



News from the School of Optometry and Vision Science

Never Stand Still

UNSW Science

School of Optometry and Vision Science



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GREETINGS FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL

Hard to believe it is already July. The first half of 2014 has flown by and as you can see from the newsletter, it feels

as if much has been achieved. I'm delighted to report on our research achievements in the national competitive grant schemes for the first six months of this year, with success in the NHMRC Development Grant scheme, ARC Discovery and ARC Linkage awards. Many new research and industry collaborations have been established this year and good luck to all those staff who have submitted grant applications in the current rounds.

Between 2009 and this year, our student numbers rose from 240 to 490, reflecting the demand for our vision science degree and increased numbers of students in the optometry programme. We are working closely with the Faculty of Science at the UNSW to look at solutions for our rather cramped teaching space.

We were delighted that Margi O'Neill was recognised through the Community at Large award by the UNSW Alumni Association for her extraordinary work delivering eyecare in the remote regions in WA and NT. Margi has also facilitated scholarships for final year students to undertake placements in the Pilbara and Kimberley regions in WA, which has been a remarkable opportunity for our students. Michele Madigan was awarded the Faculty of Science prize for the best lecturer as voted by the students. Brien Holden was awarded the James Cook Medal by the Royal Society of New South Wales for services to science and humanity and Mark Willcox took up the position of Associate Dean for Research Training in the Faculty of Science.

To strengthen our vision science teaching and research, we were very happy to welcome Juno Kim as a Senior Lecturer in the School. Juno comes to us from the University of Sydney with expertise in material perception. We also welcome back Kirsten Challinor to continue with the development of teaching materials for evidence based practice.

Recently we were very sad to farewell Tina Adel, our Clinic Business Manager who has done so much to develop our Optometry clinic at UNSW and provide our students with a rich and diverse clinical training experience. Tina has been with the School for four years and has almost tripled the number of patients seen by students in that time. We wish her all the best in her future career.

My thanks and gratitude as always go to ODMA and our volunteer mentors, clinical supervisors and volunteers, visiting committee and staff and students who have worked very hard to deliver these outcomes for the School this year. We are looking forward to catching up with many of our alumni at our upcoming evening seminar with Professor James Wolffsohn on 'Refining contact lens practice' and this weekend's Ocular Surface Science and Dry Eye Conference, hosted by the School.

With best regards,
Fiona Stapleton

EVENTS

25 JULY 2014:
Continuing Education Alumni Evening

25-27 JULY 2014:
Ocular Surface Science and Dry Eye Conference

29 SEPTEMBER-3 OCTOBER 2014:
Postgraduate Review Week

SATURDAY, 6 SEPTEMBER 2014:
UNSW Open Day

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UNDERGRADUATE TEACHING UPDATE

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FOLLOWING PRIZE AND AWARD RECIPIENTS IN 2014:

THE SPECSAVERS PRIZE

for the best performance in Optometry in Year 2

JEREMY CHUNG BO CHIANG

CARL ZEISS PRIZE

for the best performance in Optometry in Year 3

and

THE ESSILOR AUSTRALIA PTY LIMITED PRIZE FOR OCULAR DISEASE

for the best performance in Ocular Disease in Year 3

JANELLE GEYIN TONG

THE ESSILOR AUSTRALIA PTY LIMITED PRIZE FOR OPTICS

for the best performance in Optics

WAN LU WANG

THE COOPERVISION AUSTRALIA PRIZE IN YEAR 4 OPTOMETRY

for the best performance in Optometry in Year 4

TERENCE JEEHOL DAM

THE LUXOTTICA PRIZE FOR OCULAR THERAPEUTICS IN YEAR 4

for the highest average result in OPTM4151 Ocular Therapeutics 4A and OPTM4251 Ocular Therapeutics 4B

SARAH BONEHAM

SCHOOL OF OPTOMETRY AND VISION SCIENCE VACATION RESEARCH SCHOLARSHIPS

**CHRIS LIM
PAULINE KHOO
ANNA FENGXIN LIANG
SHEREEN KASSIR**

THE DAVID BARD SCHOLARSHIP

WAN LU WANG

THE DESIGNS FOR VISION PRIZE

for the best overall performance throughout the Bachelor of Optometry Bachelor of Science program in Primary Care Optometry

and

THE TRANSITIONS OPTICAL PRIZE

for the best overall performance in clinical optometry throughout the Bachelor of Optometry Bachelor of Science Program

REBECCA JADE PYNE

ACO OUTSTANDING GRADUATE AWARD

and

THE SUSAN LARTER VISION TRUST PRIZE

for the Best Clinical Performance in Children's Vision, Vision Therapy and Learning Difficulties during Stage 5.

