GREETINGS FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL

2013 has been an exciting year for us. Following our major programme review in 2011 and 2012, we commenced teaching our revised programme in first year. Changes include bringing optics forward and beginning to embed evidence based practice and statistics very early in the programme. Unexpectedly this year there was a higher rate of acceptance of offers in Optometry and we have 82 students in Optometry who have completed their first year. Vision Science has also proved popular with 32 students completing their first year. Of our graduates this year, 61% took up positions in regional or rural locations. We wish them and all our other 2013 graduates every success in their future endeavours.

We were delighted to see Barbara Junghans recognised through the Michael Harris Award for Excellence in Optometric Education by the American Optometric Foundation. This is a highly competitive international award. We also celebrated research achievements in competitive government and other national and international grants this year and through a UNSW Advanced Innovation award to Chitra and Avudai Avudainayagam.

This year we were sad to see Catherine Suttle return to the UK to take up a post at City University. Catherine has been with the School since 2000 and established many initiatives including the Masters of Community Eye Health programme with the LV Prasad Eye Institute, Evidence Based Optometry – a core course within the Masters of Optometry programme and most recently with Isabelle Jilbert, an Evidence Based Optometry project funded by the Australian Learning and Teaching Council to develop shared evidence based resources for teaching in collaboration with all other Optometry Schools in Australia and New Zealand. We miss her greatly and wish her all the best in her new role.

In postgraduate education, 110 practitioners successfully completed the graduate certificate in ocular therapeutics programme. Congratulations to all those practitioners on this enormous achievement and to the educators and the OAA who made this possible. Our optometric business skills course ran for the second time in the first half of this year and we were delighted to introduce the UNSW internship programme in the second half of the year. This practical, skills based programme offers thought leadership, professional skills and expert advice. We are indebted to ODMA for their support of this introductory session which delivered practical tools and diagnostics to help established practitioners analyse their
individual businesses and to develop succession strategies for their practices.

Other initiatives this year included a forum on reducing work-related discomfort in the ophthalmic industry, led by Jennifer Long, which brought together a diverse number of stakeholders and discussed a range of strategies to improve comfort and reduce injury risk among optometrists. This particular issue has personal consequences for optometrists and their families as well as business and legal implications for the profession.

Several evidence based practice workshops were delivered to practitioners, supervisors and educators through the year, as a result of the Evidence Based Practice project to develop teaching resources, including a ‘train the trainer’ workshop.

Once again I would like thank our supporters, including ODMA, our industry mentors who participate in all our clinics to help our student practitioners with patient communication and dispensing skills, our clinic supervisors and volunteer supervisors. We have been fortunate this year to work with James Gibbin and Grant Hannaford to support our dispensing teaching.

I wish you all the best for the holidays and for 2014.

With best regards,
Fiona Stapleton

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UNDERGRADUATE TEACHING UPDATE

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FOLLOWING PRIZE AND AWARD RECIPIENTS IN 2012

JANELLE GEYIN TONG
THE SPECSAVERS PRIZE
for the best performance in Optometry in Year 2

KATE ERICA DARLEY
THE ESSILOR AUSTRALIA PTY LIMITED PRIZE FOR OCULAR DISEASE
for the best performance in Ocular Disease in Year 3

CARL ZEISS PRIZE
for the best performance in Optometry in Year 3

LISA MA
THE ESSILOR AUSTRALIA PTY LIMITED PRIZE FOR OPTICS
for the best performance in Optics

AMY ROSE MORELAND
THE COOPERVISION AUSTRALIA PRIZE IN YEAR 4 OPTOMETRY
for the best performance in Optometry in Year 4

DUNCAN LU
THE LUXOTTICA PRIZE FOR OCULAR THERAPEUTICS IN YEAR 4
for the highest average result in OPTM4151 Ocular Therapeutics 4A and OPTM4251 Ocular Therapeutics 4B

THE DESIGNS FOR VISION PRIZE
for the best overall performance throughout the Bachelor of Optometry Bachelor of Science program in Primary Care Optometry

