



Honoring Dr. Ruth Morris

autumn 2008



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From the Dean

Dear Optometry Alumni and Friends:

Welcome to the autumn issue of the BuckEYE Optometry Alumni Newsletter.

During this time of year when we express our gratitude for family and friends, it's fortuitous that this issue pays tribute in many ways to members of our optometry family. We had the great pleasure of honoring our dear friend, **Ruth Morris (BS'43)** with the inaugural Distinguished Alumnus Award. Our relationship with Dr. Morris began some 60 years ago when she enrolled in what was then a bachelor of science program. She holds the distinction of being the only woman in her class of 1943. Dr. Morris went on to distinguish herself in many selfless ways locally, state-wide, and nationally. I cannot think of a better candidate to receive the first Distinguished Alumnus Award.

Arol Augsberger (OD, MS '71) has certainly risen to the top of his profession—on several occasions. Regardless of where Arol goes, success soon follows. Ohio State, UAB, and Illinois have all benefitted from his extraordinary leadership skills and consummate affability.

Late in the summer, several faculty members and I had the privilege of flying out to Arizona to award the Glenn A. Fry Medal in Physiological Optics to Dr. Velma Dobson. Dr. Dobson's work is legendary in the field of infant vision research. She is a remarkable woman on many levels and is absolutely passionate about research. I was delighted that we were able to recognize Dr. Dobson in this special way.

I extend a special thank you to our faculty, students and staff involved in conducting the successful IDOL (Improving Diversity of Optometric Learners) and I-DOC (Improving Diversity of Optometric Careers) programs this past July. Sharing what optometry is all about to under-represented students is not only life changing for student participants but also for us. Through such programs as IDOL and I-DOC, our students, staff and educators are supporting the College's diversity efforts.

To some of our faculty in this issue, we say welcome and congratulations. Welcome to Dr. Andy Hartwick who hails from Colorado; we look forward to a long and rewarding relationship. To Dr. Marjean Kulp, I extend congratulations on the success of the Convergence Insufficiency Treatment Trial and the recent release of the groups' research findings.

Thank you to Heather Bowen for letting us share a day in her life as a second-year student. I wish Heather the best as she draws closer to realizing her goal of becoming an optometrist.

A good problem to have is that there are far too many newsworthy accomplishments and inspiring individuals featured in this issue of our magazine to mention here. Please know that I am equally proud of them all and congratulate each one on his/her achievements.

With warmest regards for an enjoyable and renewing holiday season,

Melvin D. Shipp, OD, MPH, DrPH

Dean, OSU College of Optometry



From the President

The best time of the year is here again and almost gone as well. The Buckeyes are about to take on Penn State as I write this, and only the Michigan game will remain on the home schedule. I hope the results have the Bucks in a BCS bowl game!

Optometry Alumni and Friends (OAF) had another very enjoyable Alumni Weekend. Our Distinguished Alumni Medal was presented to Dr. Ruth Morris of Toledo. I am not able to express how special an evening this has become. Dr. Jeff Myers and crew have created the perfect atmosphere for our organization to say thanks to our deserving alums who have done so much for our profession. Your OAF board invites you to experience this event next year. By the way, next year's Alumni Weekend will be the USC game. Ticket demand will be high so make plans early. Also remember that you have to be a paid member of Optometry Alumni and Friends and the OSU Alumni Association to be eligible to purchase tickets.

The tailgate on Saturday morning was also very spirited. I've been attending these as long as anyone, and I can honestly say that we had one of our best. Of course, it didn't hurt to have Archie Griffin stop by and get us pumped up. He came on behalf of the OSU Alumni Association to thank OAF for our support of the University. Even though we are one of the smaller societies on campus, we are well known. OAF thanks those of you who support our organization as well as OSU Alumni with your memberships in each group.

Another special fall event that OAF sponsors is the welcome dinner for the first year class after their first day of classes. Dr. Terry Huston and I attended on behalf of OAF. The faculty members at my table were Dean Richard Hill and Dr. Karla Zadnik. We had an exceptional visit with the students, but the highlight to me was learning that this is Dean Hill's fiftieth year as an optometrist. Congratulations Dean Hill!!

Well, I procrastinated a little in getting this article finished and Penn State got the better of the Bucks. This game is always special to me. Dr. Charles Harvey from my class passed away several years ago and a group of us sponsored a plaque in his honor at the stadium. Chuck had been a captain of the Penn State track team in undergrad. The plaque reads: "A Nittany Lion with the vision to become a Buckeye". Charles Harvey, Optometry 1974. The plaque is located between gates 8 and 10 on the east side of the stadium. Chuck always had a win to celebrate when the Bucks played Penn State. So here's a toast to the Nittany Lions for you, Chuck.

As always,

Affirm thy Friendship, O-HI-O!!

Roger L. Saneholtz (OD'74)

President, OSU Optometry Alumni & Friends



What About Your Investments?

As the holiday season fast approaches, here is a question for you: What is the most treasured gift another human has given to you?

Maybe it was a special tie, jewelry, car, book, art, or something related to a special interest of yours. I expect the short list would include things where someone went out of their way to select something special just for you. It might also include things where people gave a piece of themselves, like your child's first pinch pot or handprint in plaster of Paris, a book bought for you with a special message from the author or the giver, a quilt made by someone, or a piece of art made for you. My wife would never give away the quilts her mother has made for her, nor would I give away my daughter's watercolor that was a gift when she was in the 6th grade, or one of my mother's needlepoints.

But I think that the greatest gift one human can give to another is their time.

Not just the 'Hey, how you doing?' 'Great, how about you?' that we do with one another at a continuing education meeting, or at a social event. No, I'm talking about sitting down and listening to another person's ideas and thoughts, their dreams and fears, and sharing your own ideas and thoughts, and maybe your dreams and fears. Today's lifestyle for many is too hectic for that.

Recently, I was given 4 tickets to the Ohio State-Michigan State Men's Hockey game. Now, I realize this is not the hottest ticket in town, but stay with me here. After calling five different folks who we thought might want to go with us, and going 0 for five, we called our great niece and nephew. Madison is eight years old, a typical first-born red-headed girl, who loves the attention from her great-uncle. Will is six years old, who has more hats than anyone I know, loves the beat of the music and knows more words to Buckeye songs than I do. Both are smart and polite, and according to their mom, were jumping for joy around the house when they found out they were going with us.

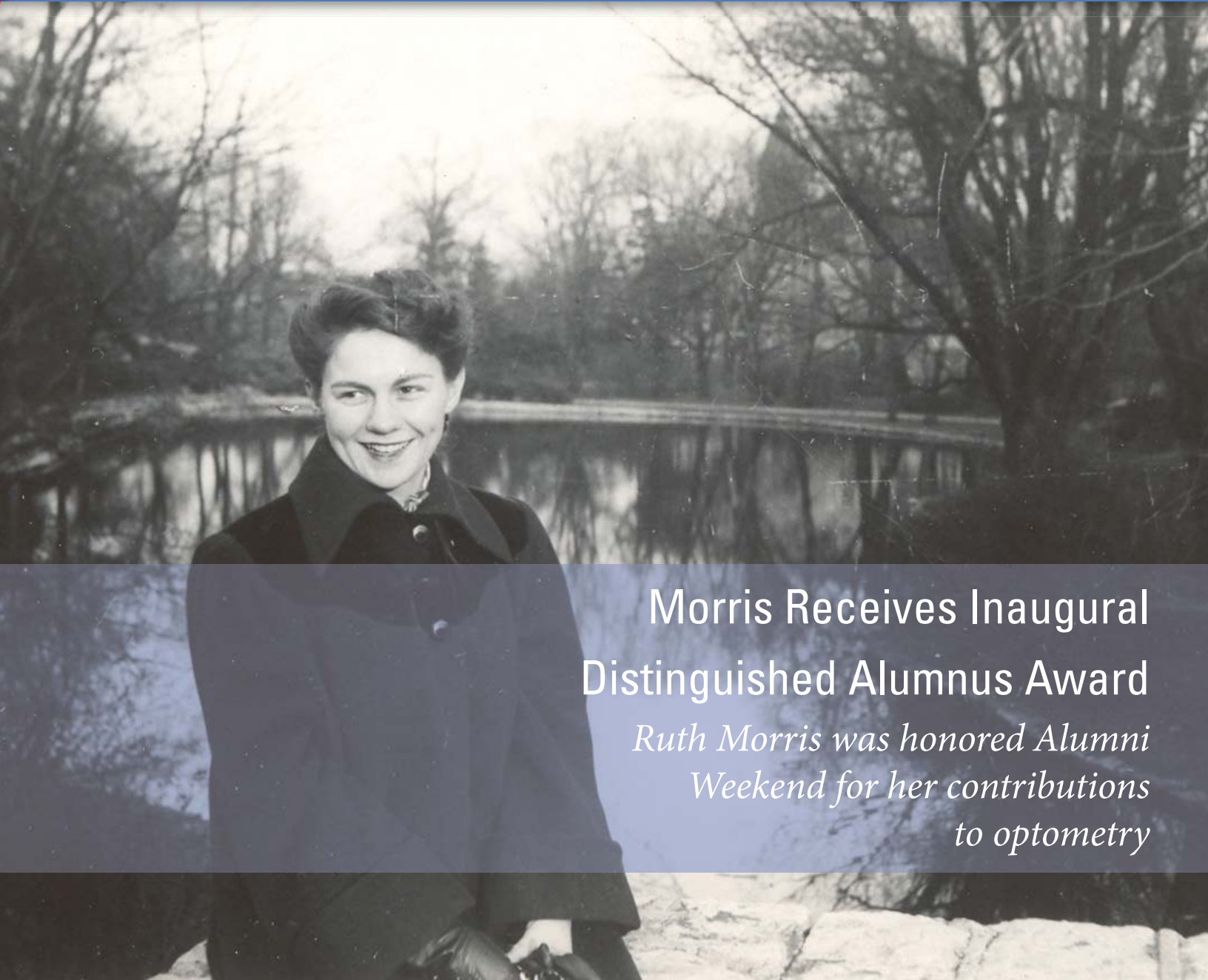
We have no grandchildren, so this is the closest we come. And we had a blast. They chattered all the way from home to Value City Arena. They loved the game, the band, the Script Ohio on ice (pretty cool if you haven't seen it), not to mention the soda pop, pizza, and pretzels they had. And of course, a stop at the gift shop for a stuffed Brutus Buckeye for Will and a buckeye necklace and bracelet for Madison. They each thanked us multiple times.

