



DR. JAMIE CASPER

Educational Detours

autumn 2013



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on the cover:

Jamie Casper (OD'04, PhD) with son Kendall at the Blueberry Festival 5K.



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DEAN'S LETTER

Dear Optometry Alumni and Friends:

Welcome to the fall issue of the *BuckEYE Optometry Alumni Newsletter*.

As this issue will attest, our alumni and college continue to raise the bar in activities and accomplishments. Our feature story about **Jamie Casper's (OD'04, PhD)** life journey depicts an individual with an extraordinary capacity to effectively juggle diverse intellectual, professional, physical and personal challenges. We are proud of all he has done and eagerly await news of his next ventures and adventures.

Within the College, there are several exciting developments. We are nearing the completion of renovations to our Pre-Clinic area. For those of you planning a visit to the College in 2014, add this facility to your "must see" list. We are also pleased to report the admission of the first student via the "3+4" accelerated program between Penn State Behrend and our College. Speaking of students, we are proud of the humanitarian efforts of the members of SVOSH. This year they provided eye care services in Haiti. Lastly, we are excited to introduce you to two new members of our faculty, Stacey Choi, PhD and Nathan Doble, PhD, and their exciting research activities.

Making a difference is something we all strive to do. Dr. Roanne Flom does this on a regular basis as Chief of the College's Vision Rehabilitation service. In this issue you can read about one of the lives she touched with her special skills and talent.

Thanks to the Jeffrey and Joyce Myers Lecture Series, we were privileged to enjoy a lecture from Dr. Ian Bailey, co-developer of the Bailey-Lovie chart, this autumn. Not only were we able to learn about Dr. Bailey's career and contributions to visual optics and visual psychophysics, we were entertained by Dr. Bailey's humor and candor.

Several Alumni received special recognition since our last newsletter. During our recent Alumni Weekend, **Jim Sheedy (OD/MS'74, PhD'77)** received the Distinguished Alumnus Award and **Gina Wesley (OD/MS'06)** received the Inaugural Early Professional Achievement Award. **Joseph Barr (OD'77, MS'79)** was recognized by the Ohio State University Alumni Association with its Ralph Davenport Mershon Award for service to the university. Also the Neal J. Bailey Medal was presented to several alumni in recognition of their generous support to the College. Indeed, their support is directly linked to the College's ability to enroll talented students, support talented faculty, and upgrade our research, clinical and training facilities. We deeply appreciate these exceptionally philanthropic alumni.

Lastly, Provost Joe Steinmetz announced the transition in leadership for the College scheduled for next year. I will pass the baton to Karla Zadnik, OD, PhD who will assume leadership of the College on June 1, 2014. Between now and then, Karla and I will work to maintain the College's upward trajectory. I know that you will join me in supporting Karla as she takes on this new responsibility.

Congratulations to those featured in this issue of our newsletter. We delight in celebrating the excellence of the OSU College of Optometry reflected in your achievements and service.

With warmest regards,

Melvin D. Shipp, OD, MPH, DrPH

Dean, OSU College of Optometry



NOVEMBER 2013

Fall in Columbus, my favorite time of the year. This fall has been especially exciting. Buckeyes are still on their undefeated string at 21 games and should finish the season in the same fashion. My wife and I were able to make the trip out to San Francisco for the Cal game. We met up with **James Sheedy (OD'74, PhD'77)** and **Terry Huston (OD'73, MBA, PhD)**. We also were able to meet up with another couple from Utah whom we met in Lincoln two years ago. The trip was every bit as fun as any bowl trip we have taken.

Congratulations to our 2013 alumni award winners: **James Sheedy (OD'74, PhD'77)** receiving the 6th Distinguished Alumnus Award, and **Gina Wesley (OD/MS'06)** receiving the inaugural Early Professional Achievement Award. They were recognized at the Alumni Dinner in October. The festivities of the evening were directed by **Jeffrey Myers (OD'84)** with invaluable assistance from Kerry Gastineau and Rachel Childress. Kerry and Rachel were rookies last year and made some very nice improvements this year. Five-year class reunions were highlighted and the class of '73 was well represented. Since I qualify as an "old guy," now I can really say how nice it was to see the class before mine really enjoy themselves. I hope that next year the Class of '74 will get back to campus to celebrate number 40!! I hope you guys and Florencia think about this challenge to get back.

The next weekend was the Ohio State University Alumni Association Awards. **Joseph Barr (OD'77, MS'79)** was given the Ralph Davenport Mershon award. Joe joins a group of very distinguished individuals who have been recognized for outstanding service to the University and contributions to our communities in general. Please go online at the OSUAA website (ohiostatealumni.org/awards/Pages/2013AlumniAwardrecipients.aspx) to read about these award winners. The achievements that these people have accumulated are phenomenal, and the one thing they all have in common is their deep appreciation for The Ohio State University. They realize that "But for Ohio State," they would never had had the opportunity to excel. My hope is that all of our Optometry alumni are as thankful as this group of outstanding individuals and will give back to the University.

At the other end of the spectrum was the Welcome Dinner for the first year class. This is always interesting to me. Statistics about the capabilities of these new students are very impressive. I often wonder if I could even get into optometry today, let alone be able to be successful for 39 years of practice. My message for these young ODs-to-be is work hard and have complete trust in our faculty that they will prepare them for the challenges they will face to graduate and pass the board exams.

Please be safe this holiday season.

As always, "Affirm thy Friendship, O-HI-O!"

Roger L. Saneholtz (OD'74)

President, OSU Optometry Alumni & Friends

**James Sheedy (OD'74, PhD'77), Roger L. Saneholtz (OD'74),
and Terry Huston (OD'73, MBA, PhD) at Berkeley.**



ALL FOR A CUP OF APPLESAUCE



It was February of this year when my wife and I went to one of our favorite eateries in Columbus. While I will not mention the name, it is a well-known, independent, family-owned restaurant on the east side of the city.

We have been going there for years. We have celebrated my in-laws' 60th wedding anniversary, my mother-in-law's 90th birthday, Mother's Days, have taken a group of out-of-town colleagues there, and probably visited on a monthly basis. In other words, we have been there before. They are known for high quality home-cooked food and fine service from a wait staff that does not change every time you visit. The owners are almost always present, overseeing the activity.

My wife and I visited on a Thursday night last winter. I ordered a meatball sub, which comes with fries and cole slaw. Not being a fan of cole slaw, I asked to substitute a side order of applesauce. I was told by the waitress, "No, he won't allow substitutions," with a tilt of her head toward the kitchen.

Now I know the kitchen manager is a female. So, it is not clear if the "he" being referred to is the chef, or it is the owner. And it doesn't matter. In a mild state of shock, I chose to forgo the cole slaw. And we have not returned to the restaurant.

The lesson here is fairly clear. Do our practices have certain policies or procedures that serve as an obstacle to satisfying patients? Not obstacles to wowing them, obstacles to just satisfying them. Or do staff misunderstand policies, and say things that we would not possibly support, endorse or promote? Are we losing patients who simply find it easier to use a competitor for service, than to deal with the obstacles we present?

In this experience, all the goodwill that has been built up over almost two decades of meals and family celebrations evaporated in one statement. And all for a cup of applesauce. I cannot imagine that the value of a "no substitutions" policy outweighs the economic loss of even one regular customer.

Take a look at your policies and procedures, and be sure your staff understands them. Be sure they are not obstacles to patients using your services, and that your staff can communicate clearly the way you want to care for people.

On a personal note, I had the opportunity to take our granddaughter, Isla, to her first football game. It was the Ohio State-San Diego State game this year, which was won handily by Ohio State. When your first football game is in Ohio Stadium, on alumni band day, with a quad Script Ohio, every other football game will pale in comparison. Nonetheless, she seemed to have a great time and whooped it up with the best of them. Photo at right.

Jeffrey A. Myers (OD'84)
BuckEYE Editor





Jamie Casper (OD'04, PhD) this year outside the Citadel in the mountains of Haiti with 2013 SVOSH president **Katie Woeste ('15)** (left) and 2012 president Milda Bandza ('14) (right)



EDUCATIONAL DETOUR

Lays Groundwork for Life's Journey

by Jeffrey A. Myers (OD'84)

detours → → → →



Nicaragua volcano. **Andrew Emch (OD/MS'08)**, recent grads: **Lindsay Dieffenbaugher (OD'12)**, **Carrie Trigilio (OD'13)**, **Betsy Kaminsky (OD'13)** and **Jamie Casper (OD'04, PhD)** in Nicaragua in 2011

For most of us, a detour is an obstacle to our goal and can cause annoyance in our life. Sometimes, a detour can set the stage and provide the experiences and skills that define our life. For **Jamie Casper (OD'04, PhD)**, this was exactly the case as graduate school laid the groundwork for several aspects of his life's journey.

Dr. Casper graduated from Bluffton College (now University), majoring in chemistry, expecting to go to medical school. He chose instead to go to graduate school at the University of Toledo, expecting to pursue a MS degree. As events played out, he pursued a PhD in organic chemistry. As he studied, he gained experience in problem-solving skills but learned that lab work was not his love, and it was not how he wanted to spend his life. He looked for a medical profession that would allow balance between improving the lives of others and having a life of his own. He found it in optometry.

The first quarter of optometry school is challenging enough for all of us, but Dr. Casper was managing several major events. During the first quarter, he was finishing the dissertation for his PhD, traveling between Toledo and Columbus frequently. He completed the PhD successfully, earning it in December of 2000 as well as getting married the same month.

He admits he struggled through the optometric didactic courses, acknowledging difficulty in taking multiple choice tests. When he reached the clinical portion of the

curriculum, he really enjoyed the challenge. The clinical courses allowed Dr. Casper to utilize problem-solving skills learned in his graduate program.

Following his graduation from the College in 2004, he completed the residency at The Eye Center of Toledo, under the supervision of **David Bejot (OD'93)**. He met Dr. Bejot in his second year of school and found that Bejot's teaching style fit well with him. He attributes a great amount of influence to Dr. Bejot and knows that the residency made him the doctor he is today and that he is a better doctor as a result of the experience.

