



NEWS

SCHOOL OF OPTOMETRY AND VISION SCIENCE

DECEMBER 2010

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GREETINGS FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL



2010 has been a year of growth and partnership for the School. This year we have seen the first graduates from the 5 year undergraduate programme and the Masters in Community Eye Health postgraduate programme in association with the LV Prasad Eye Institute; we continued to grow in new enrolments and completions within the postgraduate research programme and 120 graduates have now completed the Graduate Certificate in Ocular Therapeutics and gained national therapeutics accreditation. In partnership with the Optometrists Association Australia in South Australia and Western Australia, we delivered the first part of the therapeutics programme to 130

optometrists in 3 states in 2010. Two academic staff were recently promoted, Dr Isabelle Jalbert to Senior Lecturer and A/Prof Helen Swarbrick to Professor and staff from the School were successful in Australian Research Council Discovery and Linkage grant schemes and in the National Health and Medical Research Council project grants in 2010. A new Chair in Experimental Optometry was established through funds donated from the Brien Holden Vision Institute and Professor Mark Willcox was awarded the inaugural chair.

2010 also saw major changes to our clinical teaching, with an expansion in external placements for our undergraduate students and many new partnerships in this endeavour, including a new partnership with the Australian College of Optometry and of course the Centre for Eye Health at UNSW. Towards our goal to expand the clinical experience for our undergraduate students, 2010 saw the development of plans to expand our clinical facility at UNSW to accommodate both the increased student numbers and our requirement for greater patient experience. This large project involving building new consulting rooms, a new working laboratory and remodeling the dispensing area, waiting area and office space, will commence in December 2010. We thank all our donors for the generous cash, equipment and in kind support that has allowed this renovation to go ahead and we look forward to welcoming you back to see the result of the renovations.

Other recent noteworthy events included hosting the 13th Biennial Scientific Meeting and 7th Educators' meeting in Optometry, which was attended by 100 delegates and undergraduate students. Also, in September, the School hosted a fundraising dinner at the Scientia Building at the University of New South Wales (please see <http://www.mivision.com.au/the-j-lloyd-hewett-award-dinner/> for photographs). There were 170 attendees including colleagues from the profession, academia, industry, alumni and final year undergraduate students. The Optometric Vision Research J Lloyd Hewett Award was presented to recognize the achievements of Professor Brian Layland. This was a wonderful opportunity to share our vision for the School and our plans for 2011.

On behalf of everyone at the School, I would like to extend our warmest wishes for Christmas and the New Year to our alumni, students and friends and colleagues in the eyecare industry and we look forward to welcoming you to the School in 2011.



Yours sincerely,
Fiona Stapleton

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THE OPTOMETRY CLINIC REFURBISHMENT

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THE OPTOMETRY CLINIC REFURBISHMENT AND INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

Rowena Beckenham	Paul Erikson
Debbie Brown	Sue Larter
Samuel Chu	Soojin Nam

INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

Visioncare	Todd Tai
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Richard Grills, ODMA Chairman, presenting a cheque for \$100,000 from ODMA to Professor Fiona Stapleton to be used in funding the Optometry clinic refurbishment at the University of NSW Optometry Department



Dr Peter Herse from Luxottica and Professor Fiona Stapleton and the OPSPM consulting room plaque in acknowledgement of sponsorship from Luxottica.

SOVS@UNSW ALUMNI CE MEETINGS

July, 2010: A cocktail reception, tours of the Centre for Eye Health and a timely review of the current state of knowledge about myopia treatment from Professor Mark Bullimore. It was an excellent start to the SOVS@UNSW Alumni calendar for 2010.

October, 2010: Prof. Bruce Evans presented to us about *The Role of the Optometrist in Reading Difficulties, Service development: how to help more patients and build a successful practice using the Intuitive Colorimeter* and Mr Kevin Rooney presented a selection of exciting case studies in visual stress and gave a workshop on how to use the Intuitive Colorimeter.



