Keeping the World in FOCUS
A message from Dean Bonanno

It’s been a little over one year since I was named dean of the Indiana University School of Optometry (IUSO). My learning curve has been steep; however, with the tremendous support and goodwill of faculty and staff, those first months went very smoothly.

In fact, there are several very positive and exciting changes that have occurred over the last year, particularly in the area of administration.

After being appointed dean, I had to vacate my position as executive associate dean (EAD) for academic affairs and student administration. My first action as dean was to appoint Cliff Brooks, O.D., as the new EAD. Brooks has been at the school for several decades. Many of you have had him as your instructor in ophthalmic optics. He has a rich knowledge of the school, is the authority in his field, and is very well liked by faculty and students. I am very happy that he accepted this new role. (See the article on p. 7 titled “Meet Executive Associate Dean, Dr. Clifford Brooks” for more information about his career.)

I am equally pleased that Neil Pence, O.D., a longtime clinical faculty member, has accepted the role of associate dean for clinical and patient care services, as of July 1, 2011. He is also the director of the Atwater Eye Care Center on the IU Bloomington campus. Dr. Pence melds his extensive teaching experience with his practical knowledge of the ophthalmic industry and running a private practice. We are very lucky to have him on our faculty. (See p. 8 for an article about Dr. Pence and the Atwater Eye Care Center.)

As you peruse this annual report, you will get a glimpse of the dedicated faculty and staff who make this school a leader in vision health education. As alumni and friends of IUSO, you also play an important role in enhancing the reputation of the school across the nation and the world—and in keeping the quality of education at its highest levels. If you would like to learn more or become more involved, do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Joseph A. Bonanno, O.D., Ph.D.
Dean, Indiana University School of Optometry
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FOCUS

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By Joseph A. Bonanno, O.D., Ph.D.
Dean, Indiana University School of Optometry

This is an exciting time to be at IUSO. Times of great change can bring many challenges, but with these challenges come opportunities to transform how we think about education, clinical training, patient care, and cutting-edge research. As you read this annual report, you will learn how our students, faculty, staff, alumni, and donors are making major contributions to the field of optometry. I am honored to lead such a dedicated team. I see many opportunities to elevate the IU School of Optometry’s reputation in education, research, and outreach to even greater heights—but we need your support to make this happen.

In the two years preceding my tenure as dean, Interim Dean Sarita Soni steered the school through some difficult times that resulted from a confluence of events. The recession, cuts in state support, loss of grants supporting clinical outreach, and a decline in clinic revenues all had an impact. Additionally, the university’s assessment on IUSO, the amount of our
“We have the greatest concentration of internationally known researchers in this field. To maintain this edge, we want to develop an endowed faculty chair in visual optics.”

Joseph Bonanno, O.D., Ph.D.
Dean, Indiana University School of Optometry

budget that goes to support university administration, increased by 19 percent.

At the same time, IU mandated changes in our clinical financial systems and compliance procedures that required the hiring of additional staff and infrastructure purchases. Although these changes required a significant investment of time and money, our clinic financials improved significantly and we now have access to a large database of information for tracking clinic performance.

Development Goals
We’ve met these internal financial commitments, but to advance the school’s role as a worldwide leader in the education and research of optometry, we must focus on growing our portfolio of scholarships, endowing a visual optics chair, improving our facilities, and expanding our community outreach. Toward this end, I appointed Tami Tarpley as director of development and alumni relations. Tami will oversee our development, alumni, and external affairs initiatives. You can learn more about her in the development section of this report.

Scholarships
Because of the rising cost of optometry school and the increasing competition for the best applicants, IUSO needs to develop four-year scholarships to help recruitment efforts. Currently, the school has a number of small scholarships for students already in the program. Although these scholarships are helpful in reducing debt, they are not effective recruiting tools. Last year we instituted a handful of four-year scholarships ranging from $2,500 to $7,000 per year as long as the student maintains a very high level of academic performance. These funds come directly from our operating budget. The student administration office indicates that this was instrumental in matriculating eight high-caliber students who otherwise would have gone elsewhere. Therefore, the program has been successful, but we need additional scholarships, which will only come about through endowed funding.

