Director's Welcome

While many in Ontario would argue that the summer did not begin until now, we are well into our fall hustle and bustle. Our first year class (class of 2008) having 75 students, is now the largest in the history of the School of Optometry at the University of Waterloo. Only our final year class has the traditional 60 student complement. We have, in a sense, reached the halfway point as we climb to a class size of 90 students. We are fast outgrowing our classrooms, library and clinic resources. However, our fund raising campaign is going strong. We have reached the halfway point of our campaign target of 7.2 million. This has been achieved through the generous support of both our alumni and industrial supporters. We have received leadership donations from CIBA Vision ($500K), Johnson & Johnson Vision ($250K), Canadian Optometric Education Trust Fund ($250K) and the College of Optometrists of Ontario ($25K). Our alumni, outside of COETF, have provided a similar amount of $250K. As a result, we have reached a critical threshold where I am delighted to report that planning is underway for the 20,000 to 30,000 sq. foot addition that will provide the necessary classroom, library, and clinic space for our increased enrolment. The university, upon reviewing our current status, believes the rate of donations is strong enough to consider groundbreaking for the addition perhaps as early as the fall of 2005! This decision will keep our increase in first year enrolment growing at the same rate of 5 additional students per year. However, going forward with the addition will leave us with a multi-million-dollar debt which needs to be covered through our campaign.

Without your support, the School’s ability to use the economy of scale generated in increased student numbers will be greatly attenuated.

We are also pleased to report that, despite our growing enrolment, student applications this past year were one of the strongest within the past few years. The assistance of you, the profession, in encouraging and mentoring young people to “follow in your footsteps” remains critical. It is important that potential applicants get a clear picture of our admissions. If you can direct interested students to our website www.optometry.uwaterloo.ca, we can usually dispel some of the mythology that exists around entry level marks and provincial origins of applicants.

In order that we can fully prepare our students in the biomedical areas of optometry, our pre-optometry program will increase in its length and content. With the discontinuation of Grade 13 in the province of Ontario, the Accreditation Council on Optometric Education (ACOE) requires that we now ensure our students have 3 years of university education prior to entry to our OD program. In responding to this standard, the School recognized the need to ensure that our pre-optometry program would be strong in biomedical sciences. As a result, we have moved forward with a pre-optometry program that will be 3 years in length and rich in basic and biomedical sciences. The announcement of the change in program should reach our university calendar by 2005. In order to be fair to students already engaged in pre-optometry programs, we are looking at a 3-year implementation period so that application requirements to Optometry remain as they are until 2008.

This summer saw the retirement of one of our longtime professors known to many, Professor David Williams. A tribute to David is found on page 10. In addition, we prepare for the retirement of yet another teacher of ocular and systemic diseases, Dr. Tony Cullen, who steps down on Dec. 1, 2004. We also saw the transfer of Dr. Melanie Campbell to the Department of Physics where she was awarded a university research chair. Melanie still maintains active research collaborations with her Optometry colleagues. Dr. Michelle Senchyna, who taught pharmacology and led significant research within the School, has left to accept a position in the private sector. We will miss these colleagues.

Concurrent with these departures are several new appointments. Dr. Susan Cooper has joined us in order that we can better serve the needs of the College of Optometrists of Ontario and other provincial bodies as they develop programs for internationally trained optometrists seeking licensure in Canada. Ms. Marilyn Smith has returned as a lecturer. Marilyn will be not only doing her optician related teaching but will also be involved in the development of our external clinics. We welcome Dr. Tammy Labreche who has joined us with the primary aim of developing and supervising clinical services for the geriatric population. The university has recognized the role that optometry plays in the area of Health Informatics and has given us the opportunity through the Graham Trust to seek out a professor of Health Informatics. We welcome Dr. Paul Stolee who started his position this past August.

All and all a very busy summer, and it appears that we will continue to be as busy as ever as we plan our new teaching addition and welcome new faculty to the School of Optometry.
CONTINUING EDUCATION PROGRAM 2004 – Dr. C. Lisa Prokopich & Gary Marx

CE 2004 – Warmer is better!

What a difference a year makes!
This year’s June CE event was a big improvement over the “Big Chill” of 2003 as far as the weather was concerned! This, our second annual “Tent Event”, was remarkable for significantly better weather than last year - almost 15 degrees warmer with clear skies and a beautiful sunset behind the Optometry building.

Those who attended either 2003 or 2004 know we have expanded our Tradeshow into the ‘big top’ – a large tent erected in the parking lot for a festive summer venue. It seems we have outgrown the clinic space in more ways than one! The tent then doubled as our entertainment venue with an outdoor barbecue and dance on Saturday evening. Thankfully, we still have some sway in booking the famous Lost Faculties, who proved to be even hotter than the weather. The secret is out, however, as they are now being booked at international events! Plan to see them next year at a bigger and better CE 2005.