THE WA OPTICIANS ASSOCIATES PRIZE FOR CLINICAL OPTOMETRY
for the best performance in Optometry in Year 5

UVEX SAFETY AUSTRALIA PTY LTD PRIZE
for the best performance in the Bachelor of Optometry Bachelor of Science in Environmental Optometry

SALEEM SHING KWAN HA
THE SPECSAVERS AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN PATIENT MANAGEMENT

DAISY YAO SHU
KATHERINE YANYU WONG
JEMIMA ROSLYN GO
SAMRA MUHAMMAD IJAZ
Shared prize –
THE OPTOMETRIC VISION RESEARCH FOUNDATION PRIZE
for the best research project presentation in the final year of the Bachelor of Optometry Bachelor of Science

DAISY YAO SHU
THE LUXOTTICA PRIZE FOR CLINICAL OCULAR THERAPEUTICS IN YEAR 5
for the highest average result in OPTM5151 Clinical Ocular Therapeutics 5A and OPTM5251 Clinical Ocular Therapeutics 5B
THE BOC HEAD OF SCHOOL’S PRIZE
for distinguished performance throughout the Bachelor of Optometry Bachelor of Science program

WON SUN YEOM
THE NEVILLE FULTHORPE PRIZE
FOR CLINICAL EXCELLENCE

MARGARET ZHONG
ACO OUTSTANDING GRADUATE
AWARD NOMINEE

JENNIFER NGAI TING SO
THE GRAHAM PEACHEY PRIZE
for the best performance in postgraduate studies in Behavioural Optometry

JEMIMA ROSLYN GO
THE BOC OPHTHALMIC INSTRUMENTS PRIZE
for the best overall performance throughout the Bachelor of Optometry Bachelor of Science program in Colour Vision

THE ACBO PRIZE
for the best overall performance throughout the Bachelor of Optometry Bachelor of Science program in Binocular and Children’s Vision

THE ESSILOR AUSTRALIA PTY LIMITED PRIZE (DISPENSING)
for the best overall performance throughout the Bachelor of Optometry Bachelor of Science program in dispensing

THE OPTOMETRISTS ASSOCIATION AUSTRALIA PRIZE
for outstanding academic performance in the Bachelor of Optometry Bachelor of Science program

THE TRANSITIONS OPTICAL PRIZE
for the best overall performance in clinical optometry throughout the Bachelor of Optometry Bachelor of Science program

UNIVERSITY MEDALLIST

MARTIN DIEP
FACULTY OF SCIENCE SUMMER VACATION RESEARCH SCHOLARSHIP

THE DAVID BARD SCHOLARSHIP

SIMON LIM
SCHOOL OF OPTOMETRY AND VISION SCIENCE VACATION RESEARCH SCHOLARSHIP

VISITORS TO THE SCHOOL

Five delegates from the China Optometric and Optical Association (COOA), Daniel Yi Cui (Chairman of COOA), Weiping Dai (Secretary-General of COOA), Dajun Wang (Show Director of COOA), Yixiong Zhao (Show Manager of COOA), Ziaowu Zhang (Deputy Division Chief of CCPIT Subcouncil of Light Industry), visited the School of Optometry and Vision Science and the Brien Holden Vision Institute on Monday 8 July 2013 for a tour and discussion with Dr Isabelle Jalbert and Professor Brien Holden about potential collaborations with China.
POSTGRADUATE TEACHING UPDATE

The University of New South Wales has recently undergone a review of its overall postgraduate coursework program policy in light of the Federal Government’s current Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF) requirements. In order to meet both University and AQF requirements, the Master of Optometry by coursework program as offered by the School of Optometry and Vision Science has therefore been substantially revised, and as of 2014, OPTMAS8073 will replace the existing program of OPTMAS8760.

Complementary to this, and due to a unique collaboration between the School and the LV Prasad Eye Institute in India, UNSW is now also able to offer a Master of Community Eye Health program (OPTMAS8761) that is catered towards the wider and international ocular and public health professions.