REBECCA COX



THE WA OPTICIANS ASSOCIATES PRIZE FOR CLINICAL OPTOMETRY

for the best performance in Optometry in Year 5

Shared by:

**REBECCA COX
REBECCA JADE PYNE**

UVEX SAFETY AUSTRALIA PTY LTD PRIZE

for the best performance in the Bachelor of Optometry Bachelor of Science in Environmental Optometry

PRISKA LIEM

THE SPECSAVERS AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN PATIENT MANAGEMENT

DONNA CHEN

THE OPTOMETRIC VISION RESEARCH FOUNDATION PRIZE

for the best research project presentation in the final year of the Bachelor of Optometry Bachelor of Science

Shared by:

**EMILY CHEN
PRISKA LIEM**

ALCON EXCELLENCE BEYOND OPTOMETRY AWARD

LESLIE TAT CHUNG WONG

THE ESSILOR AUSTRALIA PTY LIMITED PRIZE (DISPENSING)

for the best overall performance throughout the Bachelor of Optometry Bachelor of Science program in dispensing

ANDREW CHEN PONG LEUNG

THE BOC HEAD OF SCHOOL'S PRIZE

for distinguished performance throughout the Bachelor of Optometry Bachelor of Science program

EMILY CHEN

THE GRAHAM PEACHEY PRIZE

for the best performance in postgraduate studies in Behavioural Optometry

JOANNE LINH TRAN

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

and

THE ACBO PRIZE

for the best overall performance throughout the Bachelor of Optometry Bachelor of Science program in Binocular and Children's Vision

and

THE OPTOMETRISTS ASSOCIATION AUSTRALIA PRIZE

for outstanding academic performance in the Bachelor of Optometry Bachelor of Science program

and

UNIVERSITY MEDALLIST

AMY ROSE MORELAND

THE NEVILLE FULTHORPE PRIZE FOR CLINICAL EXCELLENCE

and

MOST IMPROVED IN CLINICAL OPTOMETRY

ELIE JAA JAA

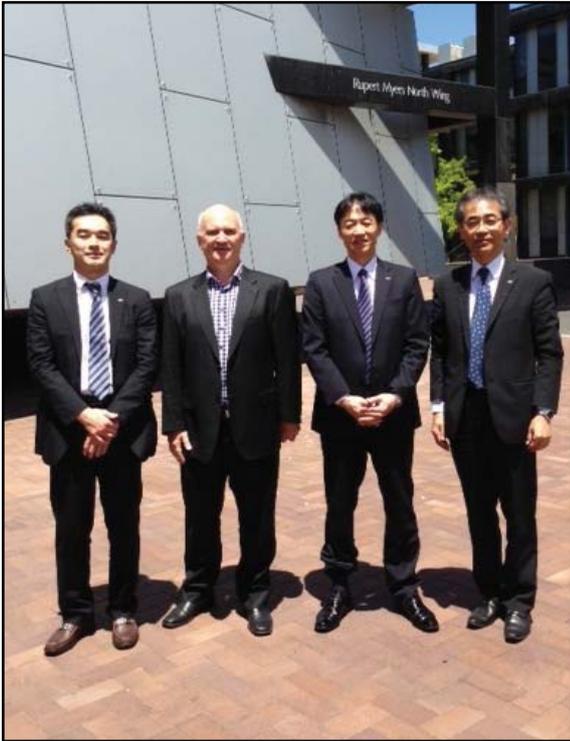
THE BOC OPHTHALMIC INSTRUMENTS PRIZE

for the best overall performance throughout the Bachelor of Optometry Bachelor of Science program in Colour Vision

CATRIN TRAN (Posthumous)



VISITORS TO THE SCHOOL



Professor Mark Willcox and delegates from Ophtecs

- In January 2014, the School was pleased to host Mr Yoneda, Mr Nagamori and Mr Saitoh from Ophtecs. Ophtecs manufactures and sells contact lens disinfection systems and over-the-counter drops for improving ocular comfort in Japan. They presented on their products to Professor Willcox, and had a tour of the School and Centre for Eye Health facilities with Professor Kalloniatis, Professor Swarbrick, Ms Kath Watt and Professor Stapleton.
- Dr Rebecca Taylor, from Manchester Metropolitan University, visited the School in April 2014. Rebecca has worked in collaboration with Professor Willcox and Professor Stapleton at the School for a number of years, especially in the area of microbial adhesion to lenses. Also at the dinner, Dr Nerida Cole (currently with University of Technology Sydney), Professor Naresh Kumar from School of Chemistry UNSW and Mr Simon Fenton.



