All things new…

It is a great pleasure to be able to write my first introduction to the Waterloo School of Optometry and Vision Science newsletter. After many months of planning and waiting, it is difficult to believe that I am finally here in Waterloo.

After agreeing to the position back in July of last year, I felt confident that I would arrive by the New Year. Wise words from colleagues cautioned me on the likelihood of all the paperwork and practical matters being ready by that time, and so it proved. But each in its time, and the delay has only built up my enthusiasm for joining the great team of faculty and staff here at the School. For all alumni, you don’t need me to remind you that Waterloo is genuinely world-class!

Having left the UK as it tasted the first blessings of spring, I have now discovered the ‘pleasure’ of sub-zero temperatures and wind chill. However, the warm Canadian welcome I receive from all I meet has easily counteracted the prolonged winter chill in the air. Everyone has told me of the Great White North, and I am glad of my first gentle taster as I settle in.

So it’s certainly “All things new” for me, but I realize that the appointment of any new Director brings change for the School. I am very aware of the singular role the School plays in the professional life of all Canadian optometrists, and I feel blessed to be a new part of that heritage.

The School has enjoyed a series of strong Directors over the years, starting with the illustrious founding faculty members, and most recently with the outstanding leadership displayed by my predecessor, Dr. Marlee Spafford. To all who know her, any words I might add in praise will be superfluous, but it is right that her service to the School is acknowledged. We wish her well in her exciting new role as the Associate Dean of Undergraduate Studies in the Faculty of Science here at uWaterloo.

A new Director is not the only new thing at the School. There have been other significant changes to our administration as we welcome a new Administrative Officer, Jenniffer Fleet, and a Financial Officer, Darlene Dakin. They have together taken over for Gary Marx, our previous administrator, who retired in December after 17 years of service – thank you, Gary!

The School is also pleased to welcome several new faculty – Professor Daphne McCulloch (Class of ‘79), who joins us from Glasgow Caledonian University in Scotland, and Dr. Kristine Dalton, another of our graduates (Class of ’07), who has completed her PhD at Aston University in Birmingham, UK. We anticipate the arrival of further “new things” as the School searches for new faculty members to join the team.
My start date of April 1 is perhaps not an auspicious date to start. Before we all become too ready to look for hidden meanings in the date, I prefer to think of the day as one of new beginnings. In my role as Director, I am committed to serving in the best interest of Canadian optometric education and the profession. I look forward to meeting with many of the School’s alumni and my new optometric colleagues in the months ahead to discover more about Canada and its people.

SAVE THE DATE!

GLAUCOMA GRAND ROUNDS

with MICHAEL CHAGLASIAN, OD, FAAO

Date: Wednesday, May 15 2013
Time: 6:00-6:30 pm Dinner
6:30-8:30 pm Grand Rounds Presentation
Location: Waterloo School of Optometry and Vision Science, room TBA

Dr. Michael Chaglasian is an associate professor at ICO and chief of staff at the Illinois Eye Institute. Dr. Chaglasian is in charge of the Glaucoma Service at the Illinois Eye Institute and is a founding member and treasurer of the Optometric Glaucoma Society. He has a number of published articles and has contributed chapters to several popular textbooks on the topics of glaucoma and visual fields.

Please RSVP to: C. Lisa Prokopich <clp@uwaterloo.ca>, John Flanagan <jgflanagan@uwaterloo.ca>, or Sarah MacIver <smaciver@uwaterloo.ca>.

Stay Connected

Moving or retiring and want to stay in touch?

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

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

Thank you for staying connected!
FYidoctors Makes Commitment to Support Education – Andrea Carthew

The School of Optometry and Vision Science is thrilled to share that FYidoctors has stepped up with a $100,000 pledge in support of our $8 million clinic renovation campaign. This ambitious renovation project is critical to the advancement of optometric education and will help create an enhanced environment for clinical teaching and patient care. FYi’s generous donation helps put us a little closer to making this vision a reality.

Since the School’s building opened in 1974, the profession has evolved and so must we. The gift from FYidoctors recognizes the significance of such enhancements to the School’s clinical education program. From the company’s inception, President and CEO Dr. Alan Ulsifer (Class of ’90) had the vision that FYi would be an organization that would give back. “It is important to remember where and how we got our start in optometry. The University of Waterloo trained us to be part of a very rewarding profession and as dedicated practitioners, we should stand behind them and invest in the next generation,” says Dr. Ulsifer.

To help facilitate FYi’s philanthropic goals, the company has established the FYi Foundation for Sight through the Calgary Community Foundation. The mission of the Foundation states: “We welcome a leadership role in expanding access to better eye care, locally and globally, and are pleased to invest the full range of our resources – people, products, expertise and funding – to contribute to achieving this goal.”

Dr. Marlee Spafford, the School’s former Interim Director, says that “it has been a pleasure to see FYidoctors evolve from an idea to a successful reality. Their business model of sharing expertise and resources with fellow practitioners will always provide an advantage, one they are using to benefit their patients and to invest back into the profession. FYi’s leadership gift toward clinical education at the School will help ensure that we have a collaborative environment to train tomorrow’s optometrists.”

To complement their gift to the clinic renovations, FYidoctors has also generously committed an additional $4,500 a year to establish the FYidoctors Clinical Leadership Awards. The Awards will be presented annually to one fourth year and one third year student who has shown competent leadership in the areas of professionalism and communication, as well as clinical and academic excellence. These new awards will be among the most significant the School has to offer deserving students. We look forward to presenting the first of each award later this year.

