Director’s Message

– Thomas Freddo, OD, PhD, FAAO

The New University of Waterloo School of Optometry

On Friday, June 5 2009, UW School of Optometry will enter a new era when we cut the ribbon that will officially open the new addition. We hope you can join us for this special moment in the School’s history!!!!

Thank you to all of our alumni, friends and corporate partners who have supported this ambitious project. Through your generosity we have raised $8 million toward our $12.4 million expansion and renovation campaign.

On the surface, this new addition, and the stunning new Witer Learning Resource Centre, are simply the additional square footage required by the 50% increase in enrolment. But it is really so much more. The expansion and the upcoming major renovation of our main clinic provide the new stage upon which UW will educate and train the next generation of Canadian optometrists. This new stage seems particularly timely, as the four-act play that optometric training represents is also becoming a whole new production, one that deserves a grand new stage.

In response to a changing profession, our faculty has recently embarked upon a major review of our curriculum, with an eye toward ensuring that the emphasis is practical and with a goal of getting students into clinic earlier in the program. In this process, we will be guided by the outcomes of our Optometric Education Forum that we held in 2007, sponsored by the CAO and COETF. This is complemented by the passage of new laws and regulations in Ontario, so we should now be able to capitalize on more training opportunities in the area of disease management.

We have also recently completed a detailed operational and organizational review of our clinic system, which will provide us with guidelines for best practices going forward. This plan will guide us in the design and reorganization of our current clinic and in our approach to the new clinic that will open at the UW Health Sciences Campus in early 2010. It will be in this new clinic that our optometry students and medical students from McMaster University’s Michael G. DeGroote School of Medicine will interact and train jointly on a regular basis.

Another new development at the School this year literally required a new stage. As you will read in this issue, UW Optometry proudly held the first-ever White Coat Ceremony in the history of the optometry profession in Canada. We were honoured to have the Presidents of the Provincial Optometric Associations, UW President David Johnston and CAO President Dr. Len Koltun participating. The CAO graciously funded the cost of the white coats for our first class. It was a momentous occasion.
We are also proud of the commitment to care embodied in our recently formed chapter of VOSH (Volunteer Optometrists in Service to Humanity). These student missionaries, with oversight by clinical faculty and volunteer ODs, support themselves to travel to underserved locations around the world. Students provide badly needed care and benefit from the rich clinical experience that these intensive visits provide.

While the clinics and our outreach program expand to meet the needs of our optometry students, we remain mindful of the needs of our equally important cadre of graduate students. Measured by total enrolment, the UW Graduate Program in Vision Science is the largest in North America. We take great pride in the accomplishments of our graduate students. In support of their training, and in support of the overall research effort of our program and its research faculty, we have revived our Vision Science Research Seminar Series, which will have brought six renowned vision researchers to our campus this year to share their research and insights with us. Part of each visit includes lunch with our graduate students, with no faculty present. This provides the students with a chance to really get to know these highly regarded researchers in a less formal venue and to ask questions about science and the challenges of a career in science. Our commitment to continuing this program remains strong. As each of these well-known researchers visits us, they also go home with a better understanding of the much-too-closely guarded secret of the strength of our research program and of our faculty.

Our commitment to you, our alumni, donors and friends, remains strong as well. Optometry, as a healing profession, demands of its practitioners lifelong learning. UW will remain an ongoing source of support for that aspect of your career. As evidence of that commitment, we recently completed our second Continuing Education cruise, which you can read about in this issue. Plan to join us on the high seas for our next “CE on the Sea” cruise! We have also recently completed the UW-based didactic component of the 100-hour CE program helping Ontario optometrists to meet the requirements of the new TPA law. You will also read about the online resources that are available to our UW community.

We are also proud of our alumni and of your accomplishments, successes and contributions both in the profession and in your communities. In recognition of this, the School of Optometry is launching a biennial Alumni of Honour Award. Read more about it in this issue and nominate a deserving colleague!

As I had hoped when I accepted this position, it is an exciting time in the history of the School and our hope is to capitalize on every opportunity to enhance the training of our students and the reputation of our faculty, our School and the University as a whole. Thank you again for your ongoing involvement and generosity as we develop our new stage and production of optometric training. This is a time of unprecedented need and growth and we are proud to have the profession standing with us. Your continued support as we move into the second phase of our capital campaign, aimed at completing the major renovation of our main clinic, will be critical. Keep in touch.

