



OH-IO in Baghdad!

summer 2009





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From the Dean

Dear Optometry Alumni and Friends:

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

Ah, summertime. Friends gathering for cookouts, kids splashing in pools, families traveling to favorite or maybe brand new vacation destinations, and, at the end of it all, returning home. Well, that's the case for most of us unless we're serving our country in Iraq like **Jeremy Burns (OD'06)**, **Jeff Blunden (OD'90)**, **Amman Starr (OD'07)**, and **Ann Rudick (OD'07)**. We thank them for their service, salute them for their selflessness, and look forward to their return when they can stand together doing the Buckeye cheer in front of the "Shoe."

Congratulations to our new professional colleagues, the Class of 2009! Their futures loom large and promising. Their graduation marks the beginning of their effort to make a difference; to do something significant. It will be interesting to see how many of these young doctors turn up in future issues of our publication as they bring to fruition the motivational message, "Forward Focus: Your Gift, Your Vision," delivered by this year's Convocation speaker, Joyce Beatty, senior vice president for outreach and engagement.

One of our talented alumni who is clearly seeing the fruit of realizing her gift and following her vision is **Debbie Hettler (OD'80)**. While she graciously acknowledges the influence her professors and mentors have had on her, Dr. Hettler, like so many other alumni, has enriched our lives as well.

Though there are too many newsworthy accomplishments and inspiring individuals featured in this issue of our newsletter to mention here, know that I am equally proud of them all and congratulate each one on his/her achievements.

With warm, personal regards,

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



From the President

OSU OAF-Who's That?

A new year is beginning for the Ohio State University Optometry Alumni and Friends (OAF) after the election of officers at the general meeting on September 12, 2009. I think this is a good time to review a little and take a look at our organization. OAF is a society within the Ohio State University Alumni Association (OSUAA). Even though OAF is directly associated with OSUAA, OAF is still its own entity with separate dues and its own board of directors. OAF is a 501 (C4) organization that files an IRS 990 return under a group filing with OSUAA. This filing status makes it OAF's responsibility to report all financial information to OSUAA.

That I would say is the official mumbo jumbo. My view of our organization is much more personal. I feel we are an outstanding group of dedicated professionals who are acutely aware of the importance of supporting the OSU College of Optometry. I am thankful daily for the opportunity to practice optometry and that would not have been possible for me if it had not been available at Ohio State. You can argue that I could have gone through another program, but the aspect of in-state versus out-of-state tuition made a big difference in that respect. Thus, we must also thank the Ohio Legislature for its funding for the tuition difference for Ohio residents.

Now the question of what do we do? The board meets usually three times a year to set the budget, find out what is going on at the College, and discuss how we can help improve and support the program at the College. Our president and treasurer participate in other events throughout the year. Our operating income comes from annual dues, the interest generated from the funds invested from life membership dues, and an indirect donation from Barney Dougher and Hoya. Luckily the board had always been conservative in only investing in CD's and not equities as we all well know that scenario. Last year dues and interest generated almost \$28,000. Our life membership funds total \$145,000. OAF also endowed over \$65,000 to the College's development fund in 1996.

The programs that we support at the College are mostly student related. Last year we funded Convocation for the senior class (\$2000), Open house in the spring (\$3000), Welcome dinner for the incoming freshmen (\$3000), White Coat ceremony for the first year students (\$1500), and a student benefit fund for student emergencies or projects that can improve the quality of life for the students at the College (\$1500). Our most significant contribution recently has been \$50,000 to the Raise the Roof project. This fall will be our last installment.

As an alumnus, your main benefit is the award winning magazine that Jeffrey Myers (OD'84) and crew put together three times a year. Actually, OSUAA stopped giving the award since no other society could compete against our magazine. Many thanks to Jeff, but there is a huge thank you that has to go out to Barney Dougher and Hoya as our sole sponsor. If it weren't for Barney, over half of our operating income would be needed to publish the magazine. Thus, over half of our program for the students would not be able to be accomplished.

Another benefit I get from being a part of OAF is feeling good about the opportunity to give a little bit back to the College that provided me with the skills to enjoy the lifestyle that I have. I know Woody always said we're paying forward, but I still feel I'm paying back and will never be able to give back enough. I hope that you share that feeling and continue to support OAF and the College of Optometry. It's still GREAT TO BE A BUCKEYE!!

As always,

Affirm thy Friendship, O-HI-O!!

Roger L. Saneholtz (OD'74)

President, OSU Optometry Alumni & Friends



A Half-century Is Hard To Believe

I celebrated my 50th birthday since I last visited with you. Officially, I am older than I have ever been before. I spent the day serving others, which was much better than being harassed by others about turning 50. The staff decorated the office the next day with black streamers and oodles of Silly String. They even coerced my mother to share a picture of me as a child that was enlarged to poster size for the front office. Fortunately, it was a tractor picture. Mom was quick to let me know that it was one of the least tame & least embarrassing pictures that could have been shared. Thanks, mom.

This birthday bothered me more than the rest. Why? Because I can no longer fool myself into believing I am in the first half of this life. I may still be, but it is unlikely. I have probably practiced more than half of my practice life, too.

What this really makes me look at is what Stephen Covey called “Leave a Legacy” in the principles of his book, *First Things First*. And to ask the question, “If you are at least half way through life, what type of legacy are you on-track to leave?” This question is not one that is usually answered by reviewing a curriculum vita. While the CV will give readers an idea of the course of your life, it is not usually the legacy. The legacy is the kind of stuff people will talk about, and the way they will describe and remember you when you are not around them or after you pass away.

They will use words like strong, passionate, driven, dull, boring, generous, visionary, athletic, caring, arrogant, short-tempered, stoic, wonderful with children, trustworthy, self-centered, never around, geeky, witty, & clever to describe a legacy, particularly if they knew you. If they didn't know you, often they will focus on your accomplishments, not knowing if you stepped on, over, or with others to accomplish the goal.

Most likely, your legacy will be determined by how you treat people. Sometimes, that would give us a good legacy and sometimes, not so good. It is difficult to understand why one would intentionally treat others poorly, knowing that the legacy they leave would not be complimentary. You certainly know folks whose legacy is inspirational to you; others who you use as an example of the legacy not to be.

I can wish that my legacy might involve caring, fair, forward-thinking, passionate, generous, driven, family-focused... Maybe it will and maybe it won't. The legacy continues to be written, by my actions each day. The tough news is that the majority of the writing of the legacy has already occurred for me.

What about you? How is your legacy coming along? One thing is certain; your legacy will be determined largely by what you invest in the people around you. And it will be built day by day by our actions.

Here's to building a legacy worthy of inspiring others.

Jeffrey A. Myers (OD'84)
BuckEYE Editor

**Elizabeth Cockerill (OD/MS'09), Lindsay Hoffbuhr (OD'09),
Jeff Myers (OD'84), and Joyce Myers (back to camera) at Convocation**





Buckeyes in Iraq

Practicing Optometry on the Front Lines

by Gayle Glanville

Capt. Jeremy Burns (OD'06), Major Jeff Blunden (OD'90), Capt. Amman Starr (OD'07), and Capt. Ann Rudick (OD'07) pose at a Medical Conference in Iraq in one of Sadaam Hussein's former palaces.

"In addition to the support of our biological and military families, being a part of such a supportive alumni community has been a great comfort while deployed."