**Masters of Optometry**

The new Master of Optometry program (OPTMAS8763) will continue to provide any candidate with the advanced knowledge and clinical skills that are now required by those practising in the twin disciplines of Optometry and Vision Science. It has been designed specifically to provide a broad range of courses, through various media, that offer further professional training in the clinical and theoretical aspects of the disciplines, with opportunities to advance any candidates’ knowledge in a number of fields that include Contact Lenses, Visual Neuroscience, Business Skills, Occupational Optometry, Community Eye Health and Behavioural Optometry.

The program now consists of 1.5 years fulltime (or equivalent) study that requires the completion of 72 Units of Credit of advanced disciplinary courses, compared to the previous 48 UoC requirement; however, candidates with an appropriate undergraduate Honours qualification in Optometry or any international equivalent, will automatically receive 24 UoC Credit towards the program, and will therefore be able to satisfy requirements within a 48 UoC structure.

Likewise, any candidate who initially requires the full 72 UoC in order to satisfy requirements for the program, and who successfully fulfils the requirements for the first 24 UoC of their study without jeopardising any University protocol, will also be credited with an extra 24 UoC, bringing them in line with an overall 48 UoC requirement.

There are two core courses that are required to be completed (totaling at least 12 UoC) for the program, with the remaining UoC to be taken as electives from the list of available courses offered through the School of Optometry and Vision Science and the LV Prasad Eye Institute.

**CORE COURSES**

- OPTM7302 Evidence Based Optometry (6 UoC)
- OPTM7108 Research Skills in Optometry (6 UoC)
- or
- OPTM7301 Research Project (12 UoC)

**ELECTIVE COURSES**

- OPTM7001 Introduction to Community Eye Health (6UoC)
- OPTM7002 Community Eye Health Needs Assessment (6UoC)
- OPTM7003 Epidemiology of Blinding Eye Disease (6UoC)
- OPTM7004 Advocacy and Education in Community Eye Health (6UoC)
- OPTM7005 Eye Health Economics and Sustainability (6UoC)
- OPTM7006 Eye Care Program Management (6UoC)
- OPTM7007 Community Eye Health Project (12UoC)
- OPTM7104 Adv. Contact Lens Studies (6 UoC)
- OPTM7301 Advanced Clinical Optometry (12 UoC)
- OPTM7308 Research Project (12 UoC)
- OPTM7444 Business Skills in Optometry (12 UoC)
- OPTM7115 Visual Neuroscience (6 UoC)
- OPTM7203 Behavioural Optometry 2 (6 UoC)
- OPTM7205 Specialty Contact Lens Studies (6 UoC)
- OPTM7301 Advanced Clinical Optometry (12 UoC)
- OPTM7308 Research Project (12 UoC)
- OPTM7444 Business Skills in Optometry (12 UoC)

Candidates can exit the program at either the Graduate Certificate (24 UoC) or Graduate Diploma (36 UoC) level, as long as the core course requirements have been met.

**International students, due to the CRICOS requirements attached to their enrolment, are limited to taking a maximum of 25% of their program through online courses.**

**Masters of Community Eye Health**

The updated Master of Community Eye Health program has been designed specifically to be delivered to those professionals working within the current Optometric, Ophthalmic, Health Science and Public Health areas, whether they be working in the local or international spheres.

With its online mode of delivery, plus a practical set of criteria regarding formal entry, the MCEH program presents as a serious and viable opportunity to gain a distinct and internationally recognised qualification, with the ability to access the full expertise and experience of LVPEI, along with the full technical support and recognised accreditation provided by UNSW.

**CORE COURSE**

- OPTM7007 Community Eye Health Project (12UoC)

**ELECTIVE COURSES**

- OPTM7001 Introduction to Community Eye Health (6UoC)
- OPTM7002 Community Eye Health Needs Assessment (6UoC)
- OPTM7003 Epidemiology of Blinding Eye Disease (6UoC)
- OPTM7004 Advocacy and Education in Community Eye Health (6UoC)
- OPTM7005 Eye Health Economics and Sustainability (6UoC)
- OPTM7006 Eye Care Program Management (6UoC)

Candidates can exit the program at either the Graduate Certificate (24 UoC) or Graduate Diploma (36 UoC) level, as long as the core course requirement has been met.

