



Director's Message

– Thomas Freddo, OD, PhD, FAAO



Spring 2011 | VOL 15 | NO 2

Curricular and Clinical Renewal

Nationwide, optometry is campaigning for more complete integration into the health care system. To ensure that UWSO grads continue to be prepared for that future, our curriculum must anticipate what skills and knowledge a future optometrist will need. Change has occurred so rapidly in our profession that the UWSO faculty bravely decided to critically re-evaluate everything that we include in the optometric curriculum, rather than merely nibble around the edges.

Provinces continue to press for scope of practice changes, including the right to obtain microbial cultures and sensitivities. Provinces are also pressing for the right to order appropriate medical laboratory tests and imaging studies to complete a standard work up of various conditions we treat that can be manifestations of systemic disease. These areas are already a part of virtually all optometric curricula in North America and will be expanded further.

The goal is to enhance the more recently required elements of the curriculum while very carefully deciding what can be compressed or even eliminated in the existing curriculum to make room. As we proceed with our curriculum renewal we are exploring a variety of models for providing health care education and looking to other North American programs for comparisons. For example, students at most US optometry schools attend a 'summer' session twice in the program compared with once in the UWSO program.

THE CHALLENGE: Making such significant changes will require not just university but provincial approval as well. To be successful we require the support of the profession in pressing governments to sanction these changes.

Another goal of our curricular reform is to make the curriculum more applied and to ensure that we provide a richer clinical experience that begins earlier in the program. Of course, such dramatic evolution in the profession and in optometric education also requires that we closely examine the capability of our facilities to accommodate these changes. Our current clinic is old and tired, and was never intended to accommodate a class size of 90 students. Nor was the clinic designed with the remote anticipation that optometry would become a profession providing medical eye care services in a primary care mode. Even in the traditional areas of optometric care, just think about the changes in instrumentation that we have seen in the past 30 years and you will quickly realize that the traditional allocations of space in a practice or large clinic have had to change.


THE CHALLENGE: Since the clinic opened there has never been a widespread clinic renovation beyond limited alterations to some clinic areas. We can no longer afford to operate this way; we need to align our facilities with current and expected needs in clinical education and patient care. We have concluded that the only reasonable solution is a long overdue complete renovation of

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our main clinic. At an anticipated cost of \$5 million, we hope that we can count on your renewed financial support. Our ability to proceed with this critical initiative relies on your involvement as we continue to press government to recognize us as a true health care facility that deserves as much of their financial backing as any other currently funded health care facility in Ontario.

In the midst of these significant changes in the curriculum and the clinic, our people are changing as well. In the next few years a number of the faculty who were the anchors of this institution for the past 30 years will retire. Some of those transitions are already beginning and are covered in a number of the other articles in this issue of the newsletter.

We are undergoing a transformation. As we do, we will need your continued support to meet the challenges that lie ahead. Thank you. 

Calendar of Events

Date	Event	Location
June 3-5 2011	CE Weekend	University of Waterloo School of Optometry
June 4 2011	Alumni Dinner	University of Waterloo School of Optometry
July 20 2011	CAO Congress Welcome Reception (which is sponsored by UWSO)	Winnipeg, Manitoba
October 14 2011	American Academy of Optometry, UWSO Alumni Reception (as part of the AAO's Joint Alumni Reception)	Boston, Massachusetts
October 21-23 2011	Proactive Management Symposium (for which information will soon be available at www.optometry.uwaterloo.ca)	University of Waterloo School of Optometry

For more information or to confirm your interest in attending an event you may contact Andrea Carthew at acarthew@uwaterloo.ca or at 519-888-4567, ext. 36319.



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Special thanks to all those who contributed items for the newsletter.

Stay Connected

Moving or retiring and want to stay in touch?

To ensure that you continue to receive the newsletter and get invited to UWSO events please update your information by visiting www.optometry.uwaterloo.ca/alumni

You can also email us at alumni@optometry.uwaterloo.ca or call Andrea Carthew at 519-888-4567, ext. 36319.

Thank you for staying connected!

George And Judy Woo – Making A Difference

– Andrea Carthew



George and Judy Woo

We are truly in the midst of an exciting change created by the diverse needs of an evolving profession. Following growth to our program and the success of our recent addition, we are eager to focus our efforts on a much-anticipated clinical transformation. With a changing curriculum, expanded class sizes, revisions to our clinical program, and now the introduction of TPAs in Ontario, UWSO is faced with the reality that we urgently need to renovate and rejuvenate our Waterloo clinic facilities.

Notable alumnus and former faculty member Dr. George Woo (OD '64) and his wife Judy completely agree. "I have fond memories of Waterloo's clinic," says George, "but the profession has greatly evolved since the building was completed in 1974. I believe that as alumni it is our responsibility to ensure the School has the resources it needs to enhance clinical education during this time of change."


We are thrilled that George and Judy have stepped forward with a generous pledge of \$50,000 toward our upcoming clinic renovation campaign. Such a leadership gift helps make a difference in the progression of optometric education. UWSO would like to thank George and Judy for their loyal support and will recognize this wonderful gift by naming one of our many new clinical examination rooms after the Woo family.

Dr. Woo and his family have roots that deeply intertwine with the School and its clinics. In 1970, he returned to teach for 26 years, and in that time he had many remarkable achievements, including the development of the Low Vision Program and the establishment of the internationally renowned Centre for Sight Enhancement, for which he served as founding director.

Dr. Tim McMahon, Associate Director, Clinical Affairs, believes that "the significance of strong alumni support, such as George and Judy's, is profound and is clearly reflected in our future endeavors and accomplishments. Our clinic renovation will have a tremendous impact on teaching, learning, and the delivery of patient care that is critical to the continued advancement of our program".