And I'll bet they loved having the undivided attention and time of an adult other than their parents. It was truly a joy and blessing for us. And their parents got a quiet dinner, too.

Spend some time this holiday season with others, to give a part of yourself, to be a little vulnerable, to listen to another's hopes, dreams, and fears. For me, investing in others has always paid bigger dividends than I feel I have invested. I'll bet you will find the same.

Jeffrey A. Myers (OD'84)
BuckEYE Editor





Morris Receives Inaugural Distinguished Alumnus Award

*Ruth Morris was honored Alumni
Weekend for her contributions
to optometry*

Ruth Morris (BS'43) at Mirror Lake

Ruth Morris (BS'43)

"I will begin by speaking of my mother whom I adored. She was my mentor, teacher, and best friend. As children she walked my three brothers and me to the local library where she told each of us to take out three books. Soon I wandered into the science area and there I decided as a child that I would become an eye doctor."

Cover Story



On Friday, September 5, 2008, your Optometry Alumni & Friends Society awarded the inaugural Distinguished Alumnus Award to **Ruth Penrod Morris (BS '43)**. The Society's Board of Directors may, at their discretion, annually recognize one alumnus with the award. The criteria for the selection are: 1) a graduate of The Ohio State University College of Optometry, 2) a member of the Optometry Alumni & Friends, 3) someone who reflects credit on the Ohio State University College of Optometry through distinguished service to the profession, community and/or world. Nominations may be accepted by the board for review. The deadline for making nominations for the 2009 award is January 15. The honoree will receive a medal to commemorate his/her recognition. Posthumous nominations will not be accepted.

Dr. Morris' big night began with a reception and dinner during Alumni Weekend at the Blackwell Inn on Ohio State's campus. She wore a sharp scarlet and gray ensemble and was delighted to talk with most everyone present. Also in attendance that evening were members of the Class of 1958 celebrating their 50th anniversary; **Tom Brannon (BS '58)**, **Tom Kutrosky (BS '58)**, **Orion Toepfer (BS '58)**, and **Alan Tanner (BS '58)**.

After a brief introduction, those gathered enjoyed fellowship over a meal, renewing acquaintances, walking down memory lane and indulging in nostalgia for the "good old days." Following dinner, the group retired to a classroom for the presentation of the medal to Dr. Morris. **Jeffrey Myers, (OD'84)** was the Master of Ceremonies, and we heard from **Robert Newcomb (OD'71, MPH)**, **Bob Layman (OD'82)**, **Kevin Alexander (OD'76, MS'77, PhD'79)**, **Wayne Collier (BS'65)**, **Arol Augsburg (OD/MS'71)** via video, Dr. Richard Hopping, **Theresa Nemeth, (OD'85)**, and **Paulette Schmidt (OD'73, MS'76)**.

When her retirement community, where she plays an active role, heard that Dr. Morris was being honored by the College of Optometry, they asked her to give a speech about the expe-



above photo: Ruth Morris' graduation picture-
March 19, 1943

right photo: a favorite picture of Ruth's
husband **Warren Morris (BS'49)**



photos from left to right:

Ruth Morris (BS'43) and **Kevin Alexander (OD'77, PhD'79)** at the reception

Dean Shipp and Dr. Alexander presenting the award to Dr. Ruth Morris

Paulette Schmidt (OD'73, PhD'76) sharing fond memories of Ruth

rience. Being the modest person she is, she decided that all of the accolades heaped upon her at the presentation were NOT what she wanted to share with her friends. Instead, she made a presentation entitled, "The Real Me." A few excerpts follow:

"It was a very emotional experience. Best of all were the hugs and kisses of so many friends; and their comments as they spoke of so many activities I was involved in. Then they honored me with their first Distinguished Alumnus Award; and told me they intend to do this annually.

As children, my mother walked my three brothers and me to the local library where she told each of us to take out three books. I wandered into the science area and there I decided as a child that I would become an eye doctor.

My mother was full of quotes. This is my favorite: 'Behind closed doors, many stand and wait impatiently, hoping someone will lend a hand by bringing them a key. At last, in despair, they turn and go, never having knocked; and live and die, and never know it wasn't even locked!'

I got a job at the 5 & 10 store, where I ultimately ended up working at the notions counter. There, I noticed they had eyeglasses of different powers, for magnification proposes. I became skilled advising people of various ages as to what they needed. At Christmas, I received a one dollar gift. I bought 2 wash rags, none of which we had at home. It was our only Christmas gift.

That same Christmas, my mom, having learned how to make great candies, made candy. Christmas day she opened the door to an empty room in our rented home to show off her candy. Mice were happily walking everywhere across her candy. I saw my mother break down and cry for the first time. This was the worst Christmas of my life.

Next year we drew names and could spend no more than 25 cents on the family member. I won Dad. I bought him a little tape measure which he carried in his pants pocket until he died. I was deeply touched by this. Dad used to play his guitar and sing to me, "I don't know why I love you like I do. I just do!" This memory I treasure the most.

When I was 16, my parents helped me with bus fare to Columbus. I went immediately to the Dean of Women and asked how much money I needed to come to OSU. She smugly gave me an enormous high figure. I never heard of so much money. She told me to go home and get a job. I told my folks not to worry, that I would be an optometrist. I was the only girl at OSU among my colleagues in optometry school. From the day I arrived at Columbus, I didn't see my family until after my senior year and had married my husband whom I met in my senior year.

I held three jobs on campus. I soon found these to be inadequate, so I got on a Greyhound bus and headed for downtown Columbus. To this day, I believe God helped me, because the bus stopped right in front of an optometric office. I marched in, and told the doctor I needed a job. He said, "Go next door." Next door was White Haines Optical. They immediately hired me and I was secure financially for a while.

Before long I was having financial problems and decided I would have to quit. A co-worker suggested I tell one of our bosses. It was very difficult but I was desperate, so I went to see Mr. Hubbel, the President. My life changed that day. Mr. Hubbel asked me to sit down and asked what I wanted. I told him I needed \$85 to pay for my next semester at OSU. He immediately plopped \$85 in front of me. I told him I should sign a paper, but he refused saying, "You pay me back someday if you can." Today I carry \$100 in my wallet hoping to

"It was a very emotional experience. Best of all were the hugs and kisses of so many friends."

Ruth Morris, OD



Cover Story



Ruth and Warren Morris

meet a youth who needs it as I did to pursue his or her education.

My husband and I met and married at OSU our senior year. At graduation time, my husband and I went to see Mr. Hubbell to thank him for helping me. He gave my husband a book on Lincoln which he treasured. My husband was leaving shortly for years of combat in Germany. So, I came home to live with my parents.

Mr. Hubbel, knowing I was going back to Toledo, said he would call his life-long friend in Toledo, an optometrist, and suggest he hire me. He had just fired three of my colleagues who did not satisfy him. When Mr. Hubbel called Dr. Parker, Dr. Parker said, "I don't want a girl!" Mr. Hubbell said, "This isn't any girl. This is a special girl!"

Dr. Parker interviewed me and like me. I was thrilled. He paid me \$50/week. I felt I was very mature now and capable of paying my way. When I received my first two week pay, I sent Mr. Hubbel \$100 for the \$85 he loaned me. In his a letter of thanks, he shared no one had ever paid him that kind of interest.

I loved Dr. Parker and my work, more than I ever hoped for. After a couple months of working with him, he told me one day that he was going to the hospital for surgery, and would be home in a week. He commended my work, and asked me to continue to take good care of his patients. He died in the hospital. He had left a message for Mr. Hubbel that if anything happened to him, he wanted me to have his practice. Mr. Hubbel immediately came to Toledo with his attorney. He took me out to dinner for the first time I had ever been in

a restaurant He left me with a check for \$35,000, the cost of the practice. I was off and running. I carried my lunch for three years and paid off the practice.

When Warren arrived home after World War II, his first words were, "Ruthie, I am going to be an optometrist so we can be together." He wanted to specialize in children's vision. When Warren finally entered the practice, I was exhausted; asked him to take care of our staff, all our money, and all children. I then gave my full attention to my patients and contact lens work."

"Ruthie, I am going to be an optometrist so we can be together."

Warren Morris, OD

Dr. Ruth Morris's service to the profession spanned the better part of five decades. She was an early and active participant at local, state and national levels of Business and Professional Women. Her involvement in the Ohio Optometric Association included founding and chairing the Salt Fork Conference, and developing the Optometric Recognition Award, and then seeing its implementation at a national level through the American Optometric Association. Her pioneering efforts also were used by the

AOA Council on Clinical Optometric Care. Following her husband Dr. Warren Morris' death, she established the Warren G. Morris Memorial Fund at The Ohio State University College of Optometry for children's vision research. In Toledo, she helped to establish the Mildred Bayer Clinic where indigent patients receive vision care. Richard Penrod, her brother, and she developed and presented 55 ALIVE, a driver safety program for drivers over the age of 55. She also joined her brother in serving the homeless meals from their church kitchen, preparing hundreds of eggs (to order) once a week.

