



Optometry Clinic Helps Patients Manage Life Better

spring 2010





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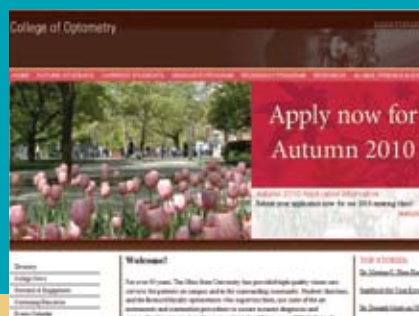
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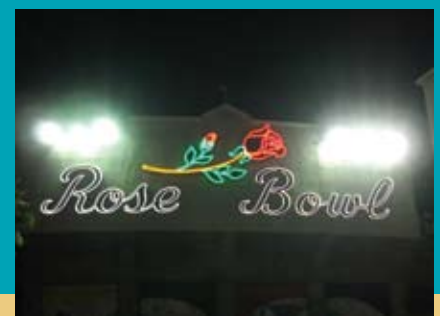
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From the Dean

What a particular joy after this long, hard winter to herald Spring 2010 with our award-winning Buckeye Optometry Alumni Magazine.

Our cover story in this issue highlights the inspiring work of **Michael Earley (OD/MS'88, PhD'92)** and his team of optometric technicians, preceptors, and residents. All of them work together to make what may be a child's first experience with an optometrist a pleasant one, or to help patients regain whatever degree of vision they can after suffering some level of head or brain trauma. I recently noticed a poster somewhere that said, "To the world you may be one person, but to one person you may be the world." I am sure the BV/Peds staff are "the" world to a lot of people out there.

When a faculty or staff member retires, we are always happy for them as they set out for new opportunities but sad to see them go. When they are able to enjoy both new experiences and return to the College, we're elated. **Ewen King-Smith, PhD**, who retired in September 2008, received a \$1.25M grant from the National Institutes of Health (NIH), effective September 1, 2009 through August 31, 2013 for his research on "Interferometric Studies of the Fluid Dynamics of the Tear Film." Welcome back, Dr. King-Smith.

Congratulations to **Andy Hartwick, OD, PhD**, on receiving a grant from the Ann Ellis Fund of The Columbus Foundation. His work with retinal ganglion cells could potentially unleash new therapies in the treatment of glaucoma.

To **Rick (OD'79)** and **Mary Elizabeth Billman**, we express our gratitude for investing in future students. Their generosity will provide a student who demonstrates financial need with an opportunity he or she may not otherwise receive.

I am very grateful for the time and talent our Dean's Advisory Council members contribute to the College. After two year's, we have just barely scratched the surface of what these talented, visionary individuals have to offer. As you read the biographical piece on **Susan Quinn (OD'82)**, you'll understand what a valuable resource this group of people is. I am looking forward to spending time with Dr. Quinn and her colleagues this spring for our bi-annual meeting.

Thanks to the efforts members of our faculty, answers to frequently asked eye-related questions are available 24-7. Many thanks to **Robert "Buckeye Bob" Newcomb (OD '71, MPH)** for his pioneering work in developing this initiative over 10 years ago, and to **Andrew Toole (OD'97, PhD'08)** for continuing this important public health service to anyone with access to the internet.

As always, there are many other noteworthy alumni, faculty, staff, and students featured in this issue of our newsletter. Thanks to all of you for doing what you do so well.

Best wishes for a warm, enjoyable spring,

Melvin D. Shipp, OD, MPH, DrPH
Dean, OSU College of Optometry



From the President

I have just returned from a cruise seminar traveling through the southern Caribbean. And what a nice surprise to come back to the first week of nice weather and much less snow on the ground! A trip like this always humbles me. With all of the problems that affect our country and the rest of the world, we can still travel and enjoy the freedoms provided by our great society.

Every time I travel these days, I can't help but be thankful for what I'm able to do. And Optometry is the major reason that I have these opportunities. I'd like to share with you a time when I was sort of smacked between the eyes on how lucky I am to be an optometrist. As you read, please keep in mind that I have practiced over 35 years and my mind may wander a bit here and there.

I experienced this Optometric revelation as I'll call it on a trip to Las Vegas several years ago. My wife and I had a package deal with one of the casinos. Las Vegas at one time was trying to project itself as being family friendly for a while, and this was just after that time frame. You know the present jingle of what happens in Vegas stays in Vegas.

Part of our package deal included free tickets to one of the late night revue (or should I say reveal) shows. We had never seen such a production so we thought why not. We would be able to leave at anytime. It turned out to be a musical presentation with some comedy. The male headliner was quite good and that was part of the surprise. After the first presentation of the fancy but minimal costumes worn by the dancers, I was really only paying attention to the male singer who also did the comedy portion of the show.

My optometric revelation hit me about ten minutes into the production. I did say my mind wanders at times, didn't I? I'm watching these people do their jobs and I'm wondering just how rewarding this is to them. I'm also wondering how long can they possibly be in this type of work. I also wonder what their next job will be as I can't see that they've developed a great deal of skill once their bodies change.

I left that theater feeling fantastic. The producers of the show would have been happy to know that, but I'm sure they would have been surprised to know why I felt good leaving their show. I get to do something that helps people every single day. I get to practice in an environment that is always comfortable as long as the electricity is on. I will be able to practice as long as my health allows it and patients keep coming to see me. The financial rewards allow us to do most of what we would like to do. And I get to have fun visiting with each of my patients. I frequently get asked when am I retiring and my response is that after 35 years I still don't think I've actually had to work yet.

If you've had your own optometric revelation experience and would like to share it, please visit the OAF website and post it. We would like to hear from you.

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

Roger L. Saneholtz (OD'74)

President, OSU Optometry Alumni & Friends



A New Chapter

Well, as you can see from the photograph below, a new chapter has begun in our lives. Isla Gracen Shoup was born at 3:34 am on January 26, 2010 via emergency Caesarian section.

Usually, I think all babies look pretty much the same. But, of course, Isla is different. She is beautiful and she is smarter than all the other kids her age. (Perhaps my bias is showing). As I write this, she is teaching herself to roll over.