Although many of the members of FYidoctors are graduates of our program, some are not. This fact makes their donation back to the School all the more meaningful as they are simply Canadian optometrists investing in Canadian optometric education. For this, we are truly grateful.

Ash Edwards (Director, IT), Eymbert Vaandering (COO), Cathy McNaught (Executive Assistant to the CEO), Darren Ihmels (VP External Sales), Scott Shaw (VP Operations), Terry Curry (VP Business Development), Dr. Al Ulsifer (CEO), Karli Matthison (VP Brand Development), Nick Noronha (VP Finance), Dr. Mike Naugle (Shareholder and Board Director), Dr. Kerby Kelly (Shareholder and Board Director), Dr. Winston Koo (Shareholder)

Congratulations to Dr. Alan Ulsifer of FYidoctors for receiving the national 2012 Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the Year Award!
Phase Two of our campaign is our ambitious clinic renovation, through which we plan to completely rebuild and reorganize our clinical facilities. This $8 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.

Gift/Pledge Form

I/we wish to support excellence in education at the School of Optometry and Vision Science by supporting the clinic renovation campaign.

Name ____________________________________________ Phone ____________________________________________

Mailing Address __________________________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

Gift/Pledge Amount ___________ Pledge Period ___________ Years Start Date ______________________________

Project: School of Optometry and Vision Science – Clinic Renovation Project

Method of Payment

☐ I/we would like to make a one-time gift of $ _________________

☐ I/we would like to pledge $ _________________ and wish to pay in installments of $ _________________

Please send me periodic reminders:

☐ Yearly ☐ Semi-Annually ☐ Quarterly ☐ Monthly

☐ Cheque (Payable to: School of Optometry and Vision Science)

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

☐ Credit Card

☐ VISA ☐ MasterCard ☐ American Express

☐ You may use this credit card for all pledge installments.

Card Number ____________________________________________________ CVV ____________ 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, Advancement
School of Optometry and Vision Science, University of Waterloo
200 University Ave. West, Waterloo, Ontario N2L 3G1
On January 22, we had the pleasure of formally saying “Thank You” to Dr. George Woo (Class of ‘64), Mrs. Judy Woo, Dr. Judy Brisson (Class of ’77), and Rodger Pace (Class of ‘74) by naming exam rooms in the Low Vision Clinic. Each has made a generous $50,000 gift to the School’s clinic renovation campaign.

“We are fortunate to have such dedicated supporters of the School who understand the importance of giving back,” said Interim Director Dr. Marlee Spafford. “It is only through such generosity that we can take on ambitious projects that will advance optometric education.”

The planned clinic renovation project is a complete rebuild of our two-storey, 33,000 square foot clinic that will create a more efficient environment for teaching and patient care. We will move most clinical services to the first floor, create a diagnostic and imaging suite, expand our number of teaching pods, and provide an enhanced profile for our dispensary. The renovation will allow us to amalgamate clinics to better mirror private practice and implement changes to the clinical program and operations. The project will enable a complete transformation of our clinical program.

During the celebration of the Woos’ $50,000 donation, George remarked, “The clinic renovation project should be important to all of us. The need to update the facilities is clear and the impact it will have on the clinical program, substantial. We need to ensure that the next generation has the learning environment they need to excel. I encourage others to join us in support of the clinic.”

Earlier in the same day we also recognized Drs. Brisson and Pace for their $50,000 gift. Rodger expressed that “whether you are a Waterloo alumnus, you work in its clinic, or are a Canadian optometrist, you should always continue to give back to the profession. Judy and I have chosen to support the School because it is our education that has given us the fulfilling careers that we have today. By supporting the School, we are investing in the future.”

It seemed fitting to be able to recognize the Woos and Drs. Brisson and Pace in the Low Vision Clinic, which will be updated as part of the renovation project. George was one of the co-founders and acted as the inaugural Director of the Centre for Sight Enhancement (CSE) and the Low Vision Clinic, while Rodger was also involved from the beginning, spending more than 20 years working in and developing the services there. Both have played a significant role in establishing Waterloo’s strength in low vision.

The CSE is now world renowned, using the synergies between the clinic and research to develop new technologies and vision aids. The Low Vision Clinic has grown into a unique entity that provides a breadth of vision care and rehabilitation to patients from across the province. It is the only accredited low vision service in Canada and is the only accredited clinic in a school of optometry in North America.

The Woos and Drs. Brisson and Pace were among the first to support the project. Since the renovations are not yet under way, the School has chosen to acknowledge their support now and move the plaques to the new clinic once the project is completed. With their support, we have raised over $1.3 million toward the $8 million campaign. The School needs to raise more than half of the money before the clinic renovation can move forward and we hope that we can count on our alumni and friends like them to help make this critical project a reality.

Giving Back to the Profession – Andrew Carthew
Smoking Cessation: A New Initiative of the Centre for Sight Enhancement, Low Vision Clinic – Dr. Ann Plotkin

As Canada’s population ages and the societal and financial impacts of aging and poor health become increasingly apparent, health care has shifted its focus from acute care to disease prevention and management. By discussing the role of smoking in relation to an individual’s eye health and referring patients to smoking cessation programs, optometrists can play a role in disease prevention and management.