Recent data from the Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry (ASCO) indicate that total applicants to optometry have been flat for several years. IUSO’s applicant pool reflects these statistics. However, we have been able to attract an excellent entering class for 2011 with an average GPA of 3.54, slightly higher than last year. Top-notch applicants who decline to come to IUSO cite cost and facilities as the two main reasons for going elsewhere. Moreover, several new optometry schools have started and others will start soon. If the applicant pool is static, IUSO needs to be competitive both on quality and price, which is why scholarship funds will be so important.

Visual Optics Endowed Chair
In research, the school’s current strength is visual optics. We have the greatest concentration of internationally known researchers in the field. To maintain this edge, we would like to develop an endowed faculty chair in visual optics. The funds provided would be used to enhance research productivity and will be a tremendous tool for recruiting the best faculty.

Community Outreach
Because of the recession and loss of grant funding, IUSO had to pull back from its successful Eye Care Community Outreach (ECCO) program in Indianapolis. We are in the process of reviving this program to expand vision care for underinsured and uninsured populations in need. We have had early success with
modest grants; however, our aim is sustainability. Long term, we will seek to endow the program so that it is less susceptible to changes in the economy.

IUSO has renewed the lease for the Indianapolis Eye Care Clinic (IECC) for another five years. We have given up some space to save money and have reconfigured the space to be more efficient. Patient numbers at IECC are up because of a contract we entered into with Wishard Hospital and with the Department of Veterans Affairs to help relieve their large primary care backlog.

Renovations as Student Recruitment Tool
Recently, the university provided the school with much needed funds to renovate our facilities, and you can read about and see images of the renovations on the following pages. The preclinical, where students learn basic exam procedures during the first two years, has approximately doubled in size. There are 10 lanes and an additional chair and stand for demonstrations that can be video recorded. However, much of the equipment used in the preclinical is old and needs to be replaced. We must have modern facilities and the latest equipment to continue to recruit top students to our school.

Making Connections with Professional Groups
Shortly after becoming dean, I met with the board of the Indiana Optometric Association (IOA) and addressed alumni attending the fall seminar. I have found my interactions with the IOA and alumni to be energizing and helpful for gaining insight into events and conditions that affect education and the world that our graduates will be facing. Everyone I meet is genuinely interested in the welfare of the school and the profession of optometry. They are proud to be IUSO graduates and look to the school to be a leader in optometric education and the production of new knowledge through research.

As I mentioned at the recent IOA–IUSO joint reception at the American Optometric Association meeting, we are an evidence-based profession. We are not simply consumers of knowledge produced by ophthalmology, but we are major contributors to the body of knowledge, not only in refractive, motor, and sensory anomalies, but in ocular disease as well. I look forward to working with IOA and AOA, as well as with our faculty, staff, and alumni, on important issues in the field of optometry.

We must keep the world our graduates will be facing uppermost in mind. To maintain and advance our position in the field, we need to continue to make investments in our facilities, in our faculty, and most of all in our students.
Meet Executive Associate Dean, Dr. Clifford Brooks

Clifford Brooks, O.D., is a long-time member of the Indiana University School of Optometry faculty. After graduating from Indiana University's School of Optometry in 1971, he started his career practicing optometry in southern Indiana. He later taught optometry at Höheren Fachschule für Augenoptik in Cologne, Germany.

Since returning to Indiana University, his teaching and writing has been focused primarily on optics—ophthalmic, geometric, and laboratory. Brooks has written three major books, including *System for Ophthalmic Dispensing*, which he co-authored with Dr. Irvin Borish. He was promoted from associate to full professor in 2010.

Brooks directed the IUSO's optician/technician program for many years, developing materials for teaching lens finishing and surfacing, including *System for Ophthalmic Dispensing*, and another year at Berkeley in the department of physiology. Soon after, he joined the faculty at UC–Berkeley's School of Optometry, where he reached the rank of professor in 1997.

Bonanno came to the Indiana University School of Optometry in 1998. Since that time, he has helped develop the school's new curriculum, which now includes integrated basic science topics, and he has introduced a problem-based learning course for first- and second-year students. Prior to being named dean, he served the school as associate dean for research, associate dean for academic affairs, and executive associate dean (EAD) for academic affairs and student administration.