After his residency, he and his wife, with the encouragement of **Robert Morris (OD'00)**, who was Dr. Casper's preceptor at his VA extern rotation in Salisbury, NC, decided to move to North Carolina for better weather and better scope of practice. They ended up in Wilmington, North Carolina on the coast, where there is more sun and less snow than northern Ohio. He landed in his current practice setting, Cape Fear Eye Institute, in 2008. A willingness to see pediatric patients and participate in the InfantSEE program have helped grow his practice, in addition to focusing on disease management. Dr. Casper credits Ohio State's strong pediatric optometry department, especially crediting the influences of **Michael Earley (OD/MS'88, PhD'92)**, **Andy Toole (OD'97, MS'00, PhD'08)**, and **Marjean Taylor-Kulp (OD'91, MS'93)**.



David Bejot (OD'93) and Dr. Casper in Haiti in 2008



Dr. Casper with 2004 classmates in 2003 (his second SVOSH trip). *Bottom row from left: Lindsay McDonald-Florkey, Gina (Marangoni) Gabriel, Angie (Sup) Abood, Diane Williams. Top row from left: Aaron Hemmer, Jamie Casper, David Bennett, Bryan Heitmeyer, and Greg Kovats*

then & now



Jamie Casper in 1991



Dr. Casper coaching the Diamondbacks tee-ball team in 2012. This picture is after they received the trophy at the end of the season.



NC Blueberry festival 2013 with Kendall (1st 5K for him)



Dr. Casper and his optician Ian Radford before the Tough Mudder obstacle competition in South Carolina. They trained for about 6 months for this event before patient care and over lunch hours. Dr. Casper says, "Our office has a workout area upstairs with shower (best decision I made in the office planning process)."

In 2006, a patient asked him if he fenced. Being from Ohio, he thought the question had to do with corralling livestock. The patient clarified his question to mean fencing with swords. Dr. Casper had never considered it, but three months later, he was competing in his first local tournament. He had been in good physical shape and found the sport to be a mental game as much as a physical game. Again, it called on those problem-solving skills he had mastered in graduate school to carry out a sport that is likened to physical chess.

He competes in foil and epee, two of the three categories of competitive fencing. Most of the tournaments that he enters are open events, involving high school students to seniors. In 2008, he competed in the North Carolina State Games Tournament, earning a bronze medal. Dr. Casper likes to be physically active. He coaches Tee-Ball and soccer to inspire children to be physically active. He has also participated in Tough Mudder events, defined as "hardcore obstacle courses designed to test your all-around strength, stamina, mental grit and camaraderie." (www.toughmudder.com)

But these are not the only ways Dr. Casper has utilized those problem-solving skills. In 2002 and 2003, he participated as a student in SVOSH trips to Honduras

and El Salvador, respectively. He found them to be phenomenal experiences that resonated with him, and developed a level of clinical maturity sooner than he would have had otherwise. The problem-solving skills were helpful in overcoming language barriers and his understanding that every patient's problem cannot be solved. They also helped him learn how to manage patients in a resource-poor environment. **Gina Wesley (OD/MS'06)**, president of SVOSH in 2005, asked him to participate as a doctor. He has been involved ever since, participating in eight SVOSH trips with students from the College, traveling to Nicaragua, Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia, and Haiti. He has also been to Haiti to help Dr. Bejot set up a clinic there.

He finds the doctor/student interaction on SVOSH trips immensely rewarding and derives great joy from the experiences. He continues to learn from other doctors, such as **Andrew Emch (OD/MS'08)** and **Richard Frick (OD'97)**, who have been on multiple trips. It serves as his only connection with Ohio State students, but he develops new relationships with about 20 students on each trip. His reward is in watching students evolve in doing certain clinical tests in just 4-5 days and helping students understand what will happen with certain



An attack in Epee called the flèche

“My residency at The Eye Center of Toledo, under Dr. David Bejot, made me the doctor I am today.”

Jamie Casper (OD'04, PhD)

eye conditions if not properly treated. Many of these students become future leaders in our profession and close colleagues. In fact, two SVOSH students, **Gail Long (OD'09)** and **Jill Scullion (OD'09)**, had been on trips with Dr. Casper and now also practice in Wilmington, NC and started the North Carolina VOSH program.

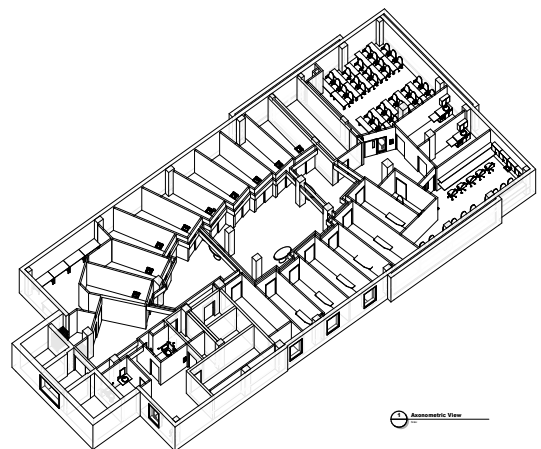
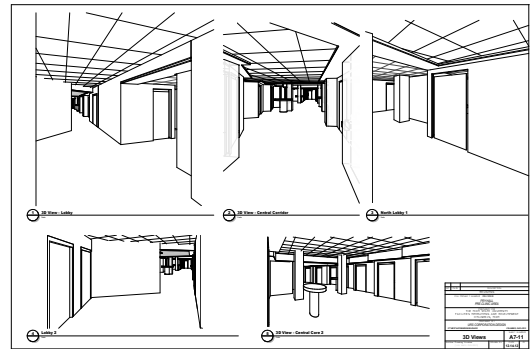
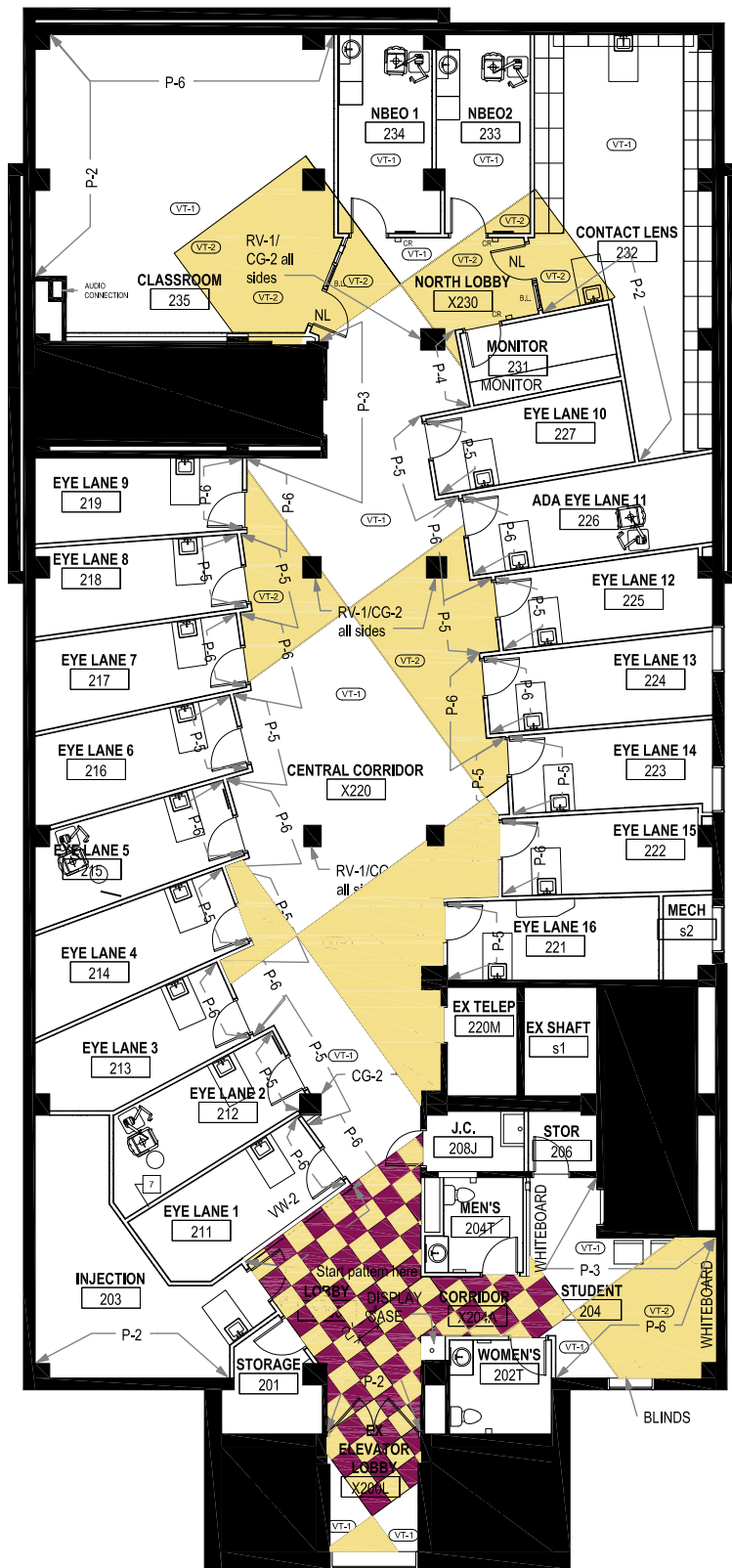
His family has been very supportive, especially important as he is away from home more due to serving as vice-president in the North Carolina State Optometric Society under the tutelage of the current NCSOS president **Steven Eyler (OD'77)**. Dr. Casper is married to Beth, and they have two children: Kendall, age 7 and in the 1st grade, and Morgan, age 4 and in pre-kindergarten this year. Kendall wants to join his dad in fencing very soon. It is wise of Dr. Casper to recognize and appreciate the value of the problem-solving skills gained in graduate school. Two young children and election to the state society board will likely test those skills in the coming years.



October 20th at the Wilmington NC 5K Color Me Rad run (<http://www.colormerad.com/>). Jamie, Morgan, Beth, and Kendall before race photos.



October 20th at the Wilmington NC 5K Color Me Rad run (<http://www.colormerad.com/>). Kendall, Jamie, Morgan, and Beth after race photos.



HELLO TO A WHOLE NEW FUTURE

Renovations in the Pre-Clinic Area

by Julie Megchelsen, Program Assistant



There are big changes ahead at the College of Optometry! In January, the Class of 2016 will be the first to use our brand new Pre-Clinic area. Many alumni remember practicing procedures and learning to run exams in the cramped, mirrored, half lanes with vinyl sliding doors that were fashionable back in the '60s. Those have been the status quo for Ohio State optometry students for over 50 years, but not anymore. They have all disappeared.