Ann Rudick (OD'07)

Cover Story



above: **CPT Ann Rudick (OD'07)** giving an eye exam

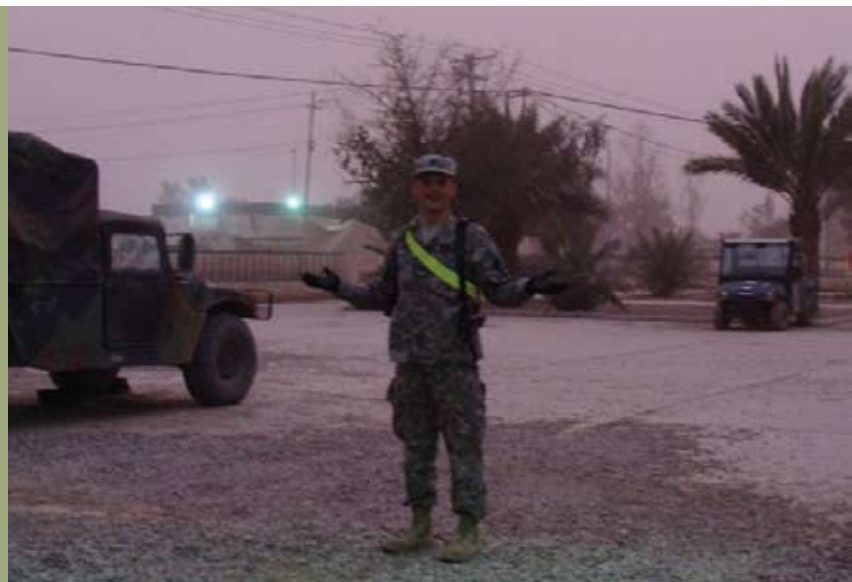
Marco! Polo!

Remember the childhood game? I once witnessed the game being played in the British Virgin Islands- with a twist. The parties were trying to locate each other in the crowded market in Tortola. They were Buckeyes, calling “O-H!” and “I-O!” All were found and the vacation continued.

It started out as a simple football cheer, something for late 20th Century fans to shout during football games. But these days, “O-H-I-O” means the whole package: strong athletic traditions, major school spirit, and the academic achievements and outreach efforts that make The Ohio State University the great place it is. In faraway lands all over the world, Buckeyes carry on the tradition. O-H-I-O. It’s a reminder of where “home” is.



above: Sign showing the clinic hours on the base



photos from left to right:

CPT Amman Starr (OD'07) in a sandstorm in Iraq

CPT Ann Rudick (OD'07) on a tank in Iraq

A typical exam room in Iraq

Four OSU Optometry alumni are in a distant and strange land, indeed. **Jeremy Burns (OD'06)**, **Jeff Blunden (OD'90)**, **Amman Starr (OD'07)** and **Ann Rudick (OD'07)** serve in the U.S. Army and are currently deployed in Iraq. OSU graduates make up 40% of the optometrists currently serving in Iraq! They found each other one day in one of Saddam Hussein's palaces and took the cover photo. As this issue of the magazine goes to press, the Army is pulling out of the cities of Iraq, and our alumni will be moving on to other assignments. They have had good experiences and were willing to take some time to share those with us.

The scope of practice in military optometry is vast. Dr. Starr says, "All those diseases we study in school really do happen!" Our optometric warriors see patients from a large variety of backgrounds; Army, Navy and Marines come through their clinics. Iraqi police, soldiers and civilians are often seen and are frequently having their first-ever eye exam. The patients they see stretch ALL of their education and training; from refractive error to trauma, from glaucoma to retinal detachments, these patients need help with it. "With only basic equipment and the nearest ophthalmologist located almost 300 miles away, the first few weeks were filled with experiences that challenged my professional skills and confidence as a young optometrist," says Dr. Rudick. She adds, "The fundus image of my first retinal

detachment is one I won't soon forget, and my first ocular trauma patient is imprinted in my memory forever." Dr. Starr has been called the "Cowboy Optometrist" because he will be called upon to go on "jump missions" where he takes a technician and portable equipment to a smaller base without eye care and takes care of all their eye needs for 2-3 days, seeing anywhere from 50-200 patients during that time.

"We Buckeyes stick together"

Jeff Blunden (OD'90)

Of course, they miss their families. "Being away from home and my family is very difficult and although I enjoy my work here I am anxious to return home," says Dr. Burns. The deployments are hard for them, as they typically last up to one full year - or longer.

It's nice to have reminders of home. Dr. Rudick sums it up best, "Staying connected with fellow OSU optometry alumni has shown me how small the world truly is once you are a Buckeye. While deployed, I have filled spectacle prescriptions from **Lamar Zigler (OD/MS'81)** and **Michael Heidish (OD'94, MS'96)** and managed a glaucoma patient referred from **Joseph Osmond (OD'08)**. We took the opportunity to show off our best O-H-I-O pose while together at a medical conference in Baghdad. In addition to the support of our biological and military families, being a part of such a supportive alumni community has been a great comfort while deployed."

As stated by Dr. Blunden, "We Buckeyes stick together."



Convocation 2009



Associate Dean Karla Zadnik, OD, PhD hooding **Cassie White (OD/MS'09)** at the convocation



Inset: President Gee speaking at convocation

The members of the graduating class, their families and friends were welcomed by Dean Melvin Shipp to the 42nd College of Optometry Convocation. President of The Ohio State University, Dr. E. Gordon Gee, contributed some welcoming remarks as well. He put everyone at ease by sharing some light-hearted stories about his interactions with students and congratulated the Class of 2009 on behalf of the University. Ms. Joyce Beatty, senior vice president for outreach and engagement at Ohio State, provided the keynote address at this year's doctoral convocation. Her talk, "Forward Focus: Your Gift, Your Vision," was compelling and inspiring.

Members of the Class of 2009, one of the largest in recent history, began their classes at a location remote from the College at E. 15th Avenue during construction of the E.F. Wildermuth Optometric Research Clinic. Dean Shipp noted during his convocation remarks that "perhaps this isolation contributed to the extraordinary closeness you have for each other and for the College." One example of that closeness was demonstrated through the establishment of "Shaheen Week." A member of the Class of 2009, Mike Shaheen, hails from a long line of optometrists. Other members of the class thought it would be fun to "honor" him

by holding a week-long series of events on an annual basis. These events included potluck lunches held at the College, cornhole tournaments in the hallways, nightly events, soup kitchen volunteering, and fundraising from T-shirt sales. Over the last four years, nearly \$3000 was raised through the T-shirt sales and donated to various worthy causes.

That same caring and compassionate spirit was also extended to people far beyond the College walls. In 2005, members of the class raised \$840 through participation in the Columbus Marathon, donating the money to the American Red Cross for the victims of Hurricane Katrina. Last summer, twenty class members, under the auspices of Student Volunteers for Optometric Service to Humanity, saw over 2,700 patients in four days of clinic service at six different sites around Manabi, Ecuador last summer.

"We are proud of this class not only for their significant academic and professional accomplishments but for their inspiring humanitarian spirit. They are true Buckeyes through and through," said Dean Shipp.

photos from left to right:

Katie Greiner (OD/MS'09) receives the Beta Sigma Kapa Medal from Dr. Hill.

Mark Bullimore, MSOptom, PhD presents the Lyle Gassman Award to Troy Ogden (OD'09).

Dean Shipp with convocation speaker OSU Vice President Joyce Beatty.

Convocation 2009

Liana AllabadiPalestine
 David Michael Archibald..... Taylorsville UT
 Michele Rena Avila Wichita KS
 Michael Alan Baker Madison OH
 Scott Nicholas Baker Versailles OH
 Amy Lynn BankeyNew Bremen OH
 Jim Bihari.....New Philadelphia OH
 Adam Bryce Blacker.....Nampa ID
 Erin Brackney Charlotte MI
 Matthew Elliot Breslow.....Palm Harbor FL
 Julie Brown Aurora OH
 † Elizabeth Jean Cockerill..... Greenfield OH
 Benjamin Michael Collins..... Orem UT
 † San-San Luah Cooley..... Minneapolis MN
 † Candace Eva DeCock.....Mylo ND
 Bryan Joseph Delmore..... Dublin OH
 Shane Oneil Durrant..... Clarendon, Jamaica
 Brittany Lynn EllisPiqua OH
 Megan Suzanne Evankovich Poland OH
 Kenneth Allen Giusto..... E. Liverpool OH
 *†Katie Lynn Greiner Cuyahoga Falls OH
 Stephanie Leigh Haas Middletown OH
 James Aaron HackleyZanesville OH
 † Tatiana Hammond..... Dublin OH
 Matthias Helfrich III Grafton OH
 Lindsay Crafton Hoffbuhr.....Redmond OR
 Megan Rachelle HolmesNiles OH
 Angela Michelle Johnson..... Worthington MN
 Gail Elizabeth JoslinSidney OH
 Justin Mark Kantner..... Bluffton OH
 * Samuel Heber Kimball..... Pleasant Grove UT
 * Brian Thomas LandrumSidney OH
 † Karen Danielle LeeMount Vernon OH
 *†Bret Michael Lehman.....Lexington OH
 * Kristen Oblad Lewis..... Las Vegas NV
 † Shane Michael Maag Miller City OH
 Stephanie Mastores.....Hudson OH
 Jennifer Marie McNamara..... Avon Lake OH
 † Kelly Marie Moser Springfield OH