COURSEWORK MASTERS UPDATE: Have You Completed Your Masters Yet?

The University has had to make changes to the Masters of Optometry (MOptom) degree because of changes in the regulatory environment brought on by the Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF), which comes into effect this year. These changes mean that an overseas student has to complete 72 units of credit (UOC) or 12 6UOC courses to obtain an MOptom degree (or the equivalent of 1.5 years full time or longer part time). However, local graduates (who have completed a four year programme), are still required (as previously) to complete 48 UOC or eight 6UOC courses to complete the degree (or the equivalent of 1 year full time or longer part time). Those who have completed the Graduate Certificate in Ocular Therapeutics only require 36 UOCs to complete the MOptom degree.

Other changes instituted as a result of the AQF decision are that those who wish to complete the MOptom degree must now complete the core courses of Evidence Based Optometry and a Research project to be eligible to obtain the degree. Local students who have recently completed these have commented on how both courses helped them tremendously in preparing to undertake studies in therapeutic practice and/or in consolidating their learning from the Graduate Certificate in Ocular Therapeutics.

The School of Optometry and Vision Science is also increasing the flexibility of its offerings by allowing students enrolled in an MOptom degree to select courses from its Master of Community Eye Health (MCEH) programme. One of the major advantages of the MCEH is that all of the units offered are fully online and can be taken at the student's leisure from their own location. Course offerings in the MCEH include topics such as Introduction to Community Eye Health, Epidemiology of Blinding Eye Diseases and Eye Care Program Management.

If you are interested in finding out more information regarding the MOptom or MCEH degrees, please contact the School's Postgraduate Administrator, Ms Fiona Anderson by either email: f.anderson@unsw.edu.au or phone: 02 9385 6289.

RESEARCH NEWS

- Professors Fiona Stapleton and Mark Willcox were elected to the Scientific Advisory Board of the Tear Film and Ocular Surface Society. This newly elected Board held its first meeting at the TFOS biennial meeting in Taormina, Sicily in September 2013. Other members of the Advisory Board present at the meeting included Associate Professor Pablo Argueso (Harvard), Dr Penny Asbell (New York), Associate Professor Jennifer Craig, Dr Eric Knop (Germany) and Professor Jason Nichols (Houston). Also present were the in-coming President of TFOS Professor Kazuo Tsubota (Japan) and Professor Kelly Nichols (Houston) who is a member of the Board of Directors of TFOS. The Scientific Advisory Committee will meet annually to discuss issues arising, including the new TFOS meeting which will be held in 2016. Members of the School (Stapleton, Jalbert, Golebiowski, Markoulli, Willcox) contributed to the Tear Film and Ocular Surface Society Workshop on Contact Lens Discomfort. Outcomes of which were published in A Special Issue of Investigative Ophthalmology and Visual Science in October 2013.
- Professors Mark Willcox and Fiona Stapleton, along with Professor Naresh Kumar from the School of Chemistry, received an NHMRC Development Grant. This Grant will allow the testing of two different types of antimicrobial contact lenses, developed in the School, in large scale clinical trials with our partners at the LV Prasad Eye Institute, Hyderabad, India.
- Professor Mark Willcox, with Professors Naresh Kumar and David Black from School of Chemistry, received an ARC grant "Novel peptide mimics for the disruption of chemical communication in bacteria" to investigate the synthesis of novel organic molecules that have the capacity to disrupt chemical communication in bacteria. This may lead to the development of new ways of treating microbial infection.
- In January we welcomed Associate Professor Maud Gorbet to the School. Maud is a visiting scholar and is working with Professor Willcox on a project to understand the recruitment of white blood cells into the eye during sleep, and the potential effects of contact lens wear on this process. Associate Professor Gorbet will be spending six months at the School.
- In February Dr Ulrike Hampel visited the School. Dr Hampel was a visiting scholar in the School in 2012/13 working on tear film lipids from Professor Willcox and colleagues at the University of Wollongong. Dr Hampel was in Australia to work at the University of Melbourne, and came up to see us for research discussions for a few days.
- In March, Professor Willcox initiated collaboration with Dr Kathryn Richdale from the State University of New York. This collaboration is focussed on effects of contact lenses on the tear film, and possible role of changes to tears in contact lens discomfort.
- New collaboration with Dr Elizabeth Conroy at Centre for Health Research at the University of Western Sydney to look at access to eye care by asylum seekers in the community. Dr Golebiowski and Ms Watt attended the Public Health, Human Rights and Asylum Seeker Detention Symposium at UNSW on 27 May 2014.
- Members of the School have been busy attending conferences during this period.



