Once again things are changing. At the outset, we would like to give a heartfelt thank you to Dr Bobier for his service to the School. Being the director is often without reward and the time devoted by Bill was a period of rapid growth and change that he presided over with calm and reason. We all hope that the next director will steer the school with a hand as steady as his was.

The school is searching for the next Director and in the interim, I will be acting Director and Dr Roger Pace will be acting Associate Director.

Our primary motivation for taking on these interim roles is to ensure that the projects established by the previous Director and administration will be continued. This is primarily centred on the expansion of the School infrastructure and student numbers. The projected infrastructure budget for the expansion has been approved by the central university administration and we have architects beginning the task of developing designs for the extension to the building. At the same time, there will be a host of changes occurring to the School to accommodate the multitude of other alterations that will occur. Some of this has already begun, with the long promised renovation of our large lecture room well under way.

In addition to physically expanding, Dr Pace and I strongly believe that our Alumni are an integral part of the School and University. Good relationships exist on a formal level between our Associations and Colleges and, perhaps, less formal ties exist between School faculty and staff, and we believe that it is important to buttress all of these links. To this end, a new School Committee will be established whose responsibility will be exactly this. This group will become a bidirectional conduit developing new, and facilitating existing communication between the School and alumni and Optometric organizations.

Some changes are occurring, however, that are less than welcome. Over the last few years there have been a number of burglaries in our building (usually occurring in clusters across the whole campus). The most recent involved a broken window through which burglars gained access to take money out of vending machines. This has precipitated us initiating a process of changing access to the School’s facilities that will eventually be more intrusive and, unfortunately, more restricting. There will be much more consultation needed to ensure that we have a reasonable balance of security and access; this is a problem that plagues the whole University and changes will be occurring affecting the whole campus in a slowly introduced manner.

In closing I would like to emphasize that openness is a cornerstone of the philosophy we believe that the School administration must have. Both Roger and I unequivocally encourage your queries, suggestions and criticism of how we are performing our roles. Although our tenure in these administrative positions will be short, we will take our responsibilities seriously.
What a difference a year makes!
Continuing Education at the School of Optometry for 2005 was a memorable event all ‘round. The School thanks all of those who participated, from the organizers, presenters, and trade-show vendors, to all of the participants. Without all of this support, the successful annual CE event at the School would not be possible – THANK YOU!

A number of features of the programme were back this year – exciting optometric and ophthalmic assistants’ CE, Dr. Clair Bobier and Dr. Emerson Woodruff Award Lectures, entertainment events, and trade show – but there was also much more. By all accounts, the 3-day weekend allowed for much more than just great education!

First of all, there was not one but two ‘big tops’! Yes, one bigger than ever tent in the parking lot and another up on the Optometry green. This allowed a very special additional event to occur, our (hopefully) first annual University of Waterloo Optometry Homecoming.

A beautiful warm summer Friday evening was the backdrop for a walk down memory lane combined with some good old-fashioned competition! Members of the various Classes of ‘Fives’ – that is graduates from any year ending in a ‘5’ or a ‘0’ – enjoyed a lovely candlelit Reunion dinner in the tent on the Optometry green. Year books and class composites were on display, while slide shows with photos dating back to the pre-Waterloo days at the College in Toronto played through the evening. Our host, Dr. John Jantzi, presented an insightful perspective on the history of Optometry at Waterloo, including some unbelievable information such as smoking in class and other not-so-appropriate activities! Alumni shared stories from their glory years in Optometry with members from the year 2000 right back to the 40’s! The event was so successful that the CE Committee has recruited Dr. Susan Cooper to help us make our dream of an annual Alumni event for graduates from every year, a reality! Optometry always has been relatively removed from UW’s Homecoming across the road in November, so why not start our own? Optometry will have been at UW for 40 years in 2007 – watch for a big event then with a kick-off next year!

Following the Bobier Lecture at the end of the second day of CE, the tradeshow and luncheon tent was transformed into a dinner and dance area. A glorious outdoor barbecue was held for all CE participants followed by a dance with musical entertainment from the UW School of Optometry’s own (and we daresay, famous) Lost Faculties. Lyndon, Bruce, Ken, John, Natalie, Walter, Rodger and Herb rocked the tent with a tremendous evening chock full of top rock and roll classics from the ‘60s to the new millennium. It was a hot night of dancing and fun! This crew never ceases to amaze by getting better and better every year!