Troy Robert Ogden..... Sparks NV
 Nicholas Andrew Peiffer Fostoria OH
 Janessa Marie Reeder Fort Loramie OH
 Kathleen Simms Rudolf Yellow Springs OH
 *†Kristin Elizabeth SchultzMurrysville PA
 Jill Megan Scullion Dublin OH
 Michael Kelly Shaheen.....Canton OH
 Nahrain Mary Shasteen Defiance OH
 † Brandi Nichol Sherman Powell OH
 Michael Joseph Skuza..... Parma OH
 Christy Sobota Defiance OH
 David Michael Sparks Columbus OH
 Daljit Kaur Srail Tracy CA
 Travis William Storm Glen Dale WV
 † H. Annie Stuntebeck..... Columbus OH
 Priya SubramanianReno NV
 Jaclyn Taylor-Paskiet Danville IA
 Dena Thamsopit..... Walnut CA
 Clare Nicole Thomasy..... Maumee OH
 Matthew Steven Thompson.....Ridgeway OH
 † Jennifer Truong..... Cleveland OH
 *†William Scott Tuten Beverly OH
 Tiffany Lynn Vassalle..... Republic OH
 * Dieu Hong Vuong..... Cleveland OH
 Sarah Louise Wagner..... Youngstown OH
 * Cassandra Leigh WhiteMt. Nebo WV
 * Josiah Warren YoungPortsmouth OH
 John Webster Zent Dublin OH
 Shannon Marie Zollinger Santa Cruz CA
 * *Indicates students completing both Doctor of Optometry and Master of Science in Vision Science programs.*
 † *Indicates four-year members of Beta Sigma Kappa.*

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN VISION SCIENCE

Yu-Ju Lin, BS Optom
 Michele Hager, OD

PHD IN VISION SCIENCE

David A. Berntsen, OD, MS



Awards Banquet 2009



The Bad Habits (The Eye Docs of Rock) play at the graduation banquet.

Graduation Banquet 2009



Greg Nixon (OD'96) presents the Patient Care Excellence Award to **San-San Cooley**



Roanne Flom (OD, PhD) presents a Low Vision Award to **Shane Maag**



Lindsay Hoffbuhr, Amy Bankey, Sarah Wagner, and Katie Greiner present one of the class gifts to **Joan Nerdeman (OD'86)**

Awards Banquet 2009



Katie Greiner, Amy Bankey, Lindsay Hoffbuhr, and Sarah Wagner present a gift to **Mark Bullimore, MCOptom, PhD** for emceeding the event



Nicky Lai (OD/MS'03) presents the Vistakon Award of Excellence to **Brittany Ellis**



Drs. Don Mutti, OD, PhD, Greg Good (OD'75, PhD'81), Gil Pierce (OD'89, PhD'94), and Mark Bullimore, MCOptom, PhD serenaded the class of 2009 at the Awards Banquet

Outstanding Ocular Disease Extern Award
Sponsored by *Odyssey Medical and Volk*
Katie Lynn Greiner, OD, MS

Outstanding Ocular Disease Extern Award
Sponsored by *Odyssey Medical and Volk*
Sarah Louise Wagner, OD

Select Optical Community Outreach Award
for Clinical Excellence
Sponsored by *Select Optical*
Samuel Heber Kimball, OD, MS

Patient Care Excellence Award
Sponsored by *Hoya*
San-San Luah Cooley, OD

Binocular Vision and Pediatrics Clinical Excellence Award
Sponsored by *the College of Optometry Faculty*
H. Annie Stuntebeck, OD

Vision Therapy Award
Sponsored by *COVD and MiraMed Tech*
Candace Eva DeCock, OD

GP Lens Institute Clinical Excellence Award
Brian Thomas Landrum, OD, MS

Vistakon Award of Excellence in Contact Lens Patient Care
Brittany Lynn Ellis, OD

VSP Nexus Award
Brandi Nichol Sherman, OD

Interstate Optical Nexus Award
Brian Thomas Landrum, OD, MS

Toledo Optical Nexus Award
David Michael Sparks, OD

Hoya Dispensing Award
Elizabeth Jean Cockerill, OD, MS

Silhouette Dispensing Award
Bryan Joseph Delmore, OD

Marchon Practice Management Award of Excellence
Tiffany Lynn Vassalle, OD

Low Vision Practice Excellence Award
Sponsored by *grateful patients of the OSU Vision Rehabilitation Service*
Shane Michael Maag, OD

Eschenbach Award for Excellence in Low Vision
Sponsored by *Eschenbach Optik of America*
Kristen Oblad Lewis, OD, MS

Optelec and ShopLowVision.com
Low Vision Clinical Excellence Award
Sponsored by *LowVision.com*
William Scott Tuten, OD, MS

William Feinbloom Low Vision Award
Sponsored by *Designs for Vision*
San-San Luah Cooley, OD

2009 Graduate of the Year
Katie Lynn Greiner, OD, MS



Dean Shipp presents the Graduate of the Year Award to **Katie Greiner**



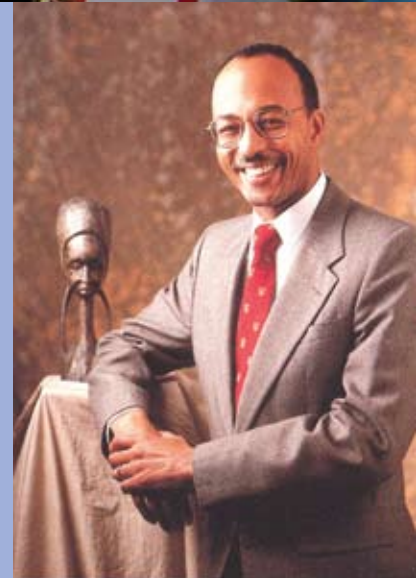
Shipp Leads ASCO *The Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry's New President*

by Jeffrey A. Myers (OD'84)

Michèle, Elizabeth, and Mel Shipp at Elizabeth's graduation from OSU.



Mel Shipp as a young boy.



Dr. Shipp pictured in a photo from a UAB Publication from 1992.

Sandra Williams, Janene Sims, Mel Shipp, and Robert Kleinstein with some of the students from the CLEERE study

Dr. Shipp with former students and colleagues at a UAB banquet honoring him.

While we are usually in the habit of identifying alumni who are in leadership roles within the profession in our magazine, the name of our organization is Optometry Alumni & Friends. In this issue, one of our great friends is taking on a new national leadership role in optometry, namely President of the Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry. None other than our Dean, Melvin D. Shipp, OD, MPH, DrPH, took over the reins of ASCO in June.

A self-described Army brat, Melvin Douglas Shipp was born at Ft. Benning, Georgia and lived in Texas, Louisiana, Germany and Kentucky before graduating from high school. His father, Gene, was a Master Sergeant, working in Armor; early in his career, he worked with tanks and later, he was a tank instructor. Gene recently celebrated his 90th birthday. While his mother, Doris, passed away a number of years ago, she had great influence on Dr. Shipp. Like many military wives, she was the pillar of the family. She trained to be a teacher and performed those duties part-time or full-time, and as a Sunday School teacher at various times during their tours. Dr. Shipp has one younger sister, Trish.

His high school interests were varied. Sports interests included track and basketball. Michael Jordan might have been the second Mel Shipp, had it not been for a knee injury that brought young Mel's professional basketball dreams to an end. He ended his high school career in Nürnberg Germany, where he excelled in math, physics and science. Following his mother's lead, he was involved in church, both in choir and as a Sunday School teacher. Travel was easy, so he traveled to a number of countries including Austria and Switzerland.

"The dean's role is to give undivided attention to enabling others to do what they do best, and to coordinate all of the talent within the college effectively."