The relationship between smoking and AMD is well documented. According to the Rotterdam study, current and former smoking in subjects under the age of 85 was associated with neovascular AMD. For current smokers there was a 6.6X increased risk of developing neovascular AMD, and for those who had quit smoking there was a 3.2X increased risk. An individual’s risk of neovascular macular degeneration decreased as the years since quitting increased. After 10-19 years of non-smoking, the risk dropped to 4.2X, while after 20 years or more of not smoking, the risk dropped to 1.5X. Thornton et al reviewed 17 epidemiological studies evaluating causal relationships between smoking and the development of AMD. They found a two- to three-fold risk of developing the disease. There was also a dose-response relationship found in the risk for developing AMD. Studies have documented a non-linear decrease in incidence of AMD with smoking cessation as well, even in the elderly. In a 2010 study, Dr. Spafford found that while an optometrist may discuss the health risks of smoking, patients are rarely referred to smoking cessation services.

When patients with AMD who are smokers become aware of the risks that tobacco use poses to their ocular health, their desire to quit may increase but their confidence in their ability to quit may remain low. This year, the Centre for Sight Enhancement, Low Vision Clinic has started a new initiative – the provision of individualized smoking cessation programs. Our Low Vision Rehabilitation Counsellor, Melinda Szilva, has completed a certificate in Smoking Cessation Counselling through the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health’s Training Enhancement in Applied Cessation Counselling and Health (TEACH) project. TEACH is accredited by the University of Toronto Faculty of Medicine, three other Ontario medical schools, professional regulatory bodies, and the International Association for the Treatment of Tobacco Use and Dependence (ATTUD). The program’s goal is to provide evidence-based, accredited, accessible, and clinically relevant curricula to a broad range of health practitioners.

Melinda is meeting with clients, especially those with AMD and glaucoma, who have been advised to cease smoking but are struggling to quit. TEACH has trained her to provide client-centered, relaxed, and non-judgmental smoking cessation counselling. If you are interested in finding out more about this program, contact Melinda Szilva at the Centre for Sight Enhancement, Low Vision Clinic (519-888-4708 or mmszilva@uwaterloo.ca).

For patients of the Low Vision Clinic, there is no cost for this service.


Vision Science Student Wins uWaterloo Three-Minute Thesis Competition

Congratulations to graduate student Chau-Minh Phan for winning both first place and the People’s Choice award at the university-wide Three-Minute Thesis (3MT) Competition. The 3MT is a university-wide competition in which students are invited to use only one slide to present their thesis in three minutes.

It began in 2008 at the University of Queensland in Australia. The competition made its debut in Canada at the University of British Columbia in 2011, and was hosted by 17 Canadian universities this year. Chau-Minh competed against 170 competitors across six faculties.

For his PhD, Chau-Minh is designing a hydrogel contact lens material capable of sustaining the release of antifungal drugs into the eye, by “packaging” the drugs into nanoparticles before loading them onto the contact lens. As he explained in his presentation, “This process is similar to sending an item through the mail. You can’t just send the item without first packaging it in a suitable container, in this case nanoparticles. This way, your item is easier to deliver, won’t get damaged on the way, and will likely get to where it wants to go.”

Drug-releasing contact lenses are not a new concept, but it has been a challenge to develop a material capable of continuously releasing drugs into the eye over a sustained period of days or even weeks. The use of therapeutic eye drops to treat the front of the eye is not optimal, as the liquid is quickly washed away by tears, necessitating their re-instillation on an hourly basis.

This competition gave Chau-Minh a chance to explain his work to an incredibly diverse audience of students and faculty – enough of a challenge without the added pressure of competition! As Chau-Minh put it, “Three minutes is not a lot of time to say anything. Every word out of my mouth had to be meaningful, captivating and delivered with pitch-perfect timing and meaningful hand gestures ... One fatal ‘um’ can mean the difference between winning and losing – particularly stressful for a person like myself, with a stuttering condition.”

Chau-Minh then went on to make the School even more proud by placing third in the provincial competition held in Kingston in April. Congratulations, Chau-Minh, for such outstanding showings!

Dr. Sivak … in Hong Kong

In June of 2012, our own Dr. Jake Sivak was invited to visit the School of Optometry at Hong Kong Polytechnic University in relation to a variety of myopia research interests. This photo, which was taken after a research lunch, features George Woo (Emeritus Professor, Poly U and Professor Emeritus, Waterloo School of Optometry and Vision Science) seated in the front row on Dr. Sivak’s right. Standing behind them are Carly Lam (Professor and Head) and Pauline Cho (Professor). Standing in the back row are Dr. Chi-wai Do (Assistant Professor), Dr. Chea-su Kee (Assistant Professor), Dr. Allen Cheong (Assistant Professor), Dr. Rachel Chun (Instructor), and Prof. Chi-ho To (Professor and Associate Head).
Waterloo School of Optometry and Vision Science is pleased to present our annual Continuing Education program **May 31-June 2 2013**.

This year the focus will be on primary care optometry. Many aspects of primary care will be covered, including:

- management of anterior segment disease
- management of glaucoma
- what’s new in contact lenses
- management of the low vision patient
- sports vision
- management of dry eye disease
- children’s vision.

This year’s speakers will be: Thomas Freddo, John Flanagan, Phil Hooper, Paul Karpecki, Melanie Campbell, Kristine Dalton, Alexandra Donkin, Sarah MacIver, Paul Murphy, Marlee Spafford, Lisa Christian, Ann Plotkin, Graham Strong, and Tammy Labreche.