The theme of the 2004 CE program was “The Eye in Systemic Disease” and it proved to be a very well attended and received program. Drs. Alan Cruess and Shelley Boyd joined our own Dr. Chris Hudson for a thorough walk through the changing demographics, assessment and management of our patients with diabetes as well as what is new on the horizon of diabetes research. Dr. Cruess, Head of the Department of Ophthalmology at Dalhousie University, also delivered the Woodruff Lecture in Vision, sharing his vast insight into the Public Health Impact of Diabetes, both in Canada and around the world.

We were joined by some faculty members from our sister School at the Université de Montréal, including Drs. Benoit Tousignant and John Lovasik. Dr. Lovasik delivered the Bobier Lecture on Ocular Hemodynamics in Contemporary Eyecare while Dr. Tousignant used a case-based approach to discuss clinical and management implications of systemic disease in contemporary practice. Sunday’s session was enriched by two of our retiring faculty, Drs. David Williams and Anthony Cullen, who were recognized by the attendees for their contributions to Optometry with a standing ovation. Drs. John Flanagan and Lyndon Jones also contributed to the Sunday program, even after bringing the house down with their Lost Faculties rhythms the evening before - what diverse talent!

CE 2005
Mark your calendars now for a three-day event for 2005, on June 10th, 11th and 12th.

Next year’s three-day event will feature three ‘theme’ days highlighting the diversity of optometric practise. These themes will focus on the practical aspects of integrating Specialty Contact Lens Fitting into your practice; of the changing face of Ocular Surgery and the impact of this on your practice; as well as an Update on what is new in TPAs. Visit our website this fall at www.optometry.uwaterloo.ca for updates and program information as it is finalized.

Optometric Assistants Program

The 3rd Annual Optometric Assistants/Staff Continuing Education Program will be offered this year at Continuing Education 2005, Saturday June 11, 2005. Whether your staff have been hired recently or have years of experience, this CE day will be interesting and relevant to all. The main themes of this year’s Optometric Continuing Education are Contact Lens Technologies, Refractive Surgery & the Optometrists’ Practice and Therapeutic Drugs. Optometric assistants and staff will be treated to lectures from the leaders in these fields as well as separate topics reflecting their professional role in the optometric practice. Watch your mail for a brochure with confirmed speakers and lecture topics in the very near future.
Our ever-popular Tradeshow expands again! We have outgrown our big-top venue and will be taking over more of the parking lot beside the Optometry building on Saturday, June 11th for the annual Tent Event. This will enable us to present more relevant exhibitors to both optometric assistants and doctors, along with a larger venue for a splendid lunch to get everyone through the afternoon! Saturday evening, following the Bobier Lecture, experience a summer evening of entertainment to rival last year’s enormous success. Back by popular demand, the School of Optometry’s own Lost Faculties will rock the tent just as they did last year. A dance floor, barbecue and of course libations, will end the second day of the 3-day weekend in style.

Mark your calendars and book early for June 10th, 11th and 12th by contacting Ms. Elizabeth Reidt, professional services co-ordinator, by email ejreidt@uwaterloo.ca or phone 519-888-4567, ext. 3177.
The 76th annual ARVO (Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology) was held April 25-29th, 2004 in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. The meeting attracted 9,150 participants from 53 countries. Unlike the recently held Olympics, Canada placed fifth with 308 registrants. The University of Waterloo's School of Optometry also kept with the Olympic spirit “Citius, Altius, Fortius” with a record 43 presentations, which was higher than any other North American Optometry School, as well as being among the top 25 institutions with 30+ presentations ranked 24th overall. Not to be outdone on the academic front, a small group of “athletes” participated in the 5th Annual Bausch and Lomb Soccer tournament and finished with a bronze medal performance under drizzly conditions. Three cheers for Drs. Jones, Flanagan, and Simpson and Simon Guthrie representing North America and whose only loss came at the hands of the powerful, and I mean powerful, Brazilian squad. Dr. Singer’s German side finished in a respectable fourth position. From a first-time ARVO participant’s perspective, this meeting had it all: it was extremely well organized; there were many stimulating presentations (with an increasingly distinct molecular flavour); there was a real sense of camaraderie among the participants; and finally that beautiful Floridian weather. To top it off, a visit to the nearby Everglades and a glimpse of the famous Fort Lauderdale Air and Sea Show made it extra special. For those like myself who are looking forward to participating in next year’s ARVO meeting returning to Fort Lauderdale May 1st-5th, 2005, you’ll have to submit your abstracts by the December 3rd, 2004 deadline.