Mel Shipp

As he prepared for college, he wanted to bring his nomadic days to an end for a while, and searched for a college that could provide an undergraduate and graduate program at the same institution. At that time, his career interests included medicine, dentistry, psychiatry, and optometry. Using a college directory, he found that Indiana University was the first institution—alphabetically—to offer all these disciplines and undergraduate degrees, so his search was complete.

He traveled by ship from Germany to New York, and then by bus to Bloomington, Indiana, to begin his undergraduate study in zoology. During his freshman year at Bloomington, he tried to winnow his choices for graduate/professional school. He eliminated psychiatry as he had difficulty with treatment focused on subduing people rather than improving them, especially electroshock therapy. Surgery seemed to be very impersonal, focusing more on the technical aspects of treatment, rather than the whole person. A serendipitous employment opportunity in the Student Affairs Department of the School of Optometry where he met Jerry Strickland, OD, PhD, and an opportunity to work with vision scientists in vision related research, cemented his decision to choose optometry.

The military draft was at its height during the Vietnam Conflict when Mel was making his decision to go to graduate/professional school. His draft number was in the teens. Upon admission to optometry school he was placed in deferred status. His mother and sister moved to Bloomington from Germany during his 2nd undergraduate year, when his father was reassigned to Vietnam.

His time in the School of Optometry was framed by 3 mentors. He recalls Irvin Borish, OD, LL.D, being a mentor worthy of admiration and respect. Henry Hofstetter, PhD was Director of the program and is recalled as being a very impressive leader. Gordon Heath, OD, PhD was appreciated because he understood and valued a need for diversity during a time when few did. Mel worked with Edwin Marshal, OD, MS,



Leadership



Drs. Michèle and Mel Shipp

MPH who was a year ahead of him at IU to recruit optometry students at the Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUS) throughout the South. Their road trips in the late 1960's opened the eyes of a number of African-Americans to the possibility of optometry as a career.

Upon graduation, Dr. Shipp became an officer in United States Navy, and served as Chief of the Optometry Service at the Naval Hospital in Port Hueneme, California. After his active duty commitment,

he continued in the Naval Reserves until 2001, ultimately attaining the rank of Navy Captain (O-6).

Following four years of active duty service in the Navy, he took a position at the University of Alabama at Birmingham School of Optometry, and was there from 1976-2004, attaining the rank of full Professor. His special passion for Public Health led him to pursue two advanced degrees while at UAB. He earned a MPH from Harvard University in 1980, and earned a Doctor of Public Health in 1996 from the University of Michigan, where he was a Pew Doctoral Fellow. He became the first optometrist to receive a DrPH in this highly competitive program. Additionally, he served a one year fellowship in the United States Senate as a Robert Wood Johnson Fellow in the National Academy of Science; the only optometrist to do so. During his time at UAB, he taught in the primary care clinic, taught public health policy, and epidemiology. Soon, Dean Henry Peters saw strength in Dr. Shipp's administrative skills and encouraged him to become involved in administration.

Once he received the DrPH, his focus at UAB was on research, teaching, administration, and consulting. He became active in the American Public Health Association, serving on the Executive Board for a total of eight years, with six of those years as Treasurer. He was recognized with the Executive Director's Citation in 2008 for his leadership and service to APHA.

He became Dean of The Ohio State University College of Optometry in 2004. He sought the Dean's position as a result of the college's national reputation, and knowing alumni like Arol Augsburger, J. Boyd Eskridge, Gerald Lowther, and Brad Wild. Through his work on the CLEERE study with Karla Zadnik, OD, PhD, he had met many of the faculty at OSU and was impressed with their caliber. Also, the fact that his youngest daughter had started as an undergraduate at OSU the previous year didn't hurt.

His experience of watching deans over the years has led him to a philosophy that deans need to be selfless and understand that the college's successes are not about them. He believes deans should give undivided attention to enabling others to do what they do best, and to coordinate all of the talent within the college effectively. He was pleased to be able to see the vision of Deans Schoessler and Zadnik for the Wildermuth Research Tower come to fruition early in his tenure. One of his primary responsibilities is to tell the College of Optometry's story and increase its presence on the campus, in the community and with other professions. He loves to brag about the talented faculty and staff at the College as well as the high quality of enrolled students and their achievements.

The Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry saw him become a member of the Board of Directors in 2004, and he was installed as President in June 2009. As President, he is committed to continuing several significant programs; specifically enhancing the faculty development institutes, promoting programs focused on cultural awareness, and increasing the enrollment, retention and graduation of individuals from underrepresented populations in optometry and vision science research. ASCO continues to work for loan forgiveness equality for all students entering health delivery careers, and increasing the award rates of NEI grants to optometry schools and colleges.

Additionally, his presidency is at a time when three new optometry schools are coming online; the first new programs in two decades and all three at essentially the same time. He is concerned about increased demand for faculty and optometric administrators, particularly during the current national economic downturn. One of his personal priorities is to focus on the success of deans and presidents both personally and institutionally.

As one would expect, his career has garnered his fair share of recognition in addition to the items already mentioned. The National Optometric Association named him their Optometrist of the Year in 1986, and presented their Founder's Award to him in 1989 and 2003. He was recognized with the President's Award from the Southern Council of Optometrists in 2000 and the Koch Medal from the American Academy of Optometry in 2003. In 2002, he was inducted into the National Optometry Hall of Fame.

He is married to Michèle, who holds MD, MPH, and DrPH degrees, and is the Assistant Director of the Ohio Department of Health. They have two children; Gaël, who is married to Brent and is a housewife in Ringtown, Pennsylvania, and Elizabeth, who recently completed her MS and is now a licensed occupational therapist in Phoenix, Arizona. His hobbies include his family, golf, exercise, and reading.

We wish this passionate public health advocate success during his term as President of ASCO and are delighted to have him as part of our optometric family.

Focus on Alumni: Debbie Hettler



Dr. Hettler Goes to Washington

When **Debbie Hettler (OD '80)** received her degree, she established three career goals for herself: practice in multidisciplinary setting, be involved with education, and provide service to her profession and to the public. Now, she is doing all three, for optometry *and for 21 other health care disciplines!*

Debbie Lynn Hettler, OD, MPH, FAAO, is the current Clinical Director for Associated Health Education in the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Office of Academic Affiliations. In this role, she is in a department that is responsible for optometric as well as 21 other VA residency programs. She is currently in charge of Optometry, Blind Rehabilitation, Podiatry, Pharmacy, Physician Assistants, and Rehabilitation Research programs. Her journey to this prestigious national position was made possible by a solid OSU educational foundation, seizing a variety of timely practice opportunities, and her resolute dedication to long-term career goals.

Dr. Hettler's grandfather, father **Max Hettler (BS'55)**, and younger brother **David Hettler (OD'84)** are also optometrists, so you could say optometry is in her blood. But she also credits **Roy Ebihara (BS '63, OD '77)** with helping her choose optometry, because both he and her father were friends and exemplary practitioners in northeast Ohio who were also tireless volunteers in their profession and in their

communities of Oberlin and Lorain. She earned a BS degree in Physiological Optics in 1978, and her OD degree in 1980. While at OSU, she said Assistant Dean Emeritus **Mike Polasky (OD '69)** was her favorite teacher because he explained clinical visual skills testing so well.

After graduation, she was employed at the Genessee Valley Health Maintenance Organization in Rochester, New York. While there, she was able to practice what we now call "primary care optometry," which involved working within a multidisciplinary healthcare setting and utilizing pharmaceutical agents (which at that time, were not part of many optometric practices).

In 1981, she accepted a full-time faculty appointment at the Illinois College of Optometry where she was a Module Chief and taught clinical skills testing and vision screening methods. It was at ICO where she was reunited with another distinguished OSU optometry graduate, **Howard McAllister (OD '77)**, who was finishing his graduate degree in Public Health at the University of Illinois and teaching the ICO public health course. He encouraged her to pursue an MPH degree herself; and in 1984, she received her MPH degree from the University of Illinois. While at ICO, she was very involved with helping the Illinois Optometric Association pass its drug bill; and also served as Chair of the American Optometric

Focus on Alumni: Debbie Hettler



Debbie Hettler with her mom Jo Ann at her 1980 OSU Graduation



David, Debbie, Max, and Elaine Hettler at the American Optometric Association meeting in Hawaii 1990.