Again this year, we feature the **Distinguished Dr. Clair Bobier and Dr. Emerson Woodruff Lectures**. The Bobier Lecture this year will be presented by **Dr. Melanie Campbell** and is called “The Importance of the Eye’s Optics to Myopia, Ocular Diagnosis and Therapy”; the Woodruff Lecture will be presented by **Dr. Phil Hooper** and is called “Diabetic Retinopathy Now and Into the Future: A Changing Paradigm and a Challenge for Care.”

**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 on Saturday and 3 hours of hands-on workshops on Sunday. All hours are subject to approval for accreditation through the CAO.

**Social Events**

Join us for the annual School of Optometry and Vision Science Alumni Dinner on Saturday night. 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 1:45 pm.

**Registration Information**

Registration fees for CE 2013 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 [uwaterloo.ca/optometry](http://uwaterloo.ca/optometry) and follow the links to register yourself, colleagues, and staff for this year’s CE.
Attention all Optometric Assistants and Optometric staff! Please plan to join us at the OA and Staff CE program on **Saturday, June 1** and **Sunday, June 2**. All lecture and workshop topics are based on this year’s CE theme – Primary Eye Care.

The Saturday lectures will cover a variety of topics for both the everyday and special needs optometric patient. Dr. Kristine Dalton, our newest faculty member and a sport vision specialist, will highlight the whys, whens, and whats involved in this exciting area of vision care for all ages. Ruby Van Eeken, a specialist in Low Vision Training, will discuss the services and devices available from the CNIB and how you can access information for your patients with such needs. Alexandra Donkin, lawyer and marketing specialist with CooperVision, ends the morning session with timely tips for today’s consumer.

You are then invited to the **Industry Information Trade Show and Lunch** on the first floor of the new addition. Enjoy delicious finger foods as you visit representatives from 25+ companies giving you the most up-to-date information for the newest products in this fast-moving industry.

The afternoon session begins with our Low Vision Rehabilitation Counsellor, Melinda Szilva, explaining how LV clients often need more than just eye care; Melinda will discuss the many social issues and the range of assistance available. Dr. Tammy Labreche, who specializes in elderly and LV care at the School, will then present on the effect of falls and how they affect our aging population. To end the lecture day, Dr. Lacey Haines, who is currently doing a Contact Lens residency at the School, will discuss cases involving specialty and unusual contact lens fittings.

For the final lecture hour on Saturday, OAs and staff are invited to join the ODs for the **Distinguished Woodruff Lecture** given by Dr. Phil Hooper at 5:00 in lecture hall 1129.

The Sunday workshops will be presented by Dr. Tammy Labreche and Heidi Panchaud, Certified Vision Rehabilitation Therapist (CVRT). Do you know what loss of vision feels like? In Hour 1, you will experience the various conditions that reduce vision and move around in the world of vision limitation so that you can understand what your patients may be experiencing. In hours 2 and 3, participants will learn about magnifiers for close work and devices for distance vision. This information is invaluable in modern optometry practices as we face the largest group of seniors ever over the next 25 years!

Please sign up for the OA lectures and workshops online at: [uwaterloo.ca/optometry-vision-science/alumni-and-friends/continuing-education](http://www.uwaterloo.ca/optometry-vision-science/alumni-and-friends/continuing-education).

If you require any further information, please contact Marilyn Smith at [masmith@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:masmith@uwaterloo.ca).
The Special Olympics and Optometry – Dr. Rick Wiggins

Last June, 18 interns from Waterloo School of Optometry and Vision Science joined with several volunteer optometrists to participate in the Healthy Athletes screening program at the Special Olympics Ontario Provincial Spring Games in Kingston, Ontario. All athletes in the Special Olympics were able to visit this unique screening, which included assessments by dentists, optometrists, audiologists, podiatrists, nurses, and physicians. All the health professionals were volunteers who were housed locally, near the locations where the various athletic events took place.

Approximately 300 of the 900 Special Olympians took advantage of the vision screening, providing our interns a unique opportunity to assess mentally challenged adults in a happy environment using equipment on loan from INNOVA. Three rooms were set up, with two for actual tests and one for dispensing and frame repairs. The athletes were given the opportunity to obtain sports goggles and dress spectacles based on the results of the screening at no cost. Many of the athletes remarked that their current glasses were several years old and in poor condition. A significant number also reported that their glasses were left at home so that they wouldn’t be broken or lost.

Many of the athletes had high refractive errors (above +/-6.00 with 3.00 or more diopters of astigmatism). It is hard to imagine a winning team with several members not wearing glasses for such errors but this is what we encountered. Tests were also given for ocular health, strabismus, depth perception, visual acuity, and colour vision.

The gratitude of the athletes for this service was deep and frequently expressed. Many of the families who accompanied them also voiced their appreciation for both the assessments and the counseling. More than a few times, we heard of families unable to receive eye care without extensive traveling, and these families looked forward to attending the Special Olympics partly in order to obtain the optometric services offered.

Clinic Again Recognized by the KW Community

The School of Optometry and Vision Science was excited to learn that our public patient clinic has once again been honoured by readers of the Waterloo Region Record newspaper. The clinic was voted a Diamond Winner in the Optometrist category for the 2012 Readers’ Select Awards. This is wonderful recognition and a testament to the efforts of our faculty, staff, clinical supervisors, and students, all of whom work so hard to provide excellent vision care to our patients from our community.

A large part of our success is due to the efforts of grads who take time away from their own practices to help us provide clinical training to students as adjunct faculty here at the School. Thank you to all of our alumni who continuously step forward to help train students. Your involvement is an essential part of our clinical program.