Bonanno's research, primarily in corneal endothelial physiology and oxygen delivery through contact lenses/hypoxia preconditioning, has been supported by the National Institutes for Health for 20 years.

He was also recently named to the 12-member National Advisory Eye Council of the National Eye Institute, which provides advice on conducting and supporting research, health information dissemination, training, and other programs that address blinding eye diseases and disorders, visual function mechanisms, sight preservation, and health needs of visually impaired individuals. Bonanno is a Fellow of the American Academy of Optometry and a recipient of the Garland Clay and Glenn Fry awards. He currently serves on the AAO research committee.

About Dean Bonanno

Dr. Joseph A. Bonanno was named dean of the School of Optometry in September 2010. On announcing his appointment, IUPUI Chancellor Charles R. Bantz said, “As an optometrist, administrator and distinguished researcher, Dr. Bonanno brings all-important skills to a leadership role that will benefit not only the school but the health and vision of Hoosiers and others around the globe.”

Bonanno grew up in southern New Jersey and earned his B.A. from the University of Pennsylvania. After graduating, he traveled west to attend a graduate biology program at University of California–Berkeley, where he received an M.S. degree and later his O.D. degree in 1981. His primary care residency took place at the Pennsylvania College of Optometry. In 1982, he accepted a position as contact lens service supervisor at Wills Eye Hospital in Philadelphia.

Following his research interests, Bonanno returned to Berkeley to complete a doctorate in physiological optics focusing on the effects of contact lens wear on corneal physiology. After completing the Ph.D., Bonanno was awarded a National Institutes of Health (NIH) postdoctoral fellowship, which he did for one year at Louisiana State University Ophthalmology and another year at Berkeley in the department of physiology. Soon after, he joined the faculty at UC–Berkeley's School of Optometry, where he reached the rank of professor in 1997.

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Teaching and Learning the Finer Points of Patient Care
ATWATER EYE CARE CENTER PLAYS VITAL ROLE IN STUDENTS’ EDUCATION

The Atwater Eye Care Center is where students are transformed into doctors at the forefront of the optometry profession.

With its state-of-the-art diagnostic tools, high-tech conference room, and eyewear and fitting center with the largest selection of designer frames in the region, the Atwater Eye Care Center on the IU Bloomington campus is where optometry students put their knowledge into practice, gaining hands-on experience with real patients with real vision needs, under the guidance of faculty members. It’s where students learn the importance of patient care, and where the school gets its stellar reputation for producing outstanding graduates.

“We’re a teaching clinic,” says Neil Pence, O.D., associate dean of clinical and patient care services and director of the Atwater Eye Care Center, “and when our fourth-year students go on their external rotations, whether to military bases or hospitals, we hear rave reviews about how well prepared they are as clinicians and about their exceptional ability to work with patients.”
Some of that success can be attributed to the Atwater facility, which opened its doors in January 2010. The $3 million, 22,000-square-foot limestone building was designed with teaching, learning, and patient care in mind, right down to the children’s princess-themed examination room. With bright green paint and Disney princess decals decorating the walls, the room is designed to put a child at ease about the impending exam. In fact, with its natural light, airy décor, and colorful artwork, the center is a pleasant place to get an eye exam—or to learn how to give one.

Sarita Soni, interim dean of the school at the time, cited the opening as a milestone in the 50-plus-year history of optometry at IU.

“The new Atwater Eye Care Center heralds another wave of program-building at the School of Optometry as we translate today’s research into tomorrow’s practice right here in our clinic and influence eye care around the world,” she said.

With the latest diagnostic tools, many of which were developed in the school’s laboratories, the center is the ideal place to fine-tune classroom skills. Students gain experience in a variety of services offered at the clinic, including urgent care and emergency services, pediatric optometry, and contact lens care. They work closely with faculty members, who oversee their patients and offer guidance. “Our patients benefit from the knowledge of our faculty, many of whom are experts in their fields,” says Pence.

They also benefit from the location. No longer housed on the second floor of the School of Optometry building, the center is situated squarely on Third Street, just a block away from the former location. “This new location is key,” says Pence. “Instead of being tucked into the second floor of the School of Optometry building, we’re now visible on campus, on a busy street.”