Our clinical transformation is a grand project that will see the renewal of our aging facilities, the accommodation of increased student and patient numbers, and the enhancement of clinical education and vision care services. With emphasis on collaboration for teaching, research, and patient care, we anticipate a highly efficient environment for our students and patients. This will be achieved through the amalgamation of our clinic areas to better utilize appointment times, space, and proximity, and will bring the majority of patient rooms to the main floor. The renovation will also see the creation of an imaging suite for our specialty diagnostic equipment and a greater profile for our dispensary. We anticipate that the renovation phase of UWSO's overall transformation project will cost approximately \$5 million.

It is without exaggeration when we declare that the support of our alumni has always been imperative. Along with the clinic room named after the Woos, another will be named to recognize Drs. Judy Brisson and Rodger Pace for their contributions, and an entire clinic teaching pod, consisting of four exam rooms and a supervisor's office, is being sponsored by the Class of 1979. "We hope that our gift to the clinic will inspire others to do the same," says Dr. Woo.

You too can make a difference during this time of unprecedented transformation. If you are interested in more information on how you can support the clinic renovation project, please contact Andrea Carthew at 519-888-4567, ext. 36319 or acarthew@uwaterloo.ca. 

Phase Two of our campaign is our ambitious clinic renovation, through which we plan to completely rebuild and reorganize our clinical facilities. This \$5 million project comes at a critical time of transformation both in the profession and in our program as we contend with the introduction of TPAs in Ontario, expanded class sizes, and an evolving curriculum in an aging building. Our clinic is at the heart of our program and we hope you will consider making a donation to this important project.



University of Waterloo - Optometry Clinic Renovation

rdh Architects

Gift/Pledge Form

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I/we wish to support excellence in education at University of Waterloo School of Optometry by supporting the expansion and renovation campaign.

Name _____ Phone _____

Mailing Address _____

Gift/Pledge Amount _____ Pledge Period _____ Years Start Date _____

Project: University of Waterloo School of Optometry – Clinic Renovation Project

Method of Payment

I/we have enclosed an initial payment of \$_____ and wish to pay the remainder in installments.
Please send me periodic reminders:

Yearly Semi-Annually Quarterly Monthly

Cheque (Payable to: University of Waterloo School of Optometry)

Post-dated cheques (Please attach all cheques to pledge form)

Credit Card

Visa MasterCard American Express

Card Number _____ Expiry Date _____

Other _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Thank You For Your Support!

Charitable Registration Number: 11926 0685 RR0001

Please return this form to:

Andrea Carthew, Associate Director, Development and Alumni Affairs – School of Optometry, University of Waterloo
200 University Ave. West, Waterloo, Ontario N2L 3G1

Alumni of Honour Award

Call For Nominations

University of Waterloo School of Optometry recognizes that we have a great number of alumni who are outstanding contributors to both optometry and their communities, going above and beyond to make a difference. In order to be able to begin to recognize some of these outstanding individuals for their efforts and achievements, we are proud to announce the **Alumni of Honour Award**, to be presented every other year to one individual to acknowledge them for their impact and contributions to optometry and society.

We invite you to nominate a graduate from UWSO (including its graduate program in Vision Science) who has made a significant and proven contribution in one or more of the following areas:

- **Professional Achievement** (recognizes the accomplishments of an Optometry and/or Vision Science alumnus)
- **Contributions to Community** (recognizes the accomplishments of an Optometry and/or Vision Science alumnus in volunteer leadership, humanitarian endeavours, and community and public service)

Nominations will be accepted through the web at www.optometry.uwaterloo.ca or by hard copy, up until the deadline of **May 16 2011**.

Award Process

Award selection will be made by a committee including the Director of the School of Optometry or designate; the Associate Director, Development and Alumni Affairs; a senior faculty member from the graduate program; and the President of the Canadian Association of Optometrists or designate. All applications will remain active for the duration of 2 award cycles.

The School welcomes nominations for the 2011 Alumni of Honour Award from alumni, students, staff, retirees, and members of the public. Self-nominations will not be considered. The nominees must hold at least one UW Optometry degree (OD, MSc, or PhD).

To nominate an alumnus for the 2011 Alumni of Honour Award, a nomination form must be completed, including all mandatory fields. Please provide as much detail as possible while completing the online form or send a hard copy by mail or fax to:

School of Optometry
University of Waterloo
200 University Avenue West
Waterloo, ON N2L 3G1
Attn: 2011 Alumni of Honour Award
Fax: 519-725-0784

Award Presentation

It is our intention to select an Alumni of Honour Award recipient every other year and present it during the biennial Canadian Association of Optometrists Congress. This year the Award will be presented to the recipient during the **CAO Congress in Winnipeg, Manitoba, July 21-23 2011**. Recipients will have their biographies and pictures published in the School of Optometry newsletter and on our website. Their names and pictures will also be featured on a plaque displayed in the School.

Past Recipients

The 2009 Alumni of Honour recipients were **Dr. David McKenna** and **Dr. Dorrie Morrow**. For more information about these outstanding individuals please visit optometry.uwaterloo.ca/alumni/awards

*** Privacy Statement: The University of Waterloo respects your privacy and that of the person you are nominating. Our full privacy policy is online or you may contact Andrea Carthew****

Alumni of Honour Award – NOMINATION FORM – Deadline: May 16 2011

To identify candidates for the School of Optometry's Alumni of Honour Award, please provide as much detail as possible; point form is encouraged. Nominators should complete the online form at www.optometry.uwaterloo.ca. Required fields are marked.*

A hard copy form is supplied on the reverse of this page for your convenience.

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New Director For CCLR – Alisa Sivak



The Centre for Contact Lens Research (CCLR) is pleased to announce that Dr. Lyndon Jones has taken on the role of Director. Lyndon has been Associate Director of the CCLR for over 10 years and is a natural fit for our growing group.