The first day of CE was dedicated to the Advancements in the Contact Lens Practice with a fast-paced programme including panel discussions. Our keynote speaker for the day was Dr. Gina Sorbara who celebrated her 20th year teaching contact lenses at the School of Optometry this year. Dr. Sorbara spoke on a varied area of specialty lens fits, from keratoconic and bifocal fits, to orthokeratology and fitting the challenging post-keratoplasty cornea. We had the pleasure of hosting Dr. Michael DePaolis from Rochester who gave two excellent lectures on the oftentimes contentious use of bandage contact lenses and the role of contact lenses in infection and inflammation. The School and CCLR’s own Drs. Kathy Dumbleton, Des Fonn, Lyndon Jones, Nancy Keir, Treford Simpson and Jalaiah Varkooty, as well as recently retired Dr. Anthony Cullen, gave concise and contemporary research and clinical updates on technological advances in the contact lens practice, dealing with contact lens wear discontinuations; contact lens materials updates; the physiology of the cornea in contemporary ortho-K; UV absorbing filters; and the 24-hour correction question – from LASIK to continuous wear to ortho-K. The audience kept our panellists on their toes with excellent and practical questions.

Day 1 was topped off with the Distinguished Dr. Emerson Woodruff Award Lecture. This year’s award recipient was Dr. Jimmy D. Bartlett. Dr. Bartlett not only presented his exciting research on “Pirenzepine – A novel M1 Antagonist for the Treatment of Myopia Progression”, but he poignantly illustrated the potential applications for this drug in primary eyecare in the future. Those of us involved in the TPA referral to the government went running to our notes to make sure this drug was included in the categories we submitted! Dr. Bartlett is a true gentleman and an incredible representative for optometry in North America.

The Saturday programme both continued from the overabundant information on Friday and kicked off the Pharmaceutical Update portion of our programme. Drs. Kathy Dumbleton and Lyndon Jones returned, this time to entertain and challenge us on our contact lens complications knowledge using interactive case-studies. Some advice from those of us who were there... next time you see Lyndon with a microphone in his hand... run! Dr. Bartlett amazed us for much of the day with his clinical and pharmacological knowledge on the use of oral medications.
in the treatment of eye disease; contemporary glaucoma therapies; inflammations of the eye and ocular surface; and even a great review on deciphering unequal pupils with drugs. Dr. Bartlett’s skill at lecturing and his wealth of knowledge on TPAs left the near-capacity crowd wanting more, yet feeling more confident for the hopefully soon-to-be-coming change in the scope of practice in Ontario.

The Distinguished Dr. Clair Bobier Award Lecture both ended a second great day of CE and ushered us into the entertainment for the evening. Dr. Suzanne Fleiszig aptly united our contact lens and TPA CE days with “The Pathogenesis of Contact-lens Related Infection”. Dr. Fleiszig’s years of research into this area literally unfolded for us on the screen with her incredible videos of the moment of invasion of pathogenic organisms in contact-lens related infections.

Four incredibly talented surgeons, researchers and educators graced our CE stage for the Sunday programme to discuss modern ocular surgeries. Dr. Tom Sheidow, a UW CE favourite (and UW alumnus!), returned this year to present the promising treatments for diseases of the macula. Dr. Hugh Jellie presented a practical approach to evaluating the emerging trends in laser refractive surgery. Drs. Ike Ahmed and Christoph Kranemann absolutely wowed us with their videos and insights into contemporary advancements in glaucoma surgery. Drs. Ahmed and Kranemann also discussed candidacy for cataract surgery in the presence of retinal disease; new and emerging products currently affecting cataract surgery outcomes; and clear lensectomy and phakic IOLs as modern alternatives to laser refractive surgeries. All left feeling more equipped to handle difficult referrals and post-op complications.

Optometric Assistants Programme

On Saturday, a full day of education was held exclusively for Optometric Assistants and Optometry Office Staff.

A variety of educational lectures were held starting with Dr. Graham Strong presenting 2 lectures back to back, an update in macular degeneration and the excitement of forensic Optometry. New contact lens information was presented by Dr. Lyndon Jones with an update in silicone hydrogel lenses and Dr. Garry Grant with current information regarding patient care and contact lens dispensing. Carol Stephenson and Patti Metzger from the Optometry Learning Resource Centre gave everyone an overview of Evidence Based Optometry and how to use books, journals and the world-wide web as an excellent optometric resource.

