Changing Seasons

Since we connected in the spring edition of the newsletter, UW School of Optometry has experienced continued expansion, seen new initiatives take shape, celebrated milestones and suffered the loss of a beloved faculty member (Dr. Barbara Sivak) and an alumna and adjunct faculty member (Dr. Karen Tompa Nowy).

I will start with the expansion of the UW Optometry community. This September, we admitted our second class of 90 students into the Optometry program as we continue to fulfill our commitment to increase enrolment by 50 percent from our prior enrolment of 60 students per year. To accommodate these additional students, we are closing in on completion of the addition to our building. Please follow our progress on our website and plan to join us for the formal opening of the new wing at our June CE weekend in 2009!

As with past years, the applicant pool was outstanding, making decisions more and more difficult. This was the first year that we formally required 3 years of undergraduate education prior to entry into Optometry. Realistically, however, most students had completed an Honours Bachelor of Science degree and 6 had even completed a Master of Science degree. As in prior years, the percentage of applicants accepted from those applying from each province was roughly the same. More students apply from Ontario, but their success rate is about the same as that seen with applicants from other provinces.

This year’s entering class is also facing significant additions to our curriculum, including a full course in human gross anatomy and one in histology of body tissues and organs, in order to prepare them more completely for a true primary care role. The anatomy facility in the school of optometry was expanded over the summer and is being shared with the medical students of the new branch campus of McMaster University’s Michael G. DeGroote School of Medicine in Kitchener.

In the previous issue of the newsletter, we mentioned that our Centre for Contact Lens Research (CCLR) is celebrating its 20th anniversary this year and our Centre for Sight Enhancement (CSE) its 25th anniversary. During the American Academy of Optometry meeting in Anaheim this past October, we were thrilled to be able to formally acknowledge the CCLR’s success.
during a reception that saw close to 100 alumni, colleagues, industry representatives and friends share in recognizing their achievements. We also look forward to formally celebrating the CSE’s 25th anniversary in the coming year.

In addition to these events, over the past few months we also held another successful Continuing Education weekend and reunion dinner, welcomed a dynamic new liaison librarian (Kathy McDonald) and formally celebrated the Ontario government’s recent commitment of an additional $1 million a year in funding to UW Optometry for clinical education.

In closing, I also must share with you some sad news. You may have already heard of the sudden and untimely passing of Dr. Barbara Sivak. Our community, and all of those whose lives were so deeply touched by her gentle presence, will miss her. As a faculty member since 1972, she played a role in educating approximately 2,100 of our graduates. Together with Dr. Jake Sivak, she was a part of shaping the School’s foundation and history. Talking to many of you who knew Barb or were taught by her, there is a palpable sense of loss that surrounds this news. Our entire community continues to send its most sincere condolences to Jake, Alisa, Jeremy, Ben and their families. We will fondly remember Barb for the extraordinary impact she had on all of us.

In July 2008, the UW Optometry community also lost alumna and adjunct faculty member Dr. Karen Tompa Nowy. As a dedicated and energetic practitioner and clinical supervisor to the students in the School, she will also be missed.

Tributes to these special individuals are included in this issue of the newsletter. I hope you will take the time to reflect and remember.

You, as alumni, colleagues and friends, are all part of the UW Optometry community and we hope that you will continue to stay involved and support University of Waterloo School of Optometry, its programs and its initiatives. We’re listening. Thank you.
Since arriving in Canada two years ago, one of the unique aspects of Ontario’s government that I have encountered, distinguishing it from its counterparts elsewhere in North America, is the Ontario Fairness Commissioner. This commission serves to do exactly what its name implies. The Office of the Fairness Commissioner ensures that Ontario’s regulated professions have registration practices that are transparent, objective, impartial and fair. And of all the things that make the US and Canada different, at least in this American’s view, one of the quintessential virtues of Canada (and of most Canadians) is a genuine and sincere concern for fairness – in every aspect of life. It is an admirable trait.

Canada, and Ontario in particular, have benefited enormously from the influx of highly educated professionals from around the world. Ontario has the most diverse population in Canada, one in four of the province’s residents was born outside of Canada. Not surprisingly, the Canadian government wants all of these well-trained and educated people to contribute to society optimally.

The challenge this creates is what to do with healthcare professionals. As with medicine, the question of whether foreign-trained “doctors” of all types have been trained to a North American standard of practice is an important one. In optometry, it is an even greater challenge because within North America, there remain at least 3 very different levels of optometric practice, even for those trained in North America (i.e., no DPA use, DPA use only, TPA use). And even for those with TPA certification, the scope of TPA practice varies widely, ranging from prescribing solely topical agents to much broader authorities, including the use of orals, injections, laser treatment and even incisional surgery.

Few professions have seen, within a single generation, a sweeping change in their scope of practice such as what we have witnessed in the profession of optometry in North America. So where do we set the standard for defining minimal competence to safely enter into practice? And if scope of practice is already so widely disparate, where is the line to be drawn? Currently, in various places in Canada, it remains acceptable to continue practising optometry even without DPA certification. Should the non-DPA ODs or DPA-only ODs be denied renewal of their license until they become TPA-certified? I’m certain that we would each have a different opinion on this matter.