The programs are fully described within the following links to the “2014 UNSW Calendar”, and the individual courses within both of the programs also present as viable alternatives for any “Non Award”, “Cross Faculty” or “Cross Institutional” candidate:


The protocols required of any UNSW postgraduate coursework application can be found within the link below, and special attention is drawn to two major sub-links, contained therein; “Entry requirements, key dates and fees” and “How to apply for postgraduate study”, with the latter actually containing the “UNSW Application Form” required:

- [http://www.unsw.edu.au/future-students/postgraduate-coursework](http://www.unsw.edu.au/future-students/postgraduate-coursework)

All further enquiries regarding any aspect of both programs, or any individual courses within, can be directed towards Philip Dulhunty from the School of Optometry and Vision Science at: p.dulhunty@unsw.edu.au
IN THE POPULAR NEWS

• Visiting Professor Charles McMonnies answered questions to the Australian Broadcasting Commission’s query, “Can you damage your eyes if you rub them?” …. read all about it at the link below:
  http://www.abc.net.au/health/talkinghealth/factbuster/stories/2012/09/18/3592456.htm

• Professor Mark Wilcox was interviewed by Russian television channel Russia-1 for his work on the tear film. This program was broadcast in November 2013.

AWARDS

• Professor Stephen Dain was awarded Meritorious Contribution Award (National) by Standards Australia. Standards Awards are presented to individuals, and one Committee, who have made significant contributions to standardisation and who have demonstrated outstanding service in enabling Standards Australia to attain the objectives for which it was founded – to enrich the quality of life of all Australians. Award recipients were selected on criteria including: input and participation in committee meetings and deliberations, contribution to problem solving and conflict resolution, involvement in national and international standards work, research work and advocacy of Standards and standardisation. The recipients for the awards were chosen by a selection group made up of Standards Australia’s Executives and Senior Managers from the Standards Development Operations team.

• Associate Professor Barbara Junghans is the 2013 recipient of the Michael G Harris Family Award for Excellence in Optometric Education awarded by the American Optometric Foundation. The award was presented at this year’s American Academy of Optometry meeting in Seattle in October. She is the first non-North American to receive the award in its 13 year history. This prestigious award follows recognition by the Australian Learning and Teaching Council in 2009 for Barbara’s sustained inspirational teaching, academic mentoring, leadership and scholarship in optometric education, as well as a Vice Chancellor’s Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching Award in 2010, and a UNSW Award for Postgraduate Teaching in 2004. Although best known to Optometry Alumni of UNSW since 1977 for her classroom teaching of clinical methods, Barbara’s contribution to optometric education also covers leadership and scholarship in education with dissemination to a wide audience of educators across optometry and other disciplines. Barbara led the way in the mid ’90s with the initial conference sessions on optometric education that thereafter became the biennial ‘Schools of Optometry in Australia and New Zealand Optometric Education Conference’. Her research into pedagogy brought together the first working group of optometric educators in Australia and New Zealand. The initial investigation looked at educational reasons why optometrists shy from rural or low vision practice. That group of educators was widened and is now funded with Barbara acting in a mentor capacity to research how best to implement educating students and practitioners on ways in which they can embrace evidence-based practice in an effective manner. Another initiative of Barbara’s was the Vision Education Centre in 1990 whereby some 18,000 children have since come into the student clinics, and shifted the attitude of a generation of graduates so that they look forward to paediatric optometry. Barbara has also travelled to Ghana to deliver educational training on how optometric practitioners can shift towards evidence-based practice.

Today Barbara continues her clinical methods teaching and programming to deliver students ‘clinic-ready’ for 4th Year, but also teaches in the Vision Science courses to give students an overview of the principles of the design of the human eye and the details of the science behind understanding the growth of the eye, the development of refractive errors and ways of influencing myopia progression. As part of her course on refraction, Barbara sets an activity on the world-wide public health aspects of uncorrected refractive errors that culminates in World Sight Day fundraising by the students. Over the last six years or so, her Year 2 students have demonstrated amazing social responsibility and raised over $40,000. Through this exercise focussed on refractive errors, her students certainly have a clearer understanding of what it takes to be a global citizen.