The afternoon session started with Dr. Debbie Jones addressing staff responses to routine patient enquiries Dr. Natalie Hutchings introduced the newest technology advances in Digital Imaging and the afternoon ended with an interactive seminar from Marilyn Smith demonstrating personality profiles and diversity in our patient population.

With the level of response received for the Optometric Assistants Programme, watch for the brochure for 2006 for detailed programming for more OA CE.

Industry Trade Show and Luncheon

Saturday was also the date of the annual Continuing Education Industry Information Trade Show. This event has been held for the past eight years in conjunction with the annual Continuing Education weekend at the UW School of Optometry. Providing a scrumptious stand-up lunch at the trade show has proven quite popular for the vendors and attendees. A wide range of ophthalmic industry vendors participate in our program that has proven so popular that we doubled our tent display area this year. Companies representing all facets of the industry include spectacle frames, ophthalmic lenses, optometric equipment, laboratory equipment, contact lenses and computerization. The University Bookstore also had a booth offering many optometric reference books. Our CE program participants enjoy the opportunity to speak directly to vendors regarding new and exciting product offerings, something that is difficult to do in their home practices.

The weather was ideal and everyone enjoyed the breeze blowing through the tent!! Popsicles and ice cream sandwiches handed out were a definite hit along with the cool, chocolate covered strawberries! The Stone Crock from St. Jacobs, just up the road, offered something for everyone in an array of finger foods, wraps, pitas and nibblies with desserts that were hard to resist.

Again, we cannot say thank you enough to all those who participated in our annual CE programme. Your support will allow us to continue to bring you great CE and great fun in the future. We hope to see you next year!

Watch for announcements on our web site and in the mail for next year’s UWSO CE program June 9th, 10th and 11th 2006!

Special Thanks to:

The Lost Faculties: John Flanagan, Natalie Hutchings, Lyndon Jones, Bruce Irvine, Herb McNeil, Walter Mittelstaedt and Rodger Pace for their spirit and incredibly tight dancing tunes!

Dr. John Jantzi and Andrea Carthew for their work to bring the Alumni evening together

Dr. Jimmy D. Bartlett and Dr. Suzanne Fleiszig for their acceptance of and lectures for the Distinguished Dr. Emerson Woodruff and Dr. Clair Bobier awards

Bausch & Lomb, WECO, CIBA Vision and Innova Medical Ophthalmics for sponsoring a portion of the Ophthalmic Assistants’ CE to keep registration costs low

The UW Bookstore and Infinity Eyewear for various door prizes

And last but not least, we would like to thank those at the School who work behind the scenes and back the CE Committee during this larger School event. Thanks to our website and computer people, Chris Mathers, Andy Larkin and Jim Davidson. Also thanks to Anne Weber, Krista Parsons, Marie O’Brien-Stockie and Marie Amodeo of our Administration staff, for their contributions.

UW Continuing Education Committee:

C. Lisa Prokopich, Chair
Gary Marx, Administrator
Elizabeth Reidt, Coordinator
Jake Sivak, Woodruff & Bobier Lectures
Marilyn Smith, Optometric Assistants
The Expansion Reaches an Important Milestone

We’re over half way there! The expansion and renovation campaign continues to make significant progress and I am happy to report that we have raised approximately $4.5 million of the $7.2 m fundraising goal. With this success, the School has been given approval to acquire architectural drawings for the new addition and we are hopeful that we will be able to break ground sometime in mid 2006. We couldn’t have made it this far without your support!

The School of Optometry would like to thank all of our alumni who have made a gift to the expansion campaign. Every gift, from every donor makes a difference. We would also like to gratefully acknowledge all of the Optometrists who have made a leadership contribution to the expansion of $10,000 or more (as of August 1, 2005);