The Readers’ Select Awards were established to provide The Record’s readers with an opportunity to nominate and then vote for the top businesses and services in our region. The School congratulates Dr. Carol Cressman (Platinum), Drs. Chhatwal, Wilkinson, and Runstedler (Gold) and Insight Eye Care (Gold) for also receiving recognition.
Last year we underwent a name change and became the School of Optometry and Vision Science. This new name officially acknowledges the growth and strength of our Vision Science graduate program as a proud complement to our Doctor of Optometry program. With close to 50 students, it has evolved over time to become one of the largest such graduate programs in North America and, arguably, the world.

The graduate program is accredited by the Ontario Council of Graduate Schools and enrolls students pursuing MSc and PhD degrees in Vision Science. Students come from all over the world and range from those with science degrees to qualified students from engineering, the arts, and the social sciences, in addition to Canadian and internationally trained optometrists.

Students participate in a combination of coursework and research activity culminating in the preparation and public defense of their thesis. Graduate courses offered include those devoted to advanced methodological, clinical, technical, and basic scientific issues. Each graduate student works primarily with a research advisor and it is this eclectic group of advisors who provide mentoring. Advisors are primarily in the School, but they come from other University of Waterloo faculties as well, such as Science, Engineering, and Applied Health Sciences.

Vision Science research areas include health care, medical education and service delivery, normal and abnormal visual development, senescence, ocular biology and pathophysiology, fundamental optics, material sciences, and imaging and instrument development. The research conducted here is widely acknowledged as first class and is regularly published in the highest impact journals in our field. We are well represented at the major international vision research conferences. The School boasts two internationally renowned research centres, the Centre for Contact Lens Research and the Centre for Sight Enhancement, which have become leaders in the areas of contact lenses and low vision, respectively.

We would like to give an example of the quality of the graduate students in our program by highlighting the work of recent PhD graduate Kevin van Doorn, who came to Waterloo after doing an undergraduate degree at McGill. He chose to work with Distinguished Professor Emeritus Jake Sivak on comparative aspects of the optics of the eye. His first series of experiments involved investigations into how lenses change in smolt fish, and after some unfortunate initial obstacles (including not being able to do some international collaborative experiments because the region where the data collection was to be done had become a war zone!), Kevin turned his attention to the eyes of reptiles. His particular interest is their “spectacle,” the transparent scale that covers their cornea.

Kevin’s work is the first to describe the comparative anatomy, spectral transmittance, vascularization, and biochemistry of the spectacle in these animals. In addition to the biological importance of this beautiful novel work, his project perfectly represents the complex interactions of the field that is Vision Science.

Our Growing Vision Science Graduate Program – Dr. Trefford Simpson and Dr. Vivian Choh

On October 19 2012, Dr. Jake Sivak presented the Annual Fechner Day Lecture to the College of Optometry University Of Missouri-St Louis. The title of the lecture was “Finding the Causes and the Means to Prevent Myopia.” The accompanying photograph, by Professor Bill Long, shows Dr. Sivak on the left with Dr. Carl Bassi of the College. Dr. Bassi organized the Fechner Day Lecture event and made the introductions. The lecture was followed by a reception, which featured delicious German chocolate cake.
Presenting the Dr. Desmond Fonn Contact Lens Research Award – Andrea Carthew

This past March, the School of Optometry and Vision Science was delighted to present the Dr. Desmond Fonn Contact Lens Research Award for the first time. This year there were two recipients, Alex Hui and Heinz Otchere (pictured here with Dr. Fonn), each of whom received $4,000.

This award was established in honour of Dr. Desmond Fonn, Founding Director of the Centre for Contact Lens Research (CCLR), to recognize his illustrious academic career and to acknowledge his many contributions to advancing contact lens education and research both nationally and internationally. The award will be presented annually to vision science graduate students who are conducting novel basic or clinical research pertaining to contact lenses or a related field.

“This is a tremendous way to honour the contributions that Des has made to the contact lens industry and in particular his work in setting up the Centre for Contact Lens Research,” said current CCLR Director Dr. Lyndon Jones. “This fund will permit us to provide well deserved support to excellence in graduate work in the field that Des so loves.”

The Desmond Fonn Contact Lens Research Award was made possible through the support of many colleagues, corporate partners, and friends, and now stands as the premier student award in the CCLR. We would like to highlight the following donors for their support of over $500:

- CIBA Vision
- CooperVision
- Desmond and Anita Fonn
- Charline Gauthier
- Brien Holden
- Johnson & Johnson Vision Care
- Joshua Josephson
- Kavelman Fonn Foundation
- Donald Korb
- Jeffrey Walline

An OSA Honour for One of Our Own

Later this year, Professor Vengu Lakshminaraynan will be acknowledged as the Optical Society of America’s 2013 recipient of the Esther Hoffman Beller Medal, which recognizes contributions to optical science and engineering education in international and interdisciplinary settings. Recipients are honoured for outstanding teaching and/or original work in optics education that enhances the understanding of optics. Dr. Lakshminaraynan will receive the award in October at the Frontiers in Optics meeting in Orlando, Florida. Congratulations, Vengu!
Welcome, Dr. Kristine Dalton – Dr. Jan Freddo

Waterloo School of Optometry and Vision Science is pleased to welcome Dr. Kristine Dalton to our faculty as an Assistant Professor. Her return to Waterloo brings a new perspective and energy to an interesting aspect of specialty research in our school – sports vision.