Who determines whether someone is at least minimally competent to enter into practice in one of the health care professions? Importantly, it is not the academic training programs, in either medicine or optometry. The standards are set by the regulatory authorities, including the Provincial Colleges of Optometry in Canada and the Boards of Registration in Optometry in each of the 50 US states. These organizations set the standards and at this time they agree that passing a standard exam (CSAO or NBEO) is a sufficient demonstration of competency to safely enter into practice in North America.

Whether the standards set in these examinations are sufficient is not a decision made by the academic training programs. It is a decision made by the profession at large, through its regulatory agencies. But, even if the profession would wish to impose the most stringent standards for entry into practice, governments are driven by other priorities, including labour mobility and integration of immigrants into the mainstream of their new home country. Thus, the professions cannot make these decisions unilaterally.

In Ontario, the Fairness Commissioner requires the Colleges of the various health professions to review their registration practices, submit reports about them and undergo audits to make sure they are meeting their obligations under the Fair Access to Regulated Professions Act, 2006, and the Regulated Health Professions Act, 1991, as amended.

Faced with the challenge of balancing these expectations, people applying for licensure still expect fair treatment when they apply to register in a profession, regardless of where they were educated and trained.

A question then arises: is there a tenable bridge between the obligations of each profession under the Fair Access to Regulated Professions Act and the desire to continually upgrade the minimum standards for entry into a rapidly evolving profession? The answer is yes – and that answer is the International Optometric Bridging Program at University of Waterloo.

Some of you may have only recently heard about this program and it is quite possible that much of what you have heard is factually inaccurate. Accurate and reliable details on the program are available at www.optometry.uwaterloo.ca/iobp. The program has received well-deserved accolades from government as a model for health profession bridging programs. The program has been reviewed and approved by the Canadian Optometric Regulatory Authorities and is supported by the Ontario Association of Optometrists and the Canadian Association of Optometrists.
What is most important to understand about the IOBP is that, as with an OD degree from University of Waterloo or any other School or College of Optometry in North America, merely completing the program does not allow the graduate to enter into practice. All that completion of these programs permits is the opportunity to demonstrate competency by challenging the CSAO examination. Since that is the standard that we as a profession have established, if someone successfully completes that standard, they cannot and should not be denied entry into practice. Fairness (and our governments) will demand nothing less.

The International Optometric Bridging Program

– Dr. Susan Cooper, OD, FAAO

The International Optometric Bridging Program (IOBP) at UW School of Optometry is a unique and progressive program developed in 2004 as a means of supporting qualified international optometry graduates (IOGs) seeking entry into optometric practice in Ontario.

The IOBP was originally created in response to the provincial and federal governments’ mandate to decrease barriers for international applicants in the health care professions. The College of Optometrists of Ontario also realized that this was necessary in order to ensure fair and transparent admission and licensure practices. The goal was to create a system to evaluate and recognize the education and work experience of internationally trained individuals, as well as to identify any gaps and then assist in the bridging of those gaps to Canadian levels. The program is supported by the Canadian Optometric Regulatory Authorities and accepted by all provinces as the path for internationally educated optometrists to move towards practising in Canada.

The program was developed from results of a pilot program conducted in 2003, which sought to address barriers to registration faced by IOGs in Ontario, including educational gaps, lack of occupation-specific language and communication skills, inexperience with the clinical processes used in Ontario, cultural differences, the need for Canadian workplace experience, insufficient/confusing/scattered information regarding the registration process, and a lack of familiarity with the format and structure of the CSAO exam.

Since the inception of the IOBP, 44 internationally educated optometrists have become registered in Canada. These optometrists are now practising in British Columbia, Alberta, Ontario and Newfoundland, many having returned to the practices in which they completed their clinical externships. To date, optometrists in British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario and Newfoundland have opened their practices to IOBP students for externship placements.

Dr. Nabil Mammo arrived here with his family from Iraq in 2005. Dr. Mammo completed the IOBP in 2006 and is now practising with Dr. Irving Feldman, Dr. Don MacQueen and Dr. Manny Debonno. In spite of all his hard work and success, he feels his ultimate success is his family, with his wife currently completing the International Medical Graduate program, one son studying in the Doctor of Medicine program at University of Toronto, another son attending the Schulich School of Business at York University, and a daughter enrolled in her first year at University of Waterloo School of Optometry. In Dr. Mammo’s own words:

“I was given a golden chance of starting a new life and profession at the ripe age of 61.”

Another success story is Dr. Sandy Sun, who arrived in Canada from China. Dr. Sun spent the winter months from January to March 2008 in the town of Stephenville, Newfoundland, completing her ocular disease externship portion of the bridging program. After successfully completing the CSAO and becoming registered, she has returned there to practise.

“I am now practicing in my externship site, Newfoundland. The doctor here has retired and I am filling his shoes. I feel everything is so familiar. It feels like I am coming back home after a long vacation. Thank you and all the teachers.”