Association's Multidisciplinary Practice Section.

In 1987, she left ICO so she could join the staff of an HMO and work as a consultant to the Wesley-Jessen contact lens company in Chicago. And in 1994, she had the rare opportunity to begin a brand new optometric program of patient care and student/resident education at the Columbia, Missouri, VA Medical Center – where there was a 14-month waiting time for routine eye examinations!

While serving as Chief of Optometry there from 1994 to 2009, she had auxiliary faculty appointments at four optometric schools or colleges as well as in the University of Missouri Department of Ophthalmology. When she was not seeing patients or teaching trainees, she served on the Education Board of the American Public Health Association for six years (two years as Chair), and credits our own Dean Mel Shipp (OD, MPH, DrPH), Siu Wong, OD and Edwin Marshall, OD as some of her most helpful and inspirational mentors.

In March of 2009, she accepted her current position in VA headquarters, where she is responsible for coordinating 22 different residency training programs, including those in optometry, podiatry, and audiology. She maintains her memberships in the American Optometric Association, the American Academy of Optometry (as a Fellow and a Diplomate in Public Health), the American Public Health Association, the National Association of VA Optometrists, and the Armed Forces Optometric Society; and is currently working on a chapter for a forthcoming textbook entitled “Optometric Care within the Public Health Community.”

Thank You, Dr. Hettler, for your outstanding contributions to our profession and our nation's veterans. You are a quintessential example of Ohio State's motto: *Disciplina in civitatem*: Education for Citizenship.



Optometry Recognition Award with Drs. Albert Bucar, Debbie Hettler, and Max Hettler.

Resident's Give Rapid-Fire Education



Standing: **Amber Louprasong (OD'08)**, **Bradley Johnson (OD'08)**, **Rebecca Little (OD'08)**, **Melissa DeGasperis (OD'08)**, Deanne Aavang, OD, Raneat Cohen, OD, **Adam Schmidt (OD'08)**, **Chantelle Mundy (OD'08)**, **James Omodio (OD/MS'08)**. Seated: **Rachelle Davis, OD**, **Jocelyn Pettitt, OD**, **Le Bich Lam, OD**, **Rachael Miller (OD'08)**, **Christine Myers (OD'08)**

All 14 residents in the College's seven affiliated optometric residency programs came to campus on June 24 to share new information and present challenging case reports based upon some of their most unique clinical experiences during the 2008-2009 academic year. All of these highly-specialized and fully-accredited post-graduate residency programs focus on the care of patients with ocular disease, systemic disease, and/or ophthalmic surgery. Those making presentations were:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Rachelle Davis, OD | Hampton VA |
| Bradley Johnson (OD'08) | The Eye Center of Toledo |
| Adam Schmidt (OD'08) | Ohio Eye Alliance |
| Christine Myers (OD'08) | Chillicothe and Columbus VAs |
| Deanne Aavang, OD | Chillicothe and Columbus VAs |
| Rebecca Little (OD'08) | Chillicothe and Columbus VAs |
| Melissa DeGasperis (OD'08) | Chillicothe and Columbus VAs |
| Raneat Cohen, OD | Dayton VA |
| Amber Louprasong (OD'08) | Dayton VA |
| Jocelyn Pettitt, OD, | Cleveland VA |
| Le Bich Lam, OD | Cleveland VA |
| Rachael Miller (OD'08) | Cleveland VA |
| James Omodio (OD/MS'08) | Cleveland VA |
| Chantelle Mundy (OD'08) | Cincinnati Eye Institute. |

Their topics were both interesting and varied, including patient cases of limbal stem cell deficiency, branch retinal vein occlusion, vitelliform macular dystrophy, retinal pigment epithelial detachment, bilateral granulomatous panuveitis, myotonic dystrophy, carotid artery disease, Horner's syndrome, sectoranopic visual field defects, parotid gland tumor, central serous chorioretinopathy, sleep apnea, and a comparison of DSAEK and PK in eyes with previous glaucoma filtration surgery.

Their 15-minute presentations were scheduled from 3PM-8PM. Over the dinner hour, Jeffrey P. Gilbard, MD, spoke on the topic of "Dry Eye and Blepharitis" while the attendees enjoyed a delicious dinner provided by Advanced Vision Research, the company that developed the dry eye medication, TheraTears®.

According to Residency Director **Robert D. Newcomb (OD '71, MPH)**, over 75 optometry III and IV students, faculty, alumni, and practitioners attended the program. Dr. Newcomb said "these residents get ten years of ocular and systemic disease experience condensed into twelve months. They look young; but they are now experienced clinicians. I expect them to do great things in their careers that will make us all very proud."

Multicultural Center Awards 2009

Jeff Walline, OD, PhD and Select Optical

Jeff Walline (OD, PhD'02) and Philip Lortz



One faculty member and one industry partner of The Ohio State University College of Optometry

were recognized with Multicultural

Center Awards at the Eighth Annual Multicultural Center Awards Ceremony on May 18, 2009.

The mission of the Multicultural Center is to facilitate the inclusive shared learning experiences of students where all can engage in dialogue, challenge barriers, and build collaborative relationships. The Multicultural Center Annual Awards are designed to acknowledge significant accomplishment, initiative, innovation, work, or service in areas related to the Multicultural Center mission and values: transformative education, community, collaboration, innovation, social justice, and empowerment.

Jeffrey Walline (OD, PhD'02) received the Faculty Award for “*exemplifying exceptional characteristics in the areas of leadership and service by touching lives and transcending standard expectations.*” Dr. Walline exemplifies exceptional characteristics in leadership and service in many areas of his scholarly, teaching, and service activities, but particularly in his work on the Diversity Enhancement Committee. He is responsible for the success of the Improving Diversity in Optometric Careers (I-DOC) Program, which has been recruiting minority college students into optometry. Providing students with information about optometry while they are in high school and college goes a long way towards recruiting the best and brightest minority students to the profession. Dr. Walline has had a tremendous impact on the enthusiasm participants have for the I-DOC Program and on minority student recruitment at the College.

Dr. Walline also works on improving the College environment for GLBT (Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender) individuals, on minority recruitment workshops for members of the Diversity Ambassadors Panel, and on diversity activities for the Association for Research in Vision and Oph-

thalmology (ARVO), the American Academy of Optometry (AAO), and the American Optometric Association (AOA). He is also the Director of the K-12 Education Program for ARVO, in which he schedules vision scientists to provide education on vision and eye care to groups of children at the ARVO annual meeting.

In addition, Dr. Walline works closely with children and educates them about their eyes in his research. He is Principal Investigator for the following studies in contact lenses for children:

- Contact Lens and Myopia Progression (CLAMP) Study
- Adolescent and Child Health Initiative to Encourage Vision Empowerment (ACHIEVE) Study
- Contact Lenses in Pediatrics (CLIP) Study

One of the Colleges' Industry Partners, Select Optical, received the Outstanding Community Leader Award for “*an organization that has provided exceptional intercultural support, leadership, and advocacy for various constituencies.*” Select Optical is a privately owned optical laboratory in Columbus, Ohio, and has served as an outstanding community partner in the College's efforts to provide outreach health services to the underserved citizens of central Ohio. Over the past eight years, Select Optical has provided benevolent materials and services, such as free eyeglass frames, eyeglass lenses, ophthalmic repairs, and monetary donations to assist uninsured individuals or those unable to afford vision materials that they sorely need. Many of the benefactors have been recent immigrants and unemployed workers.

The Ohio State University College of Optometry outreach facilities currently include a homeless shelter, a mental hospital, nursing homes, home visits, The Central Ohio Blind School and clinics established in underserved communities. Over the course of the past two years, over 4,500 patients have been examined in outreach clinics, and many of them have been recent immigrants, unemployed workers, and individuals dealing with mental health issues. In many instances,



front: **Gilbert Pierce (OD'89, PhD'94)**, Sally Haltom, Gayle Glanville, Chip Lothes, Peggy Buckman, **Jackie Davis (OD'81, MPH)**, Philip Lortz
back: John McCauley, Melvin Shipp, OD, MPH, DrPH, Sandy Workmaster, Loreale Lutz, Don Mutti, OD, PhD, and **Jeff Walline (OD, PhD'02)**

examinations are provided at no charge, and eyewear is either provided for free or for a minimal fee, thanks to the generosity of Select Optical. In that same time period, Select Optical has donated over \$76,000 worth of gifts in kind, cash, and matching gifts to the outreach program.