Special thanks to all those who contributed items for the newsletter.
3,300 days ago, give or take a few, we started to dream and plan for our new academic program and building expansion. Now, as you read this article, we are perhaps 30 days from moving into this beautiful new resource in May. Not a moment too soon, I would expect our crowded students might say, not a moment too soon!

We are quite excited as we look at the rapidly finishing addition. Our long awaited glass channel walls from Germany were finally installed in January during some bone-chilling cold weather, and this allowed the pace of work to increase significantly. Several tours have been conducted, most notably with some of the provincial association presidents visiting the School for our first white coat ceremony at the end of January. What strikes you most in the addition is the amount of light throughout the space. This is ironic, really, since as most readers who have spent any time in the original building may remember, there was very little natural light there despite some design elements directing light into the core of the building. There is glass and light everywhere in the new space!

By publication time, we should be moving into the addition. The Witer Learning Resource Centre will be the most significant move, since they have so many materials that must be carefully relocated. But no complaints from the library folks, as they will enjoy a grand, new, well lit space more than twice their current size!

Students will benefit from not only a much larger library resource but also a range of other improvements, such as many more computer stations, quiet study areas, group study rooms and a self-service lunch space. The refrigerators and microwave ovens that were located in our student lounge on the 3rd floor outside the main lecture theatre will no longer greet you as you enter the building!

Our addition grand opening is scheduled for Friday, June 5th during our annual 3-day Continuing Education weekend. Please, if you can, come and join us to celebrate this wonderful facility.

And what’s next? Phase 2 will be dedicated to the clinic renovation to reconfigure approximately 24,000 square feet. Detailed planning has begun to develop a contemporary design that will, we hope, locate the entire public clinic on the first floor.

As I have in the past, I would ask you to support our building fund by either making a pledge or renewing or extending an existing pledge. While we are beginning to occupy this wonderful new facility, we have not yet reached our new campaign goal. Please help us reach that goal a little sooner. We very much appreciate the support we have and continue to enjoy from our alumni, friends and corporate partners.

As a supporter and friend of the UW SCHOOL OF OPTOMETRY, we would like to invite you to:

**save the date**

**JUNE 5, 2009**

FOR THE OFFICIAL OPENING OF OUR ADDITION!
Your involvement has helped make this ambitious expansion a reality so we hope to see you there. Look for more details in the coming months.
With the addition under way, we have set a 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.

☐ 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
Call For Nominations

The School of Optometry recognizes that we have a great number of alumni who are outstanding contributors to both optometry and their communities, going above and beyond to make a difference. In order to be able to begin to recognize some of these outstanding individuals for their efforts and achievements, the School is proud to announce the Alumni of Honour Award, to be presented every other year to one individual to acknowledge them for their impact and contributions to optometry and society.

We invite you to nominate a graduate from the School of Optometry, including its graduate program in Vision Science, who has made a significant and proven contribution in one or more of the following areas:

- **Professional Achievement** (recognizes the accomplishments of a UW Optometry and/or Vision Science alumnus)
- **Contributions to Community** (recognizes the accomplishments of a UW Optometry and/or Vision Science alumnus in volunteer leadership, humanitarian endeavours and community and public service)

Nominations will be accepted through the web at www.optometry.uwaterloo.ca or by hard copy, up until the deadline of June 8 2009.

Award Process

Award selection will be made by a committee including the Director of the School of Optometry or designate, the Senior Development Officer, a senior faculty member from the graduate program and the President of the Canadian Association of Optometrists or designate. All applications will remain active for the duration of 2 award cycles.

The School welcomes nominations for the 2009 Alumni of Honour Award from alumni, students, staff, retirees and members of the public. Self-nominations will not be considered. The nominees must hold at least one UW Optometry degree (OD, MSc or PhD).