For further information about the program please visit the website at: www.optometry.uwaterloo.on.ca/iobp.

Development of the International Optometric Bridging Program has been possible with funding from the Province of Ontario and the Federal Government of Canada.
Our 40,000-square-foot addition is rapidly taking shape and is, so far, on time for a winter completion. Wall partitions, heating and cooling ventilation, sprinkler piping and electrical work are now being installed. Closing in the addition has been delayed due to the unique glass channel walls that will wrap about ¾ of the building. The exposed addition does provide interesting observation opportunities, however, and keeps the workmen cooler than they would otherwise be! Be sure to check them out on our website (www.optometry.uwaterloo.ca), where you can view the Photo Gallery and Hourly Web Cam Photo and track the progress of the construction.

Our new elevator, which will service the clinic as well as the academic floors, should be in operation by the time you are reading this article. The elevator is a long awaited and much needed accessibility enhancement that will provide a more direct way to move less mobile patients and visitors between floors of the existing building and, of course, the 2 floors of our addition.

Along with the elevator, some of our existing clinic space at the addition intersection points will be back in operation. For most of the summer, Ocular Health, Electrodiagnostics, BV and some our first floor Primary Care and Paediatric exam rooms have been out of service while these areas were reconfigured to provide access to the addition and elevator. Fortunately, this time is somewhat less busy than the rest of the year but it was still a bit of a juggling act to keep all the services going! The juggling will become more complex once we begin the second phase of our expansion, which is a reconfiguration of the public clinic. We hope to begin the refinement of the plans for that critical renovation once we are settled into the addition.

As I have in the past, I would ask you to support our building fund by either making a pledge or renewing/ extending an existing pledge. While the end of the construction is in sight, we have not yet reached our new campaign goal for the addition and ask you to consider helping us reach that goal a little sooner. We very much appreciate the support we continue to enjoy from our alumni, friends and corporate partners!
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
On Friday, June 6 2008, John Milloy, Ontario Minister of Training, Colleges and Universities, visited the participants of our annual Continuing Education conference to announce an additional $1 million in ongoing, yearly funding. This funding will enhance the training of students in our clinical program, the very basis of optometric education.

Funding was initiated in 2007 with a one-time award of $1 million from the Province of Ontario. The School is thrilled that it is has now been confirmed that our program will receive an additional $1 million on an annual basis. Optometric education relies on the clinical, hands-on component of patient care to train future optometric practitioners for their important role in delivering eye care to Canadians.

“The renowned optometry program at the University of Waterloo is truly first-class. I am proud to be part of a government that recognizes the importance of clinical education and has provided additional support to these types of programs,” said Mr. Milloy. This funding was the result of a government initiative recognizing that it costs significantly more to provide clinical education to future health professionals than it does to deliver other programs. This initiative included a survey, which, when completed, uncovered the reality that the School’s clinical program was underfunded by approximately $4 million per year.

This extra provincial support will allow UW School of Optometry to train more optometric professionals and boost clinical education, eventually resulting in enhanced patient care in Ontario and across Canada.

“Our school is a research and education leader and with this increased provincial funding we will be better able to prepare optometrists to practice in an evolving profession and embrace their expanding role in family health care,” says Dr. Thomas Freddo, Director of the School.

This money will be used initially to hire two clinical faculty members and sponsor junior faculty members to complete additional training in both the management of eye disease and hospital-based optometry. As well, the funding will increase the daily allowances for adjunct clinical specialists, who share their private practice experience by overseeing students and providing care to patients in the clinic.

Province of Ontario Awards $1 Million a Year to UW School of Optometry – Andrea Carthew

Stay Current Through The Optometry Learning Resource Centre!

The University of Waterloo School of Optometry Learning Resource Centre provides a range of free information services for CAO members and alumni:

1. NEW – Free online access to E-Therapeutics (includes e-CPS)
2. Free access to the 2008 online version of Wills Eye Manual
3. Access to literature searches at your request *
4. Journal article photocopying and delivery at no cost to you *
5. Free access to the VisionCite research database
6. In-person library borrowing privileges at University of Waterloo, Wilfrid Laurier University and University of Guelph

For full details email us: optlib@uwaterloo.ca

* Limitations apply – see full details at www.optometry.uwaterloo.ca/olrc/od.html

(Services contingent upon continued funding)
On Saturday, June 7 2008, a full day of education was held exclusively for optometric assistants and optometry office staff. Over 50 delegates attended the session.

A variety of educational lectures were presented, starting with Joyce VanRooyen from Hoya Vision presenting a timely lecture called “Demystifying New Progressive Lens Design.” New contact lens information was the topic of “One Day Selling” by Janice Schmidt, sponsored by CooperVision. Joyce and Janice have both been speakers at this event in the past and are always well received and full of new information.