Left to Right Zoran (from Cerium), Kevin Rooney, Christine Fitzmaurice and Prof. Bruce Evans



RESEARCH NEWS

GRANT SUCCESS FOR THE VISION AND PERCEPTION LABORATORY

The Vision and Perception Laboratory, led by Dr Sieu Khuu, has recently been awarded an Australian Research Council Discovery Project Grant (\$120K) to examine the neural mechanisms responsible for the detection of spatial contours (borders and edges of objects). This ability is important for object recognition and navigation through 3-dimensional environments. Specifically, the research looks at why our visual system processes contours the way it does by exploring computational constraints and effectiveness of different methods of quantification. This knowledge is essential to our understanding of how we see with applications in cognitive neuroscience and biomechanical engineering.

NHMRC GRANT FOR UNDERSTANDING FUNCTIONAL REMODELLING IN THE RETINA

Retinal dystrophies, such as retinitis pigmentosa, lead to considerable remodelling of the neural elements which result in a dysfunctional remaining retina. Prof. Michael Kalloniatis leads a team of chief (Dr A. Whatham & Dr E. Fletcher) and associate (Dr M. Acosta & Dr S. Haverkamp) investigators on a research project which seeks to investigate the changes in the retina secondary to retinal disease processes and ways of modifying the remodelling which occurs with the ultimate aim of developing therapeutic approaches and retinal areas conducive to retinal implantation (e.g. the bionic eye). This project received funding of \$431K from the National Health and Medical Research Council.

U COMMITTEE \$3000 FOR FUNDING THE VEC ACTIVITY BOOKLET

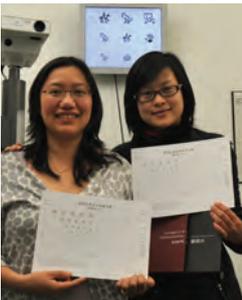


The new cover for the VEC booklet

Assoc. Prof. Barbara Junghans has been awarded \$3,000 from the U Committee (a group of friends of UNSW which raise funds to support programs which otherwise may not be funded) to fund the creation of new Activity Booklets to be distributed to primary school children when they visit the School of Optometry and Vision Science's *Vision Education Centre* (VEC). When children visit the VEC, they receive an eye examination by 4th Year students under supervision by visiting paediatric-oriented practitioners, a 30 minute interactive-lesson on eyes and vision by a Science Facilitator then 30 minutes of related hands-on activities in small groups under the care of a Year 2 optometry student. Three age-appropriate activity booklets will be created. Vanessa Honsen is charged with pulling together cross word puzzles, word games, optical illusions, interesting facts about eyes and vision, plus safety messages and graphic designer Peter Haywood is creating the child-friendly format. The booklets are designed to re-inforce the messages of the visit and create a bridge from our School into the child's home. Approximately 16,000 children from Sydney's Eastern Suburbs have attended the VEC over the last 20 years, resulting in valuable data on the prevalence of functional vision problems in children, informing media campaigns run by the Optometrists Association Australia to encourage parents and teachers to have their children's eyes tested

VISITORS

The school was happy to have Prof. Dr. Jan Kremers from the University of Erlangen-Nürnberg, Germany visited the School and give a talk about Electroretinographic recordings in humans and animals: basic and clinical aspects at the Vaegan Seminar Series on the 27th August, 2010. He spoke with most of the academic and research staff within the school and always had an encouraging and thoughtful comment.



Dr Chenxiao Wang (right) presenting a low vision reading chart to the SOVS

We were also delighted to host Dr Chenxiao Wang from Wenzhou Medical College, China, for a few days in August. Dr Wang was particularly interested in the children's vision and low vision clinics (at the School and at Guide Dogs NSW in Chatswood) and the research being conducted at UNSW. We thank Dr Wang very much for her gift of low vision reading charts which she designed and is currently used in low vision clinics in China (for details see <http://www.eye.ac.cn/eye2007/Article/ShowArticle.asp?ArticleID=9107>)



Prof. Jan Kremer (centre) between Prof. S. Dain and Dr. M.Y. Boon

SEM02010

The SOVS hosted the 13th Biennial Scientific Meeting, 7th Educators' Meeting in Optometry, which was held from 10-12 September. Over 100 delegates attended and we particularly congratulate and thank Dr Peter Hendicott for bringing the largest School contingent from outside of Sydney. We were particularly pleased that delegates from each of the 5 schools of optometry in Australia and New Zealand attended.