Founding Director Desmond Fonn led the organization successfully for over 20 years, from its humble beginnings as a three-person operation

to its current status as a world-renowned collection of dedicated researchers and administrative staff. He will continue to play a significant advisory role.

With Lyndon's appointment comes an official amalgamation of the CCLR's clinical research with the Jones Biomaterials laboratory. In addition to these major areas of research, the CCLR's people-focused research (surveys and focus groups) and animal models of ocular development have also been expanding.

Currently, CCLR research includes:

Clinical research

- contact lens comfort, dry eye symptoms and ocular surface sensitivity
- physiology of the anterior eye and the ocular response to contact lens materials and care systems
- contact lens design and performance
- quality of life (assessment and development of tools)

Laboratory research

- ex vivo ocular surface sampling for the performance of biochemical analysis
- biomaterials analysis
- characterization of contact lens care systems and packaging solutions

People-focused research

- surveys
- focus groups

This year has already been busy and productive. Stay tuned for additional developments with respect to professional development in the form of online continuing education and educational websites. 👁



Leaving a Legacy



Dr. Michelle Georgi and Dr. Scott Mundle, Class of 1983

As optometrists we have the privilege of being part of a dynamic profession that we are proud to be part of. Working to maintain, enhance, and preserve the vision of the public is rewarding on a daily basis. As for many, our journey into the optometric community began with our education at the Waterloo School of Optometry, which opened the doors to our career path, volunteer opportunities, and financial security. Of course for us there is a deeper connection as the School is also where we met and began our partnership in life!

Many of us volunteer our time and energy to ensure we do our part to help advance optometric practice and enhance patient care. We know that the School will stand behind us, providing support and expertise when needed, because the connection doesn't end at graduation. They are here for us today but will also train and be there for the leaders of tomorrow.

So how can we show our gratitude for our education and quality of life that we enjoy today? Give back. We support the School now in times of need to ensure they can evolve and grow with the profession today; but we have also thought about the future. Others before us paved the way for our success and we feel that by giving today as well as making a planned gift, we are helping ensure that we are doing our part to invest in the future of our profession.

– Drs. Michelle Georgi and Scott Mundle, Class of 1983

Why consider a planned gift?

Outside of the tax advantages, planned giving is something that people of all ages and income brackets can take part in. It is a way for you to leave a legacy that will enhance the future of optometric education in Canada and give back to the institution that shaped your livelihood. It provides alumni and friends with a special opportunity to demonstrate leadership, with an investment to support outstanding students, teaching, and research during your lifetime. Your philanthropic support, both through gifts today and planned giving, helps strengthen the School's ability to sustain quality programs, provide support to our talented students, evolve and grow with the profession, and fund innovation in vision science.

A planned gift helps you:

- achieve your philanthropic goal of providing support for University of Waterloo School of Optometry
- meet your personal and financial objectives
- lower income and estate taxes

Your bequests and other gifts for the future can:

- create new scholarships to recognize the academic excellence of future optometry students
- provide funds for special projects at the School
- provide critical resources for the highest priorities of the School

Now is the time to consider how your planned gift can make a difference. University of Waterloo School of Optometry is at a very exciting and innovative stage in its history. And there are many ways you can play a role in its future.

Bequest

A bequest is a wonderful way to show your lasting support and leave a legacy that will benefit the School for years to come. Providing a charitable gift in your will can be easily accomplished by including a bequest to University of Waterloo School of Optometry. "Bequest" is simply a term used to describe a gift in your will specifying that a certain percentage, a particular asset, or a specific dollar amount of your estate will be directed to a named beneficiary.

You can direct how you want your gift to be used, or ask UWSO to use it where it is needed most. Throughout our history, gifts have provided the resources to establish scholarships that recognize the academic excellence of our students, as well as to fund bursaries, which provide financial support for students to help them achieve their academic goals. Other gifts have enabled the School to improve facilities and programs essential to teaching and research activities.

Life Insurance

Life insurance can have a special benefit for you and make a significant impact on the School. Exempt from taxes, a gift of life insurance allows a substantial asset to be created through a comparatively small investment, without drawing on your assets now or depleting your estate. If donated irrevocably, your gift will not be included in the value of your estate, so there will be no probate fees, and no income tax will be payable.

In the case of an irrevocable gift, a charitable receipt would also be issued for any premium payments made to maintain the policy.

Publicly Traded Securities

This is another way to support excellence in teaching and research, while benefiting from very favourable tax credits. There is a real advantage to giving shares directly to the School rather than selling the shares and donating the proceeds. When gifting shares directly, you receive a charitable tax receipt for the fair market value on the day the shares are received by the university, and you are tax exempt from any capital gains realized. If, however, you sell the shares yourself and donate the proceeds, 50 per cent of the taxable gain must be included as income.

RRSPs or RRIFs

You can also name the School as the beneficiary or alternate beneficiary of your registered retirement plan. It is important to remember that on your death your registered retirement savings are deemed to be

disposed of, and 100 per cent of the remaining balance is added to your income in the year of death unless paid to a surviving spouse (though there are exceptions for financially dependent children, grandchildren under the age of 18, and handicapped dependants over the age of 18). You may name other beneficiaries, but the estate is liable for the tax. By naming the School as a beneficiary, assets are transferred directly from the financial institution and the estate receives a tax credit for the charitable gift to offset the tax on income. Since the asset passes outside the estate, no probate fees are payable on the asset, resulting in further savings for the estate.

The above is provided as general information, and should not be taken as formal legal or tax advice. Donors should consult with their own legal and financial advisors before taking any action.

Thank you to all of our donors who have supported us both today and through the provision of a planned gift. You have invested in the future of optometry and your support makes a difference!