The profound positive impact of these services is evident to students, faculty and patients. **Joan Nerderman (OD'86)**, Optometric Director at Faith Mission, along with her fourth year optometry externs has observed numerous instances where homeless individuals from many cultures and ethnic backgrounds have been able to be restored to their productive places in society after receiving positive, rehabilitative health services such as those donated by Select Optical.

Through partnership with Columbus Public Schools, over 675 children have been examined at one of the College's community health clinics during the past two years. Many of these children have shown significant improvements in their academic and social development after receiving free corrective eyewear.

These Multicultural Center Awards are just a small part of the activities of the Center, which exists to facilitate the inclusive shared learning experiences of students where all can engage in dialogue, challenge barriers, and build collaborative relationships to create a community environment that recognizes cultural differences, respects cultural uniqueness, and facilitates intercultural interaction, learning and appreciation.



Development

Class of 2008 Gift *Dr. Michael Earley Endowment Fund*

Upon their graduation the class of 2008, led by **Brad Johnson (OD'08)** and **Michael Kennedy (OD'08)**, pledged \$25,000 for an endowed fund at the College of Optometry. The class voted to honor **Michael Earley (OD/MS'88, PhD'92)** by naming the fund for him. Twenty-three members of the class made pledges to the fund and will begin making payments in November. The class voted also to give the remainder of their class dues to the fund to get things rolling. The college is grateful for the leadership of our youngest alumni and for their support for the future of Ohio State!



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



Mike Kennedy (OD'08)



Brad Johnson (OD'08)



Brett Lehmann (OD/MS'09) had his commissioning ceremony at the College of Optometry in July. Dean Mel Shipp, CAPT USNR (Ret), administered the commissioning oath. Dr. Lehmann will be serving in the United States Army stationed at Ft. Bragg in North Carolina.



Dr. Rich Fertel, PhD, Associate Professor, Department of Pharmacology, College of Medicine, receives the 2009 Ohio Optometric Association Friend of Optometry Award. Rick Cornett, executive director of the OOA, surprised Dr. Fertel with the award in his Opt 2 pharmacology class. He received a standing ovation from his Opt 2 students.



A Day in the Life of ... Sam Kimball, Opt IV

This past year has been a great mix of enjoyment and panic as I've been preparing for life in the real world. My days have been spent seeing patients and absorbing as much clinical knowledge as possible with little to no time in the classroom.

I'd generally wake up by 6:30 am to get ready for the day. Before leaving home I'd help get my three kids up and throw some breakfast at them, kiss my wife and her free-time good-bye, and I'd be out the door by 7:15 am. I arrived at most of my extern and intern sites around 8:00 am and I'd see patients until 5:00 pm.

The quality and number of patient encounters varied greatly depending on the site I was assigned for the day. I spent my summer quarter at the Salt Lake City VA where I saw patients in the several clinics there (Diabetic, General, and newly added Low Vision clinics). I also saw contact lens patients at the Moran Eye Center at the University of Utah including many difficult keratoconic and post surgical fits. I returned fall quarter to rotate through the offices of the Eye Specialists in Ohio. Each day I would see 10-12 patients with retinal disease or post surgical follow-ups. I also observed many cataract and retinal surgeries as well and worked closely with the ophthalmologists and optometrists that care for the patients at their eight locations. Winter quarter for me consisted of a different rotation site each day. These sites included the Student Health Center on campus, Northwest Optometry, a private optometry office in Dayton, the Pediatric and Binocular Vision Service at school, two private ophthalmology office in Columbus, Columbus Laser and Midwest Retina, and the Faith Mission outreach clinic in downtown Columbus. Each site offered something different and unique in terms of education. My last quarter of school was spent at the college clinics, seeing patients in Contact Lens, Pediatric and Binocular Vision, Low Vision, and pre-school screenings.

In all I saw close to 1500 patients over the last year. From the tears to the optic nerve, each of those patients represents an increase in my optometric knowledge and training. Most of the opportunities were created and in place before I ever came along but some required a little more assertiveness on my part. It's true that I wasn't always focused on the big picture, and I did my fair share of grumbling and complaining, but to not consider what went into allowing me to have these



Sam Kimball (OD/MS'09) with his family at graduation.

opportunities would be a great injustice. At times I admit that I felt performing another refraction or checking entering acuities seemed unworthy of my time. In the end however I have come to appreciate the impact all of this education and training has had on qualifying me to care for my future patients' ocular needs.

In addition to the extern and intern opportunities, I was also fortunate enough to participate in the combined OD/MS degree program at school. By my fourth year the required additional course work was already complete, but I quickly found out that taking extra classes was the easy part. The real challenge was still ahead of me and a great deal of time went into writing and defending my thesis. Of course I had plenty of support and much needed encouragement from several of my professors and advisors and I was able to complete the thesis just before the end of my last quarter.

Most nights I'd arrive home by 5:30 pm and get to spend some time with my family before bed. After dinner, dishes, baths, and stories, I would have an hour or two to tie up loose ends or study up on the things I had learned that day. I'd be in bed by 11:00 pm and pray for a full night's sleep before it all started again. Of course it wasn't so difficult getting up in the morning knowing that I had something to look forward to each day.

Keystone Course Has Successful First Run!



From left (students all from the class of 2012): Tiffanni Turrentine, Nikki Lagendyk, Sierra Garcia, Bianca Kostranchuk, Omar Sweidan, David Luther, Darcie Laubenthal, Dr. Greg Good and Kevin Skidmore.

The College has begun implementation of several curriculum changes recommended by the BEST Report from October 2006 (Building and Education System for Tomorrow = BEST). In August of 2006 Dean Shipp asked Drs. **Kelly Nichols (OD, MPH, PhD'00)**, **Greg Good (OD'75, PhD'81)**, and **Mike Earley (OD'88, PhD'92)** to assess the optometry curriculum at the college and to “think outside the box!” The charge was to recommend an optometric curriculum to effectively train our students to provide, upon graduation, high-quality eye care to our citizens and to help develop effective lifelong learning strategies.

As part of their recommendations, the BEST Committee recommended implementation of the Keystone Course Series. Each of the three courses in the Keystone Series was envisioned to help bring all the prior course work into “focus.” The first course (Keystone I) was just completed for the 2012 class of students. The course was intended to help these first year students better understand how all the basic science course work learned over the first year fits into the care of patients in an optometric practice. Students worked

in eight person teams reviewing complete patient histories and examination data. Using this “problem-based-learning” format, each team was required to compile an Illness Script for each patient scenario. This consisted of a statement of the epidemiological patient factors, the temporal onset of signs and symptoms, and a description of the important history and examination findings. Next, each team prepared a ranked listing of perhaps five or six possible diagnoses which could explain all, or even just a few, of the patient’s problems.

Students worked on cases for approximately eight hours per day in their small groups with and without a facilitator for six consecutive days at the end of their first year. A comprehensive final examination was then given on the seventh day which included questions about their cases, as well as ALL the basic science course work they had reviewed for the case scenarios.

As these students progress through their training at the college, future Keystone Courses will expand these case analyses to include possible follow-up care and treatment options for all diagnoses on their list.



Photos from Open House



Open House 2009

The annual College of Optometry Open House program, hosted by the College's Special Events Committee, took place on Saturday, April 18th this year. The Open House is typically the College's largest recruitment event, and this year was no exception. We had an impressive turnout - over 300 total guests attended, including 132 prospective students - both major increases over last year's numbers. One hundred thirteen of the prospects were Ohio residents, and the attendees included 112 college students from around the U.S., and 19 students from high schools in Ohio and Pennsylvania. We received very positive feedback from our guests, and we found once again that most of the prospective students who attended had learned about the OSU College of Optometry from their optometrist! We are so appreciative of all that our alumni do to assist us with our recruitment efforts!