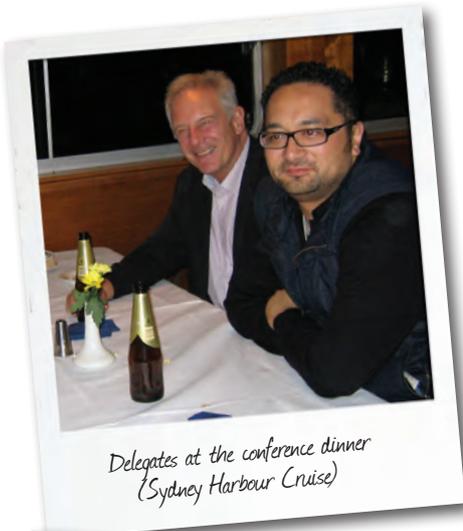
Congratulations to those who were awarded prizes in the poster and photography competitions. The oral presentations and posters were of a high standard and well received. Thankfully, Sydney turned on some beautiful weather for our visitors.

The Harbour Cruise Conference Dinner on the Saturday evening was a highpoint – with delegates having lots of fun against the excellent backdrop of Sydney Harbour. We wined, dined and

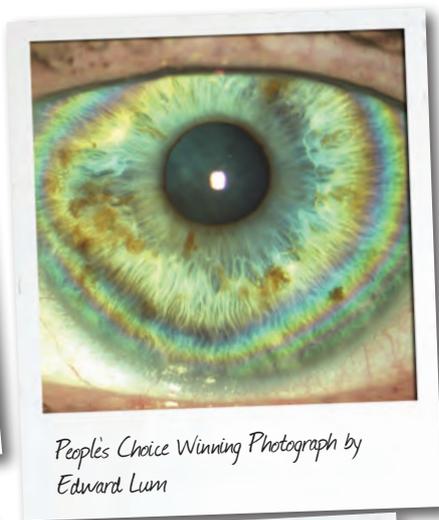


danced while talking science (see photo gallery online at <http://www.optom.unsw.edu.au/news/2010/SEM02010photos.html>).

A huge thank you to our sponsors; Abbott Medical Optics, Alcon, Carl Zeiss Vision, Essilor, Hoya, and Designs for Vision who provided the ever popular coffee cart.



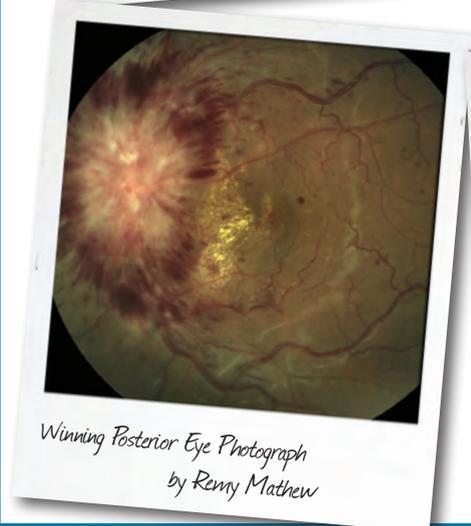
Delegates at the conference dinner (Sydney Harbour Cruise)