A new speaker to the program, Deborah Loyd, had the whole room rolling in laughter with her presentation, “Humour in the Workplace.” Deb is a professional in the area of mime, clowning and storytelling and can deliver on just about any subject with a sense of enjoyment and education. (In fact, I overheard an OD saying they wished they were in “that room” instead of the optometry lectures as the OA participants were loud in their response to Deb’s delivery and examples!)

The group ended their morning at 11:45 and went out to the 10th Annual Industry Information Trade Show and luncheon. Everyone grazed through the delicious array of finger food and desserts supplied by Stone Crock Catering. Delegates visited the 32 company and interest group booths, collecting goodies and information and entering draws for cool prizes.

The afternoon session started at 1:30 with another fabulous 2-hour interactive lecture from Dr. Stelios Nikolakakis. “Dr. Stel” presented in 2007 and was so impressive he was asked to come back for a follow-up. His lecture, “Psychology 101 Parts 1 & 2,” had everyone thinking about the bigger picture in life and how we can contribute to the overall good for ourselves and for others. Then yours truly presented “Giving Exceptional Customer Service,” which provided tips on how to give our clients our best every day. This lecture was sponsored by B&L.

All optometric assistants and staff were then invited to join the optometrists at the Bobier Lecture, with keynote speaker Dr. Desmond Fonn presenting “The Cornea – In the Line of Fire.”

On Sunday, we had 26 people in attendance at the sessions. I was the host for the three separate workshops held between 9:00 a.m. and noon. Hour One was “Understanding and Neutralizing Bicentric Lenses”. Although it is not used often, ordering and understanding of the verification of a slab-off is key to correcting a prescription with the need to balance prism at near. Hour Two, “Visureal Digital Measuring System,” was co-hosted by Joyce VanRooyen from Hoya Vision and we demonstrated new technology in spectacle measurements. The morning then wrapped up with “Fitting Nosepads with Confidence,” a popular topic that is requested yearly.

The Continuing Education Committee would like to acknowledge the various companies that generously offered a speaker or donated to the School of Optometry to cover the fees for speakers. It is with their kind support that we are able to continue offering excellence in continuing education for our participants. Company sponsors this year were Bausch & Lomb Canada, C & C Optical Laboratories, CooperVision, Hoya Vision Care, Johnson & Johnson Vision Care, Topcon Canada and Centennial Optical.

If you have suggestions for topics for the CE 2009 Optometric Assistants and Staff Program please contact me at masmith@uwaterloo.ca.
The 10th Annual Industry Information Trade Show was held on Saturday, June 7, 2008 during CE Weekend. The event, sponsored by 33 companies and interest groups, consisted of 32 booths set up in the large outdoor tent in the Optometry parking lot. A light breeze allowed the tent to stay a bit cooler than the 25°C outside and the skies were sunny and blue.

Delegates were able to visit company representatives throughout the 2-hour lunch and trade show. Every aspect of optometry was represented, including new frame styles, fantastic computerized equipment technology, the latest in contact lens and ophthalmic lenses, and a range of services for the optometry office. Our sincere thanks to all of the company representatives for giving up a beautiful June Saturday to be there! This trade show has become an integral and exciting part of CE Weekend. Delegates and company representatives seem pleased with the time they can spend away from busy practices and/or office environments.

Delegates also were able to participate in draws for various prizes, with the winners announced during the first lecture after the trade show on Saturday afternoon. This additional company support for our event is most appreciated!

The fantastic array of finger foods and desserts were supplied by Stone Crock Catering. The chocolate fountain was a big hit again, and everyone enjoyed “grazing” among the many tables of food set up in the tent.

University of Waterloo Stores once again kindly brought books of interest to sell, as well as popular UW clothing. The Office of Development presented the updated drawings of the School of Optometry building addition, which is scheduled to be completed in the winter of 2009. Thanks to both UW departments! The KW Community Spirit Lions Club (which sponsors the UW Optometry Student chapter) also manned a booth to show what Lions does both in the community and around the world for eyecare.

The following companies and services generously donated time, energy and funding to make the 2008 Industry Information Trade Show a success:

- Alcon Canada
- AMO
- B & H Optical Canada Inc.
- Bausch & Lomb Canada
- C & C Optical Laboratories
- Cardinal Contact Lens Inc.
- Carl Zeiss Canada Ltd.
- Centennial Optical
- CLBA Vision
- Clarion Medical
- CooperVision
- Essilor Canada Ltd.
- Hoya Vision Care
- Innova Medical
- Johnson & Johnson Vision Care
- Kensington Eye Institute
- KW Community Spirit Lions Club
- Lanctot
- Marchon Canada
- Nikon Optical Canada
- Novartis Ophthalmics
- Opal Optical
- OPT Marketing
- Optos North America
- OSI
- Pacific Medical
- Pro Design Denmark
- Rodenstock Canada
- Topcon Canada
- UW Development
- UW Stores
- Viva International
- Westgroupe
I would like to start this article with a thank you to those who attended this June’s Continuing Education program at University of Waterloo. We were thrilled to have our alumni back at the alma mater and pleased to welcome some people we had not seen for a few years. We hope you enjoyed the program, as well as the various other events such as the Reunion Dinner.