Dr. Lisa Ng has joined the Optometry Clinic for a one-year residency in Pediatrics and Binocular Vision. This is the first time that the School has been able to offer a residency in these particular clinical areas. Dr. Ng trained at the Illinois College of Optometry in Chicago and practiced optometry in Illinois for a full year before deciding to expand her training and experience in areas of pediatrics and binocular vision.
On May 6, 2004, the School of Optometry celebrated the generous donation of $500,000 from CIBA Vision, the largest single gift in the history of the School. This gift will have a significant impact on our current Campaign to expand the building in order to accommodate the 50% increase in student enrollment and has brought us closer to our $7.2 million goal.

Karen Gough, President of CIBA Vision’s North America Region, has said, “We are pleased to invest in building a strong future for optometric education in Canada” (CIBA Vision Visionary May 2004).

CIBA Vision has made this commitment in order to recognize the company’s long-standing relationship with the School and the Centre for Contact Lens Research, in particular, its director, Dr. Desmond Fonn. CIBA Vision’s May newsletter notes that Dr. Fonn is “internationally recognized for his ongoing contributions to the eye care and contact lens fields, as well as his commitment to the Optometry school’s expansion projects.”

In celebration of CIBA’s generosity, the School has renamed Room 350 the CIBA Vision Conference Room. It is located in the Centre for Contact Lens Research, and is widely used by many people for functions including conferences, meetings, graduate classes, thesis defenses and continuing education.

Representatives from both CIBA Vision North America and Canada participated in the official dedication of the room and unveiling of the plaque which is now mounted at the door.

The expansion and renovation of the building will include an addition of approximately 20,000 square feet, which will include a lecture theatre, the expansion of the Optometry Learning Resource Centre and Museum of Visual Science as well as more computing facilities and study areas for students. This will be the first major enhancement to the School’s teaching facilities since the building was completed in 1974. The School has already finished renovations of the classrooms, labs and Pre-Clinic on the 4th Floor of the building which will provide students with access to new equipment and teaching facilities.

For more information on the Expansion Campaign or donations, please contact Andrea Carthew, Development Officer, 519-888-4567, ext. 6319.

ACADEMY Awards

At this year’s American Academy of Optometry meeting, to be held December 9-12, 2004 in Tampa, Florida, two Waterloo professors will be honoured. Dr. John Flanagan will be the recipient of the 2004 Glenn A. Fry Lecture Award. This award recognizes a distinguished scientist or clinician for his or her current research contributions. John is considered one of the premier clinical researchers in optometry, with his work producing information that is fundamental to the care of patients with diabetic retinopathy and glaucoma. Dr. Tony Cullen has been selected as this year’s William Feinbloom Award winner. This annual award is presented to an individual who has made a distinguished and significant contribution to clinical excellence and the direct clinical advancement of visual and optometric service and thus the visual enhancement of the public.
Renovations to the Optometry Learning Resource Centre – Carol Stephenson | Liaison Librarian

Over the years that I have been associated with the Optometry Learning Resource Centre (OLRC), it seems that the furniture and collections have been in a constant state of flux. Within the unusual “bow tie” shaped space, books and desks have been shifted into various configurations to try to balance the need for additional study space and collection growth. The renovations this summer have, by far, been the most exciting change to date.

A noticeable change is the new Public Services desk that is now located at the bottom of the entranceway stairs to the OLRC. The old wooden desk was demolished and in its place is a spacious area designated for photocopying activities. The new desk was customized to provide efficient storage and two service points for circulation or information service. In addition to providing information services at the service desk area, one of the group study rooms in the OLRC has been converted into a private consultation area for individuals or groups. This will allow students, staff or faculty to schedule one-on-one or small group information assistance with one of the librarians or staff members. The room is also staffed each day between 12 and 2 pm for drop-in information assistance. Please feel free to drop by and learn about new web and print resources in your area of study.

Student comments on the OLRC library services survey, conducted in 2002, highlighted the need for more study space and computers. These latest renovations have resulted in gains in both these areas. The staff work area in room 310 (across the hall from the OLRC) has been converted into a student undergraduate computing lab with 16 computers and a networked printer. The computing area in the main section of OLRC was rearranged to provide room for an additional group study table in close proximity to a computer, a laptop connection and scanner. By rearranging the configuration of the study carrels in the back room of the OLRC, 3 additional carrels have been added for quiet study. This room is covered by a wireless internet connection and the carrels are large enough to accommodate student owned laptops.