Members of the TFOS Scientific Advisory Board: Professor Jason Nichols, Professor Fiona Stapleton, Professor Mark Willcox, Associate Professor Jennifer Craig, Professor Pablo Argueso, Professor Kazuo Tsubota, Dr Eric Knop, and Professor Kelly Nichols.

- In March Professor Willcox spoke at the 7th Regional Ophthalmology Congress in Kuala Lumpur, presenting data on the role of osmoprotectants in alleviating dry-eye disease.
- Also in March, members of the School (Professors Helen Swarbrick and Mark Willcox, Dr Paul Gifford) attended and presented at The 14th International Congress of Ophthalmology and Optometry China/3rd Congress of International Academy of Orthokeratology. During this time they caught up with colleagues from China and the region including clinicians and researchers from the Ear Nose and Throat Hospital of Fudan University, where Professor Swarbrick also gave a presentation.
- UNSW had a strong showing at the 11th International Low Vision Meeting held in Melbourne in March/April 2014 with staff (Dr Mei Ying Boon, Professor Stephen Dain, Ms Sharon Oberstein) and students (both past and present) presenting on topics ranging from accident prevention in people with low vision, low cost computer forms of magnification, tablet magnification, driving with central visual impairment, assessing bionic therapies for retinitis pigmentosa and the specification and measurement of luminance contrast in tactile ground surface indicators. Collaborations with the Macular Disease Foundation, Queensland University of Technology, the Catholic University of Daegu, the Association of Consultants in Access, Australia Inc were featured.



Marc Zapf presenting a poster on bionic eye phosphene simulations



Sharon Oberstein presenting on driving and low vision

- In April Professor Willcox attended the inaugural Scientific Advisory Board meeting of Ophtecs Corp. in Kobe, Japan.
- In May, many members of the School (Professors Kalloniatis, Junghans, Holden, Willcox, Stapleton; Drs Asper, Kang, Lum, Khuu, Maseedupally, Vijay; Postgraduate students Alghamdi, Kolanu, Rohit, Masoudi, Dutta; visiting fellows, Zhu, Papas) attended and presented at the Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology meeting in Orlando, FL, USA.
- In June members of the School (Professor Willcox, Dr Jacqueline Tan, Dr Maria Markoulli, Dr Pauline Kang) attended the British Contact Lens Association annual meeting, held in Birmingham, UK. Highlights of this meeting included Dr Pauline Kang presenting her talk for the Dallos Award entitled "Effects on binocular and peripheral visual functions of distance centre multifocal soft contact lens designs and significance of add power".

STAFF NEWS

- Dr Juno Kim was appointed Senior Lecturer at the School of Optometry and Vision Science, University of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia, through the highly competitive UNSW strategic priorities scheme. Dr Kim is an accomplished psychologist and vision scientist who is responsible for the teaching of some of the vision sciences courses in both the optometry and vision science programmes. Dr Kim's research aims to understand how we perceive the physical properties of objects from the 2D images our eyes receive. Dr Kim's



Dr Juno Kim

ARC-funded research has produced important papers in the field of material perception, including publications ranked within the top 20 in the Journal of Vision, and an article featured on the cover of Nature Neuroscience. Dr Kim has also conducted research into the neurophysiology of eye movement control during self-motion perception, which has produced highly cited and high-impact publications.

- Dr Jenny Long, who teaches colour vision and environmental optometry at UNSW, has won the David Ferguson Award given by the Human Factors and Ergonomics Society of Australia for the best postgraduate project report or undergraduate honours thesis produced in the 18 months prior to the Award.
- Dr Jenny Long was runner up in the Safety Institute of Australia Eric Wigglesworth OHS (Research) Award. She received an honorable mention for her research on work-related musculoskeletal injuries among optometrists.