As a result of clear demand, this was the fourth time in just over 2 years that we have offered such TPA Refresher packages. This 22-hour TPA course was truly a “refresher”, as it was a brand new version of the same theme.

Again, our intent is to focus on bringing you case-based lectures by a number of key speakers, including Dr. Alan Kabat, who presented “The Evolving Standard of Care in Antibiotics and Anti-inflammatories,” “Systemic Management of Ocular Disorders,” “Current Controversies in Dry Eye Management,” and “Options and Opportunities in Ocular Allergic Disease.” Dr. Tom Sheidow, retinal specialist at the Ivey Institute in London, Ontario, enlightened us with a fascinating talk called “Progress in the Pharmacological Management of Age-related Macular Degeneration.” Dr. Carl Spear returned to UW after a number of years and reviewed the clinical pearls of managing ocular trauma, and brought many case challenges in contact lens wear and general anterior segment disease. Dr. Kathy Yang-Williams, an alumna who instils in us great pride, presented four hours on the “Therapeutic Considerations in the Management of Open Angle Glaucoma.” Also, Dr. Anthony Cavallerano added “Diagnosis and Management of the Secondary Glaucomas,” and last but certainly not least, Dr. Thom Freddo gave a clinical perspective with “Systemic Considerations in the Patient with Red Eye” and reviewed the “Diagnosis and Management of Anterior Uveitis” with clinical scenarios and pearls.

Together, we interacted on patient cases encompassing 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 ready to have that legislation finalized so that we can start treating eye diseases with TPAs – that is, without anyone else signing the script!

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. Anthony Cavallerano, who presented a topical lecture called “Advancing Accessibility to Eyecare through Telemedicine.” The Bobier Lecture was awarded this year to our own Dr. Desmond Fonn, who presented on 20 years in the cornea and contact lens field with a thought-provoking lecture entitled “The Cornea – In the Line of Fire.”

Thank you again to those who attended our CE program this year! Please consider joining us next year for our annual weekend, and keep an eye out as well for our planned cruise and the 100-hour TPA course.
UWSO and the American Optometric Foundation – A Partnership in Progress – Andrea Carthew

The American Optometric Foundation (AOF) was founded in 1947 for the express purpose of “upholding, broadening, fostering, promoting and aiding of optometric education; the profession of optometry and its practitioners.” AOF is the principal philanthropic organization devoted to the advancement of optometric education and research in North America. Through the support of optometrists, corporations, other foundations, state associations and private citizens, the AOF has established a strong history of dedication to the improved visual welfare of the public.

We are pleased to share with you that the AOF’s commitment to optometric education and research has extended to University of Waterloo School of Optometry. Since 2003, the AOF has provided over $136,000 to fund graduate student awards and fellowships, research grants, undergraduate scholarships and faculty awards.

Such support has helped the School build and reward exceptional talent, strike out in innovative directions and become the largest Vision Science graduate program in North America. We would like to thank the AOF for their partnership in developing and advancing optometric education and research.

As another step forward in this partnership, the School is proud to announce that one of our own, Dr. Kathy Dumbleton, has recently been appointed to serve on the AOF Board of Directors.

Below are some of the programs sponsored or administered by the AOF, along with a delineation of just how successful UWSO has been in competing for these valuable resources. We are proud of this record of achievement!

**EZELL Fellowships**

Since 1947, the American Optometric Foundation has offered Ezell Fellowships to encourage talented persons to pursue full-time careers in optometric research and education. These fellowships support post-graduate students (primarily optometrists) in full-time programs of study and training in research. This award has become a benchmark for future success in the realm of academic optometry.

In the past few years, applicants from UW have been exceptionally successful in competing for these prestigious awards. Recipients have included Subha Venkataraman (twice), Andrew Hartwick, Patricia Rose, Sruthi Srinivasan and Lakshman Subbaraman, representing over $55,000 in total support.

And, in the past two years, UWSO has added two former Ezell Fellows to its faculty, Vasudevan Lakshminarayanan and Thomas Freddo.

**Vistakon Research Grants Program**

The Foundation provides support, with the help of corporate sponsors, for a series of seed grants to support novel basic or clinical research projects in the area of soft contact lenses. Vistakon Awards are given in two amounts, $10,000 and $25,000. In the past 5 years, 3 UWSO applicants have successfully competed for $45,000 in total research project support. The recipients are James Forrest, Lyndon Jones and Nancy Keir.

**Glenn A. Fry Lecture Award**

Since 1970, the American Optometric Foundation has recognized the research contributions of distinguished scientists and clinicians through the Glenn A. Fry Lecture Award. During the years since the inception of this award, four people with ties to UW have been honoured to receive this award: Jake Sivak, John Lovasik, Thomas Freddo and, most recently (in 2004), John Flanagan.
The Michael G. Harris Award for Excellence in Optometric Education

This award is presented to an optometric educator who has demonstrated ongoing and consistent excellence in the education of optometry students and/or the advancement of optometric education. This coveted award has been presented only 7 times since its inception and one of our own, Dr. Lyndon Jones, has been among the recipients.