There were two information sessions offered; each included an admissions presentation by Justin Griest, Manager of Admissions Information, a financial aid presentation by Paul Todd, Assistant Director of Student Affairs, and an OD career information panel presentation. Participating on the optometrist panel this year were current Optometry Alumni and Friends president **Roger**

Sanholtz (OD '74) who talked about his practice in northwest Ohio, OSU Optometry faculty member **Jackie Davis (OD '81, MPH'08)** who described her experiences both in private practice and at the South High optometry clinic, and **Marie Schiff (OD '93)** and past Optometry Alumni and Friends president **Yoongie Min (OD '89)** who have a private practice partnership here in Columbus. The panelists discussed their different career paths, talked about why they would still choose optometry as a profession, and provided helpful insights and career exploration suggestions to the prospective students in the audience.

The members of the Optometry Ambassadors and other student organization representatives helped greet Open House guests, provided tours of the College, and shared information on student organizations at the Student Activities Fair.

Guests also had the opportunity to talk one-on-one with current students at the "Ask-A-Student" sessions. Many College faculty and staff members assisted at four stops, providing information and answering questions about clinical areas and current research projects.

OptomCAS

The Ohio State University College of Optometry has joined all the other optometry schools and colleges throughout the U.S. and Puerto Rico in the launch of optometry's new Centralized Application Service, OptomCAS. This new service allows prospective students to submit one application that can be sent to multiple optometry programs. OptomCAS is designed to streamline the application process and make it more efficient and user-friendly for applicants. The new OptomCAS application opened on July 15, 2009, for all those who are applying for Autumn 2010 admission to the Ohio State Doctor of Optometry program. The deadline to apply to the Ohio State Optometry program (via OptomCAS) will remain March 31.

For additional details on the new application process, please visit the official OptomCAS web site: www.optomcas.org. Prospective students may also contact Justin Griest, Manager of Admissions Information for the College, by phone at 614-292-8825 or by email at jgriest@optometry.osu.edu.

The 2010 Open House is scheduled for Saturday, April 17th - please mark your calendars and plan to attend. We hope that you will bring a prospective student or two along with you!

Strategic Plan and Feasibility Study Updates



Artistic rendering from the feasibility study

Strategic Plan

As shared in the Spring 2009 issue of BuckEYE, the College of Optometry's overarching vision is to strive toward eminence in optometric education, vision research, and eye care through implementing a comprehensive and dynamic strategic plan.

One goal of the plan is to provide optimal professional training to the practitioners, residents and students who then extend that care to patients.

To provide that training, the professional curriculum continues to be refined and enhanced. Key among the initiatives that will optimize success of the professional curriculum is the Keystone series. These concentrated, innovative sessions will enhance students' critical thinking, optimize diagnoses, and ideally make for more efficient examinations. The Keystone series is highlighted on page 24 in this issue.

Meanwhile, the number of patient encounters in the Optometry Clinics has maintained its upward trajectory. Students' competence and confidence will be enhanced as a result of this trend. Off-campus opportunities also exist for students at several sites around the city of Columbus which offer eye and vision services to a variety of socioeconomically disadvantaged communities.

The Externship Program affords students the opportunity to practice in a "real world" environment. The volume of patient exposures during these extern rotations reinforces the initial patient experience in the Columbus area clinics. There are a total of 66 extern sites located in 14 states. Thirty-two of those sites emphasize Primary Care, 21 provide Advance Practice training and 13 sites are dedicated to ocular disease. The number of preceptors involved in our Externship Program is 176.

A second goal of the strategic plan is to advance the boundaries of knowledge in vision science and enhance the quality of life for all citizens through translational research. We are proud of our graduate program in vision science. This is a highly competitive program. Aspiring scientists and prospective faculty eagerly seek graduate positions during, after, or in lieu of professional training at the College. This relatively small

and very select group of students is supported and trained by an exceptional clinical research faculty.

A third goal of the strategic plan which the College is addressing involves how to enhance diversity in our student body. This challenge persists in both the graduate and professional programs. Although the gender gap has closed significantly, persons of color continue to be underrepresented within the optometry profession. Optometry is a less well-known career option for aspiring health science professionals. This is especially true in underrepresented communities.

Thanks to a mini-grant from the Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry, the College will continue its summer program targeted toward students from ethnically diverse backgrounds. The I-DOC (Improving Diversity in Optometry Camp) Program introduces students to the profession of optometry and impress upon them the importance of diversity in health care professions. The goal of this program is to increase the diversity of the student body and ultimately provide comprehensive eye care to underserved patient populations across the United States.

Feasibility Study

For the College to continue to move forward in fulfilling its vision, new physical facilities are critical in order to meet current and future optometric scope of practice nationally, to recruit and retain



The "new" Fry Hall in the early 1950's.

College News

OD/MPH Joint Degree Program

The Ohio State University College of Optometry recently established a formal relationship with the College of Public Health to offer the combined OD/MPH degree. Importantly, only one other accredited optometry training program (University of Alabama at Birmingham School of Optometry) out of twenty-two across the continent has a formal graduate degree program leading to the Doctor of Optometry (OD) and Master of Public Health (MPH). Thus, the OSU College of Optometry is now the second college or school of optometry to offer this combination.

The OD/MPH program will support the educational aspirations of students who desire or require additional training in public health. Additionally, the program will prepare optometrists to collaborate and exert leadership in addressing public health issues for which optometrists are uniquely prepared.

The OD/MPH program will provide a general grounding in the core areas of public health (epidemiology, biostatistics, environmental health sciences, health services administration, and social and behavioral sciences). Furthermore, the students will have the opportunity to focus on a specific area of interest, such as health policy, health management, global health, or chronic disease epidemiology. The program functions much like the Opt 7 Graduate Program, except that students complete the OD and MPH degrees in five years.

Vision disorders and eye diseases are major public health problems both nationally and internationally. Optometrists with training and experience in public health are needed to provide leadership to address the need for eye and vision care in the community.

Optometrists with public health education and training have a unique service to offer in many areas, including vision performance, eye safety in industry, environmental assessment, and screening for eye and systemic diseases in the population.

They help influence the present and future health care delivery system to meet the comprehensive eye/vision needs of the population and enhance the quality of life.

Optometry plays a central role in society's approach to these issues; however their effectiveness is limited by inadequate knowledge in public health and health policy. The Ohio State University College of Optometry is very excited about the prospect of changing that through this partnership with The Ohio State University College of Public Health.



Some faculty members at the College with an MPH degree include: **Jason Nichols (OD'99, MPH, PhD'04)**, **Kelly Nichols (OD, MPH, PhD'00)**, **Jackie Davis (OD'81, MPH)**, Melvin Shipp, OD, MPH, DrPH, and **Robert Newcomb (OD'71, MPH)**

15 New OSU Residents Are Oriented

On July 23, fifteen new OSU optometry residents participated in an all-day orientation program arranged by **Robert D. Newcomb (OD '71, MPH)**, the College's Residency Director. Each resident will spend one year at a Veterans Affairs facility or an ophthalmology referral center located in Ohio to increase his or her knowledge in the management of patients with ocular and systemic diseases as well as co-management of ophthalmic surgery patients. Eight of the current 15 residents are OSU graduates: **Liana Allibadi (OD '09)**, **Elizabeth Cockerill (OD/MS'09)**, **San-San Cooley (OD'09)**, **Stephanie Haas (OD'09)**, **James Hackley (OD'09)**, **Megan Holmes (OD'09)**, **Brian Landrum (OD/MS'09)**, and **Sarah Wagner (OD'09)**. Drs. Laura Bzdafka and Matt Horton are both 2009 graduates from the Southern College of Optometry. Drs. Heather Spampinato, Caleb Tennant, and Alison Webb are 2009 graduates from NOVA Southeastern; Dr. Stephan John is a 2009 graduate from the University of Alabama in Birmingham; and Dr. Julianna Lam is a 2009 graduate from the University of Waterloo.