Dr Pauline Kang receiving the Dallos Award from Andy Yorke

- Dr Pauline Kang was awarded the Dallos Award for her work entitled "Effects on binocular and peripheral visual functions of distance centre multifocal soft contact lens designs and significance of add power" at the BCLA 2014 meeting.



Dr Maria Markoulli with the Australian delegates at the annual Nobel Laureate meeting in Lindau, Germany.

- Dr Maria Markoulli was chosen by the Australian Academy of Science as one of 15 early career researchers to represent UNSW and Australia at the meeting, which focused on physiology and medicine. This provided Dr Markoulli with the chance to talk to the 37 Nobel Laureates at the event as well as network with 600 early career researchers from 80 countries. Dr Markoulli was chosen because of her work linking changes in the corneal nerves to diabetes-related nerve damage. Dr Markoulli commented that the aim of this conference was to 'educate, inspire and connect', and it certainly achieved all of that. Every day consisted of talks by the Nobel Laureates followed by a Q&A session. It was overwhelming to see that despite all their achievements, the Laureates continued to make an impact in their respective fields. Of interest was Australian Laureate Barry Marshall's talk on his work on Helicobacter Pylori. He presented his first rejection letter from a scientific journal – sending a strong message to the young investigators that perseverance is key – never give up on good science!
- UNSW research on the ocular microbiome, a focus of research for Professor Mark Willcox and Dr Debarun Dutta, were featured in The Scientist Magazine as hot news off the press. See the link below – <http://www.the-scientist.com/?articles.view/articleNo/39945/title/Visualizing-the-Ocular-Microbiome/>

HIGHLIGHTS IN POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH EDUCATION

In 2014, we have more new doctors in the house, with congratulations due to Dr Ben Ashby, Dr Ingrid Jimenez, Dr Edward Lum, Dr Taghreed Alnahedh, Dr Debarun Dutta, Dr Ximena Masgoret on the award of their PhDs. We have also had to say goodbye to some well-loved faces who have completed their studies and returned home to their respective countries: Kholoud Bokhary, Khalid Jamous, Ingrid Jimenez and Ezai Badarudin. We have some new faces too, with Vu Do joining the School from Sydney University and 10 more PhD students due to start in Session 2, so watch this space.

As usual, SOVS students had a strong showing at the ARVO conference, with eight students travelling to Orlando, Florida to present their work and four in receipt of ARVO travel awards. Sharon Oberstein (an optometrist turned PhD student) presented her findings on driving for patients with vision impairment at the 11th Conference for Low Vision in Melbourne.



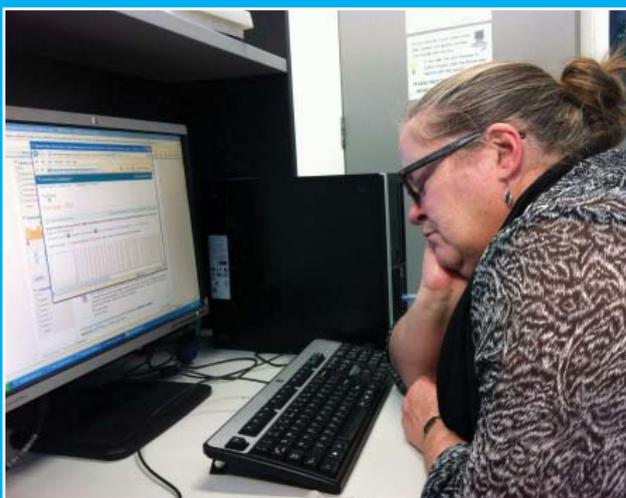
UNSW School of Optometry and Vision Science has cool higher degree research students and supervisors

It is now very quiet in the SOVS postgraduate room as students prepare to present their work at the annual Postgraduate Review Week to be held at the end of September early October 2014.

MEETING A POSTGRADUATE STUDENT: Patricia Arthur

Tell us a little about yourself and why you decided to do a PhD.

I graduated from UNSW in 1981 and opened my first practice in 1982. Over the ensuing 25 years I opened, closed, bought and sold a number of practices where I operated as a solo practitioner. In the background was always the desire to study music at a tertiary level. So, in 2005, I started a Bachelor of Music degree at University of Western Sydney, graduating in 2012. I scored the Dean's Medal too!! Somewhere during this time, I began to ponder the visual perception of music and how similar that may or may not be to reading text. The only way to find out was to do a PhD.