People's Choice Winning Photograph by Edward Lum



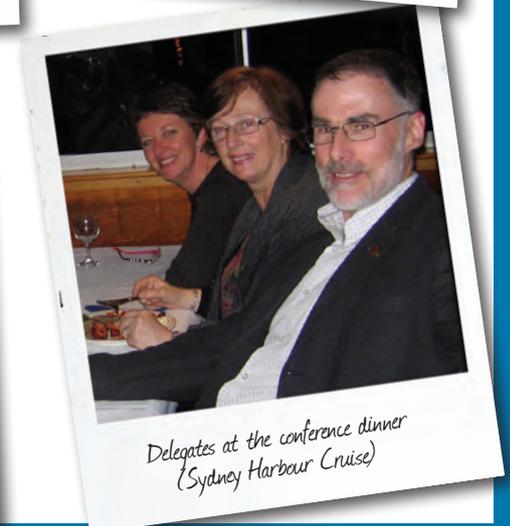
The SEMO photography competition entries



Winning Posterior Eye Photograph by Remy Mathew



Good conversation



Delegates at the conference dinner (Sydney Harbour Cruise)

ALUMNUS PROFILE: DR TONY HANKS, OAM, OD BOPTOM(HONS) FAAO FCLSA

VISITING CLINICAL SUPERVISORS.

The UNSW Optometry Clinic plans to trial a new initiative in response to comments that many of our Alumni would like to contribute to education of our future optometrists but are unable to commit to a regular clinic time slot. If this sounds like you, this is your chance to help develop the clinical and practical skills of our students. We are inviting experienced optometrists who are prepared to volunteer their time to supervise students at the clinic on campus (Kensington). Visiting clinical supervisors need to be available for 3-full or 6-half days in 2011 spread across the two teaching semesters (March to June and July to October). The Visiting Supervisors will complement, not replace, the existing clinical supervisors to improve the ratio of clinicians to student practitioners. Apart from mentoring and supervising, Visiting Clinical Supervisors will be given the opportunity to attend clinical tutorials facilitated by UNSW Staff Optometrists and earn CPD points. Expression of interest forms are available on the website (www.optom.unsw.edu.au) and due Friday 28th Jan 2011.

Tony graduated with a Bachelor of Optometry with honours in 1972. For his third undergraduate year his group of just 10 students moved to the Kensington campus and the newly opened Newton Building (over-crowding came later). As well as working in private practice after graduation, Tony also developed an independent interest in contact lens research. This led him to work for international contact lens companies in New York, Atlanta and Zurich. In 1983 he graduated as a Doctor of Optometry in the US (Boston). He became the Global Head of Clinical Research for Ciba Vision with this role continuing even after he returned to Australia (to practice very successfully in Port Macquarie).

Tony was the joint founder of an optometry publication called The Eye Talk Reference Guide. This resource has become an Australian standard reference for optometric practices and he has continued to be responsible for its technical content.

He has always been willing to share his knowledge and experience with his professional colleagues. For example, in 1987 he was responsible for the creation of the Australian Optometric Panel based on his knowledge of similar groups in the USA. AOP is a nationwide cross-section of optometrists who meet every six months to discuss improved patient care and practice management. In addition to being its founder, he served as its chairman for twenty years.

A book by Tony Hanks, "The Optometry Team", is a staff training manual that was originally written for his own staff. However, it has become recognised by his colleagues as a unique resource and the third edition is now being sold internationally as well as throughout Australia.

In 2001 he was the Founder of the Eyecare Plus group of practices which was established for the support of independent professional optometrists in Australia. Growth was rapid as more and more optometrists recognised the benefits of cooperation and shared resources. There



Tony Hanks OAM with his wife, Vicki.

are now 180 member practices from all Australian states and Tony continues to serve as its Chairman.

Tony has served on the Australian committee for Optometry Giving Sight. He continues to act as an international ambassador on a voluntary basis, seeking to gain corporate financial support for this worthwhile cause from major international ophthalmic suppliers. In 2009 he joined the Global Advisory Board and is now the Convenor. Tony was awarded one of ten foundation Fellowships of the Cornea and Contact Lens Society of Australia.

He was recognised by his profession with the 2006 Josef Lederer Award for Excellence in Optometry. He was also awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) "for significant commitment, dedication and meritorious service to optometry".