Scholarships

The AOF administers several scholarship programs on behalf of corporate sponsors, providing financial support to one deserving student at each school of optometry. These include the Vistakon Award of Excellence in Contact Lens Patient Care and the ACUVUE Eye Health Student Citizenship Scholarship.

The AOF also administers a competitive Vision Fellowship program sponsored by Carl Zeiss Inc. This year’s UWSO recipient of this $5,000 award was Debbie Luk, following in the steps of our 2007 recipient, Carmela Miranda.

If you would like to learn more about the American Optometric Foundation, contact:

Lois Schoenbrun
American Optometric Foundation
6110 Executive Boulevard, Suite 506
Rockville, MD 20852
Email: LoisS@aaoptom.org Phone: 1-800-368-6AOF

Remembering Karen Tompa Nowy

– Shirley Blanc and C. Lisa Prokopich

On July 11 2008, the optometry profession lost a brilliant and compassionate practitioner and the world lost a truly rare and special human being.

Karen Tompa Nowy is remembered for her beautiful spirit and her infectious laugh. She always exuded positivity and optimism, qualities that were challenged but unaltered by the tremendous emotional, physical and spiritual challenges she faced over her two-year battle with cancer.

Karen exuded an aura of unmatched brightness and warmth and a deep sense of joy. As a student, her passion for the School of Optometry, for her chosen profession and for her fellow students was evident in the many events that she organized and participated in. It was ten years ago that Karen spent an entire summer planning an unbeatable Optometry Orientation Week down to the last, minute detail. Her optometry friends also knew her as an accomplished comedian and entertainer at past skit nights.

As a student and then as a practitioner, Karen embraced challenging clinical cases with an energetic eagerness. During her years in practice, she often called her friends and colleagues to discuss perplexing cases she had encountered, determined to provide her patients with the best care possible. Her passion for patient care extended to children’s vision: she volunteered her time to give presentations to new mothers about the importance of eye care for children. Karen had a natural flare for teaching, which likely traces back not only to her experiences as a student helping fellow classmates, but even farther back to her earliest mentors. Karen’s father, Frank Tompa, is well recognized in both the university community and the community at large for his long and distinguished career in research and teaching. Ultimately, the desire to teach led Karen to her involvement as a guide and mentor to optometry students as a clinical supervisor in the Primary Care Clinic at the School. Student interns frequently left the Optometry building after a grueling day in clinic completely refreshed and revitalized by Dr. Tompa Nowy’s boundless energy and sensitive and insightful approach to clinical teaching. Karen also nourished her creative side as an exquisite painter, gardener and home renovator and decorator.

Karen embodied the best of humanity in so many respects. This was reflected by the many people who surrounded her and loved her dearly, including her wonderful family, her caring and devoted husband and soul mate, Tom, and her many, many friends. Her unwavering strength of character, her desire to put the needs of others before her own, and her incredible loyalty to her family and friends made Karen a person anyone would aspire to emulate. This, ultimately, is the best legacy one can leave. Karen will be greatly missed.
Introducing Kathy MacDonald, Our Optometry Liaison Librarian – Paul Lofthouse

In July, University of Waterloo School of Optometry welcomed Kathy MacDonald aboard as the new Liaison Librarian. Kathy will be managing the Optometry Learning Resource Centre, developing its collection and providing instruction to students. She will also support faculty, researchers, staff and students in finding materials both within the OLRC and across the wide spectrum of additional UW resources.

Kathy comes to us from the Institute for Work & Health (IWH), a not-for-profit group dedicated to advancing the science behind occupational health and safety policies and practices, workplace injury prevention and return-to-work procedures. As a Knowledge Transfer Associate, Kathy managed clinical dissemination networks and assisted in plain language translation and communication of IWH research findings to workers, unions, employers, clinicians or occupational health and safety officers.

Prior to her position at IWH, Kathy was the coordinator and knowledge broker of the Alzheimer Knowledge Exchange (AKE), which is hosted by the Alzheimer Society of Ontario. The AKE supports professionals working with people who suffer from dementia by offering a web-based resource centre, an innovations-in-practice collection and forums for dialogue and education. Using online tools provided through the Ontario Ministry of Health’s E-Health Ontario portal, the AKE also supports health care professionals in using collaborative technologies to develop educational modules and in showcasing practical tools for use in community care, long-term care and public education.

Kathy completed her Master of Library and Information Science at University of Western Ontario in 2004, after having completed a Bachelor of Science (Human Kinetics) at University of Guelph. Prior to that, she practised as a Registered Massage Therapist for 20 years. This career included teaching at Sutherland-Chan, one of North America’s leading colleges in massage therapy education, as well as clinical supervision of massage therapy students in hospitals and sports injury clinics. Prior to her training in massage therapy, she had also earned a Bachelor of Arts at University of Guelph.

Kathy is excited about joining the team at UWSO and looks forward to realizing her main objective: to bring her varied and broad education and work experience to bear in directing the OLRC towards supporting evidence-based optometric training and practice.