To nominate an alumnus for the 2009 Alumni of Honour Award, a nomination form must be completed, including all mandatory fields. Please provide as much detail as possible while completing the online form or send a hard copy by mail or fax to:

School of Optometry
University of Waterloo
200 University Avenue West
Waterloo, ON N2L 3G1
Attn: 2009 Alumni of Honour Award
Fax: 519-725-0784

Award Presentation

It is our intention to select an Alumni of Honour Award recipient ever other year and present it during the biennial Canadian Association of Optometrists Congress. This year the Award will be presented to the recipient during the CAO Congress in Charlottetown, PEI, July 29 – August 1 2009.

*** 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.***

Alumni of Honour Award – NOMINATION FORM – Deadline: JUNE 8 2009

To identify candidates for the School of Optometry’s Alumni of Honour 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.
This form will be used to identify candidates for the School of Optometry’s 2009 Alumni of Honour Award. Please provide as much detail as possible; point form is encouraged. Nominators may need to attach a separate sheet in order to provide full details or can complete the online form at www.optometry.uwaterloo.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 or to vision science) 250 word maximum; point form is encouraged.

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

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

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

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. Letters of support are also encouraged.

5. Personal Information of Nominator

* Name of nominator
* Address:

* Phone number(s) Home ( )
* Business ( )

* Email address

* Are you a 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: Alumni of Honour Award

– Kathy MacDonald and Peter Stirling

**What is Reference Sight?**
Reference Sight is a free web-based resource that stores and continually updates a comprehensive collection of article abstracts and other resources relating to contact lenses, refractive surgery and external ocular disease.

**Who created and currently supports Reference Sight?**
The Centre for Contact Lens Research (CCLR) created this resource with a grant from Bausch & Lomb in 1999 and has maintained it since its inception. The Optometry Learning Resource Centre (OLRC) is excited to partner with the CCLR to support Canada’s only vision-specific research database! The OLRC has taken over the identification of relevant journal articles and the subsequent data entry into the Reference Sight database.

**Why is Reference Sight unique?**
Through Reference Sight, it is possible to search references from 2,296 refereed journals and professional periodicals, many of which are not listed in any other database. You can search this database without registering. The basic search provides cross referencing by author, keyword or journal, so you can find other articles by the same author or with similar keywords.

Free registration gives you the ability to save your searches, create your own collection of references, set up email alerts for topics of particular interest to you and use quick links to common Bibliography Management Software packages.

**How easy is it to search Reference Sight?**
Reference Sight’s search engine uses the standard search features of AND/ & and OR to help you combine concepts and use synonyms. You can use quotation marks to find phrases such as “tear film”. The search engine also uses “like” logic, which means if you type in the word tear it will also find abstracts that include tears or tearing. Reference Sight also has a keyword index to help you find what you’re looking for.

**How do I obtain articles from the citations in Reference Sight?**
Full abstracts and links to free e-texts are included where possible. If an article is not available free of charge, then remember that if you are a CAO member and/or alumnus of the School of Optometry, you can receive a limited number of articles from the OLRC collection.

**How do I access Reference Sight?**
Further details and a quick link to Reference Sight can be found at www.optometry.uwaterloo.ca/olrc/alumnica.html

If you have difficulty using this resource, please do not hesitate to contact us at optlib@uwaterloo.ca

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 *
5. Free access to the VisionCite AND Reference Sight research databases
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)
CONTINUING EDUCATION 2009 – JUNE 5, 6 and 7
Registration Form

University of Waterloo School of Optometry is pleased to present our annual Continuing Education program for June 5 - 7 2009. The order of the day is still TPAs!

Our 20-hour program will focus on the practical aspects of the treatment of ocular disease with therapeutic pharmaceutical agents. Case- and evidence-based presentations will highlight the salient points to refresh our knowledge on the use of TPAs in contemporary clinical practice.

Please complete the following form and submit along with your payment. Please make cheques payable to UNIVERSITY OF WATERLOO ($CDN). No post-dated cheques please. If more than one form is required (i.e., if there is more than one registrant), please photocopy the form and complete separately for each registrant. The reunion dinner is free for all registrants.