The condition of the old Pre-Clinic area was inadequate to reach our goal of providing state-of-the-art facilities in which our students can learn and begin to perfect their clinical skills. We want to be competitive not only with quality of faculty, but with quality of facilities. So, we're renovating and expanding.

In place of the out-dated half lanes, we're creating 18 full-length, fully equipped exam rooms. Two of the rooms will be outfitted with exact models of equipment that students will use at the clinical testing facility for NBEO Part III. This will allow students to practice with the same model of phoropter, slit lamp, BIO, etc. that they will be tested on for licensure. All rooms will be set up for teaching primary care and specialty areas, such as contact lenses and binocular vision/pediatrics. There will be a new classroom with seating for 34 students and innovative audio-visual equipment for pre-clinic lectures. Brand new laboratories for contact lenses and injections will be added as well.

In addition to updating the layout and equipment, we plan to make this new area an inviting place. People stepping off the elevator will enter a new welcome area where they'll be greeted by a touch-screen monitor displaying information for students, alumni, and prospective students. This welcome area will house many student awards as well as the now famous Toppled Top. Outside the welcome area, the design includes many more rooms and high ceilings that allow more light and air flow to foster an open, spacious feeling.

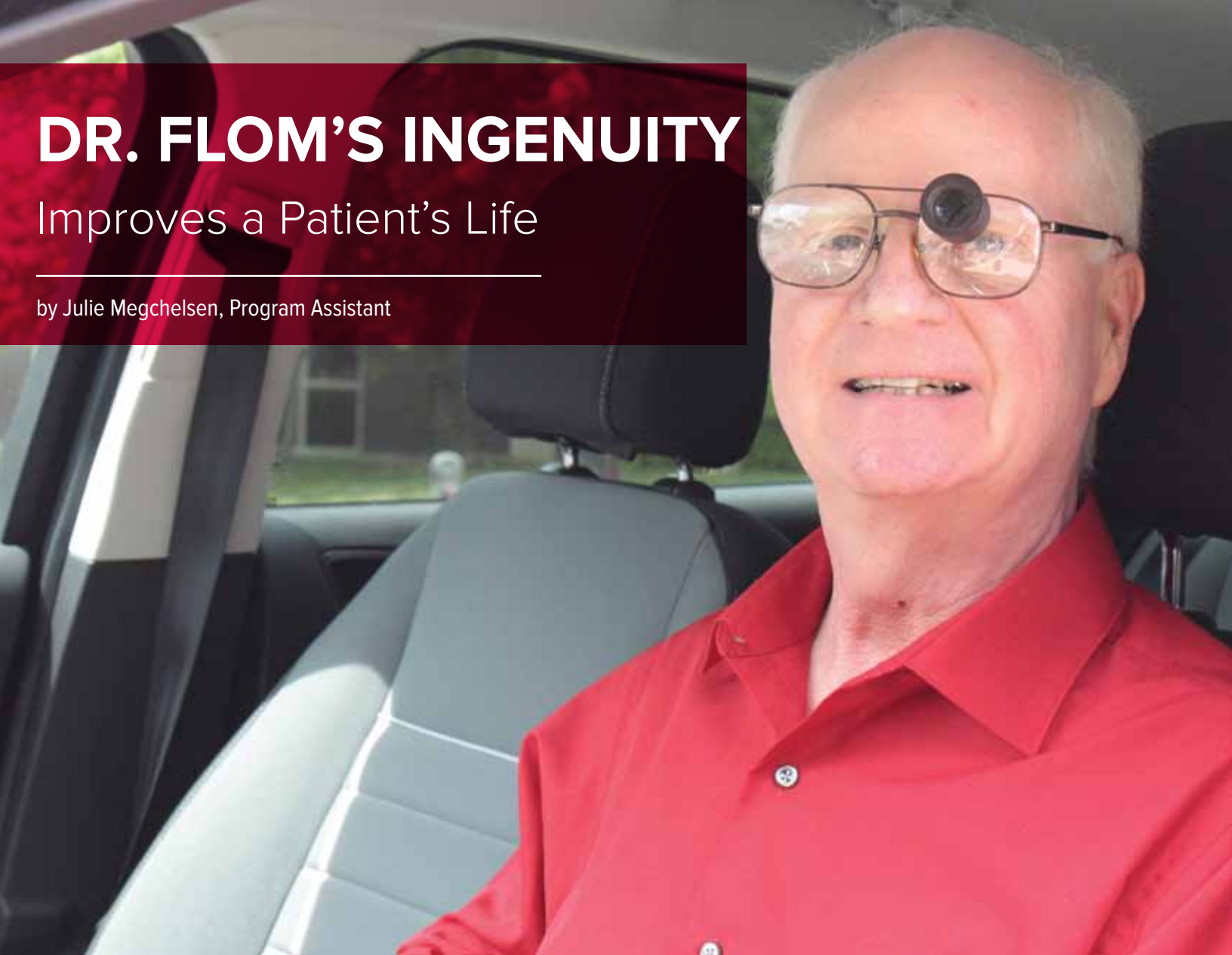
The current Pre-Clinic only takes up one-third of the second floor of Fry Hall. The new Pre-Clinic will occupy the whole floor and is designed so that many students can practice different procedures at the same time. Other colleges have used more compact, open floor plans. Our approach takes up a lot more space and it gives us the ability to be more student-focused and provide individual attention.

We hope you look forward to visiting us and touring the new Pre-Clinic as much as we look forward to sharing it with you!

DR. FLOM'S INGENUITY

Improves a Patient's Life

by Julie Megchelsen, Program Assistant



Joel Mariotti wearing his bioptic telescope

At the age of 50, Joel Mariotti had never driven a car. He was a successful business man with a wife and family. He managed grants and programs for the State of Ohio and recruited hundreds of doctors to work in underserved communities. He had to travel all over the state to do this, but he could never drive himself. Everywhere he went, he needed a support driver to accompany him.

Joel has albinism and has a best corrected visual acuity of 20/80. Each year, at his annual vision exam he would ask if there were any new developments that might help him. Every year the doctors said no. Then, in 2004, he was told about a program at the College of Optometry's Vision Rehabilitation Service. The program focused on Joel's dream: driving. It sounded too good to be true, and he almost didn't go, but his wife was adamant. She insisted that he try; he insisted on not getting his hopes up.

He made the appointment and met Roanne Flom, OD, Chief of the Vision Rehabilitation Service. She knew as soon as they met that she would be able to help him. Joel remained skeptical throughout the testing process and could hardly contain himself as they waited for the results. Dr. Flom assured him many times that she thought he would be a good candidate for the program. The results finally came back positive, and Joel wept. When Dr. Flom asked him, "What does this mean to you?" he replied, "If I can drive, it means my wife won't have to do all the driving for our family."

So, Joel's glasses were outfitted with a bioptic telescope that allows him to see distant targets, like street signs and traffic. He entered the Ohio Bioptic Driving Program, passed a written test, went to driving school, and passed a day time driving test. One year later, he was allowed to take a night driving test, and passed that as well.

Joel's new-found freedom made him reconsider retirement, which was making him a little stir crazy. Having a driver's license gave him the ability to compete in job markets that had been closed to him, and he earned a job establishing new locations for Mount Carmel Heart of Ohio Family Health Centers. He couldn't have been happier with his new life, and he has returned to the College of Optometry every year for the last nine years to share his story with Dr. Flom's students.

During one of those visits, Joel's new hybrid car came up in conversation. He mentioned that he couldn't see the all-digital dashboard display and wondered if anything could be done to fix that. Dr. Flom thrives when patients bring her questions that haven't been asked before, inspiring her to create new solutions to the changing visual demands of modern life. She believes that, "What we do in low vision care needs to change as the visual needs of our patients change." So, how could she give this bioptic driver access to dashboard information that fully sighted people can see? By inventing a new device for him.

She called Richard Feinbloom, President of Designs for Vision, to share her thoughts. They created a custom-made reading cap for Joel's bioptic telescope. Richard is the son of William Feinbloom, OD, a pioneer in the field of vision rehabilitation.

To make Joel's reading cap, many facets had to be considered. Joel couldn't spend time focusing a lens, and any errors in precise lens correction would be amplified by the telescope. The attachment would also add a step to Joel's driving process, so they needed to minimize potential distractions it might present. To



Jennifer Annon ('14), Joel Mariotti, and Roanne Flom, OD

prevent errors, Dr. Flom had her fourth year students, including **Dennis Tustan (OD'13)** and **Jennifer Annon ('14)** assist her in making measurements to specify the lens power to the nearest 0.12 diopter. To minimize distraction, they made the lens hinged, so Joel can flip the lens down to check the dashboard and flip it back up again to see the road. It's also removable so he doesn't have to wear it when he isn't driving.

This new device may be able to help other people with low vision. According to Dr. Flom, "There is the potential that established bioptic drivers with good safety records may be able to integrate this new viewing option in a meaningful and safe manner." The telescope and driver training gave Joel access to driving. Now, the reading cap attachment gives him access to modern visual displays. Recently, he used the attachment to drive his new car as a support vehicle on a motorcycle trip with his friends. After many years of needing a support driver, now, thanks to Dr. Flom's ingenuity, Joel can return the favor.