The optometry building has reclaimed the space previously used for the center. It’s now housing teaching and research space focusing on infant vision, glaucoma, ocular imaging, diabetes, macular degeneration, low vision, contact lenses, refractive error, and visual optics—just the type of knowledge that will one day be used to help patients at the Atwater Eye Care Center.

After all, patients have become accustomed to the quality and expertise that the School of Optometry’s faculty and student clinicians bring to their personal eye care needs. As Pence puts it, “This modern clinic allows us to serve our patients at an even higher level.”
Touching Lives
VOSH–Guanajuato

Last spring, in less than a week at the Center for Visual Rehabilitation in Silao, Guanajuato, Mexico, volunteer optometrists and students saw nearly 2,500 patients and distributed 1,800 pairs of glasses. Patients represented 43 of the 46 villages in Guanajuato, and received expert care provided at four stations, supervised by IUSO faculty, fourth-year students, and alumni: prelims, staffed by first- and second-year students; direct and retinoscopy, staffed by second- and third-year students; IOP and disease, staffed by third-year students; and the dispensary, staffed by students from all years.

Exams performed during the spring visit revealed dermoid cysts, skin carcinomas and melanomas, corneal ulcers, strabismus and amblyopia, and diabetic retinopathy, among other pathologies.

The IUSO chapter of Volunteer Optometric Services to Humanity (IUSO-VOSH), founded in 1980, serves the community of Bloomington and surrounding areas, as well as other underserved areas of the world in need of quality optometric services.

Laura Suppa, 2011–2012 IUSO-VOSH president, reports that the efforts of the organization in Mexico have been well received and much appreciated. “We were privileged to have the Maestra of DIF (the Mexican National Agency for Family Development) speak to us about how much our work affects the communities in their state and how many lives we touch during our time there each year.”
Continued Excellence in Clinical Education

The Indiana University School of Optometry continues to be recognized for its excellence in clinical education. Optometry interns gain valuable patient care experience in the main IUSO clinics—Atwater Eye Care Center and Community Eye Care Center in Bloomington, and Indianapolis Eye Care Center in Indianapolis (IECC)—as well as in numerous external clinical sites around the country.

Program Changes

In July, Neil A. Pence was appointed associate dean for clinical and patient care services. Through his leadership, and with the dedicated efforts of an outstanding clinical faculty and staff, the clinical program will continue to seek even higher levels of excellence in patient care and clinical education. An extensive review and reevaluation of the clinical and patient care programs will be conducted throughout the coming year, with the goal of determining not only today’s state of the art, but what the ideal clinical program should look like in the future. IUSO is committed to being a leader in the areas of clinical care, patient services, and clinical education.

Dr. Pence is assisted in the operation of the clinical program by a service chief’s council: Drs. Jane Ann Grogg, Elli Kollbaum, Kim Kohn, Susan Kovachich, Don Lyon, and Brad Sutton. The leadership provided in their respective areas, as well as their input and advice on overall clinical issues, plays a significant role in the success of the IUSO clinical program.

Initiatives

In the last year, IUSO has joined Wishard Community Health Care network and the IU School of Medicine’s Department of Ophthalmology to better serve the vision and health care needs of Wishard patients. Through the strong efforts of IECC faculty and interns, Wishard Advantage patients who were waiting an average of 14 months for eye care services are now seen within two months. These include vision-related services, and annual dilated fundus examinations for diabetic patients. IUSO has agreed to assist the Indianapolis Roudebush Veterans Administrations Hospital Eye Clinic with the delivery of patient care. IUSO’s Indianapolis and Bloomington clinics are seeing VA patients in an effort to assist in the timely delivery of quality eye care services for our veterans. IUSO is also establishing a relationship with the IU Health Workplace Services group. Optometry interns will assist in providing services for their patients at numerous locations.