For further information and to let us know that you have included us in your estate plans, please contact:

Sharon McKay-Todd, Associate Director, Planned Giving, University of Waterloo

519-888-4567, ext. 35413

smckayto@uwaterloo.ca

www.development.uwaterloo.ca/plannedgiving

UWSO Down Under

Kristen Fink and Meghan Bantle may well have been trying to escape us when they decided to complete their internship in Australia last fall. However, their desire for education, along with the generous support of their Australian supervisors, landed them in Sydney to attend the 13th International Cornea & Contact Lens Congress. This meeting is only held every 3 years, and in 2010 Dr. Kathy Dumbleton from UWSO and the CCLR was an invited keynote speaker.

As with all well organized conferences, there was a gala dinner, which in this case was held in "The Rocks", nestled under the bridge in Sydney Harbour. This is where our students realized, to their great surprise, that they can't ever really escape, after having stumbled upon Drs. John Flanagan and Kathy Dumbleton! ☺



Dr. John Flanagan, Kristen Fink, Meghan Bantle, and Dr. Kathy Dumbleton

Pediatrics and Binocular Vision

University of Waterloo School of Optometry is pleased to present our annual Continuing Education program **June 3-5 2011**.

Pediatric optometry is a growing area as emphasis is placed increasingly on the importance of regular eye examinations at early ages. This year's CE program will focus primarily on pediatrics, as well as binocular vision.

We are delighted to have once again a lineup of renowned speakers, both faculty and non-faculty, to entertain and educate. Lecture topics for the weekend include:

- how to examine the preschool patient and what to prescribe for the preschooler
- what to do with the patient with strabismus and what options there are for dealing with patients with diplopia
- evidence for methods of amblyopia therapy and whether cycloplegic examinations are necessary
- treatment of binocular vision problems such as convergence insufficiency
- delivering bad news and how to cross the cultural divide

In addition, the weekend will have some TPA content, including:

- prescription writing and what goes wrong
- top 10 drugs for the Ontario optometrist
- most common conditions that the optometrist will be treating

Again this year, we present the Distinguished Dr. Clair Bobier and Dr. Emerson Woodruff Lectures. The Bobier Lecture this year will be presented by Dr. Susan Barry of Mount Holyoke College, while the The Woodruff Lecture will be presented by Dr. Mitchell Scheiman of the Pennsylvania College of Optometry, Salus University. Please join us at these very special events.

Optometric Assistants and Staff

We are pleased to welcome back optometric assistants and staff with their own 1½ day program, which includes a full day of informative lectures highlighting new contact lens information, imaging, dry eye, and more on Saturday. The 3-hour hands-on workshops for Sunday will help new and experienced OAs and staff hone their skills. All CE hours are subject to approval for accreditation through the CAO.

Social Events

Join us for the annual School of Optometry Reunion Dinner on Saturday, once again held in our COETF Student Commons. Don't miss this great chance to meet up with your classmates at your alma mater!

Trade Show

The trade show and lunch continues to be very well received by participants and exhibitors alike. This event, held in the Commons, will feature a variety of exhibitors highlighting various educational materials and equipment items on Saturday, from noon to 2 pm.

Registration Information

Registration fees for CE 2011 are as follows:


OD Full Program (3 days) \$675

OD Partial Program (2 days) \$475

OD Per day Program \$325

OA Lectures \$120

OA Workshop \$120

The CE Committee is happy to offer an online registration process. Please visit our website at www.optometry.uwaterloo.ca and follow the links to register yourself, colleagues, and staff for this year's CE. 

TPA Certification

TPAs are finally here! UWSO is proud to be part of the process by providing the required TPA courses to enable practitioners to become TPA certified. If you are interested in a 20-hour TPA refresher course, please let us know. We are considering running a course in the Fall but need sufficient interest before confirming. Please complete the online survey at www.surveymonkey.com/s/DHKQ9VY.

Optometric Assistants And Staff Program – Marilyn Smith, RO

We are pleased to offer the 9th annual Optometric Assistants and Staff Continuing Education Program during CE weekend, **June 4-5 2011**. The theme for this year's event is Pediatrics and Binocular Vision.

The OA and staff lecture program will begin on Saturday with Dr. Patrick Quaid, who presented a fabulous lecture at last year's CE. Dr. Quaid includes both themes in his lecture, "Learning Issues and Binocular Vision Anomalies: The Missing Link". Local optometrist and part time UW Optometry Clinic supervisor Dr. Matt Iley's lecture, "All Eyes On Glaucoma", will take you on a whirlwind tour of glaucoma, a common but often misunderstood eye condition. Funny lady Deb Loyd, whom some of you may remember from CE 2008, ends the morning session with a humorous look at what our body language says with "The Anatomy of Body Language," and demonstrates how valuable this knowledge can be in our workplace. In the afternoon session, optician Janice Schmidt will update us on marketing trends in the presbyopic contact lens market. Since we all know that one pair of glasses isn't enough for every task and circumstance, Marilyn Smith will wrap up the day by presenting some ideas for discussing that 2nd, 3rd, and maybe 4th pair of spectacles with clients.

For the final lecture hour on Saturday, delegates are invited to the Distinguished Woodruff Lecture at 4:45pm with the ODs in room 1129. Dr. Mitchell Scheiman of the Pennsylvania College of Optometry, Salus University, will present "Pediatric Optometry: A New Era of Evidence-Based Practice".

Our annual Industry Information Trade Show and Luncheon moved indoors in 2010 and was a great

success, so it will be held again in the Student Commons area of our building addition. Graze through the delicious finger food stations throughout the area as you visit the company representatives and get updates on the newest products and equipment in our industry. The trade show and luncheon will be held from noon to 1:30pm on Saturday.

The Sunday workshops are based on some requests from previous CE events. Prism in spectacle lenses can be quite a mystery at times. In Hour 1, we'll look at prism Rx's in single vision, bifocal, and PAL lenses and practise how to accurately neutralize these lenses. Digital PAL lenses are commonly dispensed today and need more measurements than just monocular distance PD and pupil height to offer the optimum fit to the wearer. In Hours 2 and 3, the workshop group will split into two groups. In one hour, we'll work with various PAL manual measuring devices available from manufacturers of digital PAL lenses with Marilyn Smith, and in the other hour Eric Vieira from Essilor will demonstrate the automated Visioffice computer system and give each participant time to be both the patient and the operator.

All OA courses are accredited by the Canadian Association of Optometrists. Each OA will have an accreditation sheet that will be stamped throughout the day to verify attendance. All non-OA delegates are welcome to attend the CE lectures and workshops.

For further information and to register, please visit our website at www.optometry.uwaterloo.ca/ce

We look forward to seeing you at CE this June! 

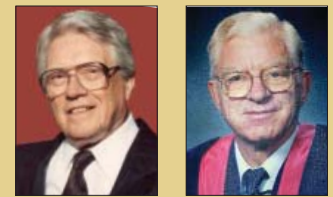
Come One, Come All, To The 7th Annual Reunion Dinner!

On **Saturday, June 4 2011**, as part of our CE weekend, the School of Optometry will host our 7th Annual Reunion Dinner immediately following the Distinguished Woodruff Lecture in the COETF Student Commons. We invite all alumni to join us for an evening of fun and camaraderie with classmates and colleagues. It will also be a great opportunity to see the new addition!

Have pictures? We traditionally put together a slide show that we have running throughout the evening. If there is something you wish to include, please send it in!

To RSVP for the Reunion Dinner you can either indicate your attendance electronically at www.optometry.uwaterloo.ca/ce/2011/june/ or contact Elizabeth Reidt at 519-888-4567, ext. 33177.

Don't Miss the Bobier and Woodruff Distinguished Lectures



Please join us on CE Weekend for the Bobier and Woodruff Lectures. Admission is free with your registration!

On Friday, June 3 at 4:45 pm, the 22nd annual **Clair Bobier Lecture in Vision** will be presented. This tradition recognizes Dr. Clair Bobier for his vision for the future and his many contributions to the profession.

Dr. Bobier was born in Moosomin, Saskatchewan, and received his Diploma of Optometry in 1948 from the Ontario College of Optometry in Toronto (the predecessor to our School). During his first year of private practice, he began sharing his methodical, analytical approach to clinical practice with the students at the College. In fact, throughout his life, he retained a common sense, thoughtful approach to his home life and to his chosen profession – an approach he would quickly tell you, with a mischievous grin, that he learnt in a prairie town with an obscure name like Peapod, Saskatchewan.

Dr. Bobier was one of the first Canadian optometrists to undertake postgraduate research in vision science. For his MS degree, he studied at Ohio State University under Professor Glenn Fry. His exposure to this eminent optometric researcher shaped his view on the importance of the scientific approach to the optometric profession. Over his many years of dedicated service, he became instrumental in the development of a scientifically-based curriculum and research-oriented faculty in Canada.

Immediately after receiving the MS degree in 1956, Dr. Bobier returned to teach at the Ontario College and continued to do so at the new School of Optometry at University of Waterloo until his retirement in 1982. He was extremely influential in bringing Optometry to Waterloo. His ideals were passed along to university and government officials in many influential briefs, which did much to ensure the respect and funding necessary for the future growth of the profession.

The School of Optometry building itself embodies, in its interface of clinic and research facilities, Dr. Bobier's concept of what the profession should be: excellence in modern vision care, built on a firm base of scientific understanding.

This year's Bobier lecture is "Fixing MyGaze: Vision Therapy for Strabismus" and will be presented by Dr. Susan Barry.



Dr. Susan R. Barry

Dr. Susan R. Barry is a Professor of Biological Sciences at Mount Holyoke College. She earned a BA in Biology from Wesleyan University in 1976 and a PhD from Princeton University in 1981. She has worked as a research neuroscientist at University of Miami Medical School, University of Michigan, and NASA's Johnson Space Center, and has been a member of the faculty

of Mount Holyoke College since 1992.

Dr. Barry has been cross-eyed and stereoblind since early infancy but gained stereovision and a remarkable new view of the world in her late forties. Dubbed "Stereo Sue" by Dr. Oliver Sacks in a 2006 New Yorker article by that name, Dr. Barry has gone on to write her own book, *Fixing My Gaze: A Scientist's Journey into Seeing in Three Dimensions*. Her book describes how vision can affect reading and learning in school, challenges the concept of irreversible critical periods in early development, and provides a revelatory account of the brain's capacity to change. *Fixing My Gaze* was rated fourth-best science book for 2009 by the editors of Amazon.com and selected as one of the best sci-tech books of 2009 by the Library Journal.

On Saturday, June 4 at 4:45 pm, the 17th annual lecture to honour **Dr. Emerson Woodruff** will be presented. This tradition was established in 1994 to recognize Dr. Woodruff's many contributions to the School of Optometry and the profession he loved.

Dr. Woodruff was a widely known and highly respected Canadian optometrist, educator, and scientist before his passing in 2005. After practising optometry in southern Ontario from 1950 to 1962, he left private practice to teach and pursue a PhD in physiological optics at Indiana University. He joined the faculty at University of Waterloo School of Optometry in 1967. Dr. Woodruff was Director of the Optometry Clinic from 1967 to 1974 and Director of the School from 1975 to 1981. He was instrumental both in the formation and growth of the clinical program as well as the establishment of the MSc and PhD graduate programs in Vision Science.

Before his retirement, Dr. Woodruff published over 70 scientific and professional articles, mostly dealing with the epidemiology of visual anomalies. He served on a number of government agencies and commissions and received several awards from the profession of optometry.

This year's Woodruff lecture is "Pediatric Optometry: A New Era of Evidence-Based Practice" and will be presented by Dr. Mitchell Scheiman.



Dr. Mitchell Scheiman

Dr. Scheiman is a Professor of Optometry and Director of the Pediatric and Binocular Vision Programs at the Pennsylvania College of Optometry, Salus University. For the past ten years he has spent the majority of his professional time as a researcher involved in randomized

clinical trials. He was the Study Chair of the Convergence Insufficiency Treatment Trial that was completed in 2008. His specialty areas are pediatric optometry, binocular vision, and vision therapy. He has published over 135 journal articles and 4 textbooks. He is a Fellow of the College of Optometrists in Vision Development (COVD) and a Diplomate in Binocular Vision, Perception, and Pediatric Optometry in the American Academy of Optometry. Dr. Scheiman also maintains a private practice in which he specializes in vision therapy.

White Coat Ceremony 2010

– Dr. Timothy McMahon, Associate Director for Clinical Affairs



On November 8 2010, University of Waterloo School of Optometry held its third annual White Coat Ceremony. This is the occasion where honoured faculty and guests present first year Optometry students with their first white coat for clinic. The ceremony is common for a number of health care professions and three years ago was adopted as an important milestone in a student's optometric education. It is a marker of a student's transition from purely didactic education into the realm of seeing patients.

The event was held in the COETF Student Commons, in the new wing of the School. The Commons was transformed from chairs, tables, and lounge chairs into an auditorium bedecked with a stage and seating for 250 people, as well as dozens of spruce trees. Nearly 225 students, family, friends, and special guests were on hand for the affair.

Attendees heard speeches from Dr. Geoffrey McBoyle (Vice President, Academic and Provost, University of Waterloo), Dr. Thomas Freddo (Director, University of Waterloo School of Optometry), Dr. Murray Turnour (Registrar, College of Optometrists of Ontario), and Dr. Kirsten North (President, Canadian Association of Optometrists). Dr. Marlee Spafford (Associate Director, Academics and Research, University of Waterloo School of Optometry) served as the emcee, to the great enjoyment of those assembled.


Representatives of the profession included the aforementioned Drs. North and Turnour, as well as Dr. Alex Hui, a Class of 2010 graduate.

The white coats were presented to the students by honoured guests and UWSO faculty. The presenters were:

- Dr. Kirsten North, President, Canadian Association of Optometrists
- Dr. Geoffrey McBoyle, Vice President, Academics and Provost, University of Waterloo
- Dr. Lisa Christian, UWSO Clinical Lecturer, Assistant Clinic Director and Head, Binocular Vision Clinic and Ocular Disease Externship Program
- Dr. James Dipple, UWSO Adjunct Clinical Faculty

- Dr. Alex Hui, Class of 2010 alumnus and UWSO graduate student
- Dr. Lisa Prokopich, UWSO Clinical Lecturer and Head, Ocular Health Clinic
- Dr. Michelle Steenbakkers, UWSO Clinical Lecturer
- Dr. Deborah Jones, UWSO Clinical Lecturer and Head, Paediatrics Clinic and Acting Head, Contact Lens Clinic
- Dr. Ken Hadley, UWSO Clinical Lecturer and Head, 3rd Year Clinical Internship
- Dr. Timothy McMahon, UWSO Associate Director for Clinical Affairs and Optometrist-in-Chief

After receiving their coats, the first year students were led in a reciting of the Code of Ethics, adapted from the Canadian Association of Optometrists, signifying their understanding of their responsibility to pursue excellence in the vision and health care they provide their patients.

The Canadian Association of Optometrists once again generously supported the ceremony through the purchase of the white coats and the embroidery, which includes both UWSO and CAO logos to signify the strong relationship between the School and the professional association. A great time was had by all! 

IOBP Success Stories!

The International Optometric Bridging Program (IOBP) has been a program of University of Waterloo School of Optometry since 2005. The program was originally created in response to provincial and federal focus on decreasing the barriers for international applicants to health care professions. The College of Optometrists of Ontario also realized that it was necessary to ensure fair and transparent admission and licensure practices and asked UWSO to collaborate with them to develop the program. The goal was to ensure that a system was in place to assist internationally educated individuals to put their skills to work in a timely manner by recognizing their current education and work experience, identifying gaps, and developing a process to bridge those gaps to Canadian levels. As with other professions, this group of individuals includes immigrants to Canada as well as Canadian students who have chosen to pursue their education outside North America. This successful program has now been accepted by CORA as the only portal for these individuals to move forward to practise in Canada.

Graduates are currently practising in British Columbia, Alberta, Manitoba, Ontario, Nova Scotia, and Newfoundland. UWSO is proud to welcome these graduates as an integral part of our optometric family!

I arrived in Canada as a refugee in 2004 with my husband, 8 weeks before the birth of our daughter. We brought our baggage empty yet full of dreams, hope, and faith. I graduated in 2003 from University La Salle with a Bachelor's degree in Optometry and I am currently registered and practising in Ontario after 7 years of full devotion to studying, learning English, and improving my skills and knowledge. My passion for my career has never changed and I am now practising full time in Ontario.

I would like to thank University of Waterloo School of Optometry for its amazing International Optometric Bridging Program. I could not have done it without the help and support received from the excellent team, including Dr. Freddo, Dr. Cooper, Dr. Hrynchak, Dr. Prokopich, Deb Nahlik, and all the other teachers and staff at UWSO. All of them contributed to my ability to make a positive impact on the lives of my patients.

Our daughter is now fully bilingual and soon will be trilingual, as she now has the opportunity to attend a French immersion school. I will never regret our decision to come to one of the world's most beautiful, strong, peaceful, and free countries. We have been made to feel very welcome and I hope some day to be able to give back some of what we have received.

— Dr. Angela Duque



Our family arrived in Canada in May 2006. Life in Colombia was becoming unsafe and we worried about the future that our children might have. Canada seemed to offer a safe environment for us to raise our children and be able to continue to practise our professions. IOBP was the door that opened the possibilities to realize our dreams in Canada.

The opportunity to enhance my professional skills has allowed me to work as an optometrist in this country. IOBP and its excellent group of professors who, with their dedication, commitment, and knowledge, helped me to strengthen my weaknesses. When I finished the program, I applied for the Master's program in Vision Science, which was a dream I had had for a long time. During this program I had two wonderful tutors: Dr. Graham Strong and Dr. Beth Irving. Through their expertise and love for what they do, they gave me the courage and motivation to finish my graduate degree, overcoming the ups and downs that I faced during that period of time. After successfully completing the CSAO in 2008, I graduated with my MSc from UWSO in May 2010 and I am now practising full time as an optometrist in the Hamilton area.

In addition, my husband, who was a professor at a school of dentistry in Colombia, had the opportunity to apply to University of Toronto, where he is working as an assistant professor in the Faculty of Dentistry.

Our two children are very happy living in Canada as well; they have now a lot more possibilities. Our daughter is in grade 12, and she will be attending McMaster University this fall. Our son is in grade 2, speaking two languages (Spanish and English), and has his whole life ahead to achieve everything he wants to.

Within the five years that we have lived in Canada, we have fulfilled all our expectations. We have the chance to give our family the quality of life that we were looking for. We can say that all our efforts and experiences have been worthwhile. Along the way we have also met wonderful people whose support has made our lives so pleasant and enjoyable.

Starting a new life in an unfamiliar country with a different language is a difficult experience that many people are unwilling to live. Leaving jobs, friends, and family behind are some of the sacrifices that you have to make; but that becomes easier when you are focused on the final goal — a better future for you and your children. With the strong belief that you are capable of overcoming all obstacles, you are ready to take this journey and make your dreams come true.

We have experienced much that Canada has to offer and have made Canada our new home. Thanks so much, IOBP, for offering this hope of life!!

— **Dr. Patricia Hernandez**



The International Optometric Bridging Program is funded by the Government of Ontario and the Government of Canada

Journal Or Search Alerts: Keeping Current Comes To Your Email

– Kathy MacDonald, MLIS (Manager, Witer Learning Resource Centre)

Did you know the table of contents (TOC) of your favorite journal can be sent to your email?

Would you like to know what is being published each month in your favorite optometric journal? You can get the TOC sent to your email simply by signing up for an email TOC (or “eTOC”) alert. Most online journals now offer this free service.

For example, the eTOC signup link for *Optometry and Vision Science* is on the top right side of the home page below the publisher’s logo. A popup asks for your email. Enter your email, click Submit, and you’re done. The eTOC doesn’t provide the full text of the article, but if you find an article of interest you may fill out the WLRC alumni article request form and we’ll send it to you (copyright licenses permitting – please see our advertisement on page 17 of this newsletter for details).

The URL for *Optometry and Vision Science* is <http://journals.lww.com/optvissci/pages/default.aspx>

Another example is *Current Eye Research*, whose home page has a link to the Email TOC alert in the Quick Links section. The free registration process requires a bit more information from you because you are subscribing to a TOC through a company, Wiley Publishing, which publishes more than one journal.

The URL for *Current Eye Research* is <http://informahealthcare.com/cey>

Did you know there are free search services that send TOCs from multiple journals to your email daily, weekly, or monthly?

Free email alert services allow you to monitor publications for articles within your area of interest. One such service is Amedeo. Amedeo sends weekly emails with lists of article titles published by journals you have pre-selected. While Amedeo does not have an Optometry topic section, the journals listed in the Ophthalmology sections have many articles of relevance for optometrists.

To set up an alert in Amedeo, select a topic such as Ophthalmology from the home page. You will be presented with a list of the ophthalmology and vision science journals searched by Amedeo. Register with Amedeo, and then simply select the journals whose TOCs you are interested in tracking.

The URL for Amedeo is <http://amedeo.com/index.htm>

Did you know Search Alerts can be set up in research databases such as TRIP, Cochrane Library, and even Google Scholar to track topics of interest?


You can also set up search alerts in research article databases and in search engines such as the Turning Research into Practice (TRIP) database. As described in our Fall 2010 newsletter, this meta-search engine scours the web for high quality clinical research, systematic reviews, clinical practice guidelines, etc. By registering yourself with TRIP you can select clinical areas of interest that will be monitored for you (e.g., Ophthalmology) and identify specific keywords or phrases of interest (e.g., refractive error). TRIP searches only high quality sources such as the Cochrane Library and association or government sources.

The URL for TRIP is <http://www.tripdatabase.com/>

PubMed provides this service when you register for My NCBI, whose link is located in the top right corner of the home page. You can save searches and send yourself email alerts when new research matching your search terms is entered in PubMed. This free service allows you to save, refine, and delete searches, as well as to create collections of articles and share your finds.

Storing Citations

Once you have set up your eTOC or database search alerts and are beginning to identify articles you wish to keep, you may want to collect and store your article citations in an online reference management tool. Reference management software products will also generate bibliographies automatically in a variety of citation styles. This is very helpful if you intend to publish an article or create a bibliography for a presentation. Alumni of University of Waterloo School of Optometry have access to RefWorks after graduation. A free alternative to RefWorks is Connotea: <http://www.connotea.org/>


For more information, or for further assistance in setting up eAlerts and reference management options, please contact the WLRC at optlib@uwaterloo.ca. 

Drs. Barbara and Jacob Sivak Honoured – Andrea Carthew

On December 16th 2010, it was our privilege at University of Waterloo School of Optometry to honour two remarkable individuals for their extensive contributions to optometric education. With over 120 guests in attendance, including family, friends, colleagues, and students, we officially dedicated Room 347 as the Barbara and Jacob Sivak Lecture Theatre.

With the support of the Canadian Association of Optometrists, such recognition for the Sivaks was an easy decision to make. Since their arrival in Waterloo in 1972, Barb and Jake have taught over 75% of our graduates in the very room that bears their name. So as the plaques now hanging outside that room's two entrances explain, the Barbara and Jacob Sivak Lecture Theatre was dedicated "in recognition of their lifelong, significant contributions and leadership in optometric education, research, and professional development at the University of Waterloo, within the optometric profession, and in the vision sciences both nationally and internationally."

Because they have touched so many individuals through the Optometry program, this honour also seemed fitting in the sense that the lecture theatre was first made possible through the support of the profession. With Barb's passing in 2008 and Jake's recent retirement, we hope you agree that the tribute was both timely

and well deserved. In his address that evening to those assembled, Dr. Graham Strong affectionately observed that "architects often talk about the spirit in architecture. This speaks to the enduring essence that is found within any architectural structure that is attributable to being a witness to the events taking place within it. These include life, heart, soul, freedom, victory, defeat, success, failure, sadness, and triumph." 



Stay Current through the Witer Learning Resource Centre (WLRC)

The WLRC offers FREE research services to CAO members and University of Waterloo School of Optometry alumni through a Canadian Optometric Education Trust Fund grant:

1. Free online access to **e-Therapeutics+** (includes e-CPS)
2. Free access to **Wills Eye Manual**
3. Access to the **Reference Sight** and **VisionCite** research databases
4. In-person **library borrowing privileges** at University of Waterloo, Wilfrid Laurier University, and University of Guelph
5. Journal article photocopying and delivery*
6. Literature search support at your request*

For more information please email at optlib@uwaterloo.ca

* Limitations apply – see full details at optometry.uwaterloo.ca/wlrc/alumnica.html

(Services contingent upon continued funding)

CIBA Vision Recognizes Dr. Desmond Fonn

– Andrea Carthew



On December 14th 2010, University of Waterloo School of Optometry celebrated the retirement of Dr. Desmond Fonn, Professor and Founding Director of the Centre for Contact Lens Research (CCLR), by reflecting on his outstanding career as a leader, researcher, and teacher. Surrounded by family, friends, and colleagues, those in attendance heard about Dr. Sivak's recruitment of Des to the "great white north" and laughed as his son Rob shared family stories.

One of the highlights of the evening was a special presentation by CIBA Vision to acknowledge Dr. Fonn's leadership, expertise, and impact in the area of contact lenses. In 2004, CIBA Vision made a \$500,000 gift to

UWSO in honour of Dr. Fonn to name the conference room in the CCLR upon his retirement. Dr. Richard Weisbarth (Vice President, Global Head Professional Development and Partnerships, CIBA Vision North America) is a friend of Dr. Fonn and was on hand to say a few words and present Des with the plaque that now hangs outside the room.

Through his ability to recruit talent and build relationships with industry, Des has established the CCLR as a world leader. Although he has retired and will be missed, we know he will continue to provide advice to the School and industry going forward. Congratulations, Dr. Fonn! 👁

Dr. Susan Leat To Chair New SIG For AAO

The American Academy of Optometry recently approved the establishment of SIGs (Significant Interest Groups) and our own Dr. Susan Leat has spearheaded the creation of one of its first groups. The new SIG is called Vision in Aging and Dr. Leat will serve as its first Chair. The formation of the group is timely, as we are all aware of the aging of our population. Optometrists will need to be prepared to serve the needs of the older demographic, including the frail elderly. Dr. Leat hopes that this SIG will help our profession to develop the skills necessary.

The Vision in Aging SIG has three stated goals:

- to promote knowledge about vision and aging
- to promote skill and interest in the optometric clinical management of older adults
- to promote eye care for older adults, both within and outside the profession of optometry

To further these goals, the group intends to promote discussion of research needs and the dissemination and application of knowledge gained from research into

vision and aging. They intend to educate on current best practices for treating older adults and to identify new trends so as to improve clinical care and develop the field of geriatrics as it applies to optometry. This will be undertaken by:

- providing a forum for discussion of future areas of research
- offering symposia and encouraging CE offerings
- collaborating with AAO Sections and other SIGs
- developing links with geriatricians and gerontologists from other disciplines
- surveying current curriculum trends
- making recommendations regarding curricula and standards of clinical competency in geriatric optometry/gerontology
- advocating for eye care for older adults both within and outside the profession of Optometry

We wish Dr. Leat every success in this critical initiative to promote vision care for older adults! 👁



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CE on the Sea 3, January 2011 – Elizabeth Reidt

On January 8 2011, we set sail from Miami on board the Celebrity Eclipse for our 3rd cruise-based Continuing Education program. We then spent a week sailing the Caribbean to ports in the Cayman Islands, Mexico, and Honduras before returning to Miami one week later.

During the two “at sea” days, Drs. Thom Freddo and Tim McMahon presented lectures on glaucoma, red eye, corneal and anterior segment surgery, differential diagnosis, and anterior segment infections and inflammation. Floor to ceiling windows in the lecture room afforded participants a glimpse of what they were missing. For most of the week we had sunny, warm weather, but our last “at sea” day turned rainy and windy. Nothing to do in that case but take advantage of the 24-hour food buffet!

Our cocktail party staged the human bingo game, which produced several winners, while our scavenger hunt resulted in two diligent participants who managed to answer all the questions and obtain all the items on the list.

Seasoned sailors and novices alike, please take a few moments to fill out our short survey at <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/KK96SXD> to help us plan our future winter CE programs. 



Photos courtesy of Ron Ginter