| Dr. Dorothy Barrie, Saskatchewan       | Dr. Larry Kanters, Alberta     |
| Drs. Judy Brisson and Rodger Pace, Ontario | Dr. Len Koltun, Saskatchewan   |
| Dr. Cindy Kruschel, Alberta            | Dr. Cindy Kruschel, Alberta    |
| Drs. Kan Chhatwal and Jim Wilkinson, Ontario | Dr. Scott Mundle and Michelle George, Manitoba |
| Dr. Bob De Mara, Alberta               | Northern Vision Centre, Alberta|
| Drs. Malcolm Dewey and John Humphries, Ontario | Dr. Michael O’Grady and Howard Kuehl, Ontario |
| Estate of Gwendolyn and Herbert Dodd   | Dr. MargAnn Pierson & John Bergsma, Ontario |
| Dr. Steve Garrett, Ontario             | Drs. Bruce and Lori Robinson, Saskatchewan |
| Dr. Paul J. Gray and Toby Mandelman, Nova Scotia | Swift Current Vision Care Clinic, Saskatchewan |
| Dr. John Jantzi, British Columbia      | Dr. Brian Trump, Alberta       |
| Dr. Gerry Leinweber, Alberta           | Drs. Garth Webb and Mary Lou Riederer, British Columbia |
| Drs. Gary Grant, Dagmar Lutzi and Derrick MacDonald, Ontario | |

In addition the School of Optometry would like to express its appreciation to our professional and corporate partners who have made the commitment to stand by us in this time of growth and need. Thank you to:

| Alcon                                    | CooperVision        |
| AMO                                      | College of Optometrists of Ontario |
| Bausch & Lomb                            | Innova              |
| CIBA Vision                              | Johnson and Johnson Vision Care |
| COETF (Canadian Optometric Education Trust Fund) | TLC Laser Centre |

As an alumna, I recognize that my career in Optometry started with my education at UW, a career which has been both personally and financially rewarding. We were supported by the alumni before us who worked to enhance the professional status of optometry and who raised the standard of clinical practice in Canada. Having spent time with current students as a clinical supervisor, a mentor, and as a Primary Care Externship practice site, I am reminded of how our assistance can help the School progress and provide future optometrists with the same excellent start to their career that we received.

My husband, Rodger Pace, and I are proud to be supporters of clinical education and the expansion campaign at the School of Optometry. I hope you will consider joining us by directing your support toward the School’s expansion in this time of need. Together, we can help ensure the professions continued success.

Judy Brisson, UW OD ‘77

We haven’t reached our goal yet!
For more information on how you can make a difference, contact Andrea Carthew 
(519)888-4567 ext. 6319 or acarthew@uwaterloo.ca
The Elite School of Optometry is no stranger to the School of Optometry here at Waterloo, where close to 25% of our graduates students enrolled in the Vision Science Program at either the M.Sc. or Ph.D. level call it their alma matter. The success of Elite graduates in research programs in optometry schools world wide speaks to the success of their program.

The School, in association with the Sankara Nethralaya is a unit of the Medical Research Foundation of India. The school celebrated its 20th birthday by hosting a 3-day long international conference on vision science and optometry August 13 -15. I was delighted to have been asked to speak at the conference and wish to recognize two members from the School, or soon to be from the School. Congratulations to Jalaiah Varikooty who received the Dr E.Vaithilingam Memorial Scientific Award for the best presentation of the conference. Vasudevan Lakshminarayanan (Vengu) was recognized in a special ceremony as one of the 4 founding members of the Elite Program.

School of Optometry Reunion Success!

This year the School held its first ever reunion event during CE weekend in June of 2005. It was a complete success with over 60 people in attendance and featuring John Jantzi, OD ’75 as our host for the evening. One highlight was the slide show which included old photos of guests, faculty & staff. Attendees included people celebrating reunions of 5, 10, 15, 20, 25 & 30 years and saw graduates ranging from the class of 2000 to 1943!

EIVOC Meeting – William R Bobier
The Electronic Optometric Medical Record in the School of Optometry: Pre-Clinic Implementation

Maher Shinouda | Project Leader

This article continues our coverage of the Electronic Optometric Medical Record (EOMR) Implementation in the School of Optometry.

We are almost ready to rollout the EOMR first implementation phase in our pre-clinic. In the winter term of 2006, first year students starting their clinical practice courses will be using the electronic medical record system in their practice. As you read this newsletter, we will be preparing our pre-clinic environment; each of the 24 lanes will be fully equipped with the hardware and software required to run the EOMR system.

We have been working closely with P&P Data Systems, the provider of the EOMR system which is an integral part of the Clinical Information System (CIS) currently in use in our patient clinics. The P&P CIS system is a comprehensive medical and practice management software that include various modules such as Scheduling, Billing, Reporting, EMR, etc. which covers the administrative, accounting, medical and other needs of the optometry practice. We have been performing thorough testing and analysis to the EOMR system over the last few months. A number of our faculty members have been generously giving time out of their busy schedule to review and analyze the system providing positive feedback and comments to improve the system. We are pleased with the results of our testing and implementation preparation.