Name
Address
Postal Code
Phone Fax
Email (required)

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☐ Cheque ☐ MasterCard ☐ VISA

Card Number
Expiry Date
Name (as it appears on card)
Signature

Mail or fax to: E. Reidt, CE Co-ordinator
University of Waterloo, School of Optometry, Waterloo, ON N2L 3G1
Fax: 519-725-0784

For office use only:
No.
Method
Date

8
Dr. Judith West-Mays, PhD

Dr. West-Mays is an Associate Professor in the Department of Pathology and Molecular Medicine at McMaster University. She obtained her Masters and PhD degrees from the School of Optometry and the Biology Department at University of Waterloo. She then completed 3 years of Postdoctoral studies at Harvard Medical School in the Department of Dermatology. Dr. West-Mays was recruited to McMaster in 2002 from the Tufts Center for Vision Research and the New England Medical Center in Boston, where she held a prestigious Career Award from Research to Prevent Blindness. Her expertise is in molecular biology and genetics of vision and she was recently awarded two major grants from the NIH for investigating genes and molecular mechanisms involved in eye development and ocular disease, with emphasis on genes causing cataracts, glaucoma and retinal disease. Dr. West-Mays has also embarked on a collaborative endeavor with the Centre for Gene Therapeutics at McMaster in developing approaches for therapeutic gene transfer in the treatment of eye disease. In addition to her research, Dr. West-Mays actively participates in the teaching of undergraduate, graduate and medical students and is an area coordinator for the Medical Sciences Graduate Program at McMaster.

Dr. William Bobier, OD, PhD, FAAO

Dr. William Bobier entered private optometric practice following graduation and then returned to university life, whereupon he completed an MSc (Physiological Optics, University of Waterloo) and then a PhD (Experimental Psychology, University of Cambridge). A common thread throughout was to gain a better understanding of the developing binocular motor system in infants and children. Bill joined the faculty at the School of Optometry in 1987. He served as Associate Director (1999-2002) and then Director of the School (2002-2005). His interest in developing binocular motor systems remains central to his research activity and teaching.

Don’t Miss the Woodruff and Bobier Distinguished Lectures!

Please join us on CE Weekend for the Woodruff and Bobier Lectures. Admission is free with your registration!
We are pleased to offer the 7th Annual Optometric Assistant and Staff Continuing Education Program at the UW School of Optometry Continuing Education weekend on June 6-7 2009.

By request from the 2008 participants, we will have a TPA theme for the 2009 lecture series. Joyce VanRooyen will give insight into how TPAs affect the OD practice and staff in a two-part lecture. A favourite speaker, Dr. Graham Strong, will discuss low vision clients, an important component of every optometry practice (particularly with the majority of people in our society being over age 55 by 2020!). Dr. Michelle Steenbakkers, an ocular disease specialist, is also a featured speaker and she will provide her expertise over 2 lectures at the OA program. The first will discuss diabetes and high blood pressure and their effects on the eye. The second will focus on that all-important triaging and the right questions to ask when someone phones the office and says “I’ve got a red eye. What should I do?” Uzo Ubani, the Canadian representative for Younger Optical, will also be here to explain the fabulous Drivewear lens. If you haven’t yet recommended this unique lens design, you will by Monday!

Our annual Industry Information Trade Show and Luncheon will be held in the outdoor tent again this year. A delicious finger food lunch will be served throughout the tent so you can “graze” through the goodies as you visit the company representatives. The trade show and luncheon will be held from noon through 1:30 pm.

Inspired again by last year’s comments, we will go back to basics for 2 hours of the Sunday morning workshops by looking at lensometry for PALs and prism. How do we measure the PAL Rx properly and check for prism? What if we need to order only one lens? We’ll discuss those new PAL designs, too, and how the digital designs affect the Rx. Hour Two will focus on repairs and adjustments for drilled rimless frames. Our final hour on Sunday morning will feature a special visit from the Lions Club and their guide dogs, to give us insight into how puppies are trained to become guide dogs. The Lions Club is devoted to helping people with visual impairments, so your practice may want to know more for the sake of best patient care!

For the final lecture hour on Saturday, optometric assistants and staff are invited to the Distinguished Bobier Lecture at 4:45 pm with the ODs in room 347. Dr. William R. Bobier will be the speaker.

All courses are accredited through the Canadian Association of Optometrists. Each OA will have an accreditation sheet that will be stamped throughout the day to verify attendance. All non-OA staff are also welcome to attend the CE lectures and workshops.