STAFF MOVEMENTS

• We welcome Nicola Kapo and Shane Bale to the School Office team and Paul Zytnik to the laboratory team.
• We farewell Dr Catherine Suttle over a lovely lunch.
• We wish Dr Kirsten Challinor well with motherhood.
Professor Mark Willcox and Maud Gorbet (from University of Waterloo) awarded Vistakon Research grant from the American Optometric Foundation to study “Effect of contact lens material on the phagocytic activity of leukocytes”.

Professor Fiona Stapleton, Dr Maria Markoulli, Professor Mark Willcox and visiting academics Associate Professor Eric Papas, Dr Hua Zhu, Dr Qian Garrett attended the Tear Film and Ocular Surface Society meeting in Taormina, Sicily. At this meeting the TFOS Reports on Contact Lens Discomfort were presented for the first time worldwide and members of SOVS (Professor Stapleton, Dr Jalbert, Dr Markoulli, Dr Golebiowski, Professor Willcox) had contributed to writing the reports which are now available online at IOVS website - http://www.iovs.org/content/54/11.toc.

The International Society for Contact Lens Research meeting was held in Kyoto, Japan. Professor Willcox was President of the Society, Professor Stapleton, Vice President. Attended by Dr Swarbrick, Dr Golebiowski and other members of SOVS.

Professor Helen Swarbrick was invited to present a talk on Orthokeratology at the European Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgeons (ESCRS) meeting in Amsterdam in early October. She also presented two invited talks at the European Academy of Orthokeratology (EuOK) meeting in Brussels late in June.

Dr Pauline Kang attended a three-month research placement at Professor Christine Wildsoet’s lab at the University of California, Berkeley, funded by the Dallos Award that she received from the British Contact Lens Association.

Dr Avudai Avudainayagam and Dr Chitraleka Avudainayagam receiving their Advanced Innovation Award.

Higher degree students at SOVS have been extremely busy in 2013, with 11 new PhD graduates deserving of congratulations after years of hard work: Dr Jennifer Long, Dr Vinod Maseedupally, Dr Siva Balasubramanian, Dr Eric Wei, Dr Beula Christy, Dr Krishnaiah Sanmapaneni, Dr Shobha Mocheria, Dr Kupas Philip, Dr Eon Kim, Dr Kalika Bandamwar and Dr Negar Babei. Another 10 students have submitted their theses and are eagerly awaiting their examiners’ reports. We also welcomed new students into the postgraduate fold in 2013: Matthew Green, Lakshmi Bodduluri, Preeji Mandathara, Charles Chung (our first Vision Science Honours graduate) and Vanessa Honson who has come to us after many years in the SOVS clinic.

In 2013, the students have presented their research around the world at scientific meetings from Hobart (AOVSM) to Seattle (ARVO, AAO) to Melbourne (SRC) to Kyoto (ISCLR) and Sicily (TFOS), and that’s just to name a few! Again, the School has been successful in obtaining a number of student awards. American Optometry Foundation Ezell Fellowships were awarded to Debarun Dutta and Edward Lum; Cecilia Chao, Vinod Maseedupally and Debarun Dutta received American Academy of Optometry Student Travel Fellowships to attend the Academy meeting in Seattle. The award provides financial support to encourage talented young researchers to pursue careers in optometric research and education; Carolina Kunnen received the Contact Lens Society of Australia Research Award and the best presenter award at the SOVS annual student postgraduate conference was taken out by Ling Lee. Congratulations are due to all.

Dr Avudai Avudainayagam and Dr Chitraleka Avudainayagam were winners of the Advanced Innovation Award for their patented invention, “An apparatus and a method for testing for vision defects”.