As she was having difficulty being delivered, her dad, grandma, grandpa, uncle and aunt were all hanging out at the hospital. The decision for a C-section was made due to a concern about the possibility of the cord being wrapped around her neck or hooked on her shoulder preventing delivery. As she and her mom and dad went to the operating room, the rest of us were left in the birthing room with an anxious, almost empty feeling. The only thing we could do was continue to pray.

In those situations, time seems to take an eternity. The 20 minutes to get a report seemed like hours. Finally, we got a report that mom and baby were both fine. My son probably expressed the unspoken concern in the room for all of us; what would have happened in this situation 50 years ago? 100 years ago? 500 years ago? The truth is this: one or the other, or perhaps both, would not have survived.

So we value Isla and her mom a little more than we might have otherwise. And she started her life with a reminder that life is precious and fragile. We see her once or twice a week. She doesn't play tag or catch or even peek-a-boo just yet. And then again, she doesn't talk back or dislike all the adults in her life. For now, just holding her seems pretty good, and she usually doesn't fuss about being held.

When my kids were born, I observed that grandchildren were the reward one got for raising their kids. Now I am getting to live that. Whether we end up with one or dozen grandchildren, there is certainly a special relationship there that I am learning to appreciate even more each day.

Jeffrey A. Myers (OD'84)
BuckEYE Editor

Jeff Myers (OD'84) and his new granddaughter Isla.





Optometry Clinic Helps Patients Manage Life Better

by Jeff Myers (OD'84)

Mike Earley with one of his patients using the wii for vision therapy.



Downhill skiing vision therapy with the wii..

Cover Story



Freda and Dr. Earley's patient having fun with the Wii therapy!

Names can sometimes be deceiving. Such is the case of the BV/Peds (Binocular Vision & Pediatrics) Clinic at the Ohio State University College of Optometry. While most laypersons would equate it to a children's clinic, and most optometrists would recognize it as a clinic for accommodative dysfunction therapy and eye movement and perception therapy, this clinic manages some of the most challenging cases that come to the College and does it with strong optometric principles and therapy.

For almost two decades, this clinic has provided therapy for patients who have suffered traumatic brain injury (TBI). Neuropsychologists, who were treating these patients found that optometry was uniquely positioned to meet the functional outcomes that were desired by the patients. Many patients were in long-term care at Dodd Hall at University Hospital. The physiatrists, who oversee the patient's care in Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, ask for a consult in the clinic whenever the patient has visual field loss, balance issues, or diplopia. The physiatrist is also responsible for the management of pain. For in house patients, the trip from Dodd Hall can mean a long trip through the underground tunnels on a stretcher or in a wheelchair.

photos from left to right:

Freda Dallas checking in one of the patients at the clinic

Mike Earley (OD/MS'88, PhD'92) explaining the visual fields therapy to his patient.

Dr. Earley with one of his patients and the two optometric technicians Freda Dallas (next to Earley) and Alysia Benson (far right) in the clinic.



Cover Story

Michael Earley (OD/MS'88, PhD'92) is Chief of BV/Peds Clinic. He reports that the most common patients that are seen as a result of these consults include the patients with TBI and cerebro-vascular accidents (CVA) or strokes. CVA patients will often exhibit substantial visual field defects, including hemianopic losses, with and without neglect, as well as diplopia. Higher level cortical losses are often seen in the TBI patients. Parietal lobe damage results in visual disorientation, a case in which the patient's vision does not help him to orient himself. The balance issues that result can greatly interfere with the implementation of physical therapy. Temporal lobe damage can severely limit a patient's ability to identify objects, causing substantial frustration to the patient and often to the folks in their support system. Tests as basic as visual acuity have to be modified for these patients as they sometimes cannot identify letters or numbers after the injury.

The treatment and management of these patients varies. The approach is to manage the whole patient in a pragmatic way. Sometimes, counseling patients about their vision deficits and what can be expected with that vision deficit reassures patients. This reassurance allows them, as well as their family members, to understand their limitations and work to manage them. Occasionally, reports and depositions are required to help patients receive benefits for their vision deficits; and sometimes malingerers are identified.

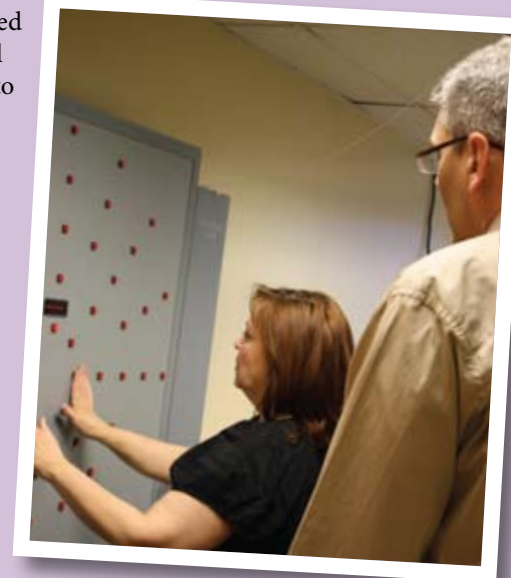
Sometimes the treatment is learning various life management skills. In other words, how do they live productively with the deficit they have? Occasionally, pragmatic management simply means treating photophobia with visors and/or sunglasses. Vision therapy often complements the treatment plan. This therapy most often involves visual memory and eye movements. The plan is designed and monitored by optometry and often carried out by the patient's occupational therapy team.

While the clinic name is officially Binocular Vision/Pediatrics Clinic (BV/Peds), those are not the only services offered in the clinic. In addition to the neuro-optometry services described, patients who are developmentally disabled, or

who have special needs, as well as aniseikonic patients are seen and treated in the clinic. For doctors with patients in the central Ohio area, the clinic always has availability to see patients in consultation and is also available for co-management of cases.

In addition to Earley, **Andrew Toole (OD'97, MS'00, PhD'08)**, **Michelle Buckland (OD'06, MS'08)**, **Aaron Zimmerman (OD'06, MS'08)**, **Sandy Anderson (OD'82)** and **Jennifer Mattson (OD'06)**, precept students in the clinic and enjoy seeing neuro-optometry patients. **Liz McVey (OD'08)**, and **Annie Lewis (OD'09)** are the current residents. Additionally, **Sara Huffman (OD/MS'06)**, completed a pediatric and binocular vision residency at The University of Houston and returned to Columbus to practice in Hilliard. Recently, she became part of the faculty of the Department of Ophthalmology at The Ohio State University. She extends the reach of neuro-optometry by seeing patients in the ophthalmology clinic and seeing inpatients at Dodd Hall.

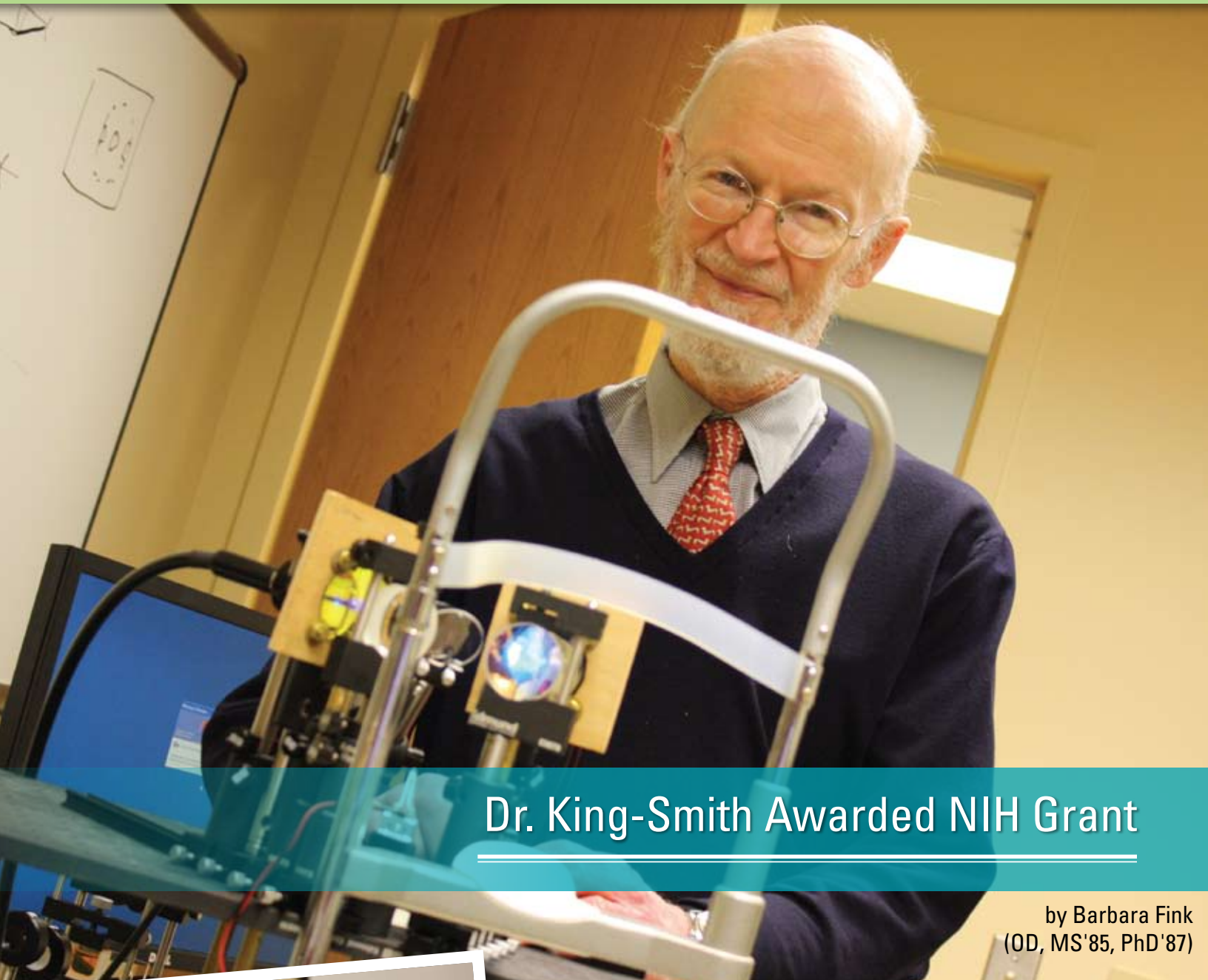
This subspecialty called neuro-optometry will continue to allow us to care for patients and train our students for a long time into the future.



Dr. Earley and his patient working on visual fields.



Focus on Faculty: Dr. Ewen King-Smith



Dr. King-Smith Awarded NIH Grant

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



A close-up of Dr. King-Smith's equipment

(above) Dr. King-Smith with part of his interferometry set-up
(right) Priya Ramamoorthy demonstrating using the interferometer to measure tear film
(far right) the image of the tear film as it appears on screen.

Focus on Faculty: Dr. Ewen King-Smith

Congratulations to Dr. Ewen King-Smith on the successful funding of his National Institutes of Health (NIH) grant. The \$1,249,500 R01 grant is effective September 1, 2009 through August 31, 2013, for Dr. King-Smith's research on "Interferometric Studies of the Fluid Dynamics of the Tear Film." Drs. Kelly and Jason Nichols are serving as co-investigators on the study. Dr. Kathy Reuter is acting as a Research Optometrist.

Dry Eye Syndrome is a common visual disorder which is poorly understood. This project will investigate the role of both evaporation and tear flow along the corneal surface in causing the ocular surface damage in this syndrome. Additionally, the characteristics of the lipid layer which may be deficient in dry eye will be investigated. The long term goal of this research program is to analyze the tear dynamics and characteristics which are involved in tear film thinning between blinks, and the consequent ocular surface damage in meibomian gland dysfunction (MGD) and other dry eye conditions.

Dr. King-Smith's laboratory has developed a unique method for measuring tear film thickness and tear thinning rate between blinks. The optical systems that will be used were developed by Dr. King-Smith, along with other members of the faculty (including **Barbara Fink (MS'85, PhD'87)**, **Nick Fogt (OD/MS'92, PhD'96)**, and Richard Hill) and several graduate students (**Elisa Skadahl (OD/MS'08)**, **Julia Geldis (OD'05, MS'07)**, **Kathryn Richdale (OD'02, MS'05)**, **Nidhi Satiani (OD'05, MS'07)**, **Crystal Gardner (OD'07)**, **Ravaughn Williams (OD'06/MS'06)**, **Samuel Kimball (OD/MS'09)**, **Chris Paulett ('10)**, and **Erich Hinel ('10)**) at the College of Optometry. Dr. King-Smith uses two

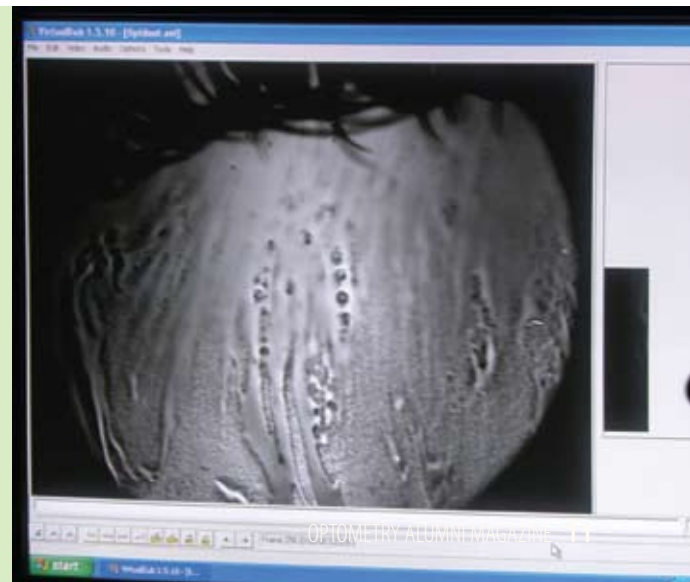
spectral interferometers, one which may be used for simultaneous fluorescein measurements and another that produces high resolution imaging of the lipid layer, the "lipid layer microscope."

An ultimate aim of these studies is, therefore, to help characterize tear film and external factors which cause ocular surface damage in meibomian gland dysfunction (MGD).

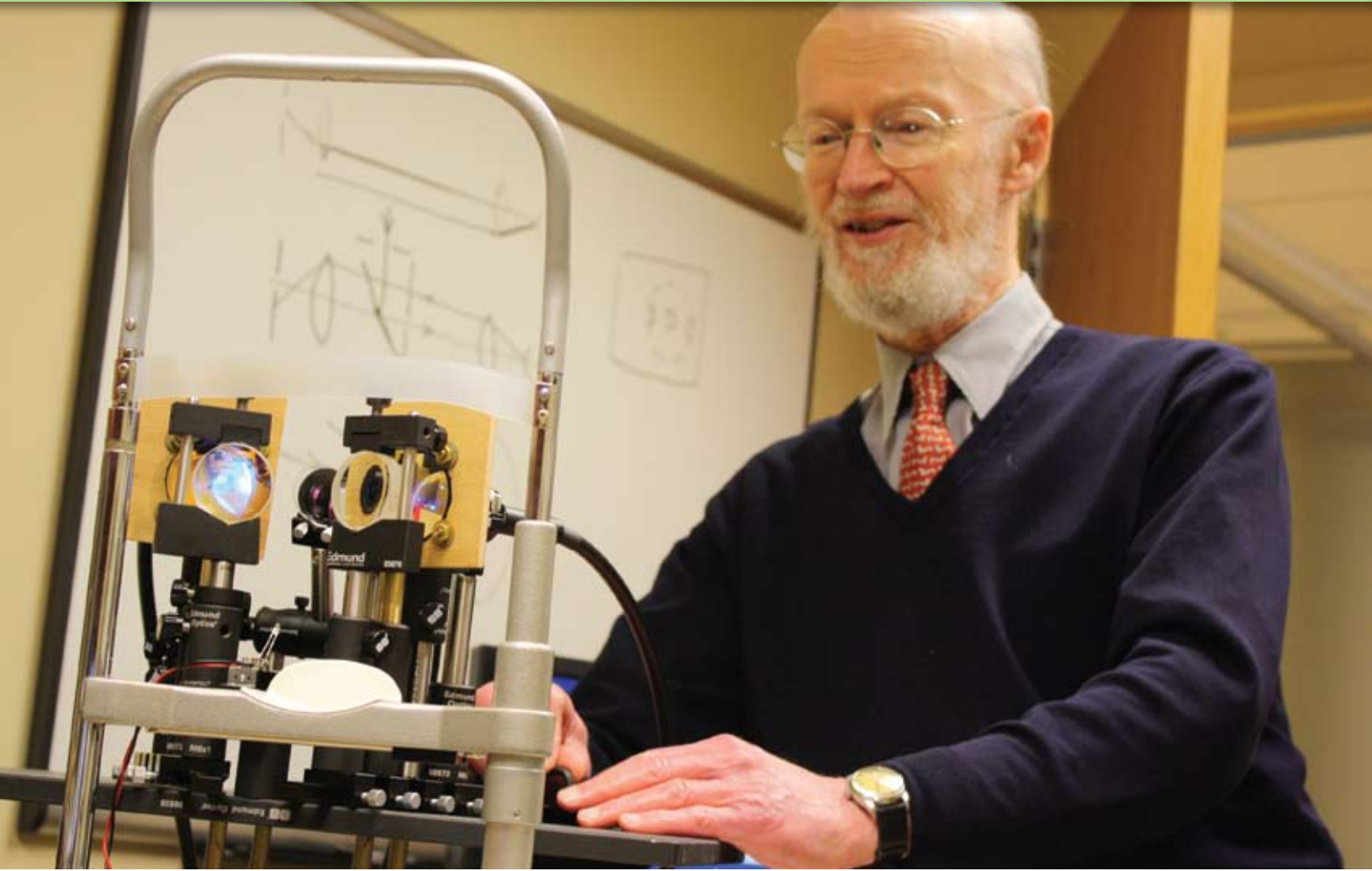
Tear thinning could be caused either by evaporation or by divergent "tangential flow" of tears along the corneal surface. Evaporative thinning would cause an increase in local osmolarity, leading to ocular surface damage from hyperosmolar stress. Divergent tangential flow could cause ocular surface damage by generating breakup (dry spots) without increase in osmolarity. In this study, the relative contributions of evaporation and divergent tangential flow will be studied to evaluate the role of hyperosmolarity and dry spot formation in ocular surface damage.

Because preliminary studies indicate that evaporation is generally more important than divergent tangential flow, external factors controlling evaporation rate will also be investigated. A "controlled environment goggle" will be constructed to control humidity and air flow rate over the cornea. Both evaporation rate and tear thinning rate will be measured in conditions of low and high humidity, and of low and high air flow speed.

The phenomenon of fluorescence "quenching" (reduction of fluorescent efficiency at high concentrations of fluorescein) will also be used to study the effects of evaporation. If tear film thinning is due to evaporation rather than tangential flow, the amount of fluorescein per unit area should remain constant and there should be little change in fluorescence for low concentrations of fluorescein; for high concentrations, however, quenching will cause a marked fall in fluorescence as the tear film thins and concentration increases. Using these principles, fluorescence measurements will be used to study how evaporation contributes to tear thinning rate and to fluorescein breakup times.



Focus on Faculty: Dr. Ewen King-Smith



Evaporation is limited by diffusion of water through the lipid layer of the tear film. To study the relation between tear thinning rate and lipid thickness, they will be measured simultaneously, using a lipid thickness method unique to our laboratory. Additionally, high resolution images of the lipid layer will be obtained to give information about the spatial variability of the lipid layer, and its contribution to tear film thinning. The relation of fluorescent (breakup) images to simultaneous lipid interference images will also be studied. An effective lipid barrier to evaporation is thought to require enough phospholipid to form a good interface between polar lipids and the aqueous layer, so meibomian lipid samples will be collected to analyze phospholipid concentration. In these studies, patients with MGD will be compared to normals in terms of tear thinning rate, lipid thickness and its spatial variability, and phospholipid concentration. An ultimate aim of these studies is, therefore, to help characterize tear film and external factors which cause ocular surface damage in MGD.

Dr. King-Smith is currently an emeritus professor at the College of Optometry. In past years, he had taught Vision Science 613, Monocular Sensory Processes; Vision Science 503, Geometric and Physical Optics; Vision Science 795, Seminar; Vision Science 803, Monocular Sensory Processes of Vision; and Vision Science 811, Color Vision.



Optometry Researcher Investigates Possible Cause of Daily IOP Fluctuations

Andrew Hartwick, OD, PhD, an Assistant Professor at the College, has recently received a grant from the Ann Ellis Fund of The Columbus Foundation to study the role of melanopsin-containing retinal ganglion cells in the regulation of daily fluctuations in IOP.

We have learned that in addition to its well-recognized role in vision, the retina provides the brain with a measure of the quantity of light in the environment. Recently, it has been discovered that a small group of photoreceptive ganglion cells in the inner retina play a key role in this signaling pathway. These neurons express the photopigment melanopsin and the information that they convey to the brain regarding ambient light levels serves to synchronize internal circadian rhythms to the day/night cycle and regulate the size of the pupil. Circadian rhythms are cycles of physiological processes and behavior that occur within a time-period of roughly one day, and examples of such rhythms in humans include alertness (decreases at night), body temperature (decreases at night) and melatonin secretion by the pineal gland (increases at night).

IOP, which is a key risk factor for glaucoma, exhibits a circadian rhythm, reaching peak levels at night and being lower during the day. Dr. Hartwick will also be investigating

whether the function of the photoreceptive neurons is altered following glaucoma-related optic nerve damage. The elucidation of the mechanisms that underlie the circadian rhythm of IOP could aid in the identification of new glaucoma therapies that enable more consistent IOP lowering throughout the 24-hour cycle each day.



Assistant Professor Andrew Hartwick, OD, PhD

Development News

Rick (OD'79) and Mary Elizabeth Billman have pledged \$50,000 to the college to establish the Richard H. and Mary Elizabeth Billman, II Scholarship in Optometry. The scholarship will assist students in the professional program in Optometry. "Our ability to offer scholarships to our students is a key factor impacting their decision to come to Ohio State. We are grateful for the Billman's commitment," says Dean Melvin Shipp. The Billman Scholarship will provide one scholarship to a student who demonstrates financial need and academic promise. The Billmans have long been

"We are grateful for the Billman's commitment."

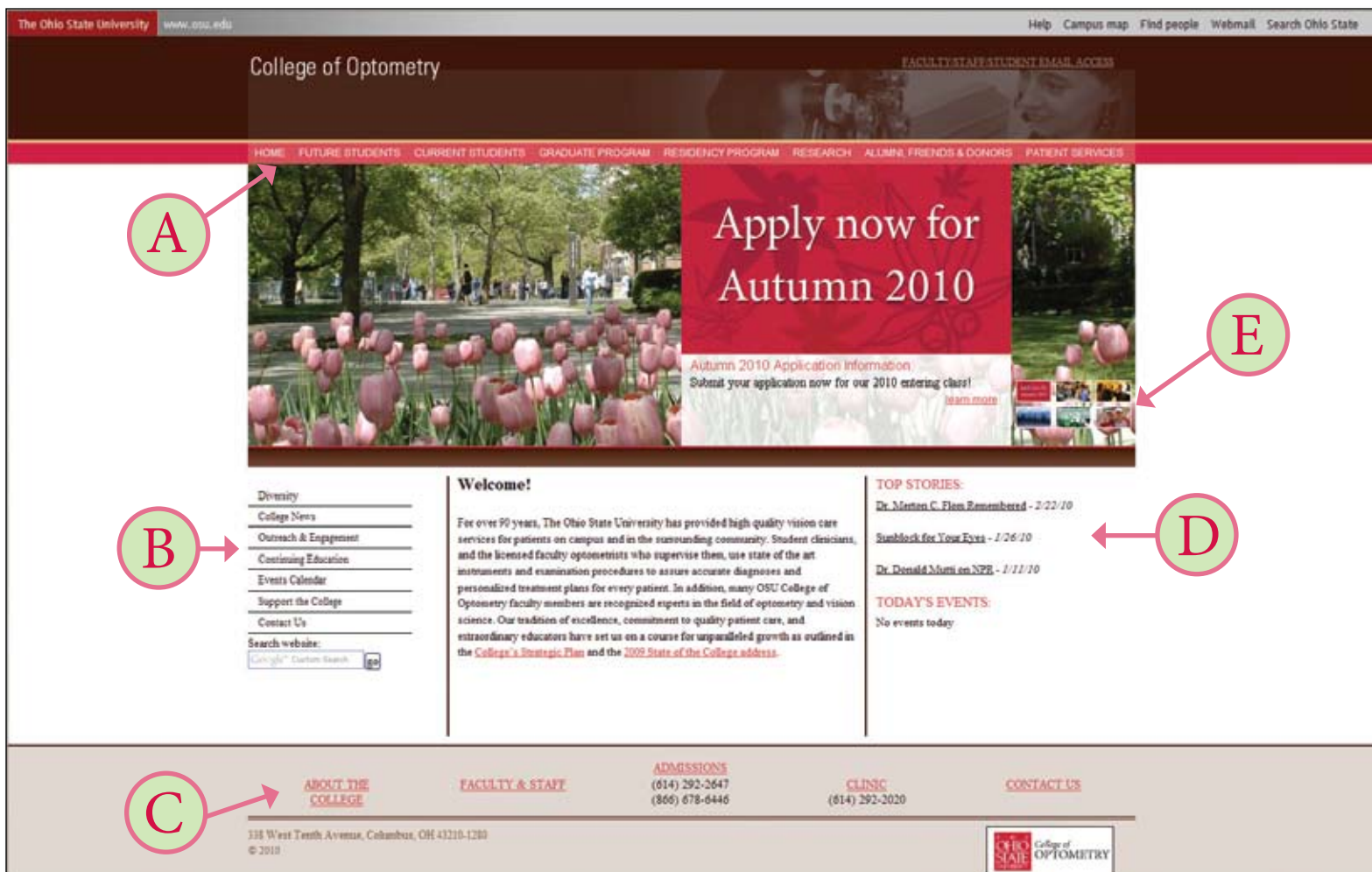
Dean Mel Shipp

supporters of the college. Dr. Richard Billman, I (who passed away recently) began hosting optometry students for the early version of the extern program in the 1960's. Rick has continued that tradition of support with the naming of an examination lane in the Wildermuth Optometric Research Clinic. Rick and Mary Elizabeth have four daughters, Elizabeth, Rebecca, Sarah and Anne, who undoubtedly have learned the spirit of generosity from their parents. "It's the right thing to do," says Rick.

College Website Gets a Brand New Look



Gone are the days of calling someone on the telephone to find out how to apply to a program, get driving directions, and inquire about important event dates. Whether prospective students or long-time alumni, people are increasingly relying on the Web to provide up-to-the-minute information. We post information on the College website for current students, future students, parents, alumni, other Ohio State offices and units, legislators, media, and the general public. All of those virtual clicks have worn out the website and inspired a redesign. Fresh, current information is what people expect. And that's exactly what they'll get when they visit us at www.optometry.osu.edu. Check out our new look, and return often to stay abreast of the exciting activities, groundbreaking research, and the many opportunities available to all.



- A** The horizontal row of white links connect to the College's professional and graduate information, including curriculum information, degrees offered, and fellowship opportunities.
- B** The vertical row of links highlights College-specific news, outreach and continuing education opportunities, and events information.
- C** The red links across the bottom of the home page provide access to the history of the College, information about faculty and staff, admissions, and clinic operations.
- D** The vertical list under "Top Stories" provides links to newsworthy information about faculty, staff, students, and alumni.
- E** The new home page design rotates through five photographs associated with a variety of exciting things that are happening in the College.

College News

From Excellence to Eminence

Just after his return to Ohio State, Gordon Gee set down his vision of the path that would take the university “from excellence to eminence.”

To become eminent, Ohio State must work and be perceived as “one university,” driven by a common vision, aligned by a compelling mission, united in our values and focused on six strategic goals:

- Forge One Ohio State University
- Put Students First
- Focus on Faculty Success-Faculty, Staff Talent and Culture
- Commit to Our Communities-Outreach and Collaboration
- Simplify Systems and Structure-Operating and Financial Soundness and Simplicity
- Recast our Research Agenda-Research Prominence

These goals are clearly defined, and we know what success looks like.

To achieve this, we must build a healthy, high-performance culture, and it will take each one of us to create that culture.

“People see this as a moment of real challenge, and it is. But I also view it as a moment of real opportunity.”

E. Gordon Gee

This is Ohio State’s – and your – moment to create long-term advantage and become one of the most innovative universities in the nation. To learn more, please visit: www.osu.edu/eminence. Visit often for information and tools to serve as a leader of this change.

E. Gordon Gee on why now:

“People see this as a moment of real challenge, and it is. But I also view it as a moment of real opportunity. We need to be the architects of our own destiny rather than its victims. And we will do so by focusing on talent and culture and using those to create major changes in the way

we do our work.”

Progress is already being made by the University and by the College of Optometry. The College’s strategic plan (see Spring 2009 issue) has been a document that guides and informs executive committee decisions. Stay tuned for ways YOU can help Ohio State and the OSU College of Optometry go from excellence to eminence.

Dean's Advisory Council Member: Susan G. Quinn, OD, FAAO

In the Spring of 2008, Dean Melvin Shipp established a Dean's Advisory Council (DAC). The council members' primary purpose is to offer their collective professional insight and business acumen to assist Dean Shipp as he leads the College's response to the ever-changing needs of students, faculty, staff, and the community.

In recognition of their personal and professional experiences and achievements, and their capacity to influence constituencies and stakeholders, Dean Shipp appointed 14 members to serve on the inaugural DAC. One of the members is **Susan G. Quinn (OD'82)**, a private practice optometrist in Athens, Ohio.

Dr. Quinn worked as a staff optometrist and optometric consultant at various clinics and nursing homes around Ohio upon her graduation from the Optometry program. While doing so, she and her husband, **Thomas G. Quinn (OD'79, MS'81)**, opened a partnership practice in Athens. To generate money for their fledgling practice, one of them would drive out of town to work at various clinics and nursing homes while the other stayed in Athens working at their office. Susan feels that her work at nursing homes, early in her career, provided not only additional income but more importantly introduced her to the "joys of caring for geriatric patients." Due to this exposure and the influence of her low vision instructor, Bill Brown, OD, PhD, she developed a private practice low vision service which continues to perform strongly today and is "a great source of professional fulfillment for [her]."

Susan often reflects on those early years as being "quite formative to [her and Tom's] personal philosophy and aspirations for private practice." In addition to being marriage partners and parents of two grown children, she and her husband have been business partners for 27 years. Central to their success was formulating and implementing those early ideas and goals together. Over the years, sharing foundational aspirations has strengthened their partnership and provided consistent, professional care for their patients. Living in a small town has enabled the Quinns to extend their care beyond optometric needs as they engage in community service. Susan considers the rewards to be "immense." She subscribes to the notion that



healthy communities are comprised of people who volunteer simply because they care for their neighbor or their environment and are able to identify needs that would otherwise go unmet if not for someone's willingness to donate time and/or resources.

Since 1987, Susan has been a board member of the ATCO Athens County Sheltered Workshop. ATCO is a state funded program for adults with disabilities and offers everything from daycare for the severely impaired to job placement in the community for those individuals who receive training and support to hold a job in the community. Susan served as president from 1994 until 2004 and "proudly used ATCO services whenever possible for many of our business needs."

Through the contributions of such members as Susan Quinn, the College will maintain its leadership role in optometric education, vision research, and service.



The Doctor is Just a Mouse Click Away

Andrew J. Toole (OD'97, PhD'08)

Andrew Toole and Robert Newcomb reviewing net wellness questions.

"I was diagnosed with glaucoma... My IOP seems to move around from a low of 14 to about 17. I have heard that eye pressure fluctuation is not good. Is a 3 mm fluctuation considered big...?" This is an example of a question recently submitted to the "Ask an Expert" section of the NetWellness internet site (www.netwellness.org).

For 12 years now, faculty members from the College of Optometry have been responding to such questions. The response provided by **Julia (Booth) Geldis (OD'05, MS'07)** as well as a listing of the nearly 2100 answers provided by our consultant optometrists, can be seen by visiting: www.netwellness.org/experts/browsequestions.cfm?forumid=21. NetWellness is a collaboration between The Ohio State University, Case Western Reserve University, and the University of Cincinnati.

Eye and Vision Care was OSU's first topic on NetWellness in 1998, and it has remained one of the most visited areas on the site. Since that time, a multidisciplinary team of optometry faculty, under the initial leadership of **Robert "Buckeye Bob" Newcomb (OD'71, MPH)** and later faculty member **Cynthia Heard (OD'92)**, has provided the latest information available about a multitude of vision-related concerns. The mission of

this outreach effort has been to improve consumer understanding of vision and eye health and facilitate better communication with their eye doctor. Of course, our doctors cannot diagnose or respond to emergency situations through this forum; however, we do provide guidance regarding seeking professional care. **Andrew J. Toole (OD'97, PhD'08)** has assumed the role of moderator for the Eye and Vision Care questions.

Eye and Vision Care is just one of a comprehensive list of health topics covered on the site. Medical professionals from all three institutions develop content and answer consumer health questions. NetWellness currently averages 18+ million hits and more than 1 million unique visitors per month and has been recognized by Medicine on the Net as one of the top consumer health information sites nationally. Recently, the Medical Library Association (MLA) named netwellness.org to its Top 100 Most Trusted consumer health web sites.

NetWellness Program Manager Brenda Clark, MA, MPH feels that optometry has played a significant role in the success of the site: "NetWellness' recognition by the MLA as a top tier trusted consumer health web site demonstrates its prominence on a national level in providing credible and current health information. The fact that eye and vision care is part



of its suite of resources sets it apart from many other sites that do not offer as comprehensive coverage. In this regard, OSU optometry faculty have taken an important leadership role in addressing consumer eye health information needs."

And finally one of the best qualities of the site: NO POP-UPS! That's right; NetWellness is proud to be 100% advertisement free and does not accept contributions from sources that could bias the content of the site.

Why not logon today?

About Faculty

Dr. Zadnik Wins Two Awards

Karla Zadnik, OD, PhD, was selected a 2009 Ohio Most Powerful and Influential Woman by the National Diversity Council. Dr. Zadnik also was named Ohio Optometrist of the Year at the East/West Eye Conference in Cleveland, OH.



Dr. Davis Receives Grant

The Congressional Glaucoma Caucus Foundation, Inc., awarded a \$20,000 grant to **Jacqueline Davis (OD'81, MPH)** to establish a community-based glaucoma screening program. Dr. Davis also received the Morton W. Silverman 2009 Outstanding Student Project Award (Vision Care Section) at the American Public Health Association convention in Philadelphia for her master's of public health project.



College News

Quarter to Semester Conversion

**Mark Bullimore, MCOptom, PhD
Chair, Curriculum Committee**

As you may have already heard, The Ohio State University will convert from an academic schedule of quarters to semesters beginning in 2012. While this could create considerable consternation for some, it really provides an opportunity for an evaluation and potential improvement of our current curriculum. Additionally, it provides a catalyst for some of the College's strategic goals.

As part of the evaluation process, questions will be asked that will move the program forward. As examples: Can we further increase our students' quantity of patient encounters, par-

ticularly in the third year? Are there areas in our curriculum that need consolidation, reorganization, or both?

The faculty of the College are approaching the conversion process with the engagement and creativity that our graduates would expect. Likewise, our externship preceptors are embracing the opportunity to host interns for 17 rather than 13 weeks.