Outreach

IUSO continues to serve the eye and vision care needs of those less able to afford access to the standard health care system. In Bloomington, IUSO provides services to a significant number of individuals identified as in need through the Volunteers in Medicine program. In Indianapolis, the needs of the less fortunate are being met through renewed efforts to serve the patients who previously benefited from the IUSO Eye Care Community Outreach (ECCO) program. The goal is to expand the ability to provide these needed services, with the generous help of various organizations and individuals. Additionally, both the Indianapolis and Bloomington clinics continue to conduct eye care screenings for homeless populations.

Externships

Fourth-year IUSO interns continue to benefit from outstanding learning opportunities and excellent mentorship through the external rotation program. Externship sites such as VA hospitals, referral centers, military bases, and Indian Health Service programs provide unique and challenging patient experiences. The quality of these experiences contributes significantly to the clinical education program, and several excellent sites were added to the program this past year. Several of the external sites provide students with experience conducting examinations in Spanish. Elli Kollbaum has been appointed director of externships, with responsibility for monitoring the current external sites as well as seeking opportunities to add additional high-caliber locations.

Experience at the Helm

New Associate Dean of Clinical and Patient Care Services Neil Pence brings years of experience in the classroom and private practice to his oversight of IUSO’s three optometry clinics—the Atwater Eye Care Center, and Community Eye Care Center in Bloomington; and the Indianapolis Eye Care Center in downtown Indianapolis.

Thirty-two years on the IUSO faculty, and decades at his practice in Columbus, Indiana, have prepared Dr. Pence well to take up the challenge of the clinics’ educational mission. Dr. Pence is “the ideal person to tackle the complex problems at teaching clinics,” according to Dean Joseph Bonanno. “IUSO is extremely lucky to have someone so capable, loyal, and dedicated to excellence in patient care, student training, and clinical management.”

No stranger to the teaching clinic environment, Dr. Pence has also directed IUSO’s contact lens clinic, and conducted seminars for interns on clinical rotation in Bloomington.

A frequent contributor to publications and a regular on the lecture circuit here and abroad, Dr. Pence has also been active in professional service, chairing the national Association of Optometric Contact Lens Educators, refereeing for ophthalmic journals, and serving on advisory panels for contact lens companies and the Rigid Gas Permeable Institute.
From our former dean to our current students, 2011 was a year of professional recognition for the talented people at the IU School of Optometry. The American Optometric Association (AOA), a federation of state, student, and armed forces optometric associations that represents approximately 36,000 optometry professionals, bestowed a variety of prestigious awards that underscore IUSO’s leadership in the discipline. The announcements took place at Optometry’s Meeting®, AOA’s annual conference, held June 2011 in Salt Lake City, Utah.
Hall of Famers

Our school can claim two inductees into AOA’s National Optometry Hall of Fame Class of 2011. William R. Baldwin, O.D., Ph.D., received an M.S. in 1956 and a Ph.D. in 1965 from the IU School of Optometry. His career has included stints as dean of the Pacific University College of Optometry, president of the New England College of Optometry, and dean of the University of Houston College of Optometry.

Gerald E. Lowther, O.D., Ph.D., who served as dean of the IUSO from 1998 to 2008, is another member of the Hall of Fame Class of 2011. As dean, Lowther broadened the school’s international focus through the creation of a community clinic in Mexico and an optometry program in Thailand. His professional accomplishments include serving as president of the American Academy of Optometry and as a member of the American Optometric Association’s Council on Research. This year, Dr. Lowther also received the Foley House Basement Key Award.

Young Optometrist of the Year

AOA’s Young Optometrist of the Year is Laura Windsor, O.D., who earned her doctorate of optometry from IU in 2001. According to AOA, the award “recognizes a doctor of optometry in active practice less than 10 years who shows remarkable leadership skills when serving his or her profession, patients, and community.”

Windsor lives those words. She is a partner in the Eye Associates Group/Low Vision Centers of Indiana, a practice specializing in vision rehabilitation for people of all ages. An expert on low-vision rehabilitation, Windsor has co-authored articles on the topic, has lectured at the Indiana Occupational Therapist Association annual convention, and has been a featured speaker at the St. Vincent Hospital’s Institute on Aging annual seminar. She does good work in her community as well. She is a former member of the Board of Directors of Blackford County’s Special Olympics. As treasurer for the same group, she helped to grow the program and wrote the grants to secure funding for all the sports equipment.