I look forward to seeing you all at CE this June!

REGISTRATION FORM – CE 2009
Please complete this form as soon as possible and submit along with your method of payment. If paying by cheque, please make cheque payable to the UNIVERSITY OF WATERLOO (CDN$). No post-dated cheques please.

Name______________________
Address_____________________
Postal Code__________________
Phone______________________
Fax________________________
Email_______________________

Optometric Assistants Lectures
Saturday, June 6th (minimum 7 hours) $100
Optometric Assistants Workshop
Sunday, June 7th (3 hours) $100
Total

☐ Cheque ☐ MasterCard ☐ VISA
Card No._____________________
Name______________________
Signature___________________
Expiry______________________

Mail or fax to:
E. Reidt, CE Co-ordinator,
University of Waterloo
School of Optometry
Waterloo, ON N2L 3G1
Fax: 519-725-0784

For office use only:
# ________ Method ________ Date ________
Our second cruise-based Continuing Education program was presented on the Ruby Princess in January 2009. An enthusiastic group of optometrists from across Canada, and some from the US, enjoyed 12 hours of TPA-related CE presented by Waterloo faculty Drs. Lisa Prokopich and Thom Freddo.

Departing from Fort Lauderdale, the Ruby stopped in Ocho Rios, Jamaica; Grand Caymen Island; Cozumel, Mexico; and Princess Cay, Bahamas. Only two days were “sea” days without a port of call stop, and these were scheduled for CE. Those of you who were with us for “CE On The Sea 1” may remember the rough seas and the 20 hours of CE, which all proved very challenging! The return of CE On The Sea was less demanding, with just 12 hours in class, and we enjoyed calm seas and spectacular, sunny and warm weather!

While Dr. Susan Cooper was not officially staffing the event, grateful thanks must be offered for her contribution, including our traditional trivia game. Susan’s husband’s team won the game with some generous answer interpretation and scoring!

A quick, unscientific poll taken while on this cruise revealed that, of those who attended, most would attend another destination CE program, with half saying they would attend every year and the remainder every other year; half also indicated they prefer cruises, while the rest favour all-inclusive resorts. The overwhelming sentiment was that winter, just following New Year’s, is definitely a good time to offer destination CE programs!

So what do you think? Please let us know your feelings on our winter programs. Where would you like to go, when would you like to do it, how often would you attend destination CE programs, what type of venue would you prefer (cruise or resort) and what is your financial threshold (excluding the education fee)? We would also like to know what CE topics you would like to see presented. Send your suggestions and comments to Gary Marx (gmarx@uwaterloo.ca) so we can plan our next CE adventure!

Come One, Come All, To The 5th Annual Reunion Dinner!

On Saturday, June 6th 2009, as part of our CE weekend, the School of Optometry will host our 5th Annual Reunion Dinner immediately following the Distinguished Bobier Lecture in the upper level tent. We invite all alumni to join us for an evening of fun and camaraderie with classmates and colleagues. It will also be a great opportunity to see the new addition!

Have pictures? We traditionally put together a slide show that we have running throughout the evening. If there is something you wish to include, please send it in!

To RSVP for the Reunion Dinner you can either indicate your attendance on the CE registration form or contact Elizabeth Reidt at (519) 888-4567, ext. 33177.
As you read this article, the 60-hour didactic section of our 100-hour Treatment and Management of Ocular Disease course has been completed, as well as the first of 3 40-hour practical sessions. UWSO partnered with Salus University Pennsylvania College of Optometry and Northeastern State University Oklahoma College of Optometry to present our third 100-hour TPA program. Over 120 optometrists from as far away as British Columbia, Nova Scotia and Washington State attended lectures over 8 days in February. UWSO’s Dr. Thom Freddo, Dr. Jalaiah Varikooty and Dr. Lisa Prokopich were joined by Salus University affiliated speakers Drs. Greg Caldwell, Marc Myers, James Stottlemyer, Rick Bennett and Carlo Pelino in presenting 60-hours of therapeutics and ocular disease management education.

NSUOCO, as they did for UWSO’s first TPA program way back in 1995-96, are presenting the 40-hour practical education section in Oklahoma. Our participants will attend 1 of 3 sessions in Oklahoma, the first having occurred already in March, with the second and third sessions scheduled for later in the year.