Drs. Warren and Ruth Morris created a legacy by recruiting prospective optometry students, and adopting other 'optometric kids,' providing invaluable counsel and resources to assure each achieved his/her professional goals. Their



photos from left to right:

Ruth Morris as a young girl sharing her family's love of music

Ruth and a classmate during her college years at OSU

Ruth at OSU



The inaugural Distinguished Alumni Medal presented to Dr. Ruth Morris on Friday, September 5, 2008.



practice and home, as well as their time at optometric meetings, were always open to their optometric kids to talk about optometry.

She has been recognized by the Ohio Optometric Association with a Distinguished Service Award and as the Optometrist

of the Year, an award now named for her and her husband; by The Ohio State University College of Optometry with the H. Ward Ewalt Medal Service to Optometry; was named a Distinguished Practitioner of the National Academies of Practice; and received a Doctor of Ocular Science degree from the Illinois College of Optometry.

photos from left to right:

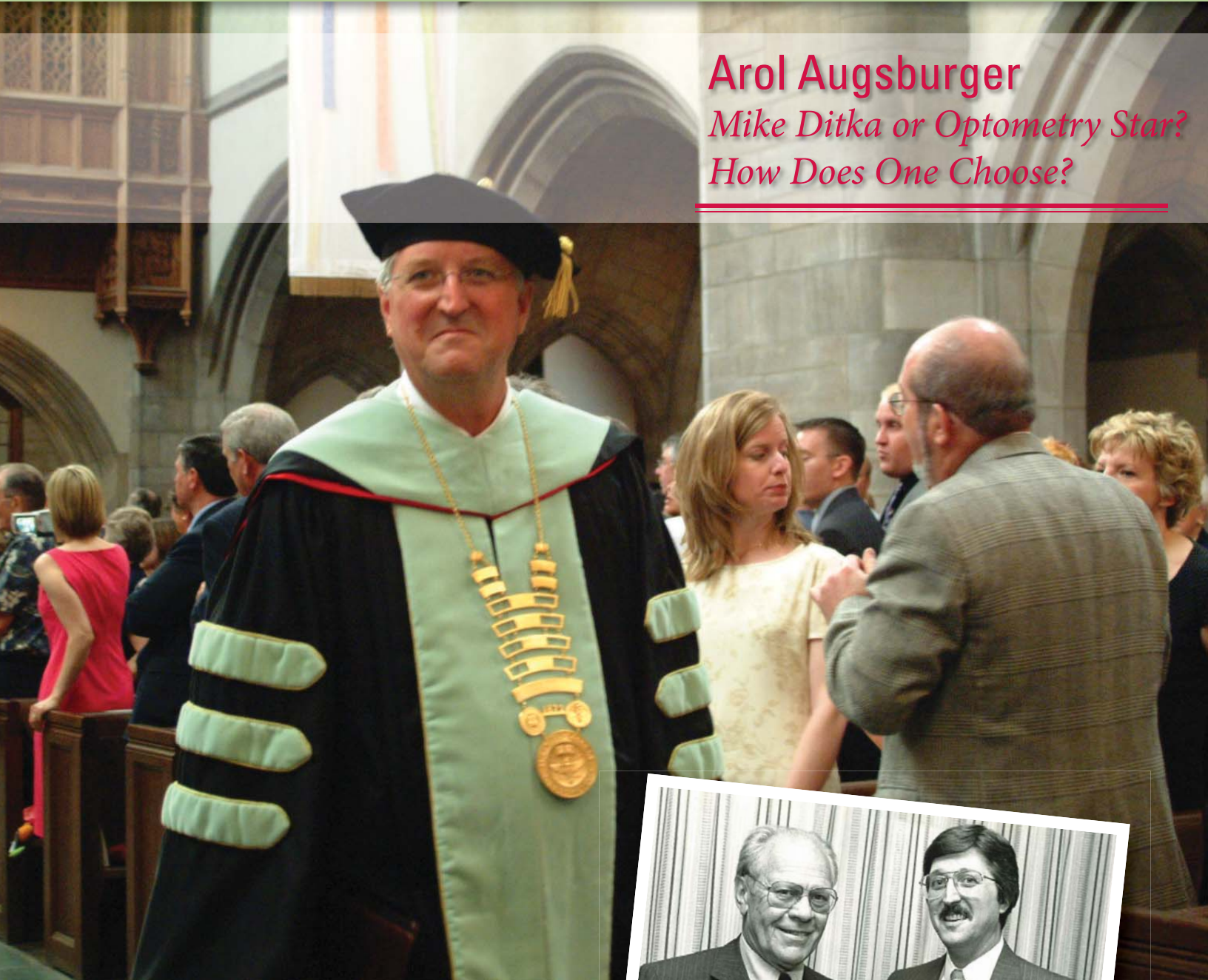
Drs. Warren and Ruth Morris on a 1984 vacation in Hawaii

Cassandra Meents, **Jay Meents ('10)**, **Ruth Morris, Paulette Schmidt (OD'73, PhD'76)**, Emily Rund, and Ray Prohaska, JD, at the reception.

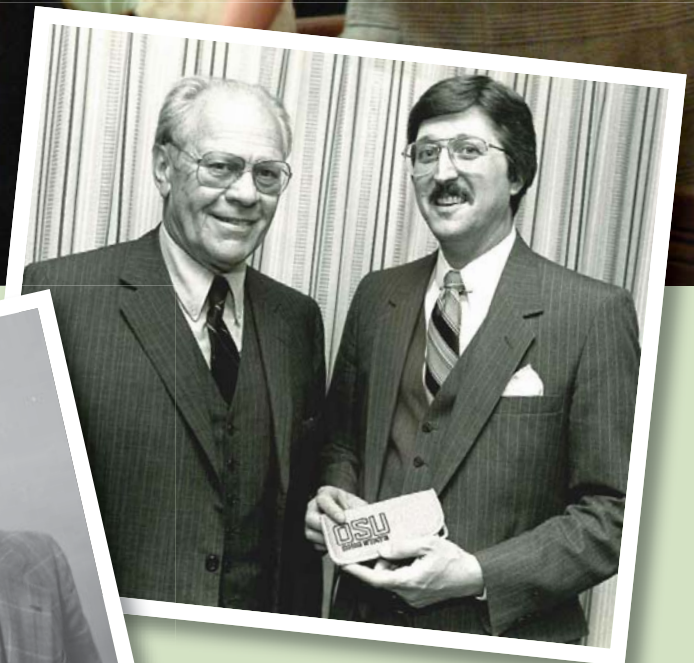


Alumni in Leadership

Arol Augsburger *Mike Ditka or Optometry Star? How Does One Choose?*



Dr. Augsburger during his early days
at the OSU College of Optometry.



Dr. Augsburger with former
President Gerald R. Ford.

Alumni in Leadership

Who would have expected that a kid who thought he was destined to be the next Mike Ditka of the NFL or the next Jerry Lucas of the NBA would find his way to optometry and be recognized by three state associations and the American Optometric Association as their Optometrist of the Year, be the President of the oldest and largest optometric college in the country, and be recognized by the AOA with their Distinguished Service Award? Probably the most surprised is our own **Arol Augsburger, (OD/MS'71)**. And consider that he hasn't worn a watch for the majority of the last decade.

Dr. Augsburger was born in Bluffton, Ohio and grew up in the Mennonite communities surrounding Lima, Ohio.

As youngsters, he and his two brothers were partially responsible for 2 1/2 acres of garden space, which has soured him on growing things since. His father, Paul Augsburger was a radar technical sergeant with duties similar to Radar O'Reilly on *M*A*S*H* during World War II and in a variety of jobs for the 15 years following the war. He then was hired by the post office where he eventually retired after 30 years of service. His mom, Eloise, finished her college degree as the boys were in their teens and taught fourth grade at Lincoln Elementary School in Lima. His brother Jim is an ophthalmic oncologist and retinal specialist in the Department of Ophthalmology at the University of Cincinnati where he also serves as Department Chair. Youngest brother Tom still resides in the Lima area.

While attending Bath High School near Lima, he was captain of the football and basketball teams until a fractured elbow slowed his sports career. He was fit with contact lenses when he was a freshman in high school by one of the local optometrists. Later, he discovered theater through high school musicals and dramas.

Following high school he attended Earlham College briefly and had a basketball coach by the name of Del Harris who

built Earlham's basketball team. Harris went on to coach with the Minnesota Timberwolves, the Los Angeles Lakers, and is now with the Chicago Bulls. His counsel to Arol regarding a sports career was that while he had a talent for sports, he really should be following his passion. Soon after, Arol transferred to The Ohio State University to be closer to his mother who was ill and to his high school sweetheart Stephanie.

He attended the Lima branch of The Ohio State University before coming to Columbus. While there he made a trip to Columbus and visited the College of Optometry. He met Dr. Herb Mote. Dr. Mote was so impressed with the young Augsburger that he immediately introduced him to Drs.

Glenn Fry and Frederick Hebbard, who accepted him for admittance on the spot.

While Drs. Fry and Mote were extremely supportive in their personal interest of him, Dr. Augsburger's greatest influence during his optometry studies probably came from Dr. Richard Hill. It was Dr. Hill who recommended that Dr. Augsburger participate in the Opt. 7 graduate program, and began him on his teaching career. Dr. Augsburger worked in Dr. Hill's lab while he was a student. He found that teaching really excited him and became a lifelong passion of his. While he had developed a practice plan to purchase a practice in Ottawa, Ohio upon graduation, he accepted a teaching position at The Ohio State University College of Optometry, thinking

he would teach a few years and then go into practice. When **Terry Daniel, (OD'70)** left the college to join a private practice, Dr. Augsburger became the clinic coordinator in addition to his full-time teaching responsibilities. He also discovered an opportunity for supplementing his income through consulting on visual performance issues and presenting continuing education.