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

My research involves the visual perception of music: experts vs non-experts. This has been done by examining their eye movements as they read score. The next part is to look at more general visual perception parameters such as visual span and visual search: musicians vs non-musicians. These form the backbone of my investigation into the music/text processing area that I am interested in.

Has doing research affected the way you practice optometry?

Oh yes it most definitely has! The obvious answer is that I don't practice as much any more! But, when I do, I am much more likely to question why a certain technique is performed a certain way or even performed at all and I will go and seek out the information. Also, helping to teach undergrad subjects has been a wonderful way of refreshing long lost details of our craft resulting in a renewed enthusiasm for Vision Science.

Any advice for anyone thinking of doing a research degree in optometry (MSc or PhD)?

It's never too late. It has taken me so long to work out that I am much happier and better suited to this side of our profession. Life ties you up in situations and predicaments that can take quite some time to shake off! So, if someone has even the slightest inkling that research is the direction that they might want to go, take up a summer research assistant position or get fully immersed in the 5th Year research projects. If you can't wait, get up in the morning and get into it.....!

CONSIDERING A HIGHER DEGREE?

Do you have a keen interest in an aspect of your clinical work and want to find out more?

Would you like to broaden your horizons and try something new?

Have you longed for your student days?

Then this may be just the thing for you...

The School of Optometry and Vision Science at UNSW has numerous opportunities for higher degree research across diverse areas including:

- clinical optometry
- pure and applied research with clinical significance
- basic research in optometry and vision science

Students with an optometry background study alongside graduates from a variety of disciplines including ophthalmology, microbiology, psychology, education, bio-engineering and pharmacology.

The School is co-located with some of the most active optometric and vision research facilities in Australia: the Research in Orthokeratology Group (ROK), the Brien Holden Vision Institute

(BHVI), the Vision CRC, the Centre for Eye Health (CfEH), and the Optics and Radiometry Laboratory (ORLab). We are regarded internationally for strengths in ocular surface, posterior segment and vision science research and our research students are supervised by advisors at the forefront of their field. Students have access to excellent facilities, opportunities for conference travel and collaboration with optometric colleagues across the globe.

Scholarship opportunities are available and studies can be commenced at any stage during the academic year.

If you would like to find out more, please contact our Postgraduate Research Director, Dr Blanka Golebiowski (b.golebiowski@unsw.edu.au or (02) 9385 4502).

OPTOMETRY CLINIC UPDATE

Once again we thank all the clinical supervisors, volunteer visiting clinical supervisors, industry mentors, and UNSW alumni for their ongoing commitment to quality patient care and student learning. Our clinic provides a wide variety of optometric experiences for our students under the supervision of leaders in the profession.

The Dry Eye Evaluation and Management Clinic, which uses state-of-the-art technology including TearLab and LipiView to assess tear osmolarity and lipid layer analysis, has been busy this semester. In this clinic, we have been able to deliver tailor made management of dry eye which can include meibomian gland expression with the LipiFlow.

UNSW optometry has had an exciting year of opportunities for students. They have travelled throughout Australia and around the world to further their optometric experience. For instance, Emily Ross and Abdul Hamidi were given the opportunity to

visit remote Aboriginal communities in the Pilbara delivering eye care as part of the Judy Glover Scholarship. We again welcomed students from Singapore Polytechnic.

Equipment:

This year we are updating three of our student consulting rooms. The Special Services room has been renovated and now includes a new slit lamp and stand donated by Designs for Vision and a wide screen visual display unit which was donated by our 2013 Graduates.

Staff:

We are excited to welcome new staff to the clinic:

- *Dispensing staff:*
 - Andrea Weinsensen
- *Clinical Supervisors:*
 - Thao Hannaford, Jack Phu and Nayuta Yoshioka

We look forward to an exciting new semester in the clinic.

UNSW UNDERGRADUATE LOW VISION EXPO

By Sharon Oberstein and Gurdeep Bidhesha

The UNSW Optometry Clinic held its annual Low Vision Expo on 17 April 2014 for its final year optometry students. The Low Vision Expo was first introduced in 2010. The aim was to highlight the concept of the multidisciplinary rehabilitation team as a vital part of low vision care to the final year optometry students, invited members of staff and post graduate students.