In his various roles Tony has had a particular involvement with the health care and education programs of the professional associations in Indonesia, Singapore, Malaysia and Thailand.

For almost forty years Tony has worked to improve standards of eyecare. Optometry is much the better for his many contributions.

OPTOMETRY CLINIC UPDATE

NURA GILI VISIT

The visit of the Aboriginal Eye Health Coordinators and other Aboriginal Health workers to the Clinic at the School of Optometry and Vision Sciences during their week in Sydney was a great success. Each visitor underwent a comprehensive eye examination. A number of those who attended went "out of their way" to express how impressed

they were with the clinic and perhaps more importantly with the (to be) optometrists involved. Some had not previously had an eye examination so the visit was a learning experience. Sharon Oberstein gave an interesting talk on Low Vision and the information will prove helpful to the AEHC workers. It is hoped that these visits will be annual.



Prof Fiona Stapleton (centre) presents the Johnson & Johnson Prize for the new Contact Lens Record to Stephanie Tran (1st place, right) and Yee Wing Lee (2nd place, left)

NEW CONTACT LENS CLINIC RECORD CARDS

With the huge increase in knowledge in the area of contact lenses and contact lens complications over the last few years, it was time to update the record cards from Steve Zantos' original design. There was a competition and our students did an excellent job. Congratulations to Stephanie Tran for her top design. Johnson & Johnson Visioncare sponsored the CL record form prize, which was presented at the final year optometry research project presentations.



ESTABLISHING AND MANAGING AN OPTOMETRY PRACTICE

Our 5th year students on internal rotation in S2 took part in a tutorial series on "Establishing and Managing an Optometry Practice" voluntarily run by Sydney optometrist, Tony Simon. At the conclusion of the session students (in groups of four) gave a 10 minute presentation on a business plan for their hypothetical practice. The winning group (pictured left) won a \$200 dinner voucher sponsored by the OAA NSW division.



END OF YEAR CLINIC FUNCTION

The UNSW Optometry Clinic held an end of year reception to (i) thank and acknowledge our Clinical Supervisors and ODMA Dispensing Mentors, and (ii) to celebrate the end of degree for our outgoing 5th year optometry students. The function was a fantastic success and attended by a wide representation of students, academic staff, clinic staff, supervisors and mentors.

LEVEL 2 PRE-CLINICAL LABORATORY REFIT

A surprise response to our recent lodging of the School's budget for next year was the Dean's immediate gift of \$117,000 to refurbish the clinical equipment in the Level 2 Pre-Clinical Laboratory (last given an injection of funds in 1991). However the proviso was that the funds be acquitted by mid-December or the deal would be off, leaving only weeks to plan and execute our dream.

We are very pleased to announce that three companies, BOC Instruments, Designs for Vision and Optical Manufacturers have been most generous in their costings of the supply of chairs & stands, internally-illuminated phoropters, a video-BIO, and slitlamps with video/still camera facilities. We are now able to decommission some equipment that has been in use for over thirty years and was no longer fully functional. Without this generous support from the ophthalmic companies we would not be able to provide the current generation of students with the learning experience they deserve. Thank you!

From time to time the School reviews its current equipment needs, but cost is always an issue. Hence, if you have equipment in which you think the School might have an interest, please let me or the new Clinic Director know.

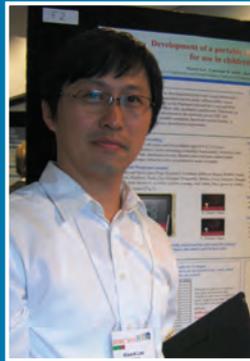
AProf Barbara Junghans

EYE BALL 2010



5th year graduating class at the Eye Ball 2010.

MEETING A POSTGRADUATE STUDENT: KISEOK LEE



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

A: I completed a Bachelor and Masters of Optometry in Korea in 2007 and I worked at an eye hospital for some time. While working at the eye hospital, I felt that prescribing was inadequate. I came across many challenging patients

and really wanted to know more about what was happening and tried to find out from textbooks and doctors but no one had answers for me. That's why I chose to do a PhD. There are no PhD courses related to optometry in Korea so that is why I decided to come to Australia to study. I intend to bring back the knowledge I have gained to Korea to further develop the profession there.