"Dr. Augsburger is one of the most affable and professional persons I've ever had the pleasure of working with."

Dean Mel Shipp

Kent Daum (OD'76, MS'77, PhD'79), Dean, Illinois College of Optometry, Dr. Vince Brandys, Dr. Augsburger, Rep. Danny Davis, and Dr. Leonard Messner.



Alumni in Leadership



Two-time Heisman trophy winner Archie Griffin with **Dr. Augsburger**

In his early years at OSU, he was frustrated by the financial limitations that he felt limited him from helping support efforts to propel optometry to greater heights. It was **Daniel Runyan, (OD'69)** who explained to Dr. Augsburger there were many ways other than money to contribute to moving the profession forward. Dr. Augsburger took these suggestions to heart, and worked diligently and interprofessionally to strengthen the face and name of optometry in the Columbus area and in the state of Ohio.

In 1992, he was asked to provide counsel to the University of Alabama at Birmingham School of Optometry regarding their dean search. Ultimately he was invited to take the position as Dean at that school. This meant leaving a position on the Ohio Optometric Association Board of Directors, as well as leaving a network of colleagues, friends and associates that he had developed over a 25-year period.

While he initially had some trepidation regarding his decision, and some doubts about his ability to create a similar network in Birmingham, he was astoundingly successful. His time as Dean helped the school build its budget from patient care and research programs from the smallest on campus to the second largest. He also worked to make the Dean's role more politically active, and helped Alabama pass practice expansion bills. His leadership helped to develop to a higher level two significant centers that still set the standard for vision and innovative research: the Vision Science Research Center and the Center for Biophysical Sciences and Engineering.

Through his leadership record as Dean, he was given the opportunity to be Interim Provost of the University of Alabama at Birmingham for more than two years. Interestingly, his path crossed that of Dr. Anne Reynolds, someone he had met during his time at The Ohio State University, who happened to be the president of UAB at that time. Dr. Augsburger became the first optometrist to be an Interim Provost and chief academic officer of a university, supervising 13 schools, and being responsible for programs representing half of UAB's \$1.4 billion annual operating budget.

The move to become President of the Illinois College of Optometry seven years ago was an easier move than the move to Birmingham. He was confident he could create a similar network of colleagues and associates in Chicago as

he had done in Columbus and in Birmingham. During his time in Chicago, he has helped Illinois optometrists receive the privilege of treating ocular disease and moved the college forward substantially. One of their largest achievements under his leadership has been the creation of the EyePod, a \$7 million pre-clinic space, which opened this fall. His emphasis on building the integrity of the institution, building their patient care and research reputation, doing the right things, and raising the bar in every aspect of optometric education has resulted in the Illinois College of Optometry having the largest number of applicants for admission in the country. Coupled with a patient care system that has 90,000 patient visits a year, it is clear that Augsburger's leadership has made a difference.

In terms of mentors, he reports that Dr. Richard Hill has probably been one of the greatest influences in his life, particularly in the areas of scholarly development, teaching, and administrative guidance. He credits **Kevin Alexander, (OD'76, MS'77, PhD'79)** as being a great friend and whose counsel he trusts greatly. Their career paths have been parallel in some ways, and while Dr. Alexander is a number of years younger, his influence has been significant. Dr. Dan Runyan helped Augsburger understand how his involvement in organized optometry could make a difference and encouraged him to simply get involved.

But maybe it was his mother who influenced him the most by suggesting to him that while you can't do everything in a day, you can do something each day, and after you put together enough days of doing something, you'll have done something extraordinary.

Dr. Augsburger has always been giving of his time to volunteer activities, within and without the profession. He is a Fellow of the American Academy of Optometry and a Distinguished Scholar of the National Academies of Practice. His service activities at a local, state and national level with various organizations are too numerous to list. He has served as President of Optometric Educators, and of the Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry, as well as



photos from left to right:

Dr. Augsburger receives the American Optometric Association Distinguished Service Award from **Dr. Kevin Alexander.**

Steve Eyler (OD'77), Dr. Augsburger, Chris Considine (President, Wilson Sporting Goods), Zach Eyler, and Adam Peindl golfing. Arol and Stephanie Augsburger.

"Opa" with grandson A.J. at a White Sox game.

Alumni in Leadership

the National Board of Examiners in Optometry. Currently, among other responsibilities, he is a member of the Board of Directors of the Federation of Independent Illinois Colleges and Universities, and is currently serving as President of the Rotary Club of Chicago, the world's first Rotary Club.

His record of recognitions is impressive and includes:

- Optometrist of the Year – Ohio, Alabama, Illinois and American Optometric Associations
- Distinguished Service Award - American Optometric Association
- Carel C. Koch Memorial Medal Award – American Academy of Optometry for outstanding contributions to the enhancement and development of relationships between optometry and other professions.
- Nicholas Andrew Cummings Award – National Academies of Practice for extraordinary contributions to interprofessional health care
- H. Ward Ewalt Medal - Optometric Educators at The Ohio State University College of Optometry
- Herbert G. Mote Award Distinguished Faculty Member Award - 3 times from The Ohio State University College of Optometry
- Paul Harris Fellow – Rotary International

While a man this busy rarely has time for hobbies, he still is a connoisseur of wine. Stephanie and he have created a challenge for themselves to try to go to all the restaurants in the Chicago area. This keeps them busy most nights during the week. His passion for golf allows him to play 2 to 3 times a week during the season, and he often finds times and opportunities to share a game with friends and colleagues during his travels.

Dr. Augsburger has been married to Stephanie for over 41 years, (since 10 days prior to optometry school, having honeymooned in Intercourse, Pennsylvania). Stephanie is a busy professional working as a design and sales consultant for a new housing development, Bridgeport Village, where they live. This is a community of over 100 single family homes that has a uniquely Chicago character in the near-South Side neighborhood of Bridgeport. It is Chicago's largest detached

residential housing development in 50 years and also its largest riverfront development, with a mile-long pedestrian walk.

They have three sons and 7 grandchildren.

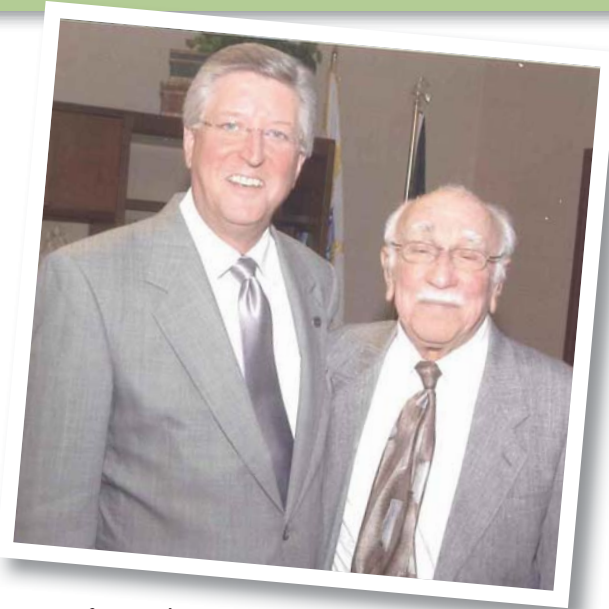
Ryan, the oldest son, and his wife Mary live in Upper Arlington. Ryan is Managing Director of Public Policy

Services for the Ohio Manufacturer's Association, responsible for leading the OMA's lobbying efforts at the statehouse, in addition to spearheading the association's member involvement in public affairs activities. Mary is an attorney at the firm of Squire, Sanders and Dempsey, providing public advocacy counsel to her clients. They have no children, but two cats.

Kyle and his wife Tonya live in DeGraff, Ohio. They have five children (Silas, Valerie, Maryrose, Levi, and Jesse). Kyle is Marketing Manager and Summer Camp Administrator for Marmon Valley Farm. Tonya and the kids work part-time at the Farm and participate in the Camp activities including horseback riding.

Ty and his wife Kelly live in Tucson, Arizona, and have two children (Arol James or AJ, and Maddie). Ty is a creative designer for Creative Machines Inc. which makes public art pieces and interactive museum exhibits. Kelly balances her time between the care of the children, and manages a Crate and Barrel store part-time.

Best wishes for continued success to Dr. Arol Augsburger, one of optometry's shining stars!



Dr. Augsburger
and Dr. Irvin
Borish





Dr. Velma Dobson Receives Fry Medal

A giant in the field of infant vision research from its obscure beginnings to its modern-day pre-eminence, M. Velma Dobson, PhD, professor in ophthalmology and psychology at the University of Arizona, was recently awarded the Glenn A. Fry Medal in Physiological Optics. Dean Melvin Shipp, Associate Dean Karla Zadnik, and

OEI President Greg Good attended an award ceremony near the Tucson campus on August 20, 2008 to present the Medal.

Dobson's achievements in vision research are legendary, according to one of her nominators. At the center of her research is the human infant. Her research areas include infant acuity, infant visual fields, the CRYO-ROP and ETROP studies of retinopathy of prematurity, screening in the Vision in Preschoolers study, and astigmatism in Native Americans. "Any one of these areas would make a career," according to a nominator. She has five.