Resident and Student Awards

Tiffany Andrzejewski, IUSO cornea and contact lens resident, won the AOA’s 2011 Contact Lens and Cornea Section (CLCS) Student-Resident Essay Travel Grant, underwritten by Allergan. Her paper, “Management of the Dry Eye Patient,” was selected for its excellence in five areas: relevancy, clinical findings, analysis, conclusion, and write-up.

“I am honored to lead our faculty and staff during such an exciting time at IUSO.”

Joseph Bonanno, O.D., Ph.D.
Dean, Indiana University School of Optometry
Class of 2013 White Coat Ceremony

Through the generous support of Vistakon, a beautiful March evening provided the backdrop for the Class of 2013’s transition to the clinical portion of their educations. Family and friends gathered in Alumni Hall as students were called by Drs. Tonekaboni and Peabody, then cloaked by Drs. Meetz and Goss. Members of the class, after donning their white coats, were ceremoniously welcomed into the clinic by the chief of primary care, Dr. Kim Kohne.

The White Coat Ceremony, which originated in allopathic medical schools, was adopted by Columbia University in 1993. Since that time, it has gained popularity on many health profession campuses. Dr. Edwin Marshall, professor of optometry and Indiana University vice president for diversity, equity, and multicultural affairs shared with the audience the history and significance of the ceremony, which is designed to establish a psychological contract for health professions students. The ritual stresses “caring” as a significant component of a professional posture that makes patients and their loved ones feel comfortable placing their trust in an intern’s hands.

Allergan provided the financial support for this year’s keynote speaker: singer, actor, author, writer, and producer Tom Sullivan. Though he lost his vision shortly after birth, Sullivan has never let blindness stand in his way. He lives and works by “Sullivan’s Rules,” which were invented by his father so Sullivan could play baseball with the neighborhood kids. The adult Tom came to live his life by these rules—turning disadvantage into advantage, and playing in every game. Guests enjoyed Sullivan’s narrative of the journey that made him one of America’s most sought after motivational speakers.

To close the festivities, students were led in the Optometric Oath by Dean Joseph Bonanno. It was a wonderful evening of celebration and acknowledgement of the accomplishments of the Class of 2013.
Dedication to Service

Two ongoing volunteer programs receive leadership from IUSO faculty, and offer optometry students at IUSO and other schools invaluable experience with patients in a non-clinic setting.

This summer, Steven Hitzeman, O.D., co-chaired a program that provided free vision evaluations for 294 of the athletes competing in the 2011 Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) Junior Olympic Games in New Orleans, Louisiana.

The program was conducted by the American Optometric Association (AOA) Sports Vision Section (SVS); Stephen Beckerman, O.D., of the Illinois College of Optometry, was the other co-chair. Thirty-six volunteers established testing protocols, gathered data, and aided in identifying the best types of sports vision evaluation equipment. The event also provided the volunteers with an excellent opportunity to receive hands-on training and experience in the latest sports vision evaluation techniques.

The program was made possible by a generous sponsorship grant from Vistakon®, a Division of Johnson & Johnson Vision Care, Inc.

The AAU Junior Olympic Games is the largest national multi-sport event conducted annually for youth in the United States. More than 4,200 Junior Olympic athletes have received free vision evaluations from the SVS in the last 15 years.

Dr. Hitzeman also serves as clinical director for the Special Olympics Opening Eyes initiative in Indiana. Funded through a partnership between Special Olympics and Lions Club International, and staffed by dedicated volunteers, this program provides athletes with vision and eye health tests, as well as—where appropriate—refraction, prescription glasses, protective eyewear, and referrals.

At the June 2011 Special Olympics in Terre Haute, Dr. Hitzeman’s team screened 189 athletes, and referred three for additional care. The volunteers distributed 141 pairs of regular eyewear, 29 sports frames with prescription lenses, three sports frames with plano lenses, and 42 sunglasses.

Six optometrists, six ophthalmic technicians, 22 optometry students, and eight other volunteers participated in the event.