When not hard at work in the OLRC, Kathy can be found camping, quilting, or grooving at an aquafit class. Please join us in welcoming the newest member of the UW Optometry team! ☺

New Beginnings in the Optometry Learning Resource Centre (OLRC) – Kathy MacDonald

As I write this, I have been in my new position as Liaison Librarian – Optometry for 5 months. It has been an exciting time and I am very happy to be here! My goal in obtaining my Masters of Library and Information Sciences (MLIS) degree was to work as a health sciences/medical librarian, so this position is what I have been working towards for the past 5 years! The OLRC staff, Cindy, Peter and Mirka, have been very welcoming and are fabulous people to work with. You may have crossed their paths as students or as professionals when accessing the services we provide.

One of the big projects on our agenda this year is the move to our new space in the School of Optometry building expansion. Construction of the addition is on schedule and we plan to move into the new space before spring 2009. The glass exterior and internal walls are up, and the crews are busy completing the interior work. Late in September we were given the opportunity to walk through the addition and it was thrilling to see the space take shape. We are now busy determining our furnishing and equipment needs. A very generous donation to the school from Dr. Marta Witer and Ian Ihnatowczyz will be acknowledged when the new Learning Resource Centre is named in Dr. Witer’s honour this coming year.

Continued on page 16
Another project under way is a joint undertaking between the OLRC and the Museum of Vision Science. In the design of the new expansion there is a room designated for books belonging to the Museum. This collection, donated over the years from various sources (including Dr. Fisher, one of the driving forces behind the Ontario College of Optometry’s move to University of Waterloo) is a unique historical collection documenting the development of optometric education and practice in Ontario. We are working with the Museum to determine how best to proceed in making the collection more prominent and accessible.

With respect to alumni, we are exploring how to further promote and support our graduates and CAO members in developing, maintaining and advancing evidence-based (or, evidence-informed) practices. A generous grant from COETF has allowed us to provide electronic access to Wills Eye Manual and VisionCite, as well as 10 free articles per year. This year we will also add E-Therapeutics Plus, a new electronic resource for use by alumni and CAO members. Produced by the Canadian Pharmacy Association, E-Therapeutics Plus provides evidence-based drug and therapy resources and includes e-CPS. Access details will be posted on our website.

We are also working hard to improve the information literacy skills of our students. Enhancing their ability to find and access quality research will benefit them in their future roles as optometrists. Keeping current is important, and doing so will become increasingly taxing as the knowledge base for optometry expands. We continue to look for ways to support the faculty and staff in their teaching and research needs.

It is with profound shock and indescribable sadness that University of Waterloo’s extended Optometry family (faculty, staff, students, retirees and alumni) mourns the untimely death of our dear friend and esteemed colleague, Professor Barbara “Barb” Sivak. Barb died peacefully on September 19 2008 at London Health Sciences Center, following a courageous two-week battle with complications during treatment for a recently diagnosed autoimmune condition.

Barb was born in postwar Poland, the “miracle” daughter of two Holocaust survivors of Auschwitz. The Werkzeig family immigrated to Canada two years later (1948) and settled in Montreal. It was there that she first met the neighbours’ son, Jacob Sivak. Their relationship evolved from distant friendship, to high school romance, to wife and husband, to mother and father (to Alisa, Jeremy and Ben), to Bube and Zeidy (grandmother and grandfather to Annika, Max and Libby). During his introduction of Jake Sivak for a prestigious award, longtime friend Howard C. Howland provided meaningful insight into Barb’s relationship with Jake by contending that she was actually responsible for raising four children:

“Jake’s secret to success was revealed to me on an expedition to the Falkland Islands that he organized to study penguin vision. Standing in front of the kitchen sink in our host’s (Ian Strange’s) house, I discovered that Jacob Sivak, who was then approximately 35 years of age, had no idea as to how to wash a pair of socks. He had never done any laundry in his life! His wife, Barbara, who was his childhood sweetheart, had seamlessly taken over his mother’s guardianship of Jacob, and she has been the chief member of his support group ever since. Barbara Sivak has not only mothered and raised his three children, cooked his meals, and hosted his guests, but she has also taught his courses at the University when the need arose.”

Barbara was an insatiable reader and she nurtured a lifetime love of learning, having attended one of the first Bachelor of Physiotherapy programs in Canada and then completing an MSc and PhD in Kinesiology while raising her three children. She started teaching at University of Waterloo in 1972 as a laboratory demonstrator. Over the ensuing 35 years, she taught courses in neuroanatomy, ocular anatomy and human physiology at University of Waterloo and Wilfrid Laurier University. In addition, she was a much sought-after physiotherapist because of her estimable professional skills as well as her caring and compassion.

Barbara also was a tireless and dedicated member of the Waterloo County Holocaust Education Committee, planning educational events aimed at working to ensure that young people understand the relationship between the Holocaust and contemporary racism. It was just last year that Barb’s friends, family and colleagues gathered at the University Club for a joyous celebration of her retirement. Those same friends, family and colleagues are now desperately trying to come to grips with the heartbreaking tragedy of her passing.
It’s back to the books in 2009!