Dobson began distinguishing herself as a graduate student at Brown University in 1970, where she earned a PhD in experimental psychology. While at Brown, she conducted electroretinographic (ERG) recording of dark adaptation functions in young children and a visual evoked potential (VEP) study of spectral sensitivity in infants. During her post-doc years in the Department of Ophthalmology at Tufts University School of Medicine, she participated in one of the first VEP studies of visual acuity in infants. Dobson's second post-doc in the Department of Psychology at the University of Washington introduced her to the world of the psychophysical study of vision in infants. In the early 1980s, Dobson was one of the first developers of the Teller Acuity

Card Forced-Choice Preferential Looking (FPL) procedure, a widely-used method for measuring visual acuity in infants and multiply-handicapped individuals.

Dobson's recent research interest focuses on visual acuity assessment for screening purposes in preschool-aged children and amblyopia as a consequence of the high degrees of astigmatism among Native American children. Her research has been funded by the National Eye Institute (NEI) of the National Institutes of Health of the Department of Health and Human Services. She has the reputation for being a skilled and prolific writer, whose papers have been cited 3,353 times according to the Institute for Scientific Information.

In her acceptance speech, Dobson noted that "one of the most important aspects of [her] career involved the 12 years [she] spent as a member of the Vision in Preschoolers Study Group." In addition, she was also involved in the Collaborative Longitudinal Evaluation of Ethnicity and Refractive Error (CLEERE) Study. She attributed many happy days spent at The Ohio State University College of Optometry to her participation in these two studies.

The Fry Medal is awarded to individuals who have truly distinguished themselves with long and exemplary records of vision research. Dr. Glenn A. Fry served on the faculty at The Ohio State University from 1935 until his retirement in 1980. Over those years he started the graduate program in Vision Science and was the advisor to many outstanding PhD students. Fry excelled in every activity he undertook, displaying tremendous initiative and drive. He kept very active in his research, teaching, and consulting even while serving as director of the optometry program from 1935 until 1964. He was active nationally on many standards organizations especially involving optics, lighting, and color vision and ended his career with over 250 published papers and reports.

Optometric Educators, Inc.

Optometric Educators, Inc. is an organization made up of College of Optometry faculty members at The Ohio State University and was organized in 1978. The organization's main charge has been to increase the quality of optometric education for students and practicing optometrists. The organization chose to honor Dr. Fry for his dedicated and exemplary service to the discipline of Physiological Optics with a medal struck in his name in 1987. The intent of the medal was to bring special recognition to those individuals who made a significant and continuing impact in research in the vision science field. The American Optometric Foundation also has an award in Dr. Fry's name. That award, the Glenn A. Fry Lecture Award, has been presented annually since 1970 to a young and talented researcher at the American Academy of Optometry meeting. While several individuals have "won" both awards, the two are independent of one another.

Previous Fry Medalists include:

1987	Glenn A. Fry
1987	Elwin Marg
1989	Torsten Wiesel
1990	Bela Julesz
1991	David Hubel
1992	Robert K. Graham
1995	Richard M. Hill
2000	Donald G. Pitts
2001	Merton C. Flom
2006	Ronald Jones
2007	Jay Enoch



IDOL Program at the College



The Improving Diversity of Optometric Learners (IDOL) Program was held July 28-30, 2008 at The Ohio State University College of Optometry. The purpose

of the IDOL program is to interest under-represented students in optometry careers. Potential candidates found out about the program from personal contacts with members of the Diversity Enhancement Committee and from the website that was created for the IDOL program. This year, we had 23 applicants (up from 12 the first year) for ten available openings in the program. The quality of applicants was so strong, that we decided to change the organization of the meeting in order to accommodate more participation in the project and a smaller budget. We made the following changes:

- Shortened the meeting from five to three days without deleting any activities
- Housed participants with students, staff, and faculty instead of a hotel to save costs
- Paid for five flights instead of three
- Invited 16 participants instead of 10
- We invited 12 out-of-state participants, but only offered five of them airfares (11 of the 12 attended)
- We incorporated a program for high school students, and we had four participants

Students were from California (3), Texas, Pennsylvania (2), Louisiana, Virginia, New Jersey, Missouri, Georgia, and Ohio (4). Three of the high school participants were from Ohio, and one was from Georgia. Prior to the program, students were, on average, 78% sure that they wanted to be an optometrist. After the program they were 97% sure that they wanted to be an optometrist.

Feedback following the program was extremely enthusiastic. The IDOL program once again exceeded expectations in terms of the quality of applicants and their thirst for knowledge about the

profession. We feel that a little information goes a long way toward recruiting the best and brightest minority students to our profession. The high school program was called Improving Diversity of Optometric Careers (I-DOC). It was funded by I Know I Can, a philanthropic organization dedicated to helping disadvantaged students in the Columbus Public Schools. We believe that this program is important for introducing young minority students to a career in optometry, and the IDOL program is important for recruiting and retaining students in an optometric career path. The two programs together will be vital for improving the diversity of eye health care provider in Ohio and throughout the United States. We plan to combine the two programs in the future and call them Improving Diversity of Optometric Careers (I-DOC) for High School and Improving Diversity of Optometric Careers (I-DOC) for College.

We obtained additional funding from the Optometric Educators Incorporated for lunches. A potential industry sponsor participated in the first day of the program. She was so moved by IDOL, that she paid for lunch on the last day of the program.

During the week, students received white lab coats (and they took an oath to make the most of the IDOL experience) and an OAT Prep book by Kaplan. They also participated in a variety of activities. Dr. Fink, chair of the Diversity Enhancement Committee, hosted a dinner on the first night of the program. The purpose of the dinner was to provide students and faculty with time to mingle on a casual basis. The goal was met, as students challenged faculty to a game of Taboo (faculty lost!). The students organized their own night out in Columbus on the second night of the program, and became very close friends. They have even set up a Facebook page, so that they can stay in contact in the future.

The IDOL program was a huge success. We hope to continue to grow the program, with the help of ASCO. We believe that more programs like IDOL are essential for improving our profession's capability to treat patients in a culturally competent manner in order to optimally manage our patients' treatment.





Dr. Andy Hartwick is the newest member of our tenure-track faculty, with his appointment starting on September 2, 2008. Andy will be teaching the Monocular Sensory Processes course and establishing a research program centered in retinal neurobiology. Andy plans to study how both photosensitive and non-photosensitive retinal ganglion cells transmit information to their brain targets and to investigate the early functional changes that occur in these retinal output neurons in diseases such as glaucoma.

Andy was first bitten by the research bug when performing undergraduate research in entomology, working on tiger beetle taxonomy. After receiving a B.S. degree in Biology from Lakehead University, Dr. Hartwick completed both O.D. and M.S. (in Vision Science) degrees at the School of Optometry, University of Waterloo. His master's thesis on the optical quality of the bovine lens was supervised by Dr. Jacob Sivak, who showed Andy a zest for research and encouraged him to investigate private practice, clinical teaching, and research. In addition to his graduate studies, Andy worked as an associate optometrist in busy private optometric practices in Brantford, Ontario and in Halifax, Nova Scotia.

During his final year in optometry school, Andy became interested in glaucoma and neuroprotection. He decided he should learn about how retinal cells function under normal conditions and joined the Retina and Optic Nerve Research Laboratory in the Faculty of Medicine at Dalhousie University (Halifax, Nova Scotia), graduating with a Ph.D. in Anatomy in 2006. His thesis research was supervised by Dr. William Baldrige, who had taught the neurophysiology course at the University of Waterloo during Andy's second year there. In his thesis project, Andy examined the mechanisms that shape and regulate retinal ganglion cell responses to the excitatory neurotransmitter glutamate. This was a valuable experience because it enabled Andy to work in a multidisciplinary lab, with a staff that included a pharmacologist, clinical ophthalmologist, anatomist, and physiologist.

Focus on New Faculty

Andy Hartwick, OD, PhD

In the summer of 2005, Andy was awarded the Grass Fellowship for independent summer neuroscience research at the Marine Biological Laboratory, Woods Hole, Massachusetts. From May through August, Andy was able to rub elbows with famous neurobiologists, including John Dowling, Bob Barlow, Harris Ripps—big names in retinal research. They stayed in cabins in a summer camp atmosphere and performed research, attended lectures, and took courses. The schedule offered a great way to spend the summer in Cape Cod - experimental preparations were done in the morning, the afternoons were often spent at the beach with other families, and then everyone returned to the lab to run experiments late into the evening.

During his Ph.D. work, Andy became interested in circadian biology and decided to do post-doc with Gary Pickard, a circadian biologist. Since November 2005, Andy has been a post-doctoral researcher in the Department of Biomedical Sciences at Colorado State University. His research there has been devoted to understanding the light sensitivity of melanopsin-containing retinal ganglion cells and the role these neurons have in regulating mammalian circadian rhythms.

Andy hopes to take what he has learned about glaucoma, the retina, and circadian biology to discover novel techniques to detect glaucoma better and earlier. The overall objective of his research is to develop novel approaches for detecting early retinal ganglion cell (RGC) dysfunction. In glaucoma, the axons of RGCs in the optic nerve are injured, leading to progressive RGC death and subsequent vision loss. However, in addition to its well-recognized role in vision, the retina provides the brain with a measure of the quantity of light (irradiance) in the environment. This information serves to synchronize internal physiological rhythms to the external day/night cycle and to regulate the size of the pupil. Andy plans to investigate the effect of glaucoma on retinal irradiance coding, and determine whether defects in this pathway are clinically detectable prior to those associated with the visual pathway.

Both Andy and his wife, Tracy, originally hail from Thunder Bay, Ontario. This is where both sets of parents live, where they went to high school, and where they met. They have two sons, Samuel (6) and Elliott (3). They currently have a house in Worthington, and Samuel is in first grade at Wilson Hill. Being Canadian, of course, Andy grew up playing hockey and has all the necessary hockey equipment. He plans to get tickets to the Blue Jackets and looks forward to becoming a Blue Jackets fan.