The new design of the system has been well received by our faculty members as the system provides a lot of capabilities that satisfy the many teaching environment-specific requirements of the School. The system has been designed based on the School’s clinical optometry procedures manual and meets all the Ontario College of Optometry regulations in terms of electronic patient record requirements. The EOMR system provides easy-to-use, intuitive and user-friendly 5-page examination record. Users can easily record clinical examination data in a structured format with the ability to freely handwrite and draw. The system will make information available and accessible from any workstation at any time and allow clinicians to seamlessly and securely navigate through all patients’ recorded information. In addition, it will eliminate all the daunting work related to finding misplaced or missing files.

The EOMR implementation in our pre-clinic environment will provide us an ability and opportunity to thoroughly test the system’s usability and performance before the full implementation in our patient clinics in the near future. It will also serve as a training environment for all users (students, clinical instructors, and faculty members).

We believe that evolution, that is a gradual introduction into our teaching and patient environment, is the best approach for a successful implementation. The quick, everywhere-at-once, approach to implement the electronic records can
be very interesting but in many cases the workflow will be compromised. Our plan will involve consecutive phases of implementation in our specialty patient clinics in the near future.

Cumulative Patient Profile Data (C.P.P.) displays, in a cumulative tabular format, selective medical data in accordance to the users’ preferences. User sets and arranges the Tabs View where up to four tables of data can be displayed in a selected order on each page.

Periodic review of the EOMR system is vital to assess the various aspects of the system and its suitability to each of our specialty clinics. While the collaboration between the School and the developers of the system will continue in its productive path, we encourage realistic, constructive feedback and suggestions for making the EOMR system the best tool.

Upon successful completion of the first implementation phase in our pre-clinic, the development and implementation of a comprehensive ‘Contact Lens Module’ will begin. The contact lens module is designed to meet the School’s requirements; it will provide dedicated forms that serve for a complete contact lens eye exam, contact lens fitting, follow-ups and contact lens checks. Detailed specifications have been defined for each of these forms based on our contact lens clinic’s complete needs and requirements. We believe that the EOMR system with the contact lens module will be of a great interest to private practitioners as well.

**ESQ Campers visit the Animal Research Facilities in the School of Optometry**

For nine weeks this past summer Dr. Tom Singer and his students Jeffery Burrows, an MSc student, and Matt Dixon an undergraduate research student, provided ESQ campers with special weekly tours of the animal research facilities in the School of Optometry. These “fishy” tours demonstrated to the young campers how fish are used in vision research to understand two of the most common eye disorders: cataracts and myopia. The students, entering grades 1-4, attended ESQ Primary, Suzuki C and Suzuki D camps and were supervised by team leaders Gideon Prins and Melissa Roswell. The students saw first hand the live Tilapia and killifish used in Dr. Singer’s molecular vision research program. The ESQ students examined the internal organs from a fish and observed Dr. Singer conduct a dissection of its eye. As an added bonus the ESQ campers had an opportunity to take a close look at preserved whale and owl eyes provided by Kelley Moran from Dr. Jake Sivak’s lab.

The Animal Research facilities in the School of Optometry are an important part of its Vision Science research program. ESQ is a summer camp program that provides children of all ages the opportunity to explore the worlds of science, math, and engineering. It’s a unique hands-on experience that combines fun and stimulation in a learning environment. In its 15th year, ESQ is a non-profit organization that is managed by students at the University of Waterloo. Information about ESQ (Engineering Science Quest) is available on-line at http://esq.uwaterloo.ca.
Searching for Journal Articles on the Web?
School of Optometry Learning Resource Centre
Expands Services  – Carol Stephenson

The Spring 2005 newsletter highlighted free and pay-per-view searching and document delivery sources readily available via the Web. This article focuses on the recently expanded School of Optometry Learning Resource Centre (OLRC) services.

Alumni often inquire about University of Waterloo Library services available for their professional use. In response to these requests, the OLRC, with funding from the Canadian Optometric Education Trust Fund (COETF), has developed a suite of information services for professional optometrists who are UW alumni and/or members of the Canadian Association of Optometrists. These services are also extended to the College of Optometry, Canadian Optometric Associations, government agencies or non-profit organizations.