The School of Optometry University of Waterloo is pleased to announce a comprehensive 100-hour Treatment and Management of Ocular Disease continuing education course for 2009.

Given the School's building expansion and major renovations over the next couple of years, only the 60-hour didactic portion of the program will be held in Waterloo, while the 40-hour practical portion will be held in conjunction with the Northeastern State University Oklahoma College of Optometry in Tahlequah, Oklahoma.

100-hour TPA Course 2009 Programs

60-hour Didactic Program
The lecture portion of the program is scheduled from Saturday February 14th through the following Sunday February 22nd, 2009 at the University of Waterloo.

The range of lectures from well-known speakers includes a review of basic ocular pharmacology, through the spectrum of ocular disease, to contemporary management. The main focus will be on the therapeutic management of anterior segment diseases including critical systemic disease management strategies.

Didactic Fees
The didactic registration and fees are administered by the University of Waterloo.

- $2000 (CAD) for 60 hours didactic due on registration

Didactic Fee Reductions
Part-time clinical supervisors at the School of Optometry (including external program supervisors) receive a 40% fee reduction in didactic fees. Please note that we cannot offer any fee reduction for the Practical portion of the course.

40-hour Practical Program
During 2009, groups of 40 participants will travel to Oklahoma for an intensive 5 day practical session.

Sessions 1 & 3 are now full. Space is available in the new Session 4.

Session 1 (Full): Thurs. March 12th – Mon. March 16th
Session 2: Cancelled
Session 3 (Full): Sat. May 16th – Wed. May 20th

Practical Fees
The fees and registration for the practical portion of the course are administered directly by Northeastern State University.

- $1600 (USD) for 40 hours practical due on registration

Practical Exam and Credits
A written exam will be completed on-site at the end of the practical program and results will be made available to each participant and to UWSO.

40 hours of COPE approved credit will be awarded upon successful completion of the practicum and the written exam.

Travel
Registrants will fly into Tulsa International Airport. Additional information on lodging and ground travel will be made available on registration.

Certificate
A 100-hour certificate is awarded on completion of a transcript-quality examination to be held after all the registrants have completed the practical portion of the course. There will be one examination administered and that will be held in Oklahoma at the end of each practical session.
Registration

Didactic Registration
In order to reserve a seat in our limited capacity didactic program, please complete the registration form and either mail or fax to the address indicated.

Contacts
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ce@optometry.uwaterloo.ca

Practical Registration
Visit Northeastern State University Oklahoma College of Optometry Beneath Continuing Education Select 2008 Schedule Scroll to & select Accredited 100 Hour TPA Course Scroll to Practical Registration Form

Northeastern State University
Lisa McCormick
CE Coordinator
Northeastern State University
Oklahoma College of Optometry
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Tahlequah, OK 74464 USA
918-444-4033
Fax 918-458-2104
mccormil@nsuok.edu

We hope you will join us for an intensive, informative and practical TPA course!

Please complete the following form and submit along with your payment. If more than one form is required (more than one registrant or making separate deposit/balance payments), please photocopy form.

N.B. This form is for the Didactic Program only. Registration for the Practical Program is handled separately by Northern State University.

Name ________________________________________________
Address ________________________________________________
Postal Code ______________________________________________
Phone __________________ Fax __________________
Email (required) ________________________________________________

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Card Number ___________________________ Expiry Date ___________________________
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INNOVA
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Michael O’Grady (’78) Hosts the 4th Annual Reunion Dinner – Andrea Carthew

On June 7 2008, during our Continuing Education weekend, UW School of Optometry was pleased to hold its 4th Annual Reunion Dinner. The event was once again a success as we were surrounded by good company and good weather. Guests enjoyed an evening in which they perused old yearbooks, saw a slide show of old pictures of themselves as students, listened to live music and connected with classmates and friends. Of special note, we were thrilled to have Dr. William Coomb (’50), Dr. Eldon Buchner (’51) and Dr. Mel Katzman (’52) in attendance!

Since the event’s inception, we have been fortunate to have a graduate as our host for the evening. Celebrating his 30th anniversary since graduation in 1978, Dr. Michael O’Grady did a wonderful job of welcoming guests, sharing memories (including the truth about the HOB line) and talking about the profession. We were also delighted to hear that the Class of 1978 has decided to take on the challenge and raise funds to support the School’s expansion and renovation project in honour of their 30th anniversary. Thank you Mike and the Class of ’78 for your efforts!

I’m also pleased to share with you that for the 4th year in a row, the Reunion Dinner was sponsored by our friends from INNOVA Medical Ophthalmics. It is through their generosity that we are able to provide our alumni with this wonderful opportunity to get together. Thank you INNOVA for making this event possible!

The School of Optometry is happy to be able to honour our alumni by hosting our Annual Reunion Dinner. We hope to see many of you out again next year and look forward to seeing some new faces! Watch for details in the Spring 2009 newsletter!