Results of the Convergence Insufficiency Treatment Trial (CITT)

Convergence insufficiency (CI) is a common binocular vision disorder that affects ~ 4% of the population and is often associated with symptoms such as frequent loss of place, blurred vision, diplopia, headaches, eyestrain, and/or loss of concentration during reading or other near work. Clinical signs of CI include exodeviation that is greater at near, a reduced near point of convergence (NPC), and reduced positive fusional vergence at near (PFV).

There has been a lack of consensus regarding the most effective treatment for CI. Recent studies have suggested that home-based pencil push-up therapy followed by base-in prism reading glasses are the most commonly prescribed treatments by both optometrists and ophthalmologists for children with symptomatic CI. In order to provide quality data to guide clinical decision making, the Convergence Insufficiency Treatment Trial (CITT) Investigator Group completed three multi-center, randomized clinical trials designed to evaluate the effectiveness of commonly prescribed treatments for CI in children. Dr. Mitchell Scheiman, professor at Pennsylvania College of Optometry at Salus University serves as the study chair. Faculty and staff of The OSU College of Optometry have been part of the multi-center CITT Investigator Group for about 10 years. **Marjean Taylor Kulp (OD '91, MS '93)**, a tenured associate professor, serves as Principal Investigator of The OSU CITT Clinical Center and as a member of the Executive Committee. Examiners and therapists at OSU have included **Michael Earley (OD '88, MS '88, PhD '92)**, professor of Clinical Optometry, **Andrew Toole (OD '97, MS '00, PhD '08)**, research scientist, **Kathleen Reuter (OD '89)**, senior research associate, **Michelle Buckland (OD '06, MS '08)**, clinical assistant professor, **Aaron Zimmerman (OD '06, MS '08)**, clinical assistant professor, **Heather R. Gebhart (OD '99)**, **Ann M. Hickson (OD '01, MS '03)**, **Melanie Ackerman-Hemmer (OD '02, MS '04)**, and **Gina Gabriel (OD '04, MS '06)**. Nancy Stevens, MS, RD, LD and Molly Biddle, MEd have served as the Study Coordinators. The OSU Clinical Center achieved 100% retention. The CITT Data Coordinating Center (DCC) is also housed at The Ohio State University College of Optometry. The Director of the DCC is G. Lynn Mitchell, MAS. Day to day operations are overseen by the project coordinator Tracy Kitts. Data entry was performed by Linda Barrett and **Kelly Moser ('09)**.

The primary outcome measure for the clinical trials was the Convergence Insufficiency Symptom Survey (CISS). This is a fifteen-item questionnaire that asks the patient about the pres-



ence and frequency of symptoms experienced when reading or doing other close work. Secondary outcomes were NPC and PFV at near.

The CITT Group performed a pilot study in which 9-18-year-old children with symptomatic CI were randomly assigned to receive 12 weeks of office-based VT/orthoptics, office-based placebo therapy, or home-based pencil push-ups. Six clinical sites participated. The results of this pilot study showed that VT/orthoptics was more effective than pencil push-ups or placebo VT/orthoptics in reducing symptoms and improving signs of CI in children 9-18 years of age. Neither pencil push-ups nor placebo VT/orthoptics was effective in improving symptoms or signs associated with CI.

The CITT Group compared the effectiveness of base-in prism reading glasses to placebo reading glasses. Nine clinical sites participated in the trial. This study showed that base-in prism reading glasses were no more effective than placebo reading glasses for the treatment of symptomatic CI in children.

The final large-scale CITT was a clinical trial in which 221 children ages 9 to 17 years with symptomatic CI were randomly assigned to home-based pencil push-ups, home-based computer vergence/accommodative therapy and pencil push-ups, office-based vergence/accommodative therapy with home reinforcement, or office-based placebo therapy. Nine clinical sites (6 optometric and 3 ophthalmic centers) participated. The results were published in October, 2008 in Archives of Ophthalmology. A successful or improved outcome for the office-based vergence/accommodative therapy, home-based computer vergence/accommodative therapy and pencil push-ups, pencil push-ups, and placebo therapy groups was found in 73%, 43%, 33%, and 35%, respectively. Therefore, twelve weeks of office-based vergence/accommodative therapy resulted in a significantly greater improvement in symptoms and clinical signs and a greater percentage of successful or improved outcomes.



Dr. E. Gordon Gee,
President of The Ohio State University

Welcome Dinner 2008

*The College welcomes
the class of 2012*

The annual New Student Welcome Dinner was held September 24th at the Faculty Club. The College wishes to thank the Optometry Alumni and Friends Society for sponsoring this event. Along with the Class of 2012, there were faculty, staff, and alumni in attendance to welcome the new students.

OSU President E. Gordon Gee stopped by to welcome the class, and told them to explore the vast educational, research, and service opportunities available on campus.



Enjoying new company at the 2008 Welcome Dinner.

Dean Melvin Shipp giving welcoming remarks



Alumnus **Harry Bowers (OD'86)** joined **Robert Newcomb (OD'71, MPH)** and new Opt I students at their table for the dinner.



Mark Bullimore, MCOptom, PhD introduces the members of his table.





Development

Gift Planning Strategies

Giving for Fixed Income: The Charitable Gift Annuity

There are many ways a person can support programs at The Ohio State University. A charitable gift annuity (CGA) is one way to support Optometry scholarships, faculty, innovative research and programs and to receive fixed income back. Here are some facts about CGA's.

A charitable gift annuity is a simple agreement in which The Ohio State University Foundation agrees to pay one or two designated recipients chosen by the donor a fixed sum each year for life, in exchange for the donor's gift of cash or marketable securities with a value of at least \$10,000.

Payments are made quarterly and may begin immediately or start at a pre-determined date at least one year into the future. The latter case is called a deferred payment charitable gift annuity. At Ohio State, the payout rate is based upon the designated recipient's actuarial age; an assumed investment return; and a residuum for the charity of 50% of the original gift. The older the recipient is at the time of the gift, the greater the fixed income the organization agrees to pay. Because two recipients have a longer life expectancy than a single recipient, the rate is lower for two-life gift annuities.

Donors to a charitable gift annuity can qualify for an income tax charitable deduction equal to the amount of the gift less the investment in the contract. To put it another way, the amount the donor is able to deduct is the amount by which the gift exceeds the fair market value of the annuity, subject to IRS rules.

Cash and long-term appreciated marketable securities are the most common funding assets.

Taxation of gift annuity payments depends upon the assets used to fund the gift annuity, the actuarial life expectancy of the recipient(s), actual life of the recipient(s), and the long-term gain achieved in the case of long-term marketable securities. Each situation should be investigated individually through a contact with Gayle Glanville, Director of Development for the College of Optometry.

Payments are fixed and guaranteed for life when the property is irrevocably transferred to Ohio State and the gift annuity contract is established. Upon the final recipient's death, the remainder interest in the CGA matures and becomes available for use by the College. Establishing a gift annuity earlier in life (age 50) will add to the fixed income portion of your retirement portfolio, provide an income tax deduction now while you are (most likely) within a higher tax bracket and provide a higher payout rate to you because payments are deferred.

In addition to the College's Director of Development, Gayle Glanville (614/292-2100), Sindy L. Craig, Director of Planned Giving for the University, is available to assist you with any gift planning needs.

Phone: 614-292-0206 or 800-327-7907

Email: craig.307@osu.edu

The Ohio State University Gift Annuity Payment Rates Available Through December 31, 2008*

Selected Rates for One Person

Age	Rate
65	5.7
70	6.1
75	6.7
80	7.6
85	8.9
90+	10.5

Selected Rates for Two People of the Same Age

Ages	Rate
65/65	5.4
70/70	5.6
75/75	6.0
80/80	6.6
85/85	7.4
90/90	8.7

A Day in the Life of an OSU Optometry Student

Hello, my name is Heather Bowen. I'm a second year student here at OSU. Here's a typical Monday of autumn quarter 2008.

My day starts off at 6:30 a.m.; it should be 6:00 a.m. but I have a problem hitting the snooze button! Once up I go through my morning routine, I play with my dog Bailey. I grab breakfast and hit the morning traffic to be at school by 8:00 a.m. On my way there, I catch a quick chat by phone with my sister.

At 8:00 a.m. I attend morning lab, Introduction to Ocular Disease. The course is an introduction to the techniques used in the assessment of ocular health and in the diagnosis and management of ocular disease. Many of these procedures are new to me, so I get nervous when it comes to practicing. I recognize that everyone has similar emotions, and this is what makes second year exciting: you are finally experiencing clinic and not just hearing about it while sitting in a classroom.

At 10:00 a.m. I have a two-hour break. During these free hours I run any needed errands on campus or perhaps practice procedures with fellow classmates. We have two classes that we can actually practice: Practical Optometry I and Introduction to Ocular Disease. Both classes teach procedures that an optometrist utilizes in clinics, and so this free time allows us the chance to hone our skills. Generally we practice on one another, which not only is educational but develops the social life!! This time finishes around 11:45 a.m. so I can catch a lunch.

Around 12:30 p.m. we start our series of classes that last until 4:30 p.m. The first class is Ocular Motility, followed by Ophthalmic Optics I in which we are learning more optics and introduction to glasses design. Finally, we have a two hour class called Monocular Sensory Processes, which teaches a more in-depth approach to learning how we perceive vision.

While here at optometry school, I have joined clubs such as EPE, The National Optometric Student Association (NOSA), Fellowship of Christian Optometrist (FCO), and I was recently elected trustee-elect of the OSU chapter of the American Optometric Student Association (AOSA). NOSA promotes recruitment and retention of minority students. The primary objective is to provide quality eye care to the minority community and under-represented populations. FCO is a national organization that seeks to incorporate Christian values and ethics into the profession of optometry. There are different days when I and other students get together for devotional and pray time. As co-AOSA trustees-elect, Erich Hinel and I are the liaisons between the national level and the student level. We provide information to all students



that affect their student experience. All the organizations that I am a part of help my professional growth as a student. They also help develop social and networking skills. I enjoy being in all these organizations because I like meeting new people and helping others.