The American Academy of Optometry’s Garland W Clay Award was awarded to an international team of researchers including SOVS staff member Professor Brien Holden and visiting staff members Associate Professor Padmaja Sankaridurg, and Professor Arthur Ho. The award is for Optometry and Vision Science’s most significant paper over the past five years, research on a novel spectacle lens design to control myopia progression.
For another year, Tony Simon delivered the LipiFlow, including meibomian gland expression with the TearLab and LipiView to assess Meibomian Gland dysfunction. We again welcomed students from Singapore Polytechnic into the clinic. Our own students have also travelled throughout the country, including to the Kimberley and Pilbara on the Judy Glover Memorial Scholarship, and the world gaining broader experience.

For another year, Tony Simon delivered “Establishing and Managing an Optometry Practice” to our final year students. Since initiating the course four years ago, it has been well received each year and the students consistently praised Tony’s enthusiasm and knowledge and value the insight into this area of the profession.

**EQUIPMENT**

This year Nikon, in association with Designs for Vision, have kindly loaned a Nikon RS-3000 OCT. It has been invaluable to students and staff for clinical practice and research purpose. The Clinic has access to the LipiView for tear film assessment and LipiFlow for treatment of Meibomian Gland dysfunction.

**STAFF**

We were excited to welcome new staff to the clinic – Dispensing staff: Grant Hannahof, James Gibbins, Kassandra Wagenfuehr
Clinical Supervisors: Norton Li, Amy Fortescue, Jonathan Sykes, Frank Filocamo, Anna Siu, Rebecca Milston, Jenny Diec and Pelayia Berdoukas

Vanessa Honson has started a full time PhD, but continues to work in the Colour Vision Clinic and Maria Bui has completed her Masters of Optometry. We thank Effy Kokkoli for her time as Staff optometrist.

**MEETING A POSTGRADUATE STUDENT:**

Sharon Oberstein
Optometrist in 1989. My passion and understanding of Low Vision Optometry was initiated by my work in a private low vision practice in South Africa. I have been fortunate to balance a rewarding career in low vision optometry (having practiced low vision in private practice and supervised and taught low vision to optometry students in South Africa and Australia) with raising three children.

I joined UNSW Optometry clinic in 2004, and completed a post graduate course in Low Vision Rehabilitation in 2005. I enjoyed invitations to represent optometry on working groups, at continuing education events and in low vision rehabilitation organisations. Six years later I found the courage to register for a PhD. I hope that with completion of the PhD by research and publication in peer review journals, I will enhance my critical thinking and research skills and gain academic recognition to support my passion as a Low Vision Optometrist.

Tell us about your research and why you decided to go into this area.

The aim of my research is to examine strategies that might facilitate driving in individuals with central vision impairment. My interest in this research area is driven by my passion to improve independence of individuals with central vision impairment; and was sparked by a 16 year old girl with Stargardt’s disease who attended the UNSW Low vision clinic to explore her options for driving. She had reduced central visual acuity that did not meet the criteria for a driver’s license in Australia.

Further enquiries to support my patient revealed that there was limited availability and research into the use of biotic optic telescope spectacles and other strategies for driving with central vision impairment in Australia. I hope to provide scientific evidence to clarify the safety and usefulness of these strategies; which could have a major impact for the individual with vision impairment wanting to drive; create awareness and guide driving licensing policy, especially in Australia.

**CFEH NEWS**

The Centre for Eye Health has reached new levels in 2013 seeing over 17,000 people from communities throughout NSW and the ACT and performing over 110,000 eye tests since opening. In September, the Centre reached its 20,000th referral and celebrated by joining together with over 80 optometrists from NSW/ACT.

The Centre has also expanded its services over the past year to better reach remote communities. Working collaboratively with the Brien Holden Vision Institute and the Outback Eye Service, the staff at CFEH have developed a ‘virtual referral’ model for diabetic screening in outback NSW. In this model patient, patient history and eye imaging is sent virtually to CFEH for interpretation, making CFEH a crucial part of the public health loop. Once identified, those at high risk get rapid access to local ophthalmologist services. A similar project is in development at Nepean and Gosford hospital, where screening for diabetic retinopathy services are currently strained.