- **VisionCite** ([http://www.visioncite.com](http://www.visioncite.com)) is a Web accessible journal index produced by the Illinois College of Optometry (ICO) Library. The 110 current periodicals received by the ICO Library are scanned for articles on optometry, ophthalmology, contact lenses, reading, perception, and other vision related subjects. If you are looking for an optometry specific topic, you will find that VisionCite indexes more relevant articles than PubMed. To get started using VisionCite, register with the OLRC (optlib@sciborg.uwaterloo.ca) to obtain the userID and PIN access codes.

- A Web accessible information request form ([http://www.optometry.uwaterloo.ca/olrc/odbasicliterature.html](http://www.optometry.uwaterloo.ca/olrc/odbasicliterature.html)) makes it easy to submit topics and keywords for OLRC staff to search on your behalf. OLRC staff will provide up to 20 citations within 72 hours of the initial request. Staff members are not responsible for the accuracy, validity or interpretation of the search results.

- A Web accessible article request form is also being developed. It will simplify the process for requesting photocopies of journal articles from the OLRC collection. Staff will mail or fax 10 free photocopied articles per calendar year. The form will be available in the early fall and will be linked from ([http://www.optometry.uwaterloo.ca/olrc/odservices.html](http://www.optometry.uwaterloo.ca/olrc/odservices.html)). Until the form is available, email photocopy requests to optlib@sciborg.uwaterloo.ca

More detail on these services is available from the OLRC Website ([http://www.optometry.uwaterloo.ca/olrc/od.html](http://www.optometry.uwaterloo.ca/olrc/od.html)) or by contacting OLRC staff directly at optlib@sciborg.uwaterloo.ca

Resources and Services available from ([http://www.optometry.uwaterloo.ca/olrc/od.html](http://www.optometry.uwaterloo.ca/olrc/od.html)).
At a spur-of-the-moment summer photo shoot (see over), we were more than a little bit shocked to realize just how much the CCLR has grown over the past year or two. Our workforce totalled 52 this summer – the highest it’s ever been. Of course we shouldn’t have been surprised, considering the steady expansion of our research: over the past few months we have been extremely busy with 21 studies at various stages, including two new collaborative projects in conjunction with the Vision Cooperative Research Centre in Sydney, Australia. Our recent renovations - including a new consulting room, two equipment rooms and a large office space housing multiple work stations - should help us manage this growth.

ADDITIONS TO OUR RESEARCH TEAM:

We would like to extend a warm welcome to Dr Craig Woods, PhD and Dr Jill Woods, MCOptom, who both joined our research team in March.

As the CCLR’s first ever Research Manager, Craig’s expertise will be extremely valuable in the development of processes and systems directed at managing our recent growth. A graduate of The City University and the University of Manchester, he has held a number of management positions in the field of Optometry, including: Assistant Clinical Director at the Institute of Optometry in London, Clinic Manager for the University of Manchester Department of Optometry and Vision Science, and Deputy Clinic Director at the Victorian College of Optometry in Melbourne, Australia.

Jill contributes an exciting range of clinical and teaching experience, as the newest member of our team of research associates. A graduate of The City University, she has owned her own private practice and has also worked and taught at a number of hospitals, including the London Refraction Hospital (now known as the Institute of Optometry). She has also provided instruction in contact lenses in the Department of Optometry and Vision Sciences at the University of Manchester. More recently, she performed clinical contact lens research with Brennan Consultants in Melbourne, Australia.

HONOURS AND ACCOLADES

We are pleased to congratulate director Desmond Fonn, who was elected President of the International Society for Contact Lens Research, at a meeting in Coolum, Australia this August.

Lyndon Jones and Trefford Simpson were recently promoted to Professor.


Jalaiah Varikooty received the 2005 E. Vaithilingam Memorial Scientific Award at the Elite School of Optometry’s International Vision Science and Optometry Conference (EIVOC) held in Chennai, India. His paper, "Ocular Surface Sensations during Forced Eye Opening" was judged the best paper in the open category.

Amir Moezzi, who joined our research team as an Iranian-trained optometrist and gained an MSc through the CCLR, recently passed his Ontario board exams.

VIST OUR NEW WEBSITE AT: http://cclr.uwaterloo.ca
and our online educational projects:
The Official Site of Silicone Hydrogels: www.siliconehydrogels.org
Reference Sight: www.referencesight.com
Ping Situ and Lakshman Subbaraman received student travel awards to attend the International Society for Contact Lens Research conference in Coolum, Australia. Ping presented “The Relationship Between Corneal and Conjunctival Sensitivity, Dry Eye Symptoms, Tear Film Stability and Ocular Surface Characteristics,” and Lakshman presented “Kinetics of 125I-labelled Lysozyme Deposition on Silicone Hydrogel FDA Group II and Group IV Contact Lenses.”

Sameena Haque won an award for best presentation in the science division at the University of Waterloo’s Graduate Student Conference, in April.

Last but certainly not least, both Leona Voss and Diane Bandura were recognized this year for 15 years of service at the University of Waterloo – and, more specifically, at the CCLR.

**CCLR, May 2005**

**RESEARCH PARTICIPANTS NEEDED!**

Please note that the CCLR is always seeking volunteer research participants. In return for assistance with clinical studies, we offer our volunteers an opportunity to try the latest lens designs and solution formulations at no cost to your practice. Participants also receive an honorarium for their time commitment. Look for our pre-screening questionnaire at http://cclr.uwaterloo.ca or call our recruitment department at (519) 888-4567 ext. 7187.

Examinations included with CCLR studies are not intended to replace eye care provided by a participant’s usual eye care practitioner. *We always refer our research participants back to their primary eye care practitioner.*

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**Back (left to right)** - Stephanie Duench, Lakshman Subbaraman, Diane Bandura, Simon Guthrie, Ronan Rogers, Marc Schulze, Trevor German, Yunwei Feng, Desmond Fonn, Kathy Dumbleton, Simone Schneider, Nancy Keir

**Middle (left to right)** - Carolina Navarrete, Leona Voss, Marina Simpson, Lyndon Jones, Liz Heikkila, Jill Woods, Robin Turk, Sameena Haque, Ping Situ, Helen Lu, Bonnie Boshart, Roz Exton, Amir Moezzi

**Front (left to right)** - Anson Chan, Jalaiah Varikooty, Kathy Burroughs, Sruhti Srinivasan, Craig Woods, Krystynne Harvey, Miriam Heynen, Doerte Luensmann, Grace Dong, Maggie Liang, Alisa Sivak

**Missing** - Brad Cumming, Mary-Ann Glasier, Holly Lorentz, Melanie Scott, Trefford Simpson, Tra Sin, Alexandra Smith, Gina Sorbara, Joelle Zagury, Frank Zhang
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A funeral service was held Wednesday for Rachel Higgins (left), a third-year optometry student who died August 21 after a two-year battle against a brain tumour. She was a few days short of turning 25.

Along the way, Higgins and her family created Rally Against Cancer Hardcore, with the initials RACH to match her own full name: Rachel Anne Cecilia Higgins. The organization started a baseball tournament as a fundraiser in her home town of Parry Sound, collecting $34,000 last year and $40,000 this year for brain cancer research at Toronto's Princess Margaret Hospital.

"Rachel Higgins was an amazing woman," says someone in the optometry school who knew her. "Her spirit was unbelievable -- she completed all of her final exams while undergoing chemo. The funeral was really a celebration of her life. She was inspiring, courageous, strong-willed, with the most positive attitude I have ever met in anyone! Rachel accomplished so much in her short life. I thought the rest of the UW community would like to know about this wonderful, bright star that we have lost."

A page about Higgins on the RACH website tells the story of her illness, beginning with a diagnosis of lupus -- inaccurate, as it turned out -- while she was in first year optometry. Cancer treatment began in 2003, and the web page indicates that as of just a few weeks ago, Higgins was still planning to return to UW this fall, "not exactly clear what year she will actually be in."

During the baseball tournament this summer, in which Higgins threw the opening pitch to her father, she said she was living one day at a time, an obituary in the Parry Sound North Star reports. "You can't worry about things you can't control, so you might as well help out with a donation," she said then.

The official death notice notes that she is "sadly missed by those of us who find it hard to understand, her parents Dr. Thomas and Joanne Higgins of Parry Sound; her siblings Adam, Aaron, Gillian and Jordan; and grandparents", among others. The funeral was held at St. Peter the Apostle Roman Catholic Church in Parry Sound. Memorial donations to the RACH Foundation at Princess Margaret Hospital were suggested. Canadian Blood Services will honour Higgins during a blood donor clinic in Parry Sound next week.