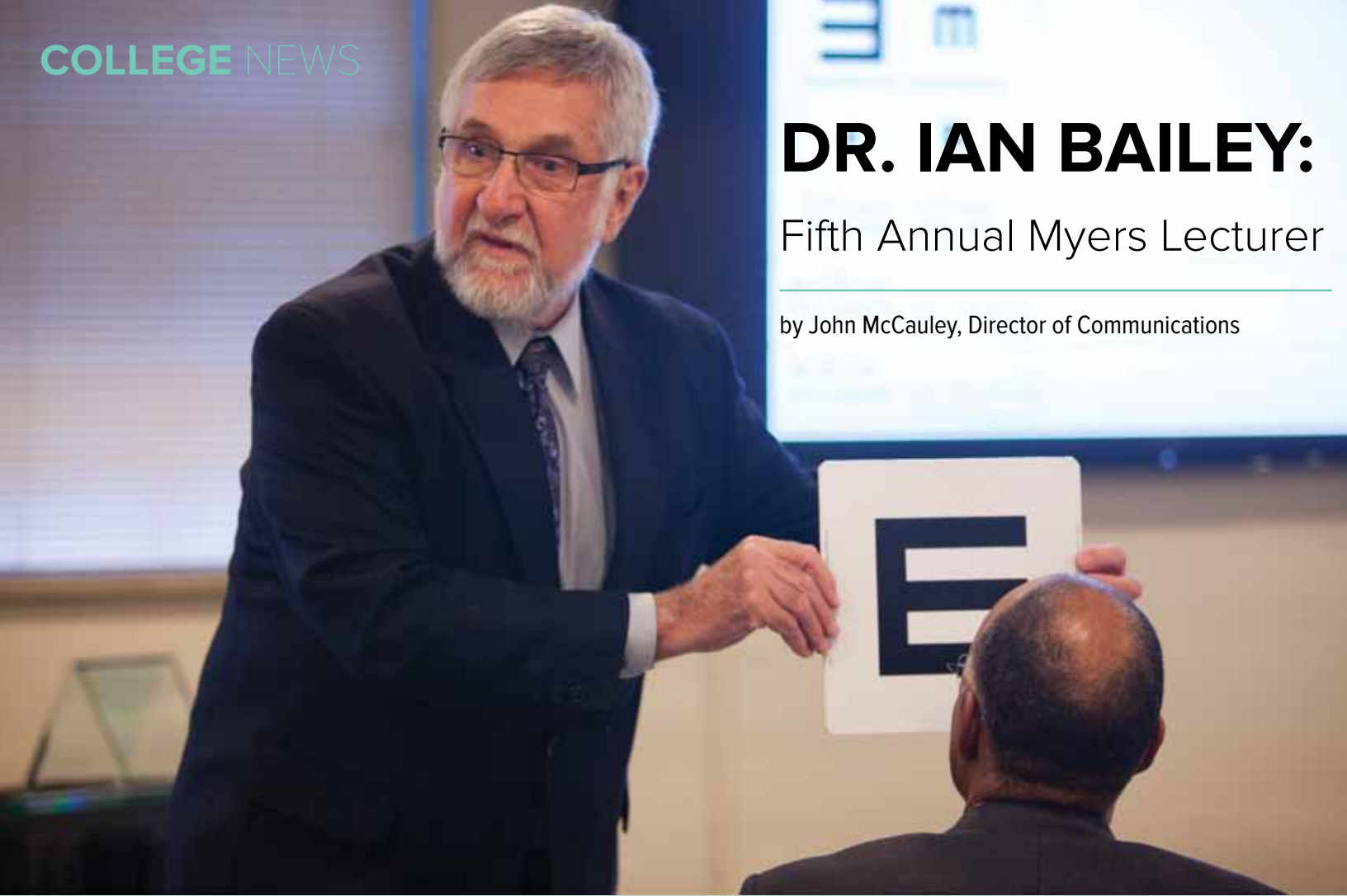
Dr. Flom instructs Mr. Mariotti on using his bioptic telescope.



DR. IAN BAILEY:

Fifth Annual Myers Lecturer

by John McCauley, Director of Communications



Ian Bailey, OD, MS, DSc (hc), FBCO, FAAO served as guest speaker at the fifth annual Jeffrey and Joyce Myers Lecture Series, held at the College on October 8th. Dr. Bailey was trained as an optometrist in Melbourne, Australia. After two years in private practice he travelled to London to gain extra training in contact lenses. There he began his ascent into academic life, becoming a research student and graduate instructor for two years at The City University, followed by 12 months at Indiana University where he earned a MS degree.

He returned to the University of Melbourne in 1967 as head of the clinic and there also taught a wide variety of classroom courses. In 1972, unplanned circumstances diverted his research interests from contact lenses to low vision. An impulsive resignation in 1973 led to a year doing low vision research with a talented new graduate student, Jan Lovie. In 1976 Bailey accepted

his current faculty position in the School of Optometry at the University of California, Berkeley. His research activities have concentrated on visual optics and visual psychophysics, and there has always been a clinical motivation. His diverse contributions include work on measurement of visual acuity, reading performance, contrast sensitivity, measurement of the optical properties of low vision aids, prescribing methods, clinical scaling, orientation and mobility, face recognition, eye movements, glare sensitivity, visual ergonomics and illumination engineering.

Dr. Bailey has received many prestigious awards recognizing his contributions to clinical optometry and vision science. These include the Prentice Medal from the American Academy of Optometry, the Pisart Award from Lighthouse International, and an honorary Doctor of Science Degree from the State University of New York.

The Jeffrey and Joyce Myers Lecture Series has been established through a generous gift from Dr. Jeffrey and Mrs. Joyce Myers. Their intent is to sponsor one lecture per academic year during the autumn semester featuring a guest speaker from outside The Ohio State University with special expertise across the domains of optometry and vision science. Dr. Myers, a 1984 graduate of The Ohio State University College of Optometry, is a private practice optometrist in central Ohio.

FIRST PENN STATE/OHIO STATE

Accelerated Admission Student

by Sally Haltom, Director of Student Affairs

We are happy to announce that the very first Pennsylvania State University student to complete the accelerated 3+4 year Penn State Behrend/Ohio State Optometry admission affiliation program and enter the OSU College of Optometry is Ms. Chelsea Monroe, a member of the Class of 2017. Chelsea, a native of Muncy, PA, originally started at the Penn State Behrend campus in Erie, PA as an engineering major, but quickly decided to switch to a biology major, and then discovered the accelerated 3+4 affiliation program that would allow her to apply to OSU Optometry during her third year of college.

In her words: *"I remember walking excitedly to my first class at Penn State Behrend. Those first few steps down that path were both literal and symbolic; I was heading down the path that would lead me to a fulfilling career."*

"Now just three years later, it is with heightened excitement that I've moved to Columbus and joined the welcoming and enthusiastic family at Ohio State's College of Optometry! Because of the College's first ever professional affiliation program with any undergraduate institution, I was able to finish my optometry school entrance requirements in just three years."

"I discovered the program during my first few weeks of undergrad. Since learning of the program, I have progressed through the initial part of the curriculum while at Penn State Behrend, and now I am well into my first semester as a member of the Class of 2017! I feel extremely fortunate to be the very first student to begin the progression through this agreement program. Since no other students traveled the 3+4 path before me, I was surprised by how smoothly the transition has been, and how efficiently the program allowed me to begin pursuing my career in optometry. Since my freshman undergraduate year, I have been flooded with encouragement, kindness, and helpfulness from members of the Optometry school."

"Having experienced our College's affiliation agreement firsthand, it is with utmost certainty that I would strongly recommend that any student pursuing a doctor of



optometry degree consider taking advantage of this opportunity. The experiences I've had thus far here at the College of Optometry are unrivaled. In less than a semester, I have become immersed in a community filled with camaraderie, devotion, and passion for optometry. The College faculty go above and beyond to make our experiences as students both meaningful and memorable."

We are delighted to welcome Chelsea to the OSU Optometry family, and we are confident that she will prove to be a wonderful representative of both Penn State and Ohio State! Read about Chelsea's journey at <http://psbehrend.psu.edu/news-events/in-the-spotlight/accelerated-pre-health-careers>.

To learn more about this program, contact Admissions Manager Justin Griest in the College Office of Student Affairs at 614-292-2647, or at: <http://psbehrend.psu.edu/school-of-science/academic-programs-1/pre-health-professions/programs/accelerated-program-in-optometry>.

NEW FACULTY MEMBERS:

Stacey S. Choi and Nathan Doble

by Barbara Fink (OD, PhD'87)

On July 1, Drs. Stacey S. Choi and Nathan Doble joined The Ohio State University College of Optometry as tenured associate professors. This husband-and-wife team came to us from The New England College of Optometry (NECO), located in Boston, Massachusetts.

Dr. Choi earned her Bachelor of Optometry (1993) and PhD in Optometry and Vision Science (2000) from the University of Auckland, New Zealand. She did a post-doc with **Jay Enoch (PhD'56)** at UC Berkeley and was a Research Associate at two laboratories: Dr. David Williams' Center for Visual Science at the University of Rochester (2002-2004) and Dr. John Werner's laboratory in the Department of Ophthalmology & Vision Science at the University of California, Davis (2005-2005). She continued to work at UC Davis as an adjunct assistant professor until she joined NECO as an associate professor in 2008. She had a successful private practice in the center of Auckland, New Zealand from 1994 until 1999, and she also worked in the clinics at the Department of Optometry & Vision Science, University of Auckland.

At OSU, Dr. Choi will teach Ophthalmic Optics, beginning in 2014. Her research involves the use of high-resolution imaging for the study of retinal and optic nerve diseases. Concerning her research, she explains: "My research interest is studying various types of retinal and optic nerve diseases using ultrahigh resolution Adaptive Optics (AO) retinal imaging systems which allow cellular level *in vivo* imagery of microstructures in the retina, including individual cone and rod photoreceptors. The goal is to advance our understanding of various disease mechanisms through *in vivo* imaging, and to be able to detect changes in the retina even before they manifest into visual defects. Earlier detection leading to earlier intervention enhances prognosis for the patients."

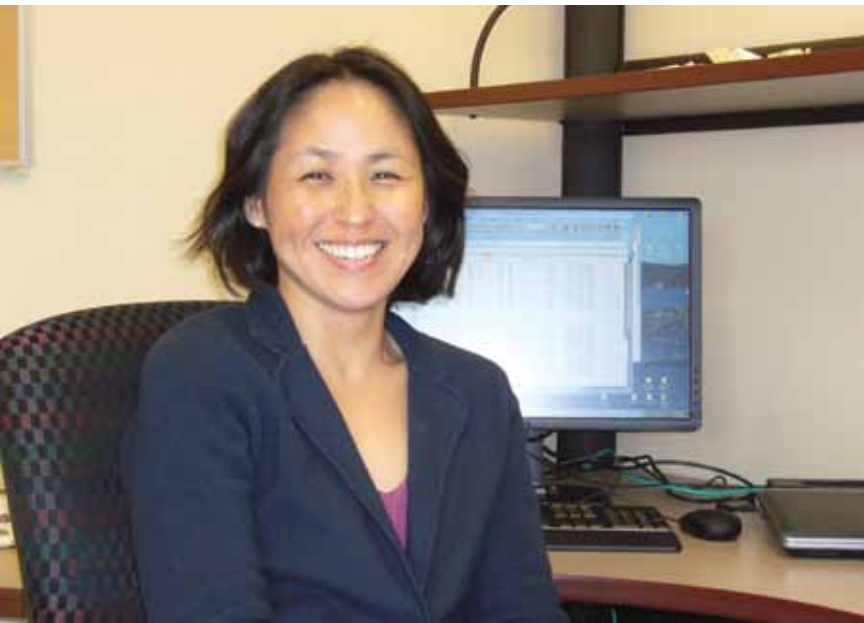
Dr. Doble has an MS (honors) in Laser Physics and Optoelectronics from the Department of Physics and Astronomy, University of St. Andrews, Fife, Scotland. He also has an MS (with distinction) in Applied Optics from Imperial College, University of London, London,

"The goal is to advance our understanding of various disease mechanisms through *in vivo* imaging, and to be able to detect changes in the retina even before they manifest into visual defects."