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

A: I am interested in how the visual environment can affect vision, especially in amblyopia. I am interested in developing new therapies for amblyopia. I am trying to apply different kinds of vision therapies which use computer games as a basis. Unfortunately, the study is too huge to complete within the 3 year timeline of a PhD study so now I am focusing on eye hand coordination and eye movement ability in amblyopia. This work is also valuable as clinicians do not have simple methods to screen or measure eye-hand coordination. Much equipment is expensive and complicated. I am developing new tests of eye-hand coordination using computers, webcams and the iPad.

Q: Has doing research affected the way you practice optometry?

A: Yes, by harnessing popular and new technologies such as the iPad, I can work to improve tests used in clinical practice. I will use the tests I am developing in my future clinical work. Also, we will know about eye movements and eye hand coordination in amblyopia.

Q: Any advice for anyone thinking of doing a PhD?

A: Before I started, I didn't know what was involved in doing a PhD. As an international student, my depth of thinking and the breadth of my thinking is developing, both in the field of vision research and in the rest of my life. I really value the chance to meet different people who are interested in this area. As an international student, this is what I feel you will gain by doing a PhD here.

CFEH CELEBRATES ONE YEAR



Prof. Michael Kalloniatis, Centre Director, and Mr Andrew Pierce, CFEH and Guide Dogs NSW/ACT Board Director



CFEH optometry staff

Centre for Eye Health (CFEH) celebrated a year since seeing its first client on 30 November and in the same week received its 3000th referral. During its first year, more than 750 eye-care practitioners across NSW and the ACT have signed up to use the Centre and more than 2300 people have been tested and triaged.

"I am proud of what we have already achieved" said Centre Director Prof. Michael Kalloniatis at CFEH's anniversary reception. *"Getting such a unique initiative up and running has been hard work, but we now see people every day that otherwise would not have access to the sophisticated diagnostic services required for the early detection of eye disease."*

Most interestingly, around 70% of people assessed at CFEH live outside of inner Sydney. The higher utilisation of CFEH services by regional and suburban patients is an indication that the Centre is meeting its objectives and that clients are willing to travel to access this state-of-the-art facility.

Also speaking on the evening was one of the Centre's top referring optometrists, Mr John Boulos, who said that he now sees the Centre as an extension of his own practice. *"I feel lucky to have access to the resources available at CFEH"* he said. *"Because of the Centre I can continue to offer my patients the very best care possible."*

POSTGRADUATE EDUCATION UPDATE

Research: Congratulations to two students who have recently been awarded their degrees (PhD).

1. Dr Remy Mathew for research into *Visual predictors for falls for people in age-related macular degeneration.*
2. Dr Abbas Riazi for research into the *Perspectives of people with age-related macular degeneration (AMD) and their service providers on environmental modification and assistive devices.*

COURSEWORK:

In partnership with the Optometrists Association of Australia, South Australia and Western Australia, the School delivered the first part of the graduate certificate in ocular therapeutics to 130 optometrists in 3 states. The teaching took place over 4 weekends in each state, comprising Foundations of Biomedical Science (delivered by A/Prof Phil Anderton, Prof Tom Millar, Dr Beata Bajorek and Prof Fiona Stapleton); Clinical Skills and CPR (coordinated by Nicole Carnt), Glaucoma (delivered by Prof Murray Fingeret) and Anterior Segment Disease (delivered by Prof Linda Casser, Prof Leo Semes, A/Prof Mark Roth and Prof Michael Kalloniatis). Particular



Sydney attendees of the ocular therapeutics course and Prof Fingeret on a cold day in August having a break from glaucoma.

thanks go to Nicole Carnt, Bonnie Lu, Libby Boschen and Tony Martella and the staff of the OAA offices for their efforts in making this a success.