CFEH continues to maintain and expand its continuing professional development services by offering monthly webinars in conjunction with its popular in-house education seminars. An online learning membership program called Learning for Vision, which aims to improve Optometrists imaging interpretation and diagnostic skills through a range of interactive activities, was also launched earlier this year. The program now has over 50 members and has awarded over 300 CPD points since opening.

Research continues to remain a strong focus at CFEH whereby the research team has conducted a glaucoma diagnosis and training evaluation as part of the NHMRC grant awarded in 2012. The study thus far indicates that Australian and New Zealand optometrists abilities compare to international standards for glaucoma diagnosis and management abilities. The diagnostic value against inherent disadvantages of advances imagings modalities, one of the areas highlighted as potentially difficult to integrate into daily practice, is still being investigated by the team with results to be released within the next six months. The Centres research aligns with other studies that show the invaluable effect of continuous and focused education on the performance of eye care specialists regarding glaucoma assessment. The Centre will continue to work with authorities to provide learning opportunities that will maintain care in Australia among the best in the world.

**SCHOOL OF OPTOMETRY AND VISION SCIENCE NEWS 07**
ALUMNUS PROFILE

LEWIS WILLIAMS
AQIT(Optom), MOptom, PhD, contact lens educator and industry newspaper writer and photographer.

Lewis graduated from Brisbane’s Queensland Institute of Technology (QIT, now QUT) in absence in 1972 having completed the course at the end of 1971. Winning the National Service lottery (compulsory military service/conscription) in 1970 (reintroduced in 1964 because of the ongoing Vietnam War) and being granted a two year deferment to complete his studies, meant that in January 1972 the Royal Australian Army-National Service Supplement could wait no longer. After 18 months in the Army, he spent mostly in the Royal Australian Corps of Signals he returned to QIT for a brief refresher course before entering full-time private practice in Indooroopilly Shoppingtown (now Shopping Centre) in Brisbane. At the commencement of the next academic year and supported by 12 months of funding from the government following military service, Lewis headed to UNSW to do a masters-qualifying year before tackling UNSW’s MOptom degree full-time.

Lewis’ MOptom major project was the development of a photokeratoscope under the supervision of the late Dr Max Lang. After completing the MOptom course, he commenced a combination of student-clinic supervision, private practice, and research assistance in what was to become the Cornea and Contact Lens Research Unit (CCLRU) headed by Dr Holden. Eventually, he enrolled in a PhD in the CCLRU. While a postgraduate student Lewis lived on campus in International House as a Resident Tutor and also served a term as co-chairman of the IH Residents’ Service. With his love of photography, he became the Cornea and Contact Lens Research Unit’s (CCLRU) photographer. Eventually, he enrolled in a PhD in the CCLRU. While a postgraduate student Lewis lived on campus in International House as a Resident Tutor and also served a term as co-chairman of the IH Residents’ Society. While living on campus it is probable that his distinctive car was a regular sight on campus!

After successful completion of his PhD, he joined CIBA Vision Australia as Clinical and Professional Services Manager with responsibility for the Australian and New Zealand markets. Later his roles included Customer Services and Regulatory Affairs Management as well. He worked at CIBA Vision for almost eight years. Next he turned his hand to casual lecturing in contact lenses, contact lens clinic supervision, and a detailed study of the quality of services provided by the UNSW School of Optometry’s clinics in the mid-1990s following a grant to the School by the UNSW. Essentially that study confirmed that the School was delivering a broad, valuable, and greatly appreciated range of services.

Not long after the study’s completion, the International Association of Contact Lens Educators (IACLE), an educator group supported by the international industry that is dedicated to enhancing the quality of contact lens education worldwide, invited him to join its curriculum development programme. That programme was creating a comprehensive, 10-volume text on contact lenses and included lectures, practicals, tutorials, and case reports, his ongoing IACLE commitment reverted to part-time.