Stacey Choi, OD, PhD

England. His PhD work, Image Sharpening Metrics and Search Strategies for Indirect Adaptive Optics was conducted at the School of Engineering, Department of Physics, University of Durham, Durham, England. He was a Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the Center of Visual Science, University of Rochester (2000-2003). In 2002, Dr. Doble co-founded Iris AO Inc, a company that manufactures microelectromechanical deformable mirrors (MEMS DMs) and builds adaptive optics systems for defense, surveillance, and biomedical applications. The company is still in operation today, being funded through product sales and federal grants from the National Science Foundation, National Eye Institute, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and the U.S. Air Force.

Dr. Doble explains his research as follows: "My research centers on the design and construction of a variety of optical retinal imaging modalities employing adaptive optics and their application to the study of retinal function and disease. A particular area of interest is



Dr. Stacey Choi



Dr. Nathan Doble

looking at advanced optical techniques to image the rod photoreceptors *in-vivo*, which is currently funded by the National Eye Institute. Rods are the most abundant neuron in the eye responsible for light detection and peripheral vision. This is an ongoing collaboration with astronomers at the University of Arizona to examine image processing techniques that enhance the rod contrast. Being able to image the rods *in vivo* has future application for the diagnosis for age-related macular degeneration and retinitis pigmentosa.”

Another joint laboratory project is the use of the retina as a biomarker for mild blast induced traumatic brain injury (TBI). Mild, blast-induced TBI is particularly difficult to diagnose as the effects are subtle and symptoms may not manifest until several months after the incident. This is the first funded project to use the retina as a biomarker for diagnosing TBI and is funded through a grant from the Department of Defense, Telemedicine and Advanced Technology Research Center (TATRC) Vision Research Program. This work involves the construction of an advanced retinal imaging system that will then be used for retinal imaging of TBI patients in collaboration with VA hospitals.

Dr. Leonardo Blanco is a post-doctoral researcher working with Dr. Doble on the optical systems, while Dr. Elaine Wells-Gray is a post-doc working with Dr. Choi. Drs. Choi and Doble intend to bring several graduate students into their laboratories from engineering, computer science, vision science, and optometry. In addition, they are collaborating with the Department of Ophthalmology to find patients with traumatic brain injury, age-related macular degeneration, retinitis pigmentosa, glaucoma, optic neuropathies, and other

systemic and ocular diseases that damage the retina and optic nerve. High resolution imaging will provide an objective measure of the health of the cells and enable investigation of therapies.

Dr. Choi enjoys several hobbies—running, swimming, walking, and reading. She has run several Chicago and New York marathons. Dr. Doble enjoys competing in triathlons, finishing the Couer d’Alene Ironman in 2011. They have a daughter, Hannah, who was born on November 1, 2012. They also have two rescue dogs, a yellow Labrador (Miley) and a black Labrador (Vegas).

“My research centers on the design and construction of a variety of optical retinal imaging modalities employing adaptive optics and their application to the study of retinal function and disease.”

Nathan Doble, PhD



back row: **Jamie Casper (OD/MS'04)**, **Jamz Porzio ('14)**, **Lindsey Neilan ('14)**, **Milda Bandza ('14)**, **Guindy, Dr. Wesley**, **Andrew Emch (OD/MS'08)**, **Katie Woeste ('15)**, **Joe Blake ('14)**, **LA Lossing (OD/MS'11)**, **Jimmy**, **David Manderfield ('15)**, Haitian translator, **Edmond**
front row: **Sara Bokan ('15)**, **Kaitlynn Bock ('14)**, **Dr. Jeff**, **Mike Do ('14)**, and **Tayla Meade ('15)**

SVOSH: Haiti 2013

by Milda Bandza ('14)

Every year, The Ohio State University's Student Volunteer Optometry Services to Humanity (SVOSH) makes a journey to provide eye care to those in need. We have been through the wringer, whether it was the volcanoes of Nicaragua or the salt flats of Bolivia. Haiti was no different this year. From road blocks to mosquitoes, let's just say the least of our problems was the lack of running water every other day. We paid no mind to any of it, because we knew our goal: prevent blindness internationally.

Our team worked diligently to sort glasses, raise funds through local Lions Clubs, and collect donations from our cherished supporters to travel to a country that is notoriously underserved and overlooked by the international community. The reasons for Haiti's indigence may be confusing and corrupt, but people need help. We were able to travel to Haiti with the help of HIS (Humbly I Serve) Vision. Humbly I Serve was founded in 2010 by Melinda Wilson to exclusively provide eye care and establish a self-sustaining eye clinic to the citizens of Cap Haitien, a city in northern Haiti and surrounding villages.

Our volunteers saw everything from end-stage cataracts to Lebers optic neuropathy to trachoma. Much of the time, a mere set of reading glasses was able to increase a patient's quality of life ten-fold. Even when there was nothing else we could do for our patients, they still left

with the utmost gratitude. We had a unique experience such that we had two volunteer days in HIS Vision's local clinic and even had the luxury of a local eye doctor-in-training to refer any cataract or glaucoma patients to. We also took our services to surrounding villages on two other days.

A big theme of this year's trip was whether or not providing free care in a missionary setting is helping or hurting the infrastructure of these impoverished nations. Our team was at odds with ourselves to decide how to do good without creating a lack of stability among Haiti's own doctors and healthcare system. With the wisdom and guidance from Haitian native, Dr. Michèle Shipp, MD, MPH, Melinda Wilson, CEO of HIS Vision, and Joy Marinelli, COO of HIS Vision, our team was able to learn about the impact of our volunteer work and truly understand how free care internationally affects countries like Haiti.

I think my team members can all agree that this experience was absolutely invaluable. I cannot thank enough our volunteer optometrists, **Jamie Casper (OD'04, PhD)**, **Laura Ashley Lossing (OD/MS'11)** and **Andrew Emch (OD/MS'08)**, who has also been our trusted advisor for years. Finally, I want to thank Dr. Shipp, Melinda, Joy, Lisa, Jeff, Dr. Wesley and the rest of the HIS Vision team!

Thank you to all those who have made this trip and those in years past a continued success for SVOSH.



David Manderfield ('15), Joe Blake ('15), Milda Bandza ('14) and Guindy showing their Buckeye pride



Joe Blake ('14) with a young patient



Kaitlynn Bock ('14), Katie Woeste ('15), and Sara Bokan ('15) with patients



Jamz Porzio ('14) and Mike Do ('14)



David Manderfield ('15) and Milda Bandza ('14)

UPDATE ON THE DIVERSITY ACTIVITIES

of the College of Optometry

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



The diversity activities of the College of Optometry include efforts in recruitment and retention of underrepresented students, faculty and staff; fostering an environment that is welcoming to all; and improving the cultural competency of the faculty, staff, and students.

Strategic Plan of the Committee for Inclusion and Diversity (C-ID)

A retreat of the membership of the Diversity Enhancement Committee on August 29 provided the opportunity to review its purpose, mission, vision, membership, organization, core values, strategic goals, and activities in order to develop a strategic plan. The name of the committee was changed to “Committee for Inclusion and Diversity,” to reflect the importance of assuring an inclusive environment, one in which the climate and culture of the College encourage an active, intentional, and ongoing engagement with diversity and in which all individuals are welcome, valued, and respected, and their inherent dignity and worth are recognized. The events of C-ID help those within our college to “see” our own individual and unique identities (or IDs); hence the acronym “C-ID” seems to be appropriate. The purpose of the committee is to support all activities related to diversity, inclusion, and

cultural competency.

The mission of the C-ID is,

- To improve diversity at the College of Optometry
- To foster a welcoming environment at the College of Optometry
- To support equity and cultural competency

Representatives from the administration, faculty, staff, and students of the College of Optometry are members of the Committee for Inclusion and Diversity. The Human Resources Administrator and a member of the Executive Committee serve in *exofficio* capacities on the committee.

Improve Diversity at the College

Activities designed to increase optometry student diversity include: the Improving Diversity of Optometric Careers (I-DOC) program, on-site optometry workshops for underrepresented students, a diversity lunch as part



IDOC students at COSI in **Melissa Bailey's (OD/MS'01, PhD'04)** eyepod lab.
Future Buckeyes posing at Mirror Lake.



“The program was amazing. It gave me such a clear view of the profession and all that goes into optometry school.”

IDOC Participant

of our annual Open House activities, our diversity web page, middle school outreach programs, and retention activities with optometry students, including both social and academic programs.

On June 16-18, the Improving Diversity of Optometric Careers (I-DOC) program, in its seventh year of existence, hosted 12 college and 7 high school underrepresented minority students in an effort to introduce them to careers in optometry. Prior to the I-DOC program, fewer than 50% were seriously considering optometry as a career, but 90% of the participants are seriously considering an optometric career after participation in the program. Students participated in didactic courses about eyes and vision, practical optometric experiences, and informational sessions about applying to optometry and optometric careers.

The three-day session was well-received by all of the students. One commented, “The program was amazing. It gave me such a clear view of the profession and all that goes into optometry school.” One student learned, “...how rewarding and beneficial it is to be an optometrist.” Three-fifths of the students were African American, one-fifth were Asian, 15% were Hispanic, and one student was Native American.

Jacqueline Davis (OD'81, MPH), one of the program coordinators said, “This was the most highly qualified group of I-DOC participants we have enrolled. Their

enthusiasm was palpable. We look forward to welcoming them into our profession in the future.” One of the goals of the I-DOC program is to ultimately increase the diversity of eye care practitioners to meet the diversity of the United States population so that we can provide culturally relevant care for our patients in order to better meet their needs. The I-DOC program provides a small piece of the foundation in achieving that lofty goal.