I try to head home after class, but sometimes I get engaged in conversations with my professors or fellow students. Once home, I take Bailey for a walk and have dinner with my two cousins, with whom I share an apartment. I enjoy dinner because it is a break that allows me to relax and ease my mind from the day. My cousins are wonderful for helping me maintain a balance between school and personal life. After dinner, I try to study until midnight. Tuesday nights are my TV night, so I really do not study much. I can make up that study time on Wednesday since we do not have class.

Thus, second year is a combination of class and practical optometry. I am excited about finally getting into clinical procedures, since being in clinic makes me feel so much closer to my goal of being an optometrist.

Thanks for spending a day in the life of an OSU Optometry student!

College News

Dr. Bowers tells students how to practice optometry in Africa

Harry Bowers (OD '86) has an unusual practice location: in the continent of Africa!

While he still maintains a current Ohio optometry license, his patients - and his passion - are in preventing blindness and improving sight for people living in some of the world's most impoverished countries. He provided a very informative and inspirational guest lecture to our Opt III students in **Dr. Robert Newcomb's (OD '71, MPH) Public Health and Community Optometry** class on September 24.

Dr. Bowers is the only optometrist who works for Medical Ministry International (www.mmint.org), an international and interdisciplinary organization of health care professionals who provide their services to poor populations throughout the world. MMI's dual strategy is to (1) meet the current need for medical care among the world's poor and (2) to provide lasting solutions through excellence in medicine, patient care, and health education. They accomplish their work by mobilizing volunteers on over 65 annual one and two-week medical projects, and by establishing and equipping permanent medical centers in towns and villages in places such as Ecuador, Haiti, Malawi, Mozambique, Myanmar, Honduras, and Indonesia. Dr. Bowers and his family recently returned



from a visit to Ethiopia, where he provided everything from dispensing glasses to assisting in ocular surgery. He shared with the students the great need, but also the great satisfaction, of helping truly-needy patients, and shared several cases of eye (ie, bilateral retinoblastioma) and vision (ie, 24D myopia) conditions he saw there.

At the conclusion of his lecture, Dr. Newcomb presented him with an OSU College of Optometry tee-shirt and an OSU frisbee for his children. Dr. Newcomb told him: "The motto of this great university is "Education for Citizenship"...and you have taken this motto to a whole new level! We are all proud of your service to humanity."

College of Optometry Student Leadership Program

For the second year in a row, the College received a travel grant from The Vision Care Institute, LLC to fund College student organization leader participation in the annual October East-West Eye Conference in Cleveland Ohio through the Student Leadership Program (SLP). The SLP was designed by the College, with assistance from the Ohio Optometric Association (OOA) Board of Trustees and Executive Staff, to enhance leadership within the profession of optometry by facilitating student organization leader interaction and involvement with leaders from the OOA, other state associations, the American Optometric Association, and industry. The goal of the program is to sponsor two leaders from each College student organization that is officially registered with the University, to attend East-West and to participate in specific conference activities and events. This year twenty-one student organization leaders participated in the Student Leadership Program. Each participant received a travel grant in the amount of \$300 to defray expenses associated with

participation in the conference.

Specific conference events/functions that the student leaders participated in included the OOA business meeting, the Saturday night OOA President's Gala, and the Leadership Breakfast meeting with OOA Board/Past Presidents. Additionally, each student provided one hour of coverage at the OSU College of Optometry Booth in the East-West Exhibit Hall.

After their return to the College, student participants provided an evaluation of their experience at the conference. Evaluation results indicated that students were very positive about their participation in the SLP, and 100% indicated that they would encourage other student leaders to participate in the program.

The College is very grateful to The Vision Care Institute, LLC for the generous support of this important student leadership development program.

EΨE Makes Annual Awards



BIO Award

This year's recipients of two Welch Allyn Binocular Indirect Ophthalmoscopes are Lauren Ernst and Amy Knapke.



Outstanding Pledge Award

This year's recipient is Laura Ashley Lossing, for her participation as pledge class president and for organizing two fund-raisers.



Outstanding Junior Award

Troy Ogden was this year's recipient as voted on by his fellow classmates. Troy was the glue that held EΨE together this year, serving as chapter President.



Outstanding Senior Award

Presented to an outstanding senior to acknowledge the work done over the years as a member of the fraternity, Michael Kennedy was this year's recipient.

Herbert C. Mote Award

The Mote Award is presented to the faculty member who has contributed most to the furtherance of professional, ethical optometry through his or her teaching. This year's winner is **Greg Nixon (OD'96)**.

Michael Polasky Award

The Polasky Award is presented to a respected faculty member who has excelled in the instruction of clinical procedures at the College of Optometry, as voted by the third and fourth year members of EΨE. This year's winner is **Dawn Burgei (OD'04)**.

Lifetime Achievement Award

To honor the retiring Dr. Ewen King-Smith, the active members of EΨE gave him a Lifetime Achievement Award for his outstanding career devoted to furthering optometry and educating future optometrists.

New Staff at the College

Alysia Benson, hired 7/28/08,
Optometric Technician, BVP/Peds Clinic

Julie Gurgol, hired 9/9/08,
Optometric Technician, Eyewear Gallery

Zhong Jiang, hired 1/02/2008,
Senior Fiscal/Personnel Officer, Administration

Lynn Reichert, hired 6/2/2008,
Procurement Manager, Business Office

Doris Smith, hired 12/10/2007,
Accountant, Business Office

Mirunalni (Miru) Thanavelu, hired 6/4/2008,
Research Associate 2, Dry Eye Research Lab

Geoffrey Wiggins, hired 9/29/2008,
IT Director, Administration

Continuing Education at the College

The Ohio State University College of Optometry provides continuing education on a broad array of clinically relevant topics to help disseminate knowledge and promote skills which are essential to contemporary optometric practice at the highest level.

Continuing education courses at The Ohio State University College of Optometry are offered to promote lifelong learning and support professional development.

Check out the website for more information:
www.optometry.osu.edu/CE



SVOSH Goes to Ecuador

by Angela M. Johnson, '09



Jen McNamara ('09) helping
a woman in a "wheelchair"

(right) The line for getting an exam
(far right) **Daljit Srui ('09)** giving an eye exam

On August 30th, 2008, thirty-nine volunteers left for Ecuador as part of Student Volunteers for Optometric Service to Humanity (SVOSH). This included 29 students, four doctors, two helpers, and four Spanish translators. Their mission was to provide vision care to people who could neither afford nor obtain such care. Organized by Ohio State's SVOSH president, Jill Scullion, this trip was designed to help twice as many as last year.

Preparations for each student included over 80 hours of glasses sorting, labeling, cleaning and bagging. The Lion's Club help to fund most of the cost, along with students raising money by working at Clipper's games. Each volunteer also contributed part of the cost themselves.

The first two days were spent traveling to "campamento" which would be home for the next four days. Luckily, it was located in Portoviejo which is only minutes from the Pacific Ocean. The group was able to unwind from their travels by swimming and relaxing at the beach that night.

By the third day, volunteers got to work. The large group was divided into two teams. One would stay and give exams locally while the second team would travel to a more remote area. The sites were organized by having separate areas for history taking, visual acuities, pupillary reactions, exams, optical dispensary and pharmacy. The students were divided into these areas while the translators and ODs patrolled the scene for those in need.

The Ecuadorian patients had arrived early and stood in line at the gate to in order to get an exam. Everyone had to work hard at their assigned task to keep the mass moving. Although the 80 degree heat seemed even hotter in the crowded exam area, students were able to see patients every ten to fif-

teen minutes. Those who were giving exams quickly brushed up on their retinoscopy and direct ophthalmoscopy skills since these were the main diagnostic tools. The dispensary was always busy with people receiving their glasses. Every patient received a pair of sunglasses and those who needed a prescription received eyewear or medication.

"In total over 2,700 patients were seen! It was incredible to think of all the people who were helped in only four days."

Each group saw nearly 300 patients that first day! Some of the most common findings were expected, such as untreated presbyopia, hyperopia, cataracts and glaucoma. More unique findings included large inflamed pterygia, toxoplasmosis, retinal detachment, and macular stars.

Some students had to be quite creative when it came to giving exams. An elderly woman in a homemade wheelchair would not fit into the exam area, so fourth year student, Jen McNamara, had to conduct the exam outside in the sun. In order for Jen to see the retinoscopy reflex other students

helped to hold a blanket over the woman so that the conditions would be dark enough.