Optometrists being primary eye care providers are normally the first port of call for patients suffering with reduced vision. An understanding of referral and rehabilitation options available for individuals with vision impairment is essential in order to support the needs and rehabilitation of all patients. The Low Vision Expo is a valuable learning tool that allows low vision affiliated organisations to raise awareness of their services; while providing students with an understanding of the role of each organisation, the service they provide, referral processes and products available.

Ten minute presentations by each exhibitor were followed by an expo, where students and attendees were encouraged to walk around and explore stands set up by each organisation. As part of the learning experience, each student was required to draw up their own resource and referral network map with the patient in the centre.

Representatives from the Albinism Fellowship of Australia and Macular Disease Foundation Australia discussed the challenges sufferers experienced and the impact visual disability could have on family, social and work environments.

Guide Dogs NSW/ACT explained their orientation and mobility program which aims to empower individuals to lead independent lives, from walking down to the local shops, to catching public transport.

A Vision Australia representative shared an emotional personal story about vision loss and his rehabilitation journey, and discussed Vision Australia's role in providing assistance with activities of daily living.

Quantum Technology, European Eyewear, HumanWare and Pacific Vision representatives discussed and demonstrated the extensive range of optical and electronic low vision aids available; including options for recreation or work tasks.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the presenters for making this initiative successful, and Kathleen Watt (UNSW Clinic Director) for moderating the event.

UNSW Optometry Clinic runs low vision clinics where students are taught to thoroughly assess and prescribe appropriate aids to augment remaining vision. In working with its partners and key low vision rehabilitation organisations, the optometry clinic strives to give its students the clinical exposure and experience necessary within this field. Any UNSW affiliated optometrist wishing to be involved or attend the Low Vision Expo in 2015, please email s.oberstein@unsw.edu.au to register your interest.

The Centre for Eye Health has reached new levels to June 2014 seeing over 21,000 people from communities throughout NSW and the ACT and performing over 118,000 eye tests since opening.

Funding for the Centre from Guide Dogs NSW/ACT has been renewed for a further four years, and the Sydney Executive Business Lions Club has undertaken fundraising for CFEH by hosting the Charitable Heart of Sydney dinner. Sydney Executive Business Lions Club has pledged support to CFEH for the next four years.

The Centre for Eye Health has increased its contribution to student education on behalf of SOVS with fifth year students actively taking part in clinical work on a four week rotation. Staff located at CFEH will conduct the Ocular Diseases 3B (Posterior Eye Disease) for third year students and is also supporting four new PhD student beginning their study in second semester.

CFEH continues to maintain and expand its external education through continuing professional development services by offering monthly webinars in conjunction with its popular in-house education seminars. The online learning membership program called Learning for Vision, which aims to improve optometrists' imaging interpretation and diagnostic skills through a range of interactive activities, has undergone

a transformation to offer a more user friendly experience. The program now has over 80 members and has awarded over 750 CPD points since opening.

Research continues to remain a strong focus at CFEH. Short studies were conducted throughout the year to improve testing paradigms and interpretation regarding glaucoma related changes on a number of imaging modalities. These are now being analysed and will be published throughout 2014. Since 2010, scholarly articles published by staff at CFEH numbered 42 and have the potential to modify clinical practice and thus contribute to a large extent to best-practice. We therefore continue to work closely with the profession.



Professor Michael Kalloniatis, Centre Director Speaking at the Sydney Executive Lions Club Charitable Heart of Sydney Dinner, 30 May 2014

UNSW SOVS Alumni Continuing Education

In March, Dr Russell Woods from the Schepens Eye Institute, Harvard University Boston, spoke at the UNSW SOVS Alumni Continuing Education Evening to our alumni, staff and undergraduate students. He spoke on video processing technologies to aid people with low vision to better enjoy watching television. He also covered the difficulties of measuring appreciable benefit in both subjective and objective ways. Most of the attendees had an interest in low vision practice and it was wonderful to meet up with clinicians who are working in this area.

UNSW School of Optometry and Vision Science Continuing Education Alumni Meeting will be on the Friday 25 July from 6 pm. Participants can earn 3 CPD points while socialising with fellow alumni and colleagues over refreshments and hearing Professor James Wolffsohn present on "Refining Contact Lens Practice". To register, contact optomalumni@unsw.edu.au or 02 9385 5287.

It will coincide with the Ocular Surface and Dry-eye Conference.