Support Equity and Cultural Competency

Each year, we provide several workshops and opportunities for dialogue and outreach to our faculty, staff, and students. New this year is the implementation workshop for the ASCO Curriculum Guidelines for Cultural Competent Eye and Vision Care. This took place on October 14 and was conducted by Dr. Angel Novel-Simmons from UMSL and Dr. Janet Leasher from Nova Southeastern University. The workshop was developed by the ASCO Cultural Competency Guidelines Workshop Planning Group of the ASCO Optometry Diversity and Cultural Competency Committee. The purpose of the workshop is to provide examples of strategies for teaching cultural competence throughout the curricula of the schools and colleges of optometry, including exercises in attitudes assessment, knowledge, and skills. It is being offered at several schools and colleges of optometry throughout the United States.

Class of 2017 Welcome Dinner

The Welcome Dinner for the Class of 2017 was held on Wednesday, August 21 at the University's Ohio Union, a new venue for this event. Members of the new class were warmly welcomed by faculty, staff and student leaders. Special guests included Optometry Alumni and Friends President **Roger Saneholtz (OD'74)**, OOA President **Brenda Montecalvo, OD**, and Optometry Student Council President **Caroline Haberthy ('15)**, who each shared words of wisdom and inspiration with the newest members of the OSU Optometry community.

As always, the College extends sincere thanks and appreciation to the OSU Optometry Alumni and Friends Society for their generous sponsorship of this important annual new student welcome event!



Chelsea Monroe ('17), Nicholas Green ('17), John Elchinger ('17), Weston Tuten ('17), Corrie Miller ('17), and Danielle Orr ('17)



Olivia Oyegunle ('17), Jeff Walline, OD, PhD, and Vondolee Delgado-Nixon, PhD

Students Blog About OPT I Experiences



Nicholas Green ('17) and Elizabeth Brubaker ('17)

A new and exciting feature has been added to the Future Students section of the College web site! As you may have seen on the College Facebook page, we now have student bloggers. Two members of the Class of 2017 were selected to blog about their experiences as Opt I students, to help provide an up-close glimpse of the first year of optometry school. Our bloggers are Elizabeth Brubaker, a 2013 OSU Health Sciences grad originally from Hamler, OH, and Nick Green, a Meriden, CT native who has a biology degree from the University of Connecticut. Nick has prior blogging experience as a writer for OptometryStudents.com.

We're hopeful that the student blogs will serve as a great recruitment tool for prospective OSU Optometry applicants, offering them a birds-eye view of first year optometry student life! You can catch up with our student bloggers at <http://optometry.osu.edu/futurestudents/studentBlogs.cfm>.

Two Staff Members Retire

Kathy Reuter (OD'89) served as a research optometrist at the College of Optometry for 15 years. She has collected literally hundreds of thousands of data points on studies ranging from pediatric myopia studies to treatments for dry eye. She participated in industry- and Federally-funded studies for many faculty members at the College of Optometry; however, she did much more than collect data. She prepared manuscripts, wrote protocols, and submitted IRB applications. She quickly became an indispensable member of the clinical research community at the College of Optometry and earned the respect and admiration of her colleagues.

She's enjoying her extra time by continuing her passion in Girl Scouting as leader of two troops and training adult volunteers.

Doris Ball, a longtime employee of the College of Optometry, retired September 30th. Doris has served the university in many roles throughout her 30 years. Most recently her role has been as one of the staff in Optometry's medical records area, helping students with equipment needs, assisting patients who warranted a little extra special attention, and keeping everyone in the Clinic supplied with the tools to do their jobs.

Doris has seen hundreds of Optometry students graduate over the years. No matter from how far away they have come or how many years have flown by, when alumni return to the College, they often stop by asking for "Mother Doris," as she was fondly nicknamed. She will be missed.

Rhonda Andrews: New Accountant Takes Root in the Business Office



Welcome to Rhonda Andrews, who joined the College in 2013 as an accountant in the business office. Rhonda and her husband moved to Columbus from a small town outside of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Originally from central Florida, home to orange groves and phosphate mines, Rhonda moved during her teens to

Louisiana. From there, she moved to a variety of locales through the years, including stints in the Florida Keys, Iowa, Nebraska, California, and finally, Pennsylvania. Most of the moves were to facilitate her husband's career in the casino business, including the most recent move to Hollywood Casino in west Columbus.

Rhonda didn't always work as an accountant even though she earned a business degree, with an emphasis in accounting, from Bellevue University in Nebraska. In order to keep their son from being a "daycare baby," she worked shift jobs so that either she or her husband would always be at home. That led to some interesting positions including a police dispatcher

and a train crew dispatcher. Eventually, she decided that she didn't want to have to find a new career every time she and her family moved. She determined that if she pursued accounting, she would likely be able to find a job anywhere that her husband's career might take them.

Rhonda's interests include travel, but more than that, truly exploring and understanding the local flavor of a particular area. She also enjoys reading a good book or watching an interesting movie.

Academy Inducts 13 New Fellows from OSU

Thirteen Buckeye optometrists received their "Fellow of the American Academy of Optometry (FAAO)" credential on October 26 at the Academy's annual meeting in Seattle.

They are **Nicole Abrashoff (OD'06)**, **Lauren Bobick (OD'10)**, **Candace DeCock (OD/MS'09)**, **Dustin Gardner (OD'11, MS'13)**, **Adam Goff (OD'10)**, **Amanda K. Huston (OD/MS'12)**, **Jill Meadows (OD/MS'12)**, **Bill Rudy (OD'91)**, **Nidhi G. Satiani (OD'05, MS'07)**, **Ryan Scarborough (OD'06)**, **Anna Schlesselman (OD/MS'07)**, and **Travis Zigler (OD'10)**.

Congratulations to all!

OHIO STATE
COLLEGE OF
OPTOMETRY

1914 2014

YEARS OF GREAT VISION

Centennial Reunion Year:

Class Leaders needed to lead the upcoming 2014 reunion celebrations. Please contact Kerry Gastineau at gasineau.5@osu.edu if you can champion this effort for our College! Take this opportunity to give back to your alma mater and volunteer to assist your classmates in an exciting return to campus. We need your "vision" to make this a success!



THE FIRST 100 YEARS!

by Karla Zadnik, OD PhD, Associate Dean



Picture yourself in a room in the Physics Building on The Ohio State University campus on September 16, 1914. It's three years before World War I. The reality upon which *Downton Abbey* is based on is starting to play out. The flurry of activity in the United States in the 1920s that led to optometry's start as a profession is still a ways off.

In August 1914, the Board of Trustees of The Ohio State University approved a proposal from Dr. Charles Sheard to establish a two-year certificate program in optometry. Dr. Sheard was appointed Professor of Applied Optics and Director of the new program. On September 15, 1914, 12 students registered for the program, and classes began the following day. They represented 0.225% of the University enrollment and became optometric pioneers (adapted from *History of The Ohio State University College of Optometry 1914-2013*, prepublication, **Robert D. Newcomb (OD'71, MPH)**). The rest, as they say, is history.

Fast forward 99 years. The College of Optometry has granted 2026 Doctor of Optometry and 1136 Bachelor of Science in Optometry degrees, and hosted robust research and graduate programs at one of the premier public land-grant universities in the country. It's on its fourth Dean. It's housed in Fry and Starling-Loving Halls, buildings with their own rich histories, below a much newer research tower atop Fry. It has renovated classrooms and a brand new pre-clinic floor that will open in January, 2014.



The hallways' doors all sport posters advertising the College's Centennial Celebration at the Ohio Union on September 5, 2014. Plans are afoot to make it "the event of the century"! Mark your calendars.

Beginning January 1, 2014, three to four "notable alumni" will be featured each week on the College's website, Facebook page, Twitter, and Instagram (#osuopty100). You'll read a bit about each person, view old and new photographs, and find yourself saying, "I didn't know that's what so-and-so is doing now. I need to reconnect!" (If you aren't in tune with at least one of those social media outlets, now's the time to get going so that you don't miss out on the fun!)

Friday, September 5, 2014 and Saturday, September 6, 2014 will feel like a three-ring circus at the College. Three hours of continuing education credit Saturday morning will feature many generations' beloved professors as they provide a current update on their fields of expertise. Lunch will be available at the College, as will tours of the College's facilities: a walk down memory lane meets, "Wow, that's a beautiful new preclinic area!" Then the Buckeyes will face Virginia Tech, at either a late afternoon or night game. Stay tuned for details on that.

The Friday night gala will need your full attention. Plan on taking the day off to get to Columbus and to

get ready. Ladies, you won't want even one of the hundreds of students and their guests in attendance to be dressed nicer than you are! Formal invitations will go out in early April, 2014. The banquet will begin at 6:00 P.M. at the Ohio Union with a reception. Dinner will commence at 7:00 P.M. The evening will feature pop-up entertainment around the banquet hall that will include (short) speeches, memories, singing, maybe even dancing, and lots of general fellowship and hilarity. You'll have a personal photo booth opportunity to express, in writing, what Ohio State means to you. After the banquet, *Bad Habits*, our own *Eye Doctors of Rock* from the Classes of 1989 and 1991, will be featured at the "unplugged" after party. Plan to stay and sing along to all your old favorites.

The College's future looks so bright, you'll have to wear shades. Plan on joining the festivities on September 5-6, 2014 so that you can always say "I was there when ..."





HOW I SPENT MY SUMMER

ALUMNI AND STUDENT WINNERS

Michael Raies (OD'89) and Kelly Raies (OD'88), Sarah, Allison and Anne Marie in Hawaii 2013

The College of Optometry asked alumni and students to share their personal stories regarding their 2013 summer experiences. Stories included exotic places traveled, mission trip excursions, Pelotonia adventures and checking off bucket list items. No matter the season, our alumni are passionate about their charities, families and life.

ALUMNI WINNER: Michael (OD'89) and Kelly (OD'88) Raies

We checked a big one off the bucket list this summer.

In 2005, our family began traveling to the AOA conventions in our RV. Thanks to the diverse locations of the AOA meetings, we were able to travel to all the "lower 48" United States by 2010. We then flew to Alaska in 2011 and, finally on June 29, 2013, our family made it to Hawaii for the big number 50! It's been quite an adventure traveling to all 50 states, especially the lower 48 in the RV.



The Raies family in Alaska Summer 2011

The Raies family with their RV



Kelsy Steele ('16), Ryan Millyard ('16), Petr Boshinski ('17), Jaclyn Leonhardt ('16), and Claire Steensma ('16) in Colorado, Summer 2013.