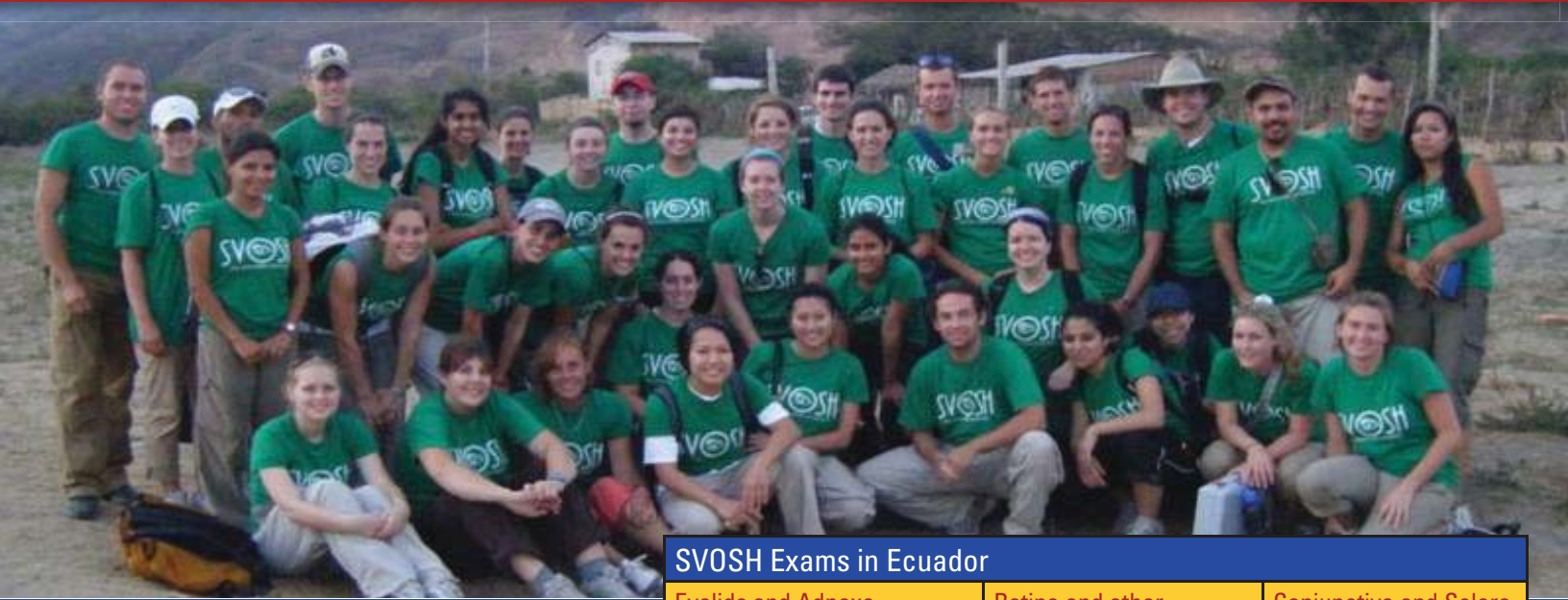
The next three days were similar to the first, however, even more people arrived for exams - the news of free eye exams had spread. Some were even pushing to get through the gate. In total over 2,700 patients were seen! It was incredible to think of all the people who were helped in only four days.

Everyone was exhausted by Friday. They enjoyed a "fun day" at Isla de la Plata, also known as the poor man's Galapagos. The rest of the trip was spent traveling back to Guayaquil in order to depart on Sunday.

This was the first SVOSH trip for many of the students and served to open their eyes to another world. There was such a need for basic reading glasses and sunglasses. Although



College News



SVOSH Exams in Ecuador

Eyelids and Adnexa		Retina and other		Conjunctiva and Sclera	
Blepharitis/ Hordeolum	15	Glaucoma	28	Conj infection (bacterial & viral)	22
Entropion/Ectropion	14	Cotton wool/exud/drusen	26	Pterygium	803
Lacrimal Gland Infection	2	Toxoplasmosis/Histoplasmosis	19	Pinguecula	573
Iris, Lens, Vitreous		ONH Anomaly	18	Lipodermoid	4
Nuclear Cataract	310	ARMD	15	Cornea, AC, EOM	
Cortical Cataract	153	Retinal Detach/tear/ hole	11	Keratitis	3
Posterior Subcapsular Cataract	91	Macular Star	5	Coneal Scar	27
Morgagnian Cataract	6	Endophthalmitis	1	Strabismus	56
Asteroid Hyalosis	4	Pellucid Marginal Degeneration	1	Band Keratopathy	2
Displaced IOL	6	Retinitis Pigmentosa	1	Corneal Transplant	2
Posterior Synechia	1	ONH Glioma	1	Keratoconus	1
Iris Coloboma	1				
Uveitis	2				

Students: Liana Allabadi, Dave Barnhart, Elizabeth Cockerill, San-San Cooley, Nazreen Esack, Lindsay Gibney, Adam Goff, Tatiana Hammond, Angela Johnson, Gail Joslin, Bret Lehman, Laura Ashley Lossing, Stephanie Mastores, Jennifer McNamara, Patrick Milleson, Kelly Moser, Thomas Moser, Tamara Oechslin, Melissa Patrlja, Christopher Paulett, Jill Scullion, Daljit Srai, Jenna Stelzer, Jenny Truong, Dieu Vuong, Sarah Wagner, Kara Williams, Ellen Wolke and Travis Zigler.

Helpers: Danielle Lehman and Deborah Barnhart

Optometrists: Jamie Casper, Elizabeth Cooke, Kelly Kingsbury and Karen Kloman.

this trip helped so many it is apparent that there is much more that needs be done. Thankfully, there are students and optometrists willing to donate their own money and time to help these underdeveloped countries through organizations like SVOSH.

(below left) Kids with their new sunglasses

(below right) The Ecuadorian kids love Ohio State, too!



1964 Palmer R. Cook (BS Optom'64) provided a wonderful 2-hour guest lecture for our Opt IV students on November 12. His topic was "A Baker's Dozen of Green Flags for Associate/Partnership Practice." Dr. Cook is the Director of the Practice Support Division at Diversified Ophthalmics in Cincinnati.

1968 Mark W. Eger (OD '68) will serve as President of the American Academy of Optometry in 2009 and 2010. He practices in Coraopolis, PA.

1971 Robert D. Newcomb (OD '71, MPH) was interviewed recently by Barbara Riley, Director of the Ohio Department of Aging, for her cable television show entitled "Finer with Age." Dr. Newcomb discussed the four leading causes of adult blindness, and how to prevent them. He shared the spotlight with Larry Leguire, PhD, Director of Eye Research at Nationwide Childrens Hospital in Columbus.

1971 Allyn Uniacke's (OD/MS'71, PhD'73) wife, Dr. Sue K. Hammersmith is the new President of Metropolitan State University in the Twin Cities. Allyn has been



Dr. Palmer Cook

teaching classes in the Learning in Retirement Program at the University of Wisconsin--Green Bay.

1981 Jacqueline G. Davis (OD '81) received a Master of Public Health degree from Ohio State at the summer 2008 Commencement exercises. She is now an OSU College of Optometry clinical faculty member, and the director of the South High Street outreach clinic in Columbus.

1982 Karen A. Riccio (OD '82) was recently appointed to the Ohio State Board of Optometry by Governor Ted Strickland. Dr. Riccio is the immediate Past President of the Ohio Optometric Association.

1987 Joseph B. Studebaker (OD '87) received the Warren G. and Ruth P. Morris Optometrist of the Year Award at the 2008 annual meeting of the Ohio Optometric Association.

1993 Susan Gromacki Lathrop (OD/MS'93) writes, "As most of you know, my husband, Scott, completed his Ph.D. at the University of Michigan and has begun his new position on the faculty of the USMA at West Point. The girls and I had a smooth trip to New York to join him. Our things have arrived, and we hope to be unpacked soon! Our email addresses and cell phone numbers will remain the same. It is SO beautiful here! Please keep in touch, and come visit anytime!"

1998 Todd M. Clark (OD '98) received the Jack T. Keith Young OD of the Year award at the 2008 annual meeting of the Ohio Optometric Association.

Today's Clinical Trials, Tomorrow's Clinical Practice *Current Opportunities for Children*

You can help us to answer important questions in vision care by referring potentially eligible children to the studies below. Please contact Dr. Kulp at 614-688-3336 or kulp.6@osu.edu for further information.

Research Project	Question	Who's Eligible?	Benefits
Amblyopia Treatment Study (ATS13)	Wearing glasses can improve anisometropic amblyopia. However, it is not known how often glasses will help strabismic or combined mechanism amblyopia. This study is trying to find this out.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children 3-7 years Reduced visual acuity in one eye due to amblyopia Strabismus or history of strabismus No previous glasses wear or amblyopia treatment 	Glasses & Follow-up visits
Amblyopia Treatment Study (ATS11)	Although vision usually improves with treatment for amblyopia, some children do not reach normal vision. When the vision stops improving with one of these treatments, some eye doctors stop treatment. Other doctors try a different treatment or a combined treatment. The purpose of the study is to find out whether the combined treatment of the patch and the eye drop will improve vision as compared to stopping treatment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children < 10 yrs 20/32 to 20/63 in amblyopic eye No further improvement with 42 hours/week patching (average of 6 hours/day) or daily atropine between 2 visits at least 6 weeks apart. (No simultaneous patching and atropine therapy in the last 6 months.) 	Treatment visits

Alumni News



Richard Marquardt (OD'97) and ?? with their kids showing their Buckeye spirit!

Joe Barr (OD'77, MS'79) and Robert Newcomb (OD'71, MPH) at the tailgate party.



Welcome Back!

*Alumni Reunion Weekend
September 5 - 7, 2008*

Alumni News

Ohio State University's Alumni Reunion Weekend was held September 5 through the 7th. The University hosted reunions of all colleges, departments and units. Optometry's events included a banquet on Friday evening, honoring Ruth Morris (BS'43). Dr. Morris was presented with the Distinguished Alumni Medal Friday night.

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 Ohio University. Saturday following the game, several classes met individually to renew old bonds, and forge new ones. **Mark your calendars for next year – September 11-13, 2009 (football vs. University of Southern California).**



??, Ronald Ling (OD'78), Archie Griffin, and Caron Ling.



Roy Ebihara (BS'63, OD'77) and his wife Aiko.

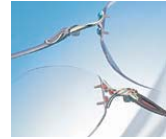


Tammy Kuhlman (OD/MS'83) and her husband David.



Thank You!

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