Because we are working within the physical constraints of the space, these gains have not been met without some losses. OLRC staff now have significantly compacted work areas behind the service desk area. The new unbound issues of journals are now kept beside the corresponding bound journal. We have recently moved five years of print journals to the Annex with the collection in the OLRC now starting in 1990. Fortunately, much of this collection is available online as the Library continues to expand full text electronic access to vision science journals. For information on electronic library resources, consult the Optometry Research Starting Points guide at http://www.lib.uwaterloo.ca/discipline/opt/ or talk to the OLRC staff.

25 Year Club

At the annual dinner of the University of Waterloo's 25 Year Club held in the PAC Complex on June 22nd, 2004 the following individuals were inducted into the Club:

Rodger Pace | Lecturer
Barb Robinson | Associate Professor
Graham Strong | Professor
Hugh Scoggan | School of Anatomy
The Expectations and the Evaluation Process

This is the fourth part in a series of articles reporting the School's efforts to implement an Electronic Optometric Medical Record (EOMR) system. This installment provides an overview of the EOMR evaluation and testing process, a synopsis of the process steps, and where we are in that process.

As information technology became available, more affordable, and healthcare organizations began acquiring multiple systems, positive impacts of information technology on improving healthcare were experienced. Many healthcare facilities have begun to adopt EMR systems, as a result of the earlier experience. In the U.S.A., there are numerous successful EMR implementations. In Optometry, there are more than 8 optometry schools that have already completed or partially completed implementation of EMR systems. In Canada, both the Montreal and Waterloo Schools are taking steps towards the implementation of an EMR system. In private practice, more than 400 practices have become completely paperless through the implementation of EMR systems.

For any healthcare institution, implementation of an electronic medical record system usually comes with some expectations:

- Improving the institution’s current work processes.
- Improving referral system with reduction in referral wait times.
- Harmonizing work processes across all clinical and support units.
- Eliminating excessive paper (mailing, faxing, printing, scanning of documents).
- Facilitating clinical data transfer and streamlining workflow.

The potential positive benefits of the EMR implementation are enormous, and we are not aiming to delineate or justify these benefits; rather we are looking for the best approach to measure and quantify these benefits.

Selection and evaluation of any software system must include areas such as information on system quality, efficiency, performance, cost, etc. In the case of EMR, more data is required, including information about the vendor such as technical capabilities, experience, stability in the market, ISO certification, and legal issues related to product procurement, such as terms and conditions of contract negotiation, licensing, etc. We believe that such information is a key element in a successful EOMR implementation.

Unfortunately, data on how well the system can be used by optometrists on a daily basis are either incomplete or not available. As most of the available EMR systems are delivered as a “black box”, and users are unable to “test drive” the systems for usability and performance, it is very difficult to predict successful EMR implementation.

Fortunately, the School of Optometry is working closely with P&P Data Systems to develop an EOMR system that will encompass both the School and private practice requirements. We are involved in the design, evaluation and testing process of the system to ensure the quality and suitability of the system for our environment. In order to avoid any unfavorable results from a quick implementation, a thorough and comprehensive testing of the system will be performed including:

- User acceptance testing
- Usability testing
- Performance evaluation testing

We are currently reviewing the newly developed system, and performing the user acceptance testing (Beta testing) to determine the system’s completeness and how it fulfills our clinical needs.

In consultation with the clinic director, Dr. Debbie Jones, we are working to harmonize the interface model of the system to satisfy our various specialty clinics’ requirements. Our next step will be to review the new design with the individual clinic heads to insure the completeness and correctness of all the clinical tests and fulfill all the functional requirements.

The next phase of the evaluation process will include usability and performance testing of the system. Usability testing is the process of observing and evaluating end users while using the system to ensure that the system meets users’ requirements in a highly usable manner. Usability and performance testing will provide us with necessary information on how the EOMR will actually be used. In addition, we will be able to observe any difficulties that might be encountered in using the system; this will also guide improvements to deal with usability issues before the full implementation in our clinics.

Training will be very important in orienting students, clinicians, and faculty members to the system, particularly in our environment with so many users (students, faculty and staff). Training, along with many other aspects of the teaching and clinical implementation, will be the subject of rigorous planning as we progress through the current usability and performance testing phase. Our experience in this phase will aid in our planning of the full, live implementation. The pre-clinic will provide a controlled environment for the current usability and performance testing of the EOMR system that is tentatively planned for the winter term of 2005.

We apologize for misspelling Maher Shinouda’s name in Part III: Optometric Electronic Medical Record included in Spring issue of the Alumni Newsletter.
Optometry REUNION Party – Dr. B. Ralph Chou

On the afternoon of Wednesday, 14 July 2004, retired faculty and staff of the School of Optometry hosted a reunion party in the third floor faculty lounge for current members of the UWSO community. The party was a resounding success, with a good turnout by both current and past staff and faculty. Our thanks to Marg Kerr-Lawson and Maureen Fitzgerald for organizing this event.

Retirees provided an ample spread of treats for the party

Tony Cullen and Marg Kerr-Lawson

Ken Robertson catches up on family news with Gwen Hinch

Jane Annandale, Joan Dietrich, and Maureen Fitzgerald

Dorothy Swainston and Alison Zorian get reacquainted.

Marilyn Smith, Pat Ellis, Gwen Cook and Jim Moir

Walwyn Long and George Woo

Penny Winspur and Henriette Stumper

David Buck, Joan Dietrich, Gwen Cook and George Woo

Tony Cullen and Penny Winspur (formerly Howard)
Publications & Lectures


Dr. Williams Retires

This past July 2004 marked the retirement of professor David Williams from the School of Optometry at the University of Waterloo. Dave Williams joined the University of Waterloo in 1971. This date was just 4 years after the School opened as part of the University of Waterloo. Dave was the first of the new generation of faculty: young, energetic and wanting to inject changes into the program. Dave has been here for over thirty-four years. This means he has been an important part of the education of over two thousand optometrists. There are many of us who have not known the School without him.

In 1971, Dave was fresh from graduate study in Indiana where he studied under the late Henry Hoffstetter. Dave’s MS and PhD were in physiological optics. However, he soon took on the challenging area of general and ocular disease. He was a strong contributor in this important area, not only developing courses for the school but providing CE programs throughout Ontario, and Canada as a whole. Throughout this time he has published over 80 scientific papers and case reports primarily pertaining to ocular disease, its detection and related technology.

Teaching has always been a passion of Dave’s. Dave is an excellent communicator. His lectures are punctuated with strong analogies and metaphors that make the abstract clearer. Many of us here recall Dave’s pathology exams fondly. He had a great ability to ask thoughtful questions that did not hang you up in minutiae but challenged your overall thinking and linking of various fundamental processes. His passion for teaching was not lost on his students. He has won the Distinguished Teaching award from the optometric student body more times than any other faculty member.

Furthermore, he won the Distinguished Teaching award from the University of Waterloo in 1984. An excellent clinical instructor, Dave has been a long time contributor to the Ocular Health Clinic. As well, Dave has always been a strong supporter of students and their events. Recently, he donated considerable time supervising student eye care trips to Mexico.

Dave is not just about Optometry; he might be better characterized as a renaissance man. Well read in literature and knowledgeable in music, Dave has used his grasp of the Queen’s English as well as his knowledge of Optometry and vision science in serving as assistant editor to the journal Optometry and Vision Science for 14 years.

We wish Dave and his wife Carol all the best in both their new found retirements.

Waterloo Meets Stockholm

Dr. David Buckton, University of Waterloo, OD, 2004
Dr. Lanre Oriowo, University of Waterloo, PhD, 2000
Dr. Michelle White, University of Waterloo, OD, 2004

at the Karolinska Institutet in Stockholm, Sweden. Dr. Lanre Oriowo is an Associate Professor of Optometry and the Director of Studies in Optometry at the Karolinska Institute. Drs. Michelle White and David Buckton both carried out their ocular disease externship at the St. Erik’s Eye Hospital in the 2004 Winter term. St. Erik’s Eye Hospital is a teaching hospital in Stockholm affiliated with the Karolinska Institute.
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Preserving Our Past with an Eye on the Future

At the Awards Ceremony held on June 17, 2004, Dr. David White (left), President of the College of Optometrists presented Associate Director, Dr. Trefford Simpson (right) with a cheque for $25,000. This generous gift from the College was made in memory of Dr. Edward J. Fisher and will be used toward the expansion of the Museum of Visual Science. The collection’s inception in the mid 1930’s was the result of the work of the late Dr. Fisher, a former Dean of the School of Optometry, who saw the need to document Canada’s vision science history. In the early 1970’s the collection was displayed publicly for the first time in a museum context. Today, the Museum has grown to include over 26 display cases and 10,000 artifacts.

Giving has never been so easy...

http://www.optometry.uwaterloo.ca/~museum/expansion.htm

The Museum is interested in expanding our existing collection of 19th and early 20th century vision aids, early vision-related advertising and eye-related folklore artifacts. If you have something you would like to donate, please browse our website at

http://www.optometry.uwaterloo.ca/~museum/support.htm