IUSO Hosts Region II NOA and NOSA Meetings

IUSO hosted members of the National Optometric Association (NOA) and National Optometric Student Association (NOSA), as well as IU alumni and pre-optometry students, at the Region II meeting in April. The afternoon began with a tour of the optometry school and the Atwater Eye Center hosted by Dean Bonanno, followed by a reception and dinner at the Indiana Memorial Union. Dinner speaker Dr. Neil Pence, IUSO associate dean of clinical affairs, spoke on contact lenses.

Joe Boes, IUSO associate director, recruitment and student services, addressed the group on the state of admissions of underrepresented minorities, and NOSA president Erik Smith discussed the organization’s activities. Regional Trustee Dr. Joyce A. Ramsue-Thompson spoke on NOA’s mission “Advancing the Visual Health of Minority Populations” and outlined the optometrist’s role in achieving that goal. NOA’s members-only business meeting followed.

The meeting was a success, thanks to Dr. Elli Kollbaum, NOSA advisor, IU staff, and the sponsorship of Bausch & Lomb and their territorial manager, Ms. Stephanie Parmeter. The evening ended at Bloomington’s Buskirk-Chumley Theater for the IU Soul Revue Spring Concert, sponsored by Dr. Edwin Marshall, professor of optometry and vice president for diversity, equity, and multicultural affairs, and his department.
Staff Service

In her 25 years with IUSO, Sue Gilmore has provided administrative support for continuing education, special events, and development. She previously served as the administrative assistant to former IUSO Deans Bennett and Lowther.

Several IUSO staff members have recently reached service milestones.

Judith Boyer
Optometric Technician
30 years

Sue Gilmore
Administrative Support
25 years

Lori Adams
Optician
20 years

Joseph Boes
Associate Director, Recruitment and Student Services
20 years

Julia Broadstreet
HR Manager
20 years

Jason Wood
Assistant Ophthalmic Technician
15 years

Tamara Fleener
Clinic Billing Coordinator
10 years

Julia Abbott
Lab Technician
5 years

Jennifer Arbogast
Senior Office Services Assistant
5 years

Bryan Haggerty
Analyst/Programmer
5 years

Michael Page
Student Administration and School Coordination
5 years

Staff Profiles

Judith Boyer

Judith Boyer serves as the institutional memory of the Indianapolis Eye Care Center (IECC). A thirty-year veteran of the IUSO, she works as an optometric technician in the center’s frame room and purchases frames for the Indianapolis location. IUSO interns who are completing their Doctorate of Optometry degrees, and the students completing their Associate of Science (A.S.) degree in Optometric Technology rely on her wealth of knowledge to carry out their educational endeavors. Her skill in the dispensing area ordering, repairing, and dispensing eyewear, as well as processing insurance claims, is unmatched.

“Judy Boyer has been a valuable member of the IUSO family for decades,” says the IECC’s Bradley Sutton. “Her knowledge of the optical industry is unequaled, and she works hard to remain at the forefront of her profession. Here at the Indianapolis Eye Care Center, we have a large number of long-standing patients who insist that Judy personally works with them throughout the frame and lens selection process. This is a testament to her skill and devotion, and we are indeed truly fortunate to have her.”

Michelle Cornett

Michelle Cornett plays a vital role in the educational, service, and research missions of the IUSO. As a lab technician in the Advanced Ocular Disease Clinic, she insures that the office is running efficiently and performs testing with the specialized equipment in the clinic. She teaches the doctorate of optometry students the proper techniques and maintenance regimens for ophthalmic technology equipment. Cornett also collects research data for Dr. Bill Swanson’s research projects. She serves on the IUSO Staff Council, and has also been the co-coordinator for the Optometry National Board testing site.

“Michelle is our rock,” asserts Jane Ann Grogg of the Advanced Ocular Disease Clinic. “Our patients know that she is someone who they can rely on and trust. I truly believe that a portion of our patient loyalty is directly related to the outstanding service she provides. Her work ethic, management skills, interpersonal connections, and loyalty are just simply outstanding. It is such a pleasure to work with her on a daily basis. I enjoy my job more because she is such a great advocate for the patients, students, and her co-workers.”
Cindy Vance

From application to graduation, Cindy Vance expertly guides IUSO students through their tenure at the school. As director of student administration she oversees the admissions process for the Doctorate of Optometry (O.D.) program, academic progression, and white coat and graduation ceremonies.