These 100-hour programs are, for many reasons, very challenging to organize and present, so we are particularly grateful to both Salus University Pennsylvania College of Optometry and NSUOCO for their significant contributions in support of this program. In particular, Ms. Melissa Padillia (Director, Office of Professional Studies and International Programs, Salus University) and her staff, Ms. Mary Stratton (Assistant Dean for Administration, NSUOCO) and Ms. Lisa McCormick (CME Coordinator, NSUOCO) were extraordinarily accommodating and helpful through the entire process. Thanks are also extended to Alcon Canada for sponsoring our 8 breakfasts during the didactic portion!

While UWSO will continue to present TPA-related CE, future offerings will likely be limited to 20-hour refresher programs or shorter TPA presentations. Demand for 100-hour programs to qualify to employ TPA scope of practice has diminished significantly as those who require certification and want to practice with that credential have largely met the requirements. Without a minimum enrollment, these complex and costly programs cannot be presented. However, if you require a 100-hour program, please contact me (gmarx@uwwaterloo.ca) and express your interest.
On Wednesday, January 28, 2009, UW School of Optometry hosted its inaugural White Coat Ceremony, formally presenting white coats to 180 first year (Class of 2011) and second year (Class of 2012) Optometry students. This event, which is common practice in most health care professions, is a symbol of the students’ transition into the clinical portion of their training and their commitment to, and respect for, their future patients.

The White Coat Ceremony was inspired by the second year students, in particular their class president, Mr. Aaron Chan, and organized by our Clinic Director, Dr. Deborah Jones. We were pleased to be able to host this historical event in UW’s Federation Hall in front of over 200 family and friends, special guests and faculty and staff from the School of Optometry.

Attendees heard speeches by Dr. Thomas Freddo, Director, UW School of Optometry; Dr. David Johnston, President, UW; Dr. Terry McMahon, Dean of Science, UW; and Dr. Len Koltun, President, Canadian Association of Optometrists. In addressing the students, Dr. Freddo said, “Today you join the front lines in vision care and the fight against blindness. Caring for your patients in a compassionate way and understanding the importance of your role as an advocate for them in the health care system cannot be overstated. These white coats should serve as a daily reminder of that responsibility each time you put it on.”

The School of Optometry was also fortunate enough to have leaders from the national and provincial optometry associations and the School’s faculty in attendance to officially “coat” each of the students. Since the ceremony marked the beginning of the students’ journey into the optometric profession, it was fitting to have some of Canada’s optometric leaders present them with their white coats. Presenters were:

- Dr. Len Koltun, President, Canadian Association of Optometrists
- Dr. Richard Buchanan, President, Newfoundland and Labrador Association of Optometrists
- Dr. David Cochrane, President, Manitoba Association of Optometrists
- Dr. John Flanagan, Professor, UW Optometry and UT Ophthalmology
- Dr. Deborah Jones, UW Clinical Lecturer and Clinic Director
- Dr. JoAnne Henderson, UW Clinical Lecturer and Head, Primary Care Clinic
- Dr. Lee Kolbenson, President, Saskatchewan Association of Optometrists
- Dr. Katherine McKee, President, Nova Scotia Association of Optometrists
- Dr. Paul Neumann, President, British Columbia Association of Optometrists
- Dr. Ann Plotkin, UW Clinical Lecturer and Head, Low Vision Clinic
- Dr. Lisa Prokopich, UW Clinical Lecturer and Head, Ocular Health Clinic
- Dr. Neepun Sharma, President, Alberta Association of Optometrists
- Dr. Gina Sorbara, UW Assistant Professor and Head, Contact Lens Clinic
- Dr. Bill Ulakovic, President, Ontario Association of Optometrists
- Dr. Lisa Willms, UW Clinical Director, TLC Laser Eye Centers

After the students had received their coats, Dr. Koltun led them in a reading adapted from the 2006 Canadian Association of Optometrists Code of Ethics, to reinforce the importance of not only their optometric education but also their responsibility to pursue excellence in the health care they provide their patients.