We have the advantage of being a biosphere—a self-contained environment where we teach nearly all our own courses. This makes the task more straightforward than that of the larger colleges on campus. In the short term the faculty's focus is getting the curriculum content right and worrying less about who will be teaching this or that course. We have the good fortune of a multitalented faculty

whose teaching acumen is appreciated by the students. After the conversion, the curriculum will not only look different when distributed across three semesters rather than four quarters, but it will produce even better-qualified graduates.

The College on Facebook

After much deliberation, the College's communications task force launched a Facebook page for fans in September 2009. The goal is to keep our 459 fans informed of what is happening in the lives of alumni, faculty, students, and staff. We have many great news items and updates to share, and Facebook provides one more outlet for people to see what we're up to. So, if you haven't already, check us out at <http://www.facebook.com/OSUoptometry> and sign up to become a fan!

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- Take one of the college tours, which run continuously from 1:00 - 3:50 pm
- Meet students & faculty
- Sit in our admissions, financial aid, and career information sessions at 1:10 & 2:45 pm
- Call 614-292-2647 for more information
- Visit our website at <http://optometry.osu.edu>

1995 **Andrew Weibel (OD'95)** was appointed Associate Chief of Staff for Education at the Chalmers P. Wylie VA Ambulatory Care Center in Columbus.

2000 **Ann Neubert Brobst (OD'00)** was inducted as a Fellow of the American Academy of Optometry at the Academy meeting in November, 2009.

2002 **Brett Irvin (OD'02, MS'02)** was appointed Interim Chief of Eye Care Services at the Chalmers P. Wylie VA Ambulatory Care Center in Columbus.

2006 **Jeffrey Wine (OD'06)** and his wife Joy Miner Wine (OSU '06) are the proud parents of their first child, Hadley Ava Wine, born October 13, 2009 in Gilbert, Arizona.



Hadley Ava Wine

In Memoriam

Tony Ikehara (OD'00)

Ben Shwartz (OD'42)



2007 **Ann Marie Rudick (OD'07)** wed Joshua Funk (BS'05, Engineering) on January 2, 2010, in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania. The bridal party included Optometry alumnae **Corrie (Ziegler) Weitzel (OD/MS'07)**, **Joy (Ellerbrock) Heitzman (OD/MS'07)**, and **Jennifer Schmelzer (OD'07)**. The couple is planning a Mediterranean cruise later this year for their honeymoon.



Several Optometry alumni families vacationed together at Beaches Resort in Turks & Caicos this past January. From left to right: **Christopher Coleman (OD'01)**, with his wife Cheryl and children Jadelyn, Cannon and Tatum. **Warren Stoltman (OD'03)** and **Amanda (Conde) Stoltman (OD'01)** with our children Grant and Evan. **Jennifer (Sadler) Felbinger (OD'01)** and her husband Kent (OSU '96) with their children Olivia and Quinn. **Diana (Wallace) Overberger (OD'01)** and her husband Erik with their children Lauren, William and Ben.

Alumni Association alignment approved by Ohio State trustees

The Ohio State University Board of Trustees approved an affiliation agreement that will more closely align the Ohio State University Alumni Association with the university. The Alumni Association will remain a member-based organization but, by working in new ways with the university, it will expand its reach beyond dues-paying members.

Unanimously approved by the Alumni Association Board of Directors in January, the agreement resulted from a year-long study of best practices in alumni engagement among leading public and private universities. The Alumni Association's 120,000 active members will be asked to vote this spring on changes to the association's constitution to reflect the new relationship.

"I have led enough universities to say with all certainty that Ohio State has the most spirited and proud alumni in the country," said Ohio State President E. Gordon Gee. "This strengthened partnership will enable us to collaborate more readily and to engage alumni and friends much more deeply. The result will be innovative, robust programming that fully leverages the vast talents of all of our constituents."

Programs and initiatives being explored include career services, enhanced alumni networking, regional engagement, lifelong learning opportunities, volunteer recruitment and coordination.

Archie Griffin will remain president and CEO of the Alumni Association and will assume the additional role as senior vice president for alumni relations of the university as well as become a member of Gee's senior leadership team. The Alumni Association's 57 full-time employees will become university employees but remain dedicated to their alumni relations work. Under the affiliation agreement, the Alumni Association will continue to operate as a non-profit, 501 (c) (3) corporation with its own 17-member board of directors, to which two university appointees will be added. Optometry Alumni

& Friends will remain a membership driven Society under the umbrella of the Association.

The Ohio State University Alumni Association has a proud 130-year history, with a potential audience that now numbers more than 470,000 living alumni around the country and throughout the world. Griffin praised the loyalty of alumni and their unwavering support of all things Ohio State. "Our vision is to be the biggest and best member-centered alumni association in the world," Griffin said. "And by this very deliberate partnership with the university, I believe we will bring even greater value to alumni, friends and fans everywhere."

Under the new arrangement, promoting the work of the university and engaging Ohio State alumni will be a coordinated effort of the offices of University Communications, University Development, and the Alumni Association. It also will better align alumni relations activities in Ohio State's 18 colleges and five regional campuses with overall university goals. The Board of Trustees also affirmed the significance of this organized effort by beginning the process of re-organizing its committee structure to accommodate the new arrangement.

An 11-member Alignment Task Force, co-chaired by Tami Longaberger and William Lhota, responded to the challenge of creating an advancement model to better harness the power of alumni and friends in support of Ohio State. Longaberger and Lhota are both former chairs of The Ohio State University Alumni Association Board of Directors and Longaberger also served as chair of the university's Board of Trustees.

Trustee Alex Shumate, a member of the Alignment Task Force, said "This marks a coming-of-age moment for Ohio State and its vast network of alumni and friends. What we will be able to accomplish together through this very purposeful partnership with our outstanding Alumni Association will be the envy of our peers and a further step on the path from excellence to eminence."

Rose Bowl

"From the 18" hotdogs to the Navy flyover to the "scarlet" mountains in the 4th quarter, it was a bowltrip of a lifetime."

Greg Good (OD'75, PhD'81)



Greg Good and his wife Susie before Rose Bowl.



Greg Good, wife Susie, daughters Cara and Lisa, son-in-law Mitch Holdren during pre-game.



View of mountains during 4th Quarter. Note "scarlet" tinge to mountains.



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