During her seven years at the school, Vance has implemented a new interactive O.D. admissions process that allows for more contact between prospective students, faculty, and current students. Faculty and student panels interview prospective students and provide a campus tour. Thanks to Vance’s innovations, admissions panels can better assess applicants’ communication and interpersonal skills.

“Even before I was a student at IUSO I was impressed by Cindy’s dedication to the school and, more importantly, to the students,” says O.D. student and president of the Indiana University Optometric Student Association, Julie Anne Roper. “Since then, Cindy has become not only an invaluable source of knowledge and an inspirational leader, but also a personal mentor to me. I cannot emphasize how irreplaceable Cindy’s commitment to the student body truly is.”

Professional Staff Merit Award: Cindy Lepore

In recognition of her dedication to the school and her exemplary performance, Cindy Lepore received a 2011 Indiana University Bloomington Staff Merit Award in the professional staff category. Ms. Lepore is the director of budgetary planning and administration and serves as the school’s fiscal officer. She was the longtime assistant to the associate dean for finance, Dan Gerstman, and was promoted to her current position in 2008.

According to Dean Bonanno, “Cindy’s thoroughness, persistence, pleasantness, knowledge, and positive attitude made it a pleasure to nominate her for this award. The honor is well deserved.”

The Portal of Excellence

An important symbol from the IU School of Optometry’s history has come to represent alumni achievement

The Foley House Basement Key Award is given to an IUSO alum who demonstrates excellence in the field of optometry; it is named for a storied structure that, long after its demolition, still represents the collegiality (and good humor) of IUSO students.

In 1959 the IU optometry clinic moved from Jordan Hall on the Bloomington campus to a nineteenth-century house named for its owner, physics professor Arthur Lee Foley. When the basement of the structure wasn’t being used for contact lens fabrication or research projects, it served as a gathering place for optometry students, each of whom was granted a key to Foley House, in exchange for the promise to maintain the dignity of the place.

When, after the clinic had moved to a new location, Foley house was being demolished, IUSO’s Irving Borish and Dennis Yamamoto salvaged the basement door for the sum of $2. That door, preserved and revered, now bears the name of each recipient of the Foley House Basement Key Award, literally etched into the august history of the school.

Recent Foley House Basement Key Award Recipients

2011
Dr. Gerald Lowther

2010
Dr. Steven Schock

2009
Dr. Marjorie Knotts

2008
Dr. Polly Hendricks

Foley House Door, on display at the IU School of Optometry, Bloomington, Indiana
For more than 50 years, the IU School of Optometry has been a leader in optometric education, attracting top students from all over the world to our degree programs. Most continue to shine once they walk through our doors, acing their courses and gaining first-rate clinical and patient skills. They graduate as well-rounded professionals, prepared for the rigors of the field and dedicated to maintaining the high standards demanded of them in the pursuit of their degrees.

The world is taking notice. IUSO students from all stages of our various programs are recognized every year for their excellence in academics, patient care, and community service. These students are the clinicians and researchers who will change the world of optometry.

“The students at Indiana University School of Optometry are some of the best students around,” says Pete Kollbaum, O.D., Ph.D., assistant professor at IUSO. “Their hard work and dedication to their basic science and clinical education, combined with their compassionate care for others, has been deservedly acknowledged by the numerous local and national awards they have received.”

Take a look at our recent award winners

**Carl Zeiss Vision Fellowship**
Jill Liechty is the recipient of the Carl Zeiss Vision Fellowship, a national award given by the American Optometric Foundation on behalf of Carl Zeiss Vision to an outstanding third-year student. The winner is judged to have submitted the best paper explaining his or her career goals and perspective on the independent practice of optometry.

**J. Pat Cummings Scholarship**
(formerly the ACUVUE Eye Health Advisor Student Citizenship Award)
Kate Montealegre received this national award from the American Optometric Foundation. It is awarded annually to a second- or third-year optometry student at each of the North American schools and
colleges of optometry who best demonstrates the ideal eye care standards of practice. To qualify, the recipient must demonstