Director’s Message

- Thomas Freddo, OD, PhD, FAAO

“525,600 minutes, 525,000 moments so dear.
525,600 minutes – how do you measure, measure a year?
In daylights, in sunsets, in midnights, in cups of coffee.
In inches, in miles, in laughter, in strife.
In 525,600 minutes – how do you measure a year in the life?”

Most of you will, of course, recognize this now famous refrain from the blockbuster Broadway show Rent. It astonishes me that it has been a year since Jan and I moved to Canada to begin our positions at University of Waterloo. Whether measured in miles, sunsets, cups of coffee, laughter or strife, it has been an eventful year, including passage of the Ontario bill authorizing the use of medication by optometrists. The year also included attendance at my first Optometric Leaders’ Forum (where I made my first attempt at curling and spent two hours standing outside in the light snow on a glorious, calm, February night in Ottawa, listening to Randy Bachman play at the opening of Winterfest). There was the meeting of the British Columbia Association of Optometrists in Vancouver, the Ontario Association of Optometrists in Toronto and the Canadian Association of Optometrists in Saskatoon. There was a wonderful UW Optometry CE cruise of the Caribbean in January, and a weekend-long Forum at UW (with the support of CAO and COETF) to expand upon the outcomes of the Leaders’ Forum and to define the skill set that a uniquely Canadian optometrist should have in 2015.

We also held a very successful CE weekend and ceremonial groundbreaking for our long awaited addition to the School. Site preparation is now under way and you can follow along by visiting our website and checking out the webcams we’ve installed! A wondrous part of our groundbreaking event was to celebrate the very generous gift of Dr. Marta Witer (UW ’79) and her husband Ian Ihnatowycz. It will be a great pleasure to oversee the opening of the new Dr. Marta Witer Learning Resource Centre when the addition is completed in early 2009.

Along the way I have met some remarkable people and made some fast friendships that I know will last a lifetime. Thank you to everyone, whether faculty, staff, alumni, friends, corporate partners, or professional associations. All of you have been so supportive of our goals and our future plans. And our future will depend upon your continued interest and support.
While all of these events swirled around us, UW Optometry continued to demonstrate its research prowess at several international meetings, including ARVO and ISER, and our graduate program garnered the second largest number of Student Travel Awards from the American Academy of Optometry. UW affiliated students also won 2 prestigious Ezell Fellowships (and we recently heard that next year we will be awarded 3!!). For the first time ever, UW Optometry participated in the Joint Alumni Reception at the Academy meeting, and we urge all of you who are attending this year’s meeting in October in Tampa to join us there.

We celebrated confirmation of UW Optometry’s presence in the joint clinic with Family Practice Medicine, which will be built on the new UW Health Sciences Campus in Kitchener. We witnessed the launch of a one year course in our International Optometric Bridging Program, offering the prospect of optometric practice in Canada to foreign-trained optometrists who are able to successfully write the CEO exam. Finally, we graduated 72 bright optometrists who, for the first time, heard the word “Doctor” precede their names as they mounted the stage to receive their doctoral hoods and diplomas........ and 2007 is not even over!

2007 is also the 40th anniversary of the UW School of Optometry and the 50th anniversary of the University of Waterloo. Capping our 40th anniversary year will be a weekend of celebration December 7-9. There will be a holiday party (you are invited) and a rebirth of a lost tradition – a joint research symposium with our sister institution, the University of Montreal School of Optometry. I thank Dr. Jake Sivak for his leadership in reviving this symposium, as well as my counterpart Dr. Jacques Gresset and the rest of the Optometry faculty in Montreal for agreeing to participate. CE credit will be given. During this anniversary weekend, we will also celebrate the contributions of UW Optometry alumni through the years by conferring a series of awards that are described later in this issue. Please join us in December, and please continue to support us as we strive to make UW Optometry one of the premier programs in the world.

ACOE Accredited TPA 100 Hour Course

As the TPA legislation moves through the political process in Ontario, UWSO is preparing to offer a 100 hour course for those who were unable to take previous courses. We expect a program divided into at least 2 components, with a busy week of didactic lectures (tentatively scheduled for Saturday, February 14 through Sunday, February 22 2009) followed by a practical component. Various structures for the practical component are under consideration, including the option to hold it over several weekends.

A minimum number of registrants will be required. If you are at all interested, please make your non-binding interest known as soon as possible to Elizabeth Reidt at (519) 888-4567 ext. 33177 (ejreidt@uwaterloo.ca) or Dr. C. Lisa Prokopich (clp@uwaterloo.ca).
A Big Reason to Celebrate – We Broke Ground and are Under Way!
– Andrea Carthew

On Friday, June 8 2007, the School of Optometry held a ceremonial groundbreaking event to celebrate our campaign progress and launch the beginning of construction on our new addition. With close to 450 people in attendance, including the media, there was definitely excitement in the air as we commemorated this important milestone.

The groundbreaking event included speeches from special guests, an official sod turning, pictures, lunch and old photos. Part of what made this event even more special was the fact that it occurred exactly 35 years to the month after the groundbreaking for the original building in 1972. In honour of this moment in the School’s history, the original shovel was used for this ceremony as well.

Special guests at the event included John Milloy, Member of Provincial Parliament, Kitchener Centre and Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Training, Colleges and Universities; Elizabeth Witmer, Member of Provincial Parliament, Kitchener-Waterloo; and David Johnston, President, University of Waterloo. All shared some kind words about the importance of both the School of Optometry and the profession in Canada.

As many of you know, this day was a long time coming and it was made possible through the generous support of our donors. We are pleased to say that we have, to date, raised $6.5 million through the support of our alumni, friends and corporate partners. “It is through our supporters’ passion and commitment toward the profession and education that the School continues to expand its profile and impact on the North American stage,” says Thom Freddo, Director of the School of Optometry. “It is with heartfelt appreciation that we acknowledge everyone who has contributed to the campaign and to the future of optometric education.”

The School of Optometry was also fortunate enough to have the day further marked with additional reasons to celebrate, including our 40th Anniversary at UW, the announcement of a $500,000 gift from alumna Dr. Marta Witer and her husband Ian Ihnatowcyz, and the passing of TPA legislation in Ontario earlier in the week.

“The UW School of Optometry is a source of great pride to the university,” says UW president David Johnston. “The school is a research and education leader and through its increased student enrolment and expanded facilities will be better able to prepare optometrists to practice in an evolving profession and embrace their expanding role in family health care.”

With the groundbreaking ceremony behind us, we are pleased to report that construction is now under way! Bondfield Construction has agreed to take on the task of making our vision a reality and expects to have the project completed by early 2009. We will then begin Phase 2, which involves the enormous task of renovating the current building, including extensive changes to the public clinic. If you are interested in watching our construction progress, visit www.optometry.uwaterloo.ca to see it in action through our video feed.

With our increase in enrolment almost complete, the need for the building addition is greater than ever. We need to accommodate a 50% increase in the size of our student body. In September 2007, we admitted our first class of 90 students, placing considerable strain on the School’s current facilities (which have remained virtually unchanged since the building opened in 1974).

With a little less than a million dollars left to raise in the existing campaign, and with the reality of higher construction costs, the School plans to extend its fundraising target to $12.4 million. This will provide us the resources required to support the expansion and renovation projects while ensuring critical funding for the costly clinical program, the basis of optometric education.
With the addition under way, we have set a new fundraising goal of $12.4 million, which will be essential to fund our ambitious expansion and renovation campaign. We are asking our alumni to stand by us during this time of growth and need by making a donation toward this important project. It is only through your involvement that we can continue to meet the demands of excellence in both optometric education and the profession.

Gift/Pledge Form

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

Name _____________________________________________ Phone ________________________________

Mailing Address __________________________________________________________________________

_________________________________________________________________________________________

Gift/Pledge Amount: __________ Pledge Period: __________ Years Start Date _______________________

Project: UW School of Optometry – Building Expansion and Renovation Project

Method of Payment:

☐ I/we have enclosed an initial payment of $_________ and wish to pay the remainder in installments.
  Please send me periodic reminders:
    ☐ Yearly    ☐ Semi-Annually    ☐ Quarterly    ☐ Monthly

☐ Cheque (Payable to: The University of Waterloo – School of Optometry)
  ☐ Post dated cheques (Please attach all cheques to pledge form)

☐ Credit Card
    ☐ Visa    ☐ MasterCard    ☐ American Express

Card Number: ___________________________ Expiry Date: ________________________________

☐ Other _______________________________________________________________________________

Signature __________________________________________ Date: ________________________________

Thank You For Your Support!
Charitable Registration Number: 11926 0685 RR0001

Please return this form to:
Andrea Carthew, Senior Development Officer – School of Optometry, University of Waterloo
200 University Ave. West, Waterloo, Ontario N2L 3G1
This spring, the end-of-term blues were not to be found in the Optometry building, as a challenge from one student had sent the entire School into a frenzy of fundraising activity.

In mid-March, Mark Ross ('09) decided that it was finally time to cut his hair after having carefully let it grow for 3 years, in order to donate it to make a wig for a cancer patient. As if this 3-year investment were not sufficient, Mark also decided that he wanted to involve others in his cause and challenged the School of Optometry to raise $1,000 for the Canadian Cancer Society. As an incentive to make donations, the individual (or student group) who donated the largest sum would be granted the privilege of styling Mark's hair as they pleased once the careful trimming for the wig was complete. Whether considering colouring, styling, cutting, or a combination of all three, the top bidder's imagination and hairstyling abilities were the only limits to what might be created with the remaining hair, which Mark promised to leave as styled until the end of the winter exam period.

Mark's challenge quickly caught the attention of faculty, staff and students and began weeks of heated bidding wars that continued, relentlessly, until only moments before the scissors came out. The bidding culminated with a 5-way tie among 4 faculty teams and one student group, all of whom took turns at cutting off Mark's braids before Dr. Prokopich tried her hand at hairstyling. After accepting suggestions from the crowd, she left Mark with possibly the “best” bad hairstyle of all times! With the tunes of the Lost Faculties to entertain us and a variety of fundraising games in which to partake, Mark's Hair Cutting Party was an event not to be forgotten by anyone in attendance. By the end of the night, more than $4,000 had been pledged, along with the lovely locks of another anonymous donor.

Mark has since been awarded the inaugural Dr. Mitchell Samek Community Service Recognition Award from the Vision Institute of Canada for his dedication to this incredible fundraising effort.

Although there may never be another evening like Mark’s Hair Cutting Party, Optometry’s contribution to “Making Cancer History” will certainly never be forgotten by any of those whose lives are touched by this devastating disease.
Alumna Dr. Marta Witer and Ian Ihnatowycz Make an Extraordinary Commitment

– Andrea Carthew

Our June Continuing Education weekend was one of milestones and accomplishments for the School of Optometry. It marked an important point in our history when we were able to commemorate our past, celebrate our successes and prepare to embrace the future of optometry.

At the centre of this special weekend was the announcement of a truly extraordinary commitment from 1979 alumna Marta Witer and her husband Ian Ihnatowycz, President, Acuity Investment Management Inc. Their generous gift of $500,000 is the largest the School has ever received from an alumnus and is a symbol of their vision, passion and dedication toward the profession of optometry and its future.

“My education and experiences at the School of Optometry played an important role in the person I am today,” says Marta. “It prepared me for a rewarding career in eye care; I established lifelong relationships with my classmates; and through the Northern Ontario outreach program helped me develop a stronger sense of social responsibility.”

Marta and Ian’s donation will be acknowledged through the establishment of the Witer Learning Resource Centre, part of our expansion and renovation project. The Centre will be located on the second floor of the new addition and will expand in both scope and size as a result of the relocation. It will include the main collection room, quiet study areas, study carrels and additional optometric education materials and resources. The Witer Centre will provide students with the space, materials, technology and staff expertise necessary to enhance their knowledge of optometry and pursue academic excellence.

Once the addition is completed in 2009, the School of Optometry will have the pleasure of hosting a formal ceremony to dedicate the Witer Learning Resource Centre and further recognize the support with a plaque bearing the Centre’s new name.

“As we embark on our new addition and prepare for a changing profession, Marta and Ian’s tremendous gift and ongoing involvement will play an important role in advancing our efforts,” says Dr. Thomas Freddo, Director, School of Optometry. “Marta is an enthusiastic volunteer and tireless advocate for the School and the profession and we are very fortunate and appreciative to have her support.”

In addition to the personal support, Marta has been very active in rallying other classmates to give back to the School. With the help of Carol Cressman Foster, Calvin Smith and Melanie Sherk, the Class of 1979 has raised over $278,000 toward our expansion and renovation project! This achievement far surpasses any expectation and will be acknowledged with a plaque naming one of our clinic pods. Marta encourages all alums to contribute to the School either individually or as group just as she and her classmates have done.

Marta’s other passion lies in the area of optometric outreach to underserviced populations. The School’s Northern Ontario outreach program, which was very active in the 70s and early 80s, had a significant
impact on her and many others but ended when government funding had ceased. The value of this educational and personally rewarding experience has inspired Marta to seek ways to reinitiate this meaningful program. The School of Optometry is also eager to see this program once again become part of our student experience and provide essential optometric care to underserviced populations. We are currently exploring the opportunities and hope to establish a sustainable program in the near future.

The School of Optometry would like to extend our sincerest thanks and gratitude to Marta, Ian and their family for their leadership and remarkable commitment to optometry and its future. Such significant support and generosity will help us continue a tradition of excellence and ensure that our vision for the future of optometric education becomes a reality.

Parents of three children, Mark, Daniel and Andria, both Marta and Ian volunteer for and support a number of educational institutions and community organizations. They are motivated by the desire to help bring enriching programming to children and young adults, particularly in ways that advance arts education, promote environmental awareness and develop social conscience. They also seek to foster proficiency in the performing arts among young Canadians, as well as aspirations to achieve at the highest international levels.

In the past few years, great efforts and investments have been made in Canada and many other countries to create what is called the Electronic Health Record (EHR) system, and there will be further investments in the years to come. EHR is a repository of all health related information about individuals throughout their lifetime and is accessible online from many separate, interoperable, automated systems within an electronic network. The health information that will feed and make up EHR will be populated from local and regional Electronic Medical Record (EMR) systems and various Information Technology (IT) systems in hospitals, labs, community care centers, doctors’ offices (GPs, Specialists, Dentists, Optometrists, etc.) and pharmacies.

In alignment with the national EHR goal, UW School of Optometry has stepped forward to implement an Electronic Optometric Medical Record (EOMR) system. The EOMR is expected to replace the current paper based patient records and will digitally store all patient related data in a secure database. This will allow instant and easy access to the required information whenever it is needed. EOMR and all other electronic medical records are the fundamental building components of a pan-Canadian electronic health record.

Ultimately, EOMR will be integrated into the regional and national EHR repositories and electronically feed (as well as receive) patient demographic and clinical data. The illustration below displays the high level architecture of the EHR solution as developed by Canada Health Infoway. The top portion of the diagram represents the data repositories that store all patient health information.

The middle layer can be viewed as an intelligent agent that organizes and tracks the information for every patient. The bottom layer corresponds to the point-of-

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Electronic Optometric Medical Record

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service applications that can send and request information stored in the EHR data repository. The requested information comes from different locations and resources linked into the EHR network.

In previous articles, we reported on the successful implementation of the EOMR in our pre-clinic environment. The system replaced the traditional paper records as students began to record patient demographic and clinical data through the electronic system. The system has gone through testing and several improvements on the recommendations of our instructors. One of the long awaited enhancements to the system is the addition of the Contact Lens Module, which meets our clinical teaching requirements as well as the needs of private practice.

We are a few steps away from implementing EOMR in our public clinics. The implementation process is a long and sometimes difficult journey, especially in a large healthcare organization like ours. Integrating a new system into the daily workflow of clinicians, students and staff in the School and utilizing it effectively can pose a real challenge. Such a transformation requires a long term commitment to the process cycle and involves customizing software, analyzing and remodeling workflow, testing, rolling out, reviewing, end-user learning and adaptability, and so forth until an optimal outcome is reached.

We are taking gradual, evolutionary steps to ensure successful implementation of the system in the School. We are about to start the last stage of testing of the software and, if that evaluation goes well, we will see our first “go-live” implementation phase in the Victoria School clinic (our satellite optometry clinic in Kitchener, Ontario). Introducing EOMR into a small practice setting with fewer people involved will make the process more manageable. It also will allow a more thorough evaluation of the software and enable us to identify workflow implementation issues. We will be able to closely monitor system usage, capture feedback, and plan and design feasible steps for broader implementation in the School of Optometry. Furthermore, we will have the chance to understand EOMR’s capabilities and determine how it can be used to improve our work processes and increase our service level.

It is crucial that the system meet our clinical teaching standards and adhere to the Ontario College of Optometrists regulations. We specified that the system be designed and built around the way we teach and practice in our School. We are confident that through our collaboration with P&P Data Systems – the provider of the Clinical Information System (CIS) – we will have a robust system in our patient clinics in the near future. The EOMR has a direct link with our current patient management system (billing, scheduling, accounting, etc.) as it is an integral part of the comprehensive CIS solution.

1 Canada Health Infoway is an independent non-profit organization founded in 2001 as a strategic response by federal, provincial and territorial governments to coordinate and accelerate health information technology initiatives across Canada.

Some Missing Faces From the Class of 1979 – Andrea Carthew

In our fall edition of the Optometry newsletter, I wrote an article on the outstanding efforts of the Class of 1979 and thanked them for raising over $275,000 for our expansion and renovation campaign. To the Class of 1979, thank you again for your generous support!

The article included pictures from their first year as optometry students. The unfortunate part was that I seem to have missed a few people. I want to apologize for this oversight and would like to try to fix it. I just hope I don’t miss anyone else! So here goes. Missing in action from the Class of 1979 article were:
UW Award for Jake Sivak

– University of Waterloo Daily Bulletin, April 11 2007

UW has appointed three more University Professors, including Jake Sivak of the School of Optometry. This is the highest academic honour given at the University, and it brings the total to eleven since the rank was created in 2004.

The provost, Amit Chakma, provided some background about the honour: "The University of Waterloo owes much of its reputation and stature to the quality of its eminent professors. UW recognizes exceptional scholarly achievement and international pre-eminence through the designation University Professor. Once appointed, a faculty member retains the designation for life. Such appointments are reported to Senate and to the Board of Governors for information, and are recognized at Convocation.

“Nomination must be supported by at least six signatures from at least two UW departments and opinions are requested from scholars of international standing in the nominee’s field before a decision is made. The intention is that “at steady state” there will be no more than 14 University Professors, apart from those who have retired.”

Jake Sivak Receives Honorary Degree From SUNY


Jake Sivak of UWSO received the honorary degree of Doctor of Science on Sunday June 3, 2007 from the State University of New York as SUNY’s College of Optometry held its Commencement ceremonies. The honorary degree citation acknowledges “major contributions to comparative optics, developmental refractive changes, and environmental effects on eye development and lens refractive state”, as well as “a critical academic role in the development of optometry and vision science programs”.

The ceremony was held at the historic Hudson Theatre in New York, a short distance from the 18-storey building on 42nd Street that is home to SUNY-Optometry.
On Saturday, June 9 2007, the School of Optometry was proud to host the 5th annual Optometric Assistants Lecture Program as part of our annual Continuing Education weekend. Over 35 optometric assistants and staff attended the full day lecture series.

The morning began with Dr. Tammy Labreche, a faculty member at the School of Optometry, with an excellent lecture discussing the aging eye. With our aging population, as the baby boomers start entering their 50s and 60s, this topic is relevant to every optometry practice. Mr. Harve Sturgess presented a very informative lecture on the hot topic of digital imaging. Thank you to Pacific Medical for sponsoring the lecture. Ms. Diane Hines of OSI brought everyone up to date with a lecture on selling sunglasses. More and more consumers are concerned with protecting their eyes and this lecture focussed on what is available in sun products, as well as the opportunity to be the all-round eye care professional for patients. The morning wrapped up with Janice Schmidt presenting an excellent lecture discussing the fitting of toric contact lenses. Thank you to Coopervision for sponsoring Janice’s talk.

Everyone was invited to spend lunch time at the Annual Industry Information Trade Show. A finger food lunch was held in the tent in the Optometry parking lot beside the trade show. Delegates grazed through the lunch items and visited the 29 companies in attendance.

The afternoon started with a rousing seminar presented by Dr. Stelios Nikolakakis, a UW Optometry grad from 1996. He is very enthusiastic about the optometry industry and his “The Power of Successful Dispensing” was a real hit. Dr. Ralph Chou, a UW Optometry professor, presented a very timely update on safety eyewear. Considering the changes to CSA guidelines, this lecture contained some very useful information. The afternoon wrapped up with a bit of personal introspection, presented by yours truly, called “Your Personal Mission Statement”. We investigated some personal core values and created a personal mission statement that goes beyond “just working”.

The morning of Sunday, June 10 started with a 3 hour hands-on workshop. The first 2 hours were led by Cameron Holliday of Pacific Medical. He demonstrated the value of having a digital imaging camera in an optometry practice and each delegate had the opportunity to be both patient and technician with the high tech retinal camera. Cameron also demonstrated the newest technology in automated lens edging. Shape adjustment, machine drilling and high index materials were just a few of the topics discussed. The final hour was dedicated to the pros and cons of the automated lensometer, presented by me. Each delegate was given an opportunity to compare neutralizing results of various prescription lenses, such as low cylinder, prism and high add powers.

University of Waterloo School of Optometry would like to thank the following companies for their support of the Optometric Assistants Program:

- C & C Optical Lab
- Coopervision
- Pacific Medical
- OSI
- Centennial Optical
- J & J Visioncare
- INNOVA Medical
As part of our Continuing Education weekend, the 9th Annual Industry Information Trade Show was held on Saturday, June 9 2007. The weather cooperated and we had a beautiful blue sky, a light breeze and 20°C temperatures.

This was our biggest show yet. An impressive 29 companies had booths set up in the large outdoor tent in the Optometry parking lot. Delegates were able to visit company representatives throughout the 2 hour lunch and trade show. The entire ophthalmic industry was represented, and many vendors displayed equipment and products so that delegates could learn about the latest technologies available. Our sincere thanks to all of the company representatives for giving up a beautiful June Saturday to be at the trade show. The event has become an integral part of CE weekend and delegates always comment on the fact that they have time to visit their representatives away from their busy practices. The company support for this trade show is most appreciated.

The delicious finger food lunch was catered by Culinary Classics. To reduce congestion among the high number of delegates at this year’s CE weekend, a separate food tent was set up outside the trade show. Delegates were free to graze through the many delicious goodies, of which the highlight was a chocolate fountain. There was everything from fruit to potato chips and pretzels to dip in the chocolate and enjoy!

The trade show was rounded out with 2 booths from University of Waterloo. The Office of Development presented the drawings for the School of Optometry building addition and the UW Bookstore had an array of books and UW clothing for purchase, and they generously donated some prizes to the CE weekend as well. Thanks to both UW departments! We were also pleased to have the Lions Club bring their hard working seeing-eye dogs and provide information explaining how their volunteers help those with partial and limited sight.

The following companies and services generously donated their time, energy and funding to the success of the Annual Industry Information Trade Show in 2007:

- 20/20 Marketing
- Essilor
- Optos
- Alcon
- Hoya
- OSI
- B & H
- INNOVA Medical
- Pacific Medical
- B & L
- J & J Visioncare
- Rodenstock
- C & C
- Kensington Eye Institute
- Topcon
- Carl Zeiss
- Lanctot
- UW Development
- Cardinal Contact Lens
- Marchon
- UW Stores
- Centennial Optical
- Nikon
- Viva
- CIBA
- Novartis
- Westgroupe
- Coopervision
- Opal
The School of Optometry was pleased to once again host its annual Reunion Dinner during our Continuing Education weekend in June 2007. This is a special year for the School as we celebrate our 40th Anniversary since moving to the University of Waterloo in 1967, and this was the theme for this year’s event.

With the tradition now its third year, we were excited to be able to host over 200 people, making this year’s event a huge success! The room was decorated with pictures from our past and special guests included Irving Baker, Graham Strong and 1967 grad Garry Grant, who acted as our MC for the evening.

Dr. Baker was kind enough to share with us the details of the journey that brought the School from Toronto to Waterloo forty years ago. He titled his speech “St. George to Columbia” and recapped the events leading up to the move, beginning with the Royal Commission on Health Care in Canada in 1962 (which recommended optometrists be trained at a University in Ontario) and ending with Dr. E.R. Attridge signing the deed with University of Waterloo President Gerald Hagey in 1967. This event was the beginning of the School of Optometry as we know it today.
We then had the pleasure of hearing Dr. Strong reflect on those special individuals we lost over the past few years who had a significant impact on the development of the School and the profession. He shared stories and memories of Drs. Bobier, Fisher, Woodruff, Lyle and Long, all of whom touched the lives of many of our graduates, faculty and staff and had distinct qualities that made them influential and, most of all, memorable people.

All in all, this was definitely a Reunion Dinner to remember. We have a lot to reflect on during our 40th Anniversary, but also a lot to celebrate as we prepare to embrace a changing profession. We truly appreciate the support of our alumni and friends in making this event happen and we look forward to many more successes in the future.

A special thank you goes out to INNOVA Medical, who once again stepped forward to sponsor our Reunion Dinner. Chris Naraine, National Sales Manager, Diagnostics was in attendance on behalf of INNOVA to help us celebrate our 40th year. Their generous support helped make the evening a reality. THANK YOU!
I would like to start this article by thanking those who attended this June’s Continuing Education program at the University of Waterloo. We were thrilled to have our alumni back at the alma mater, and were also pleased to welcome those who were here for the first time. Given the circumstances, we had a very significant crowd, swelling out of the amphitheatre (room 347) and spilling over into two other rooms.

Many of us have been anticipating (or praying for, or despairing over…) TPAs in Ontario for years. Finally, after 16 years and 3 attempts at legislative changes, TPAs are finally coming! Though not serendipitous, it was fantastic that the very week when Bill 171 received Royal Assent in the Legislature, we held our 3rd 20 hour TPA Refresher Course in the last year. Though it is not over until the final regulations are written and the first Rx’s filled, we are one step closer to joining the other provinces in Canada with TPAs.

The 20 hour course included case based and didactic lectures on Ocular Trauma, Anti-inflammatory Therapies in Ocular Disease, and Anterior Segment and Glaucoma Grand Rounds Cases by Dr. Robert Wooldridge, a member of our Ocular Disease Externship educator team for many years. Dr. Thomas Freddo, the Director of the School of Optometry, presented lectures on the Diagnosis and Management of Uveitis and Systemic Considerations in the Patient with Red Eye. We also reviewed the components of good Rx writing and interacted on patient cases, covering the treatment of a wide variety of anterior segment diseases. Some cases were new and some treatments novel, but mostly we realized that we are more than ready to start treating eye diseases with TPAs.

In association with our CE program, we also presented the annual Distinguished Emerson Woodruff and Clair Bobier Award Lectures. This year, the Woodruff Award was presented to Dr. C. Ross Ethier, who presented a fascinating lecture on the Biomechanics of Glaucoma within weeks of leaving the University of Toronto to become the Head of the Department of Bioengineering at Imperial College, London, UK. The recipient of the Bobier Award this year was our own Dr. J. Graham Strong, who challenged our conventional thinking and provision of eye care in view of the impending TPAs with a thought-provoking lecture called “Optometric Co-management of Partially Cured Ophthalmic Patients.”

We would like to offer thanks to the members of the various forms of the TPA group at the OAO over the years. We have been the TPA Committee, the Pharmaceutics Committee and, most recently, the TPA Task Force, but we have been ever present, ever meeting, and ever supported by the OAO. Congratulations especially to all those who have been involved in this TPA initiative over the years!

Since we are on the topic of thanking people, we have to thank the OAO once again. Though we were already planning a TPA Refresher course in line with the College’s recommendations, OAO partnered with the School to include our June CE in the list of options to be covered by the one time provincial funding for CME. This allowed 340 of 800 optometrists in the province who were able take advantage of this funding to register for UW’s CE at essentially no cost. Thanks, OAO!

Thanks must also be extended to the College, which has worked assiduously on TPAs as well, starting years ago with surveys showing the need for this service for the Ontario public. More recently, the College has worked hard to draft the policy on education requirements for TPA use (long in advance of the passing of Bill 171), and to develop the regulations. The TPA Refresher courses have been in line with these early recommendations designed to guide the government.

Thank you again to those who attended our CE program this year! Please join us next year for our annual CE, and keep an eye out for our planned cruise in 2009 and a 100 hour TPA course.
The Canadian Eye Care Team, led by Dr. Murchison Callender, UW Professor Emeritus, once again headed to Kingston, Jamaica in March 2007. The 3 week clinic is integrated into the School’s Primary Care (PC-1) externship program. Students volunteer for this clinical rotation but pay all of their own expenses. The team for March 2007 was: Dr. Callender, Supervising Optometrist; Marilyn Smith, Optician; and final year Optometry students Kristine Dalton, Lindsey Strachan and Jenny Tang. You may recall that the team functions in the FISH (Foundation for International Self Help) clinic and primarily provides school screening eye examinations.

As mentioned in a previous newsletter, Dr. Callender presented the results of school screenings to FISH and the government of Jamaica in 2004. These findings prompted the government to underwrite eye exams for all children in Kingston from the ages of 6 to 12. A program called CHASE (Culture, Health, Arts, Sports and Education) provided a 2 year commitment to underwrite the costs of all eye exams and spectacles for any child in need. This most successful program has now provided hundreds of spectacles for children in the Kingston community and is now on the verge of expanding to other areas of the island. We are proud to have been a part of the initiative and continue to provide full eye exams to the children of Jamaica through the FISH clinic. March 2007 saw several hundred children during the 3 week period.

The team also held weekend clinics at the Decameron resort in Montego Bay and the Breezes resort in Runaway Bay for the staff and families of the resorts. This also gave our student volunteers one day at the beach, which was most welcome after long, hot clinic days in conditions that were not always ideal!

A community clinic was held for 2 days in the St. Thomas parish in the village of Long Bay. Over 200 patients were seen, ranging in age from 2 to 101! Most of the community members are rural farming people who would not be able to afford regular eye care, so we were welcomed with open arms. The FISH clinic provided eyewear to anyone in need of a prescription at an affordable cost. The balance of the time in Jamaica was spent at the FISH clinic in Kingston. Another 1 day clinic was held in the Kingston city suburb of Portmore, sponsored by the local Lions Club.

The Jamaica externship is a wonderful win-win program. Top-notch free eye care is provided by the Canadian team and the students receive fabulous, hands-on experience in an area with a hot tropical climate, some low socio-economic issues and a great number of pathologies that simply do not present themselves in North America. The next clinic is being arranged for March 2008.
Ezell Fellows Everywhere! – Chris Hudson

Three of our graduate students have each been awarded the prestigious William C. Ezell Fellowship by the American Optometric Foundation for 2007/2008. The successful individuals are Sruthi Srinivasan, Lakshman N. Subbaraman and Subha T. Venkataraman. The William C. Ezell Fellowships are awarded to graduate students to encourage the development of full time careers in optometric research and education. More than 200 Ezell Fellowships have been awarded to students since 1949. Former Ezell Fellows include 21 Deans and Presidents of Optometry, 91 Optometry faculty members and 3 former Presidents of the American Academy of Optometry.

Sruthi, Lakshman and Subha all graduated from the Elite School of Optometry in Chennai, India prior to commencing graduate studies at UW. All 3 are registered as doctoral students.

Sruthi is investigating the pathogenesis of dry eye disease in postmenopausal women and in contact lens & non-contact lens wearers, including the correlation of dry eye symptoms with various clinical markers of the disease. Her work will provide an improved understanding of mucin expression in external ocular surface disease.

Lakshman is investigating the protein deposition on conventional hydrogel and novel silicone hydrogel contact lens materials. Lakshman has optimized, and is now using, a radio-labeling technique to investigate the kinetics of lysozyme and other tear protein deposition. The work has implications for the comfort and other subjective symptoms associated with contact lens wear.

Subha is investigating the response of the retinal blood vessels to an inhaled carbon dioxide gas challenge in patients with glaucoma. The results of this work will help to further the understanding of the pathophysiology of vascular dysregulation in glaucoma. For Subha, the award is becoming a habit, since it represents a renewal of the Ezell Fellowship that she won in 2006/2007.

Sruthi, Lakshman and Subha share two characteristics: a track record of publishing in high ranking international journals and a desire to develop into optometric researchers and teachers.

The award of 3 Ezell Fellowships to our graduate students in a single round of funding is a unique achievement in the history of UWSO. Many congratulations to Sruthi, Lakshman and Subha! We are all very proud of your remarkable achievements!

Left to right: Ezell Fellows Lakshman N. Subbaraman, Subha T. Venkataraman and Sruthi Srinivasan

The 6th Canadian Optometry Conference on Vision Science – Liz Reidt

The University of Waterloo School of Optometry will host the 6th Canadian Optometry Conference on Vision Science December 7-9 2007. This event showcases the research carried out at the two Canadian schools of optometry and is generally held every two years at either Waterloo or Montreal on an alternating basis. This year the conference will commemorate the 50th anniversary of the University of Waterloo, the 40th anniversary of the University of Waterloo School of Optometry and the approach of the centennial year for the Université de Montréal École d’Optométrie. For this event we have also invited members of the vision research community at the University of Toronto, York University and CNIB to join us.

The conference will begin on the evening of Friday, December 7 with a cocktail reception at the Canadian Clay & Glass Gallery. This will be followed by research presentations, both talks and posters, on Saturday and Sunday, December 8 and 9. A holiday dinner and dance celebration featuring our very own band, the Lost Faculties, will be held Saturday evening. The conference will also be open to optometry students and practitioners.

For further information and registration, visit: http://www.optometry.uwaterloo.ca/researchers/cocvs2007.html

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CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

The School of Optometry will honour its Distinguished Alumni in celebration of our 40th Anniversary at the University of Waterloo. These awards will be presented to a select group of alumni who have made significant and important contributions to the profession and to society. Presentations will be made during our Research Symposium – December 7-9 2007, when we will celebrate the successes and accomplishments of our School and our graduates over the past 40 years.

We invite you to nominate a graduate from the School of Optometry who has made a significant contribution in one or more of the following areas:

• The Profession of Optometry
• Health Care
• Community, Society, and beyond

Nominations will be accepted through the web at www.optometry.uwaterloo.ca or by hard copy until the deadline of October 31 2007.

AWARD PROCESS

Award selection will be made by a committee including the Director of the School of Optometry (or delegate), several past directors of the School, the Development Officer and the President of the Canadian Association of Optometrists.

The School welcomes nominations for the Distinguished Alumni Award from alumni, students, staff, retirees and members of the public. Self-nominations will not be considered. The nominees must hold at least one UW Optometry degree.

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

School of Optometry
University of Waterloo
200 University Avenue West
Waterloo, ON N2L 3G1
Attn: 40th Anniversary Awards
Fax: 519-725-0784

In addition to the School of Optometry’s own anniversary, the University of Waterloo is reaching a milestone in its history as it celebrates its 50th year. The University has long embraced the ‘spirit of why not?’, which has led to a culture of practical ideas, innovative technology and highly trained young people.

*** 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****

Distinguished Alumni Award – NOMINATION FORM – Deadline: October 31 2007

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

A hard copy form is supplied on the reverse of this page for your convenience.
Distinguished Alumni Award: Nomination Form
Deadline: October 31 2007

This form will be used to identify candidates for the School of Optometry’s Distinguished Alumni 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 complete the online form at www.optometry.waterloo.ca. 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) 250 word maximum; point form is encouraged.

What makes a good entry? Successful career/professional achievements 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 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. UW 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.

5. Personal Information of Nominator

* Name of nominator

* Address:

* Phone Number: Home ( )

* Business ( )

Email address

Are you a UW 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 may inform the nominee of this nomination;
☐ I prefer my nomination to remain anonymous.

Please send completed forms to:
School of Optometry, University of Waterloo,
200 University Avenue, West, Waterloo, ON N2L 3G1
or fax: 519-725-0784
Attention: 40th Anniversary Awards
Diagnostic Imaging
Examination Equipment
Automated Instruments
Diagnostic Instruments
Supplies
Laboratory Instruments
Retinal Imaging
Service
Surgical Equipment
Emergency Equipment

INNOVA
A proud supporter of Optometry in Canada
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Pharmaceuticals
Lens Design
Dry Eye Management
Ultrasound
Pre-test Instruments
Angiography
Microscopes
Integrated Refraction
Nikon Optical Canada Supports Technology Upgrades – Andrea Carthew

Do you remember the old monitors and paging system installed when the building opened in 1974? The same system that remained unchanged and outdated for 30-plus years and was at the centre of many student jokes?

Well, it has finally been replaced as a result of the wonderful support of Nikon Optical Canada! Their gift has enabled the School of Optometry to purchase new flat screen monitors and advanced software for this student, staff, faculty and patient messaging system.

The new screens have already been installed throughout the clinic and outside the third floor lecture theatre. They will also be seen throughout the building addition once it is completed. The new software will allow the School to expand our use of the system and utilize new technology in order to provide our audience with more comprehensive information.

Thank you, Nikon – the School’s system was in desperate need of this upgrade! Their pledged support to the School of Optometry’s expansion and renovation campaign is one of the first we have seen from the optical lens industry and is an example of their strong commitment to advancing optometric education.

“Not only is technology at the core of our business but we feel it is essential to share our enthusiasm and resources to build a stronger relationship with students, educators and the optometric professionals by supporting this campaign”.

Nikon is world renowned for cutting edge lens technology used in microscopes, micro chip manufacturing and, of course, cameras. By manipulating and controlling light with absolute precision, Nikon continues to achieve remarkable results with new and exciting eyeglass lenses. Whether it is a microscopic image, a digital picture or everyday vision, Nikon’s objective is to reproduce and enhance what the human eye can see with ease and comfort.