Dr. Koltun reminded the students that “Optometry today is the product of an unwavering commitment to excellence in eye health care by many dedicated leaders and visionaries within the profession and is being increasingly respected by the public, governments and other health care providers. It is your role as future optometric leaders to continue to carry this torch for generations to come.”

The Canadian Association of Optometrists (CAO) generously supported the White Coat Ceremony through the purchase of the white coats for the students. These coats were embroidered with both the CAO and UW School of Optometry logos and left students smiling with pride. With the support of the profession, we look forward to hosting the White Coat Ceremony annually and establishing a tradition.
February 2009 is the 18 month mark for the Waterloo chapter of Volunteer Optometric Services to Humanity (VOSH); and what a year and a half it has been! To date, Optometry students from University of Waterloo have been involved in missions with affiliate VOSH chapters to Ecuador, Paraguay, Morocco and Nicaragua, with many more to come.

This summer, students will have the opportunity to partake in VOSH missions to Romania, Ecuador, Haiti, Mexico and various locations throughout the continental United States. As a student run organization, our key mandate over the past year has been to facilitate and raise awareness of these extraordinary opportunities, as well as to inspire involvement from fellow students who are impassioned by the call for international visual aid.

This year was marked with success, as we are now faced with overwhelming support and interest from the student body, leading us to engage quickly in the process of finding a variety of future missions to accommodate the diverse needs and time constraints of interested students. Along with mission discovery, we have also worked to develop and strengthen our fundraising initiatives in order to create a sustainable means by which to subsidize the cost of student missions. The FROSH week raffle, VOSH-Valentines and the silent auction at Eye Ball serve as our large scale fundraising initiatives, with the weekly VOSH pizza days acting as an additional opportunity for fundraising and awareness.

As we move into the future, we look to expand on our ability to offer students the opportunity to be involved in international missions with affiliate chapters. In addition, we hope to plan and execute the Waterloo chapter’s inaugural mission and will look for continued support from the School and the external optometric community to make this a reality.

In closing, we would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every member of the UW community who has contributed to our growth and success over the past 18 months. Without your support of our many fundraising initiatives, the Waterloo chapter of VOSH would undoubtedly have been short-lived. We realize that it takes far more than just the creation of a chapter to foster a community passionate about sustainable aid. For all of your past and future support we are truly grateful.

VOSH Waterloo Chapter Executive:
Heather Cowie
Paul Rollett
Alison Leung
Dean Weninger
Tammy Sittler
Danny Walker
Alex Buttle
Rafaela The
Robbyn Dupuis
Angie Betker
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Dr. Chris Hudson, optometrist, professor and researcher, presented a clinical talk titled “The Forgotten Role of Optometry in the Primary Health Care of Patients with Diabetes” at the Family Medicine Forum in November 2008 in Toronto. His talk was in support of the efforts of the Ontario Association of Optometrists and Canadian Association of Optometrists to raise the profile of the optometry profession within the medical community. The information was well received by the audience and generated a number of questions regarding the optometric management of patients with diabetes.

The Forum represents the annual scientific and continuing education conference of the College of Physicians of Canada and was attended by over 3,000 family doctors and nurse practitioners. The Canadian Association of Optometrists and the Ontario Association of Optometrists were also at the Forum, where they presented information about the role of optometry in primary health care.

Following his talk, Dr. Len Koltun, President of the CAO, thanked Chris for his efforts in raising the profile of the Optometry profession within the medical community and presented him with a Canadian Association of Optometrists “Communication Key”.

Dr. Hudson has been with the School of Optometry since 2000 and is Head of UW’s Retina Research Group. His expertise and research efforts are further complemented and strengthened through his cross-appointment as Professor of Ophthalmology and Vision Sciences at University of Toronto and his position as Director of Retinal Research, University Health Network. The mission of Chris’ laboratory is “to conduct research that contributes to the improved understanding, and the improved clinical management, of sight-threatening diabetic eye disease.”

As a supporter and friend of the UW SCHOOL OF OPTOMETRY, we would like to invite you to:

**save the date**

**JUNE 5, 2009**

FOR THE OFFICIAL OPENING OF OUR ADDITION!
Your involvement has helped make this ambitious expansion a reality so we hope to see you there. Look for more details in the coming months.