STUDENT WINNER: Claire Steensma ('16)

Well, when I moved to Ohio a year ago I didn't know a soul in the entire state. Now this summer, right around the same time that I was moving in last year, I took an epic journey across several states with four of my closest optometry friends. Together we spent ten days touring the beautiful state of Colorado with our native tourguide, **Ryan Millyard ('16)**.

It was definitely the highlight of my summer and a great way to celebrate the last free summer before classes and clinic responsibilities become year-round.

Other Entries:

Kathy Rudolf (OD'09) in Virginia



Sharon Pohl (OD'82) with her family at the Outer Banks, NC



Sandy Anderson (OD'82) in Thailand



Betsy Kaminski (OD'13) and Ashley Doles (OD'13) on a cross country road trip



Alex Wood (OD'75) at Cayuga Lake



Michelle Quinn ('14) racing a Formula 500 and winning her 4th consecutive national championship Sports Car Club of America Solo National Championships in Lincoln, NE



LEADERSHIP TRANSITION

IN THE COLLEGE OF OPTOMETRY



Melvin Shipp, OD, MPH, DrPH



Karla Zadnik, OD, PhD

A seminal event is about to take place in the College during the Spring of 2014. Dean Mel Shipp will step down as dean at the end of May 2014, which will mark the end of his second term. He intends to retire from the University at the end of June 2014. For only the fourth time in the College's 45-year history as a college, a new dean will be appointed. Dr. Karla Zadnik will become the College's next dean, effective June 1, 2014.

Under Dean Shipp's leadership, the College has continued to flourish as one of the premier colleges of optometry in the nation. Dean Shipp completed and implemented the College's strategic plan, further advancing the College's mission: to educate excellent optometrists who reflect our diverse communities through our professional, residency, and continuing education programs; to conduct excellent research in vision science, through our graduate education and research programs; and to provide excellent optometric care to the community, through our teaching clinics, externship sites, and residency programs. Strategic plan goals that have been realized during Dean Shipp's tenure include a net increase in the number of faculty, a restructured clinical experience, including modifications to the curriculum, and improvements to the professional training program and graduate program.

Dean Shipp and Dr. Zadnik will be working closely with one another over the ensuing months to effect a smooth transition.

Congratulations and best wishes as they map out a course that will move the College of Optometry from excellent to eminent!

Pelotonia Riders Update: Lauren Haverly



Lauren Haverly ('14) completed this year's Pelotonia with her fellow Optometry Buckeyes: (top row from left) **Lauren, Amanda Eilerman ('16), Michaela Minichello ('15), Brittany White ('15)** (bottom row from left) **Ryan Lange ('16), Albert Wu ('16), and Shane Mulvihill ('16)**



Archie Griffin, CEO of the OSUAA, **Dr. Barr**, Janet Barr

Joe Barr Receives Mershon Award

Joseph Barr (OD'77, MS'79) was recognized by The Ohio State University Alumni Association this fall with the Ralph Davenport Mershon Award for leadership and service to the university. Dr. Barr spent 25 years at the college, achieving the rank of professor and serving as associate dean. While at Ohio State, he chaired the Athletic Council and was vice-chair of the Council on Student Affairs. He served on the executive committee of the CLEK study, the first multicenter optometric study sponsored by NIH/NEI, and was editor of Contact Lens Spectrum for over 20 years. He joined Bausch & Lomb in 2008 and now serves as Vice President Medical Affairs, Pharmaceuticals and Vision Care, Bausch + Lomb, a Valeant Company. He has taken a lead role in their Pediatric Cataract Initiative sponsoring studies in Nepal, India, Nigeria, South Africa and China with the goal of eliminating childhood blindness from cataracts. Congratulations to Dr. Barr.



FOUR NEW NEAL BAILEY MEDALISTS HONORED

by Rachel Childress, College Development Director
and Robert Newcomb (OD'71, MPH)

Dr. Neal J. Bailey (BS-Optom '47, PhD '54) was a truly outstanding clinician, educator, author, researcher, and entrepreneur who practiced in Columbus and taught at the college for more than two decades. In 1995, he and his beloved wife, Florence, established the Neal J. and Florence E. Bailey Scholarship in Optometry to provide scholarships for students who demonstrated leadership ability, a high degree of academic potential, scholastic achievement, and enthusiasm for learning. At that time, it was one of the largest endowments the college had ever received from an individual. So it was fitting that the Neal J. Bailey Optometry Medal for Development be established to recognize exceptionally philanthropic individuals who have donated at least \$50,000 to The OSU College of Optometry.

In addition to Dr. Bailey receiving the first medal in 1995, two other OSU optometry graduates received this special recognition in 2007: Dr. Robert Wright (BS-Optom '60) and Dr. Wayne Collier (BS-Optom '65).

This year, four more Bailey Medalists were honored in separate ceremonies.



Dean Shipp with **James Garstick (BS-Optom '51)** and his wife Vylee.

James R. Garstick (BS-Optom '51) and his wife, Vylee, gave appreciated stock to establish an endowed scholarship fund in 1995 for third- and fourth-year optometry students with financial needs. His work ethic and very strong commitment to optometric continuing education set an example for future students to emulate. It is with the same thought that he made this scholarship gift to the college. Dr. Garstick commented that he wanted to set an example for his classmates. It must have worked because two classmates of his followed suit – Drs. Ralph Miller, highlighted below, and Forrest Baillie, to be highlighted in a future edition.

The Garsticks received their Bailey Medal in July from Dean Mel Shipp, Development Officer Rachel Childress, and Capital Campaign Chair **Jeffrey Myers (OD '84)** in Akron. Dr. Garstick began practicing in Columbiana, Ohio in 1954 after a few short years in other locations. Having grown up in Warren, just 30 miles north, he knew that Columbiana would be a great place to raise a family and settle for the remainder of his optometric career. In these 60 years, Dr. Garstick has become well known in his community and continues set an example by being an involved citizen, participating in city council, being a member of the local Ohio State alumni club and supporting other area events.



Dean Shipp with **Ralph Miller (BS-Optom '51)**

Ralph M. Miller (BS-Optom '51) and his wife, Annabel, established an Endowed Scholarship Fund, also using appreciated stock, to help young optometry students stay in school and help to lower the level of student indebtedness during their optometric education. When they established their Fund in 2000, Dr. Miller said: "I was able to go to college with help from the GI bill. Otherwise, I may not have made it through. So I'm glad to help some students lighten their debt after graduation...."

The Millers received their Bailey Medal from Dean Mel Shipp, Development Officer Rachel Childress, and Capital Campaign Chair **Jeffrey Myers (OD '84)** this past July in their home in Walnut Creek, Ohio. Dr. Miller became an optometrist after looking at dentistry and medicine and deciding those weren't for him. The local optometrist in Millersburg told him that it was "a good life" and that's all Dr. Miller needed to hear. After school, he returned to his roots and feels that his success was in large part because he could speak Pennsylvania Dutch, making him a friend of the local, large Amish population. In retirement, the Millers moved to Colorado for a number of years, enjoying the beauty of the mountains. Recently, they returned to Walnut Creek and live only a few steps away from where Dr. Miller was born and raised.



Dean Shipp with **Barbara Fink (OD, MS'85, PhD'87)**

Barbara Fink (OD, MS '85, PhD '87) did her undergraduate work at the University of Notre Dame, and then earned her OD degree from Indiana University in 1981. She earned her MS and PhD degrees from OSU under the mentorship of Dean Emeritus, Richard M. Hill, in 1985 and 1987, respectively. Over the past 25 years, she has taught in most of the courses and clinics at the college; and has also mentored 16 graduate students. She has chaired the college's Diversity Enhancement Committee since 1987. She currently has a 50% appointment in OSU's Office of Diversity and Inclusion, where she is committed to the recruitment and retention of under-represented students to STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) degrees. She hopes that many of these promising students will ultimately choose optometry as their career.

Although most of our Bailey Medalists have established endowed funds, Dr. Fink has been giving to various funds at the college for 26 years through the annual Campus Campaign, which is the faculty and staff giving program at Ohio State. Through her payroll deduction over time, Dr. Fink has made a considerable impact in scholarship funds, minority support, research dollars and discretionary funding.

During a recent lunch at the OSU faculty club with Dean Mel Shipp, Development Officer Rachel Childress and Capital Campaign Chair **Jeffrey Myers (OD '84)**, Dr. Fink received her Bailey Medal and said how pleased and surprised she was that she had been able to reach this impressive milestone.



Dean Shipp with **Robert Newcomb (OD'71, MPH)**

Robert D. Newcomb (OD '71, MPH) spent 26 years in federal service optometry (US Navy and Department of Veterans Affairs) before accepting a faculty position as a Professor of Clinical Optometry and the inaugural Vision Service Plan (VSP) Chair for the Advancement of Professional Practice – a position he held for 15 years prior to his retirement in 2012. He received his Bailey Medal from Dean Mel Shipp on October 25 at the OSU Reception held in conjunction with the annual meeting of the American Academy of Optometry in Seattle. The Robert D. Newcomb White Coat Fund will provide financial resources to make the college's annual White Coat Ceremony special and memorable for the Opt I students and their families. Through his gift, the college's annual White Coat ceremony will continue to be a highlight in the academic year, similar to the Welcome Dinner for first-year students in August and the always-impressive Convocation ceremony for graduates in May.

Upon receiving his award at the college's alumni reception during the Academy meeting, Dr. Newcomb told his colleagues and friends at the event that Dr. Bailey was one of his favorite professors because he was both knowledgeable and humorous. His generosity to the college was something to emulate. Dr. Newcomb also said when he was a cub scout, his pack leader told the campers to "always leave their campsites in better condition than when they found them." Dr. Bailey left the college in better condition than he found it - and Dr. Newcomb is doing the same - hoping that others will adopt their giving philosophy to make the college even better for future generations of optometrists.

BUCKEYE VISION

by **James Sheedy (OD'74, PhD'77)**



What a privilege to be a Buckeye optometrist and vision scientist! Glenn Fry told me that using the public good as life's goalpost would keep us on the high road. The curriculum he designed has oriented us in that way.

Most of us don't realize how much Glenn Fry contributed to the education we have received as optometrists and specifically to my education in vision science. Dr. Fry designed our curriculum around the organization of vision science introduced by Herman von Helmholtz, who was the first to validly organize the discipline. Dr. Fry was wise enough to build our curriculum around that model and then add to it. I am proud to be one of his many graduate students. I once heard that a PhD is one who studies more and more about less and less until they know everything about nothing. I must admit that I have arrived!