Largely because of his ongoing photographic pursuits, he has also accumulated images, objects, and ephemera that in effect amount to a small archive of the School of Optometry and Vision Science (SOVS) that is stored on Level 3 of the Rupert Myers Building. If you are in possession of items or images that you believe are, or might be of significance to the SOVS you are invited to contact the SOVS office about donating your memorabilia or having it copied/photographed and returned. Please do not let your items join those already lost to history, e.g. the pair of rare memorabilia or having it copied/photographed and returned. Please do not let your items join those already lost to history, e.g. the pair of rare

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Lewis graduated from Brisbane’s Queensland Institute of Technology (QIT, now QUT) in absence in 1972 having completed the course at the end of 1971. Winning the National Service lottery (compulsory military service/conscription) in 1970 (reintroduced in 1964 because of the ongoing Vietnam War) and being granted a two year deferment to complete his studies, meant that in January 1972 the Royal Australian Army-National Service Supplement could wait no longer. After 18 months in the Army, he spent mostly in the Royal Australian Corps of Signals he returned to QIT for a brief refresher course before entering full-time private practice in Indooroopilly Shoppingtown (now Shopping Centre) in Brisbane. At the commencement of the next academic year and supported by 12 months of funding from the government following military service, Lewis headed to UNSW to do a masters-qualifying year before tackling UNSW’s MOptom degree full-time.

Lewis’ MOptom major project was the development of a photokeratoscope under the supervision of the late Dr Max Lang. After completing the MOptom course, he commenced a combination of student-clinic supervision, private practice, and research assistance in what was to become the Cornea and Contact Lens Research Unit (CCLRU) headed by Dr Holden. Eventually, he enrolled in a PhD in the CCLRU. While a postgraduate student Lewis lived on campus in International House as a Resident Tutor and also served a term as co-chairman of the IH Residents’ Service. While living on campus it is probable that his distinctive car was a regular sight on campus!

After successful completion of his PhD, he joined CIBA Vision Australia as Clinical and Professional Services Manager with responsibility for the Australian and New Zealand markets. Later his roles included Customer Services and Regulatory Affairs Management as well. He worked at CIBA Vision for almost eight years. Next he turned his hand to casual lecturing in contact lenses, contact lens clinic supervision, and a detailed study of the quality of services provided by the UNSW School of Optometry’s clinics in the mid-1990s following a grant to the School by the UNSW. Essentially that study confirmed that the School was delivering a broad, valuable, and greatly appreciated range of services.

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Largely because of his ongoing photographic pursuits, he has also accumulated images, objects, and ephemera that in effect amount to a small archive of the School of Optometry and Vision Science (SOVS) that is stored on Level 3 of the Rupert Myers Building. If you are in possession of items or images that you believe are, or might be of significance to the SOVS you are invited to contact the SOVS office about donating your memorabilia or having it copied/photographed and returned. Please do not let your items join those already lost to history, e.g. the pair of rare Ruka Variators that once graced the pre-clinical lab and the original year photographs from the 1950s and 1960s that once graced the office walls of Prof Josef (Smoky Joe, the Miracle Worker) Lederec.

Ongoing health permitting, Lewis hopes to continue making contributions to the School, optometry, and IACLE in his unique way. We consider ourselves very fortunate to have such a distinguished, energetic and passionate Alumnus in our midst.

If you know someone who would be great to feature in our next issue, please contact Nicola Kapo (n.kapo@unsw.edu.au).

Has doing research affected the way you practice optometry?
Yes, doing research has enhanced and developed my critical thinking and evidence based practice skills. It has taught me to question conventional practice and theories on the one hand, while exploring current evidence to amend or introduce new skills. I have been able to incorporate these skills into my patient care, optometry student teaching and supervising duties.

Presenting my research has facilitated travel to national and international meetings, where meeting and networking with the leaders in optometry and low vision has been inspirational.

Any advice for anyone thinking of doing a research degree in optometry (MSc or PhD)?
Being allocated the time to explore a topic about which I am passionate has been a privilege and valuable opportunity. As I began my PhD journey I was advised to approach becoming a full time student as one would a job; with its highs and lows, frustrations and rewards. I have needed to develop resilience and flexibility, my advice is to ‘aim for the stars and you’ll touch the sky!’

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