** and his wife Monique. Ella was 8lbs. 2oz. and was 20 inches long. They currently reside in Westerville, OH.

**2006** **Neeta Kapoor (OD/MS '06)** completed an ocular disease residency at the New Jersey Omni Eye Center in 2007 and is now doing a contact lens residency at NOVA Southeastern University in Ft. Lauderdale, FL.

**2006** **Gina M. Wesley (OD/MS '06)** wrote an informative article on pediatric optometry in the September 2007 issue of *new O.D. magazine*. She practices at Crystal Vision Clinic and Maple Grove Vision Clinic in her home state of Minnesota.



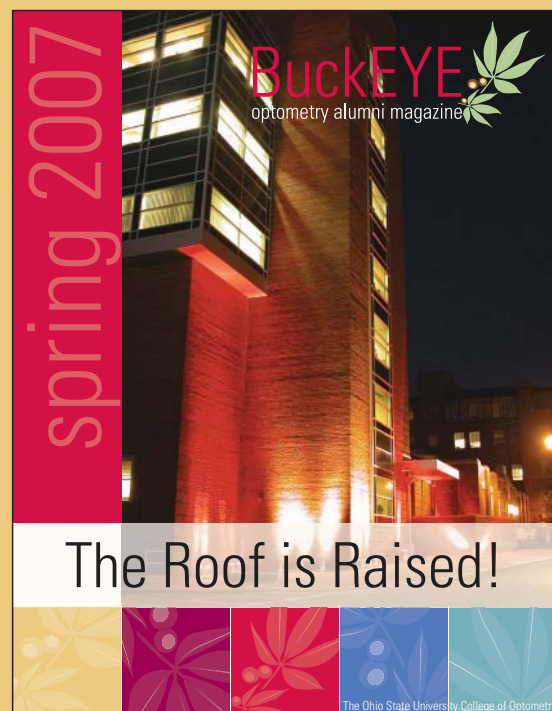
Ella Grace Berntsen

## In Memoriam

**Jack Kernohan (BS'60)**



Here's the **Greg Kracher (OD'73)** family along with **Terry Huston (OD'73)** doing the OHIO picture for Alumni Weekend. Taylor is doing the O, Tatum is the H, Greg is the I, and Terry and Jackie are doing O's.



The BuckEYE Optometry Alumni Magazine won the award for Best Alumni Magazine at the Alumni Leadership Conference this past Fall, for the second consecutive year.

Congratulations to the BuckEYE Magazine team:

Jeff Myers (OD'84)

Kerri McTigue

Bob Newcomb (OD'71, MPH)

Barbara Fink (OD, PhD'87)

Gayle Glanville

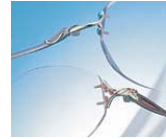
Karen Stedfeld

Sally Haltom

John McCauley

# Thank You!

The Ohio State University College of Optometry gratefully acknowledges the generous support of Hoya Vision Care, North America, and Mr. Barney Dougher, President and Chief Operating Officer, for this issue of the BuckEYE newsletter.



**HOYA**

The Ohio State University  
Optometry Alumni & Friends  
338 West Tenth Avenue  
Columbus, OH 43210-1280

Non-Profit  
Organization  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Columbus, OH  
Permit No. 711