Standing: Laura Bzdafka, OD, **San-San Cooley (OD'09)**, **Megan Holmes (OD'09)**, Caleb Tennant, OD, **James Hackley (OD'09)**, Stephan John, OD, Heather Spampinato, OD, **Sarah Wagner (OD'09)**, Alison Webb, OD. *Seated:* **Brian Landrum (OD/MS'09)**, Matt Horton, OD, **Elizabeth Cockerill (OD'09)**, **Liana Allibadi (OD'09)**, Julianna Lam, OD, and **Stephanie Haas (OD'09)**

Dean Melvin Shipp (OD, MPH, DrPH) welcomed all residents – including our newest alumni members as well as those optometrists who graduated from other schools and colleges of optometry – to the Ohio State family. The program included informative presentations on administrative aspects of their residency. Dr. Mile Brujac, a private practitioner from Bowling Green, Ohio, was the "Lunch and Learn" speaker, sponsored by Mr. Aaron Adams from Alcon Laboratories. His topic was "Preparing for Success in 21st. Century Optometry." Following lunch, the residents practiced clinical procedures under the expert supervision of Drs. Kelly Thompson from the Cincinnati VAMC, **Brett Irvin (OD/MS'02)** from the Columbus VAACC, and **Greg Kiracofe (OD '81)** from the Dayton VAMC. This day helps prepare all the residents for a successful residency.

Alumni News

1937 Herschel A. Rubin (B Sc'37), age 93, reminds us that in 1937 an optometry degree was a B Sc in Applied Optics. "Go Bucks!"

1953 Robert S. Lamborn (BS'53) retired in July 2005 and is still a friend of The Ohio State University College of Optometry

1955 Ronald Gilbert (BS'55) is practicing with two of his sons. His younger son, Heath (OD'92), is presently the secretary-treasurer of the Ohio Optometric Association.

1961 In June 2009 **Robert G. Englefield (BS'61)** retired from his shared practice with Dr. Lindsay Florkey. He intends to keep his license and fill in a day or two here and there.

1968 John Charles Heiby, (OD'68), LTC, USAR (Ret), is the proud grandfather of three grandchildren, Anna Elizabeth Heiby (2005), Juliette Marie Heiby (2008), and Luke Alexander Heiby (2008).

1972 David H. George (OD'72) has formed a partnership with **Jennifer (Sandler) Felbinger (OD'01)**.

1973 Jeff Timko (OD'73) is looking forward to the OSU vs. USC game in September. Go Bucks!

1974 Paul Al. Hoffman (OD'74) was inducted into the Maysville High School Hall of Fame for 30 years of service as President and Director of the Maysville Youth Soccer Program.

1974 Donald Alan Perlmutter (OD'74) was named "Business Person of the Year" by the Twinsburg Chamber of Commerce on December 11, 2008, in Twinsburg, OH.

1976 Gary C. Spencer (OD'76) is the proud owner of a canon CR-1 digital retina camera (15 megapixels!), finally catching up with the rest of the vision care world. He even switched his back office

from pegboard checks to Quick books. "This proves you can teach an older doc a few new tricks."

1977 Paul M. Dowd (OD'77) went to the Andes Mountains in Peru on a VOSH trip in June, 08.

1977 Steven Eyler (OD'77) received the AOSA Founder's Award at the 2009 annual meeting of the American Optometric Association and the American Optometric Student Association in Washington, D.C.

1977 William H. Jeppe (OD'77) reports that his daughter Erin Elizabeth is a research scientist with Merck Pharmaceuticals in PA; daughter Marah Markham is an optician with Simon Eye Associates; son William Lloyd is a property and casualty insurance executive for AFT&D Inc.; and son Grant recently graduated from the University of Delaware with a degree in Human Services.

1981 Brian Armitage (OD'81, MS'83) celebrated five years of solo private practice in April '09. His Jacksonville business associates nominated him as the Jacksonville, FL Regional Chamber of Commerce South Council 2009 Small Business Leader of the Year.

1981 Alex J. Szabo (OD'81) reports that his son Ryan graduated from Bowling Green in December 2008 with a degree in Supply Chain Management from the College of Business Administration. Ryan is now working for Honda of America in Marysville, Ohio in the North American Cost Planning/Cost Procurement Group.

1982 Michael P. Gilliland (OD'82) reports that his oldest son is attending Law School at OSU; his middle son is also at OSU; and his daughter recently graduated from Bishop Watterson High School. Dr. Gilliland is also the owner of a successful three location practice in Columbus, Ohio.

1983 Tamara Mault Kuhlmann (OD/MS'83) reports that her daughter Mallory is currently a first year Optometry student at the Ohio State University College of Optometry and is loving it. Mallory is

also is getting married this summer! Dr. Kuhlmann and her husband David went to the Holy Land for 2 ½ weeks in January during the Gaza conflict.

1985 David B. Stebelton (OD'85) shares that he and his wife Stephanie are keeping busy with Laren (3), Dave Jr. (10), and Jill (8).

1987 Randall Alessi (OD'87) reports that life is good in Southern California. He is an Administrator for his Vision Source Group in Orange County. His family is great; his daughter is 11 and his son is 8. Go Bucks!

1990 Brian Mathie (OD'90) writes that his son Brandon was named All-Ohio in football and will be playing in the North South All Star Game at Ohio Stadium. His daughter Brooke will be a junior in high school; and son Bryce an 8th grader.

1999 Brian T. Gerlach (OD'99) and wife Melissa had their first child Sophia Grace on June 25, 2008.

2002 Heather H. Cimino (OD'02) is due with her second child in July 2009.

2004 Monique, Ella (2 yrs old), and **David Berntsen (OD, MS'04, PhD'09)** welcomed the arrival of Reed Alan Berntsen on May 7, 2009 at 10:24 pm. He was 9lb 2oz and 20.5 inches long.



Reed Alan Berntsen



Zoe Ann Geldis



Clayton Russell Zimmerman

2004 **Jamie J. Casper (OD'04)** announces the birth of daughter Morgan Kay Casper, February 23, 2009, who joins brother Kendall Eugene Casper.

2004 **Anthony E. Fox (OD/MS'04)** moved back to Columbus in the Fall of 2008 along with wife Lynn Fox (OD'05). They are expecting their first child 10-1-09!

2004 **Denmark Jensen (OD'04)** owns his own business. He has three sons and another boy due in June. He reports that he is "living the dream!"

2005 **L. Jon Mesarch (OD'05)** reports that his practice recently purchased a new building and relocated to 57 South Walnut St., across the street from the old location in Logan, OH. Earlier in the year he went on a mission trip to the Dominican Republic.

2005 **Julia Geldis (OD'05, MS'07)** and her husband are the proud parents of Zoe Ann Geldis, born Tuesday, June 23, 2009. Zoe weighed 8 lbs 4 oz and measured 21.25 inches long. Mom, dad, and baby are doing great!

2005 **Abby L. Whiting (OD'05)** and family welcomed their second daughter, Lilly Elizabeth on August 5, 2008.

2006 **Sarah Miller Watkins (OD/MS'06)** married Trent Watkins July 12, 2008. She reports, "We met while I was doing my primary care residency in Memphis during July 2006-June 2007. Trent is finishing pharmacy school at the University of Tennessee May 2009."

2006 **Aaron Zimmerman (OD/MS'06)** and his wife Amanda welcomed Clayton Russell Zimmerman into the world on June 22, 2009. Clayton weighed 7 lbs. 7 oz and measured 19.5 inches long. His first name and middle name are family names of great grandparents.

2008 Congratulations to **Amber Louprasong (OD'08)** and her husband, Lat, on the birth of their son. Evan Xou Louprasong was born on July 21, 2009: 20 inches and 6.6 pounds.

In Memoriam

Stanley Brown (BS'52)

Ray Pierie (OD'71)

Online CE now available at The OSU College of Optometry Website!

Online CE is now available at The OSU College of Optometry Website at <http://optometry.osu.edu/CE/courses/>. This CE program was developed not only to provide practicing optometrists with up-to-date information to better care for their patients, but also to generate an endowment for optometry student scholarships here at the College.

As most of you know, with our challenging state budget, our optometry students are being asked to pay through higher tuition for an increasing percentage of their education costs. The College has made a commitment within its most recent strategic plan to double the available scholarship dollars over the next five years for our students. This Online CE program is just one small step in this effort. Every dollar received as Online CE tuition will go toward this effort. Three courses are currently available and more will follow in the near future. We look forward to your participation!

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