Vision is the main sense that we use to interact with the world around us. Vision is critical for the performance of nearly all life's tasks. Optometry serves the public by insuring that our patients are optimally corrected to perform those tasks. Dr. Fry further applied his knowledge in Vision Science to vision-based issues in the real world as shown by his involvement in military and lighting issues. Today it is the digital world to which I have had the pleasure of contributing my knowledge of vision science.

The near future, with digital displays showing us both the real and virtual worlds, will place ever greater demands on the sense of vision for information input. The

concepts behind Google Glass and similar concepts are just the leading edge of technology that will eventually blur the lines between the real and virtual worlds.

There are numerous design issues that revolve around vision, and the vision corrective needs of the populace remain. Optometry and vision science must be at the forefront of these developments.

Vision is also the main sense around which cognitive abilities have developed – beginning 350 million years ago in the Cambrian Period. Vision and its processing have ultimately led to the cognitive skills attributed to our right brain; the left brain skills have developed around hearing and speech. It has been my pleasure to study the effects of vision-based cognition on psychology, human development and history in *Pondering Life*, a recently published book. Optometry and vision science have a rightful role in psychology and education.

It has been my honor to serve the world in the pursuit of Vision as a Buckeye.

I thank all of you for allowing me the opportunity to contribute in my own unique way to the furtherance of eye care and the profession that has become part of who we are.

Go Bucks!

James Sheedy (OD'74, PhD'77)



(clockwise from left)

Lowell Hone (BS'53) and Will Stamp (BS'53)

Class of 1983: **Marilyn (Leubitz) George (OD'73), James Cox (OD'73), Terry Huston (OD'73), Mark Rinkov (OD'73), Michael Cady (OD'73), Larry Alto (OD'73), Riley Turcott (OD'73), Greg Kracher (OD'73), David Stewart (OD'73), and Jeffrey Timko (OD'73)**

Dean Shipp, Woody Davis, **Jackie Davis (OD'81, MPH)**, and David Kuhlman

REUNION WEEKEND

OCTOBER 18 - 20, 2013

by Kerry Gastineau, College Alumni Director

Over 150 alumni and friends celebrated at the annual tailgate in the lobby area of Fry Hall on Saturday, October 19 to prepare for the game against Iowa. The Optometry Alumni and Friends group enjoyed Schmidt's Catering with brats, sauerkraut, and the regular staple -- delicious cream puffs. Prior to all the game day festivities, the College offered a complimentary one-hour continuing education showcase where **Melissa Bailey (OD'01, PhD'04)**, Dean VanNasdale, OD, PhD, and Andrew Hartwick, OD, PhD updated the group on their research and innovations.

Throughout the weekend, attendees were entertained with stories of their time at OSU and, more importantly, the memories that have been a part of their lives since leaving the Ohio State campus, especially for the class of 1963 celebrating their 50th reunion this year. When Optometry graduates reminisce, they conclude that there is so much to be thankful for as a Buckeye.



Tamara Kuhlman (OD'83)



2013 Optometry Alumni & Friends Tailgate – Let the good times roll with food and good music while old friends connected and new friends were made.

The 2013 Alumni Dinner honoring Distinguished Alumni Award Recipient, **James Sheedy (OD/MS'74, PhD'77)**, and Early Professional Achievement Award Recipient, **Gina Wesley (OD/MS'06)**, was held on Friday of Alumni Weekend in the 4H Building. **Joseph Barr (OD'77, MS'79)**, **Rick Weisbarth (OD'80)**, **Michelle Buckland (OD'06)**, and **Kevin Alexander (OD'76, PhD'79)** gave remarks for the awards celebration.

Gina Wesley (OD/MS'06) became a Fellow of the American Academy of Optometry in 2007, just one year after graduation. Dr. Wesley has an innovative approach to things that makes her unique and sets her apart. She uses a blog on her website to keep her patients up-to-date on news from her practice and was an early adopter of Facebook and Twitter as a way to interact with patients. Post graduation, she was Editor for *New OD* online for two years, with email distribution to more than 10,000 practicing optometrists nationally to share her knowledge. Her most notable media success has been on TV, where she has a relationship with Minneapolis-St. Paul NBC affiliate KARE as their Resident Eye Care Expert discussing a variety of eye-related topics of interest to the public. She has consulted with industry interpreting a young practitioner's views of practice to industry with Bausch + Lomb, Alcon, Allergan and Revolution EHR. This willingness to interpret her experiences in research and private practice are admirable and are unique for a colleague of her tenure in the profession. Congratulations Gina!

James Sheedy (OD/MS'74, PhD'77) spent six years in Columbus, teaching at the College, spending some time at a private practice in Canal Winchester and at the Chillicothe VA Medical Center Eye Clinic. Then he was off to California for 18 years at the University of California, Berkeley School of Optometry, achieving the rank of Clinical Professor, working for Humphrey Instruments, and as the Director of Professional Development for Sola Optical. Sheedy then returned



William McMullen (OD'63), **Clifton Hyre (OD'63)**, **Roy Ebihara (OD'63)**, and **John Spaniol (OD'63)**.



Gina Wesley (OD/MS'06) and **Jim Sheedy (OD/MS'74, PhD'77)**

to Ohio State for a few years and established the country's first Center for Ophthalmic Optics Research at the College and also started the Vision Ergonomics Research Laboratory. He went to Pacific University in Oregon to serve as Dean and currently serves as Director of Optometry Research. He holds several patents on ophthalmic devices and has received 36 research grants from National Institutes of Health, and many industry corporations, including Bausch & Lomb, Ciba, Allergan, 3M, and Herman Miller. He has served as a volunteer in the profession since finishing his education at the Ophthalmic Research Institute, Prevent Blindness America Board of Directors, and countless positions in the American Optometric Association and American Academy of Optometry. Dr. Sheedy's work on ophthalmic standards has saved literally thousands of eyes from workplace injuries, and his work in vision ergonomics in the workplace have made millions of people more efficient every day. Cheers to Dr. Sheedy!

1973 David Peters (OD'73)

stopped by with his family in September to check out the college and see all the new changes. Dr. Peters hopes to return for the 100th anniversary in 2014.

1992 Heath Gilbert (OD'92)

has been appointed to the WellPoint Vision Advisory Board. The board is designed to enhance collaboration with independent vision care providers and will help facilitate a dialogue on how WellPoint can work with its network of providers in a mutually beneficial manner. The board is composed of leaders and experts in the fields of vision and eye care who will help strengthen the company's relationship with the provider community and further enhance patient care. Dr. Gilbert is past president of the Ohio Optometric Association and owns a private practice at Dayton Optometric Center.

2007 Brandon M. Chester (OD'07)

with his son, Beckham Michael, grandson to **Michael E. Chester (OD'79)**. Dr. Chester and his wife, Vicki, believe that their grandson is letting everyone know what he thinks of the "team up north."



2011 Andrea Dietz (OD'11)

has joined Fishbaugh Family Eyecare. She is seeing patients at both the St. Henry and Lima offices. She graduated cum laude from the college in 2011 with her Doctor of Optometry. Dr. Dietz is affiliated with



David Peters (OD'73) posing with his class composite. Left to right: daughter Kim Peters, granddaughter Chloe, Dr. Peters, and daughter Betsy Schellenberg.



... and around campus!



Class of 2003 at Reunion Weekend 2013:

1st row at the top Cara Frasco, Diane (Spada) Manhas, Liane Wilt, Meghan (Geiger) Mott, Jamie (Anetakis) Steffas, Jill (Conklin) Schafer, Julie (Randles) Curtis,
2nd row: Jen (Roehm) Simonson, Jasmin (Kindra) Dhesi, Joann (Class) Narone, Kelly (Brandel) Ryan, Jessica Simon, Aaron Rhoads, Lara (Leach) Nickel, Nicky Lai, Kevin Hamilton
3rd Row Aaron Bowman, Eric Buckland, Slade Galloway, Scott Furgerson, Anthony Lowe, David Rose, Andrea Dinovo, Cole Dove

the Ohio Optometric Association, the American Optometric Association and The Ohio State University Alumni Association.

She is an InfantSEE provider. She is also involved in the Realeyes program, going into classrooms to teach children about the importance of a lifetime of comprehensive eye care.

Dr. Dietz resides in New Bremen with her husband, Jonathan, who is a systems administrator at Crown Equipment, along with their newborn son, Henry.

In Memorium

1936 John Jones (BS'36) age 99 passed away September 8, 2013, at the Whetstone Care Center in Columbus, Ohio.

Dr. Jones was born February 16, 1914 in Jacksonville, Ohio, a son of the late Pearley Eldon and Isabell (Smith) Jones. He graduated from Lancaster High School in 1932, The Ohio State University College of Optometry in 1936 and did his post graduate work at the University of Chicago 1937-1938.

He had an optometric practice in Lisbon from June 1939 until his retirement in July 1989. He was a member of the New Lisbon Presbyterian Church and former member of the Trinity United Presbyterian Church, where he served as a deacon. He was also a member of the New Lisbon F&AM Lodge #65, Youngstown Scottish Rite, John J. Welsh American Legion Post #275, Life Member of the OSU Alumni Association, a former member of the Lisbon Kiwanis Club and Rotary, and a former member of the American and Ohio Optometric Associations.

Dr. Johns helped organize and served as past president of the Lisbon Area Chamber of Commerce. He also served in the U.S. Navy as an officer during WWII.

1949 G. William Richter, Sr. (BS'49) of Canfield passed away Wednesday, August 7. Born August 17, 1920 in Youngstown to Carl William Richter and Mary Margaret Parker Richter, he married Josephine Torquati on July 11, 1951. He is survived by his wife of 62 years, his three children, ten grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. He graduated from Canfield High School

and earned his BS from the school in 1949. Dr. Richter was an optometrist in Canfield until his retirement in 1993; his son has carried on his optometry practice. He was a pioneer in the field of Developmental Vision. He was an avid gardener and ornithologist and was a member of the Grant Cook Bird Club, where he served as president. He was a member of the Canfield United Presbyterian Church.

Directory:

Our 2014 alumni directory will be published to celebrate our upcoming Centennial Celebration. Please be sure to respond to the letter from the Optometry Alumni Relations Office by January 25, 2014 with any updates to your address, phone, and email address. If you would like to opt out of our printed directory initiative then please let me the alumni office know by January 25, 2014.

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