Dr. Dalton plans to develop a center that will provide athletes with access to eye care and vision training exercises that are sport-specific and performance enhancing. It is her hope that the center will “develop into a multi-disciplinary hub for sports research” and be a place where “researchers and specialists from different fields, including kinesiology and psychology, can work together in a dynamic environment.” As more is learned, it is hoped that this research will lead to developments in therapies for all individuals, not just athletes, who suffer from vision disabilities.

Her research program will be conducted within the facilities at the school for now, and she looks forward to developing a portable clinic where screenings can be conducted at the athletes’ training centers. In addition to her research, Dr. Dalton will be teaching in the student clinics and the undergraduate Optometry program.

Dr. Dalton earned her OD degree at Waterloo in 2007. She then stayed at Waterloo to complete an MSc under Dr. Lyndon Jones in the area of tear film and dry eye, in conjunction with a residency under Dr. Gina Sorbara in contact lenses. As Dr. Dalton’s expertise and interest in vision science unfolded, she decided to continue her education at Aston University in Birmingham, England. There she studied at the School of Life Sciences, where her advisors were Dr. Shehzad Naroo (Aston) and Dr. Michel Guillon (OTG Research & Consultancy). She recently defended her PhD thesis (“The Vision Strategy of Golf Putting”) this spring.

We are pleased that Dr. Dalton has chosen to bring her unique expertise, ideas, and enthusiasm back to Waterloo. She believes that Waterloo will provide the great research atmosphere and facilities for her to pursue her interests and to develop a world class program in sports vision. She is especially looking forward to working in the years to come with the many talented people both on the main campus and in the School of Optometry and Vision Science.

Alumni Dinner – June 1 2013
Mark Your Calendars!

On Saturday, June 1, as part of our CE weekend, the School of Optometry and Vision Science will host our Annual Reunion Event immediately following the Distinguished Woodruff Lecture.

Come and meet our new Director, Dr. Paul Murphy, mingle with the students, and enjoy an evening of fun and camaraderie with your classmates and colleagues.

Is your class celebrating a special reunion year?
Commemorate your 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40 or 45th reunion here at the School where it all began. Not a reunion year? That’s OK, too – all years are welcome and tables will be marked with class year or decade.

Contact Andrea Carthew (acarthew@uwaterloo.ca or 519-888-4567, ext. 36319) for help in getting your class organized.

To RSVP for the 2013 Alumni Dinner you can either indicate your attendance on the CE registration form or contact Elizabeth Reidt at 519-888-4567, ext. 33177.
Open Access (OA) is a term used to describe digital, online, scholarly literature that is free of charge, and free of most copyright and licensing restrictions (Suber, 2012). Considered significant enough to be termed a ‘movement’ by its supporters, OA has the potential to affect everyone who produces and uses research. Although there are several different popular definitions of OA, a common and resounding theme unites the approaches to this topic: readers should not shoulder the burden of paying for the research they want or need to access – research that is commoditized and sold at ever-increasing prices (Fischer, 2012).

Researchers need access to recent information that will help them consider OA in relation to the work they publish and the work of others that they use. To increase a commitment to accessible information they also need to be able to find out about decisions others are making regarding OA in their fields, and participate in discussions about OA in order to stay current. Within an academic environment, it is easy to forget the cost involved to access non-OA research, as institutional subscriptions mask the significant cost of many publications.

As practising optometrists, access to evidence-based research to answer clinical questions is particularly important, in order to provide the best possible support to patients. With the prohibitive cost of subscription rates for many vision science journals, providing access to important medical information makes OA literature increasingly valuable. The Canadian government has made ground-breaking progress recently as one of the first developed nations to require that publically funded medical research be made available through OA information portals. As of January 1, 2013, the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) requires funding recipients to make their peer-reviewed publications accessible at no cost within 12 months of publication.

In theory, free access to relevant medical research sounds ideal, but where can practising clinicians get this information quickly and efficiently? PubMed Central Canada is a good place to start, as it provides free access to a permanent online digital archive of full-text, peer-reviewed health and life science research publications. Building on the popular MEDLINE database PubMed, the search interface allows anyone to browse, search, and download articles. This initiative was developed by the National Research Council’s Canada Institute for Scientific and Technical Information (NRC-CISTI) and the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR), in partnership with the U.S. National Library of Medicine’s free archive PubMed Central (PMC). PMC Canada’s goal is to “capitalize on Canadians’ health research investments by allowing public access to and use of research results, supporting better health and care in Canada” (PMC Canada vision statement, 2013).

Beyond PubMed Central Canada, the following databases provide access to clinically relevant OA information:

- BioMed Central (www.biomedcentral.com): a science, technology, and medicine publisher of over 240 open access, online, peer-reviewed journals
- OAlster (http://oalster.worldcat.org): a catalogue of more than 25 million records representing open access resources
- Directory of Open Access Journals (www.doaj.org)
- UWSPACE (http://uwspace.uwaterloo.ca): an OA thesis repository containing all thesis research completed at UWOS
- ContactLensUpdate (http://contactlensupdate.com): the Centre for Contact Lens Research has a strong commitment to providing access to the latest information on contact lenses

For one resource web page that includes links to the resources listed here, as well as a listing of OA optometric journals, try the Witer Learning Resource Centre’s site for Practicing Optometrists at uwaterloo.ca/witer-learning-resource-centre/practising-optometrists.

The University of Waterloo Library also provides an Open Access Guide at subjectguides.uwaterloo.ca/content.php?pid=257992.

References:
PubMed Central Canada <http://pubmedcentralcanada.ca>
Fischer, Meredith. Article presented to the Faculty Association of the University of Waterloo. 2012.
On March 1, Waterloo School of Optometry and Vision Science welcomed its newest faculty member – Dr. Daphne McCulloch. She has come to us from Glasgow Caledonian University in Scotland, where she was a Professor of Vision Sciences. Her teaching responsibilities included electrophysiology clinics, learning disability clinics, anatomy, physiology, and ocular disease management.

Dr. McCulloch’s professional career began in Waterloo, where she earned her Doctor of Optometry degree in 1979. She then completed one of the earliest primary care residencies for optometrists, working directly with ophthalmology specialists at the Pennsylvania College of Optometry. During her residency, she developed an interest in clinical electrophysiology of vision and chose to pursue this area for her PhD at Indiana University School of Optometry. In addition to lecturing and teaching, she also set up Indiana’s electrophysiology service. It was there that she began to investigate child visual development and testing strategies for children.

Upon completion of her PhD, Daphne accepted a position as Director of the Clinical Electrophysiology Unit at Toronto’s Hospital for Sick Children, which provided an opportunity to work with prominent neonatal and pediatric specialists. From Toronto, she moved to the Children’s Hospital Los Angeles, where she provided clinical services and developed research focusing on children with neurologic conditions, particularly optic nerve hypoplasia, a leading cause of childhood visual impairment.

Dr. McCulloch’s academic pursuits then took her to Scotland’s only Optometry program at Glasgow Caledonian University, which brought new opportunities for teaching and research, including serving a term as Associate Dean for Research, Knowledge Transfer and Commercial Development in the School of Life Sciences. In addition to her responsibilities in the Optometry program, she set up, at the Royal Hospital for Sick Children, a multidisciplinary vision clinic for children with complex disabilities and collaborated on topics of neonatal risk factors with two maternity hospitals in Glasgow.

As she settles in here at Waterloo, Daphne is preparing to step into her teaching and supervisory role while looking to develop new clinical visual electrophysiology projects. She will also continue to collaborate with associates at the Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto and Children’s Hospital Los Angeles.

It is wonderful to welcome back one of our internationally recognized graduates. Dr. McCulloch’s extensive background and broad expertise will be an asset to our faculty. She is looking forward to getting under way and will be joined by her family this summer.

Welcome Home, Daphne McCulloch! – Dr. Jan Freddo

Stay current through the Witer Learning Resource Centre!

The Witer Learning Resource Centre at Waterloo School of Optometry and Vision Science provides a range of free information services and resources for CAO members and our alumni (OD) due in part to a COETF grant:
1. Free access to the following online resources:
   a) Wills Eye Manual
   b) eTherapeutics+ (includes e-CPS)
   c) Ocular Manual of Diagnosis and Therapy
   d) Optometry and Vision Science (e-journal)
2. Literature search support at your request
3. In-person library borrowing privileges at University of Waterloo, Wilfrid Laurier University, and University of Guelph

Email us for full details (optlib@uwaterloo.ca)

Resources and services contingent upon continued funding. Limitations apply – see full details at: https://uwaterloo.ca/witer-learning-resource-centre/practising-optometrists
Dr. Rodger Pace retired this April after a memorable 34-year career as a faculty member at the School of Optometry and Vision Science. Rodger graduated from our program in 1974 and subsequently did a clinical residency at the School that concentrated on primary care optometry with a special emphasis on the vision care of special populations. Afterwards, he spent four years in private practice in Hamilton, Ontario, while teaching at the School as a part-time Clinical Supervisor. In 1979, he accepted an invitation to return to the School as a full-time Clinical Supervisor and ultimately attained the rank of Clinical Associate Professor.

The first two decades of Rodger’s career at the School featured an emphasis on clinical teaching in the areas of geriatric care and low vision rehabilitation. During this time, he authored or co-authored several papers and journal articles, as well as a course text and a series of laboratory exercises that were used extensively in our low vision courses.

In more recent years, Dr. Pace’s teaching activities shifted to concentrate on optometric clinical techniques, particularly emphasizing the fundamental skills and methods of ocular health assessment and refraction. In between days spent teaching and supervising in the Primary Care and Ocular Health Clinics, Dr. Pace also did a considerable amount of lecturing in didactic courses on ocular disease. It is worth noting that Rodger has the distinction of writing the very first therapeutic pharmaceutical prescription issued by the School’s clinic in April 2011, while the ink was still fresh on the enabling legislation in Ontario.

Dr. Pace has held many key administrative posts at the School of Optometry and Vision Science over the years, including a seven-year tenure as Clinic Director from 1990 to 1997 and a two-year term as Interim Associate Director of the School from 2005 until 2007. He also served terms as Head of the Low Vision Clinic, Head of the Ocular Health Clinic, Head of Residencies, and Head of Externship Programs. Rodger has also been a member of numerous committees; perhaps most significantly, he has served on the Admissions Committee since 1999 and has been one of the Admissions Officers since 2004.

Rodger also has a long history of contributing to the profession externally by serving on many committees at the College of Optometrists of Ontario and by providing extensive consulting services to various governmental and administrative agencies in the areas of low vision care, optometric education, and professional assessment.

Outside optometry, Rodger’s passion for music is legendary. He devotes a considerable amount of time to playing guitar and mandolin and is probably best known as a member of the School’s resident classic rock band, the Lost Faculties. He has a deep appreciation for high-quality rare or vintage musical instruments and has even carefully crafted a few himself. Rodger’s keen interest in music is shared with his wife, Dr. Judy Brisson (Class of ’77), and together they have lent their support to many Canadian folk/roots artists, most notably by offering their home to host the “Home Routes” series of concerts.

A spirit of supportive generosity is one that Rodger and Judy have always embodied. They have selflessly given back to the School of Optometry and Vision Science over the years, most recently by committing $50,000 to the clinic renovation campaign. In recognition of their remarkable contributions, the School has named an exam room in their honour. Dr. Brisson also continuously offers valuable externship experiences to our students and Rodger and Judy have acted as supportive mentors for many promising young optometrists-to-be.

On a personal level, I have no doubt that Rodger himself would choose to play down any formal public accolades with regard to his accomplishments. Those who worked with him will probably remember him best for his humble, unassuming manner and his quiet and non-confrontational style of leadership. He is invariably patient, fair-minded, and respectful in all of his interactions with students, staff, colleagues, and patients. Above all, he is fiercely devoted to providing the best possible educational experience to students. His departure from the School of Optometry and Vision Science will leave a gap keenly felt.

From all of us at the School, we offer our warmest wishes to Rodger for a long, happy, and healthy retirement. It is nice to know that although he is stepping away from academia, we can look forward to having Rodger continue to entertain us as a member of the Lost Faculties! ☺️
Alumni of Honour Award

Call For Nominations
The School of Optometry and Vision Science 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 begin to recognize some of these outstanding individuals for their efforts and achievements, we are proud to announce the call for nominations for the 2013 Alumni of Honour Award.

We invite you to nominate a graduate from the School (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 OD and/or Vision Science alumnus)
• **Contributions to Community** (recognizes the accomplishments of an OD and/or Vision Science alumnus in volunteer leadership, humanitarian endeavours, and community and public service)

Nominations will be accepted through the web at optometry.uwaterloo.ca or by hard copy, up until the deadline of May 17, 2013.

Award Process
Award selection will be made by a committee including the Director of the School of Optometry and Vision Science or designate; the Associate Director, Advancement; 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 2013 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 of the following Waterloo degrees: OD, MSc (Vision Science), or PhD (Vision Science).

To nominate an alumnus for the 2013 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 and Vision Science
University of Waterloo
200 University Avenue West
Waterloo, ON N2L 3G1
Attn: 2013 Alumni of Honour Award
Fax: 519-725-0784

Award Presentation
This year the Alumni of Honour Award will be presented to the recipient during the CAO Congress in Edmonton, Alberta, July 10-13, 2013.

Recipients will have their biographies and pictures published in our newsletter and on our website. Their names and pictures will also be featured on a plaque displayed in the School.

Past Recipients
The 2011 Alumni of Honour recipient was Dr. Gordon Hensel.
For more information about him and other past recipients, please visit uwaterloo.ca/optometry/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***
This form will be used to identify candidates for the School of Optometry and Vision Science’s 2013 Alumni of Honour Award. Please provide as much detail as possible; point form is encouraged. Nominators may need to attach a separate sheet in order to provide full details or can complete the online form at uwaterloo.ca/optometry. REQUIRED FIELDS ARE MARKED*.

1. Personal Information of Nominee

* Given name(s)
* Last name
* Year of graduation
* Address (full address if known)

* Phone number(s) Home ( )
  * Business ( )
* Email address
* Practice name/employer

2. Professional Achievement (recognizes professional accomplishments or contributions to the profession or to vision science) 250 word maximum; point form is encouraged.

What makes a good entry? Successful career/professional achievement(s) or contributions to the profession:
- Exemplary career success, visibility
- Significant other roles (Board of Directors, advisory groups, association committees)
- Senior leadership
- Known beyond industry segment
- Leadership that has impacted the direction of the profession, affected policy, etc.

3. Contributions to Community (recognizes accomplishments and involvement in volunteer leadership, humanitarian endeavours and community and public service, including or outside of optometry) 250 word maximum; point form is encouraged.

What makes a good entry? Community Service/Humanitarian endeavours:
- Significant, sustained involvement, volunteerism, philanthropy
- Highly visible involvement that is clearly recognized
- Multiple leadership roles

- Proven impact (could be local, regional, national, international)

4. uWaterloo Involvement – Other Information (that may aid in the selection process) 250 word maximum; point form is encouraged.

The candidate’s CV, résumé and/or biography including awards, journal articles, popular press articles, etc., will also be accepted and considered. Letters of support are also encouraged.

5. Personal Information of Nominator

* Name of nominator
* Address:

* Phone number(s) Home ( )
  * Business ( )
* Email address
* Are you a uWaterloo Optometry alumnus? ☐ yes ☐ no If yes, what year?
* Relationship to nominee
* Please state why you are making this nomination (100 word maximum)

* Please check one of the following:
  ☐ I plan to inform the nominee of this nomination;
  ☐ The School of Optometry and Vision Science may inform the nominee of this nomination;
  ☐ I prefer my nomination to remain anonymous.

Please send completed forms to:
School of Optometry and Vision Science, University of Waterloo
200 University Avenue West, Waterloo, ON N2L 3G1
or fax: 519-725-0784
Attention: Alumni of Honour Award
A PROUD SUPPORTER OF CANADIAN OPTOMETRY

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Visit our website at
www.ContactLensCompendium.com
to search an up-to-date database of information
contained within Contact Lens Compendium.