Dr Russell Woods, photo reproduced with permission from Lewis Williams



UNSW ALUMNI AWARD

Ms Margaret O'Neill (BOptom (Hons), class of 1991) was presented with a UNSW Alumni Award 2014 in the category of Community-at Large. This award is presented by the university in recognition of her work establishing Australia's most successful Aboriginal eye care service, The Northern Eyecare Program. The program has run for over 12 years and has achieved sustainability. It now comprises a team of 50 eye care practitioners including optometrists, ophthalmologists and local hospital staff. The Program improves on screening programs as it delivers eye care services comparable to that found at the local suburban optometrist, whether the community has as few as 20 residents or hundreds of residents. Such an achievement required Ms O'Neill to champion changes in the way state and federal governments fund rural optometry, work with Aboriginal cultural values and improve optometry and ophthalmology professional relationships. Her tenacity, integrity, work ethic and passion have worked to prevent blindness, correct and preserve vision and quality of life for thousands of indigenous Australians.

Announcing the winners, UNSW Vice-President Advancement Jennie Lang said the University was "very proud of the extraordinary achievements of our 250,000-plus alumni, who are making an impact in so many areas in Australia and around the world". UNSW Chancellor David Gonski presented the 2014 recipients with their awards at an Awards dinner held on the site of Alumni Park.



Ms Margaret O'Neill, photo reproduced with permission from Andy Baker

ALUMNUS PROFILE

DR JENNIFER LONG
BOptom (Hons), MSafetySc, PhD
Optometrist and Certified Professional Ergonomist



Jennifer graduated with a Bachelor of Optometry from UNSW in 1988, and after two years employment as an optometrist in western Sydney took the bold step of self-employment in a consulting-dispensing practice in Artarmon on Sydney's north shore. In hindsight, self-employment came very early after graduation, but this was not unusual at the time – at least 3 of her classmates (out of a class of about 40 students) had already taken up the challenge by the time Jennifer signed up for her own practice.

In 1996 Jennifer sold her practice. The following year she enrolled in a Master of Safety Science at UNSW to pursue an interest in ergonomics. She graduated in 2000 and that same year took up full-time employment at the School of Optometry, UNSW, as a Senior Staff Optometrist (Occupational Optometry) in the optometry clinic and Professional Services Manager in the Optics and Radiometry Laboratory (ORLAB). During her employment she was bestowed the title "Occupational Optometry Specialist" by the then NSW Board of Optometric Registration. She also became a Certified Professional Ergonomist, which is a professional level of accreditation within the Human Factors and Ergonomics Society of Australia (HFESA).

A tree-change in 2006 took Jennifer and her husband to Katoomba in the Blue Mountains. Jennifer returned to work in optometry private practice and currently works one day a

week at EyeQ Lithgow. She is also self-employed as a visual ergonomics consultant. Jennifer maintains her links with the School of Optometry and Vision Science as a Conjoint Senior Lecturer where she teaches the undergraduate subjects Environmental Optometry, Clinical Examination of Colour Vision, and Radiometry, Photometry and Colorimetry (formerly known as Measurement of Light and Colour).

Jennifer has been affiliated with the School of Optometry and Vision Science as a teacher for 20 years, and is conscious that she has been teaching for as long as many of her current students have been alive! Her foray into optometry teaching began in 1995 with a guest lecture to 1st year optometry students on the topic "Patient Communication". In addition to lecturing, her teaching over the years has included clinic supervision (general clinic and colour vision clinic) and research project supervision.

Since she has dual qualifications as an optometrist and ergonomist, Jennifer has often fielded enquiries from her optometry colleagues asking for ergonomics advice to assist their physical comfort in the consultation room. This led to her completing a PhD on the topic of work-related musculoskeletal discomfort in Australian optometrists, and allowed her to apply her ergonomics knowledge and experience to address a widespread issue within the optometry profession.

In the ergonomics community Jennifer is known for her work in visual ergonomics. She is the chairperson of the International Ergonomics Association Visual Ergonomics Technical Committee and is president-elect of the HFESA, due to take office in November 2014 for a 2 year term. Jennifer's visual ergonomics interests include computerized technology, visual ergonomics standards and optometry-ergonomics professional affairs, and she considers herself fortunate that her interests have allowed her the opportunity to collaborate with visual ergonomics colleagues in Australia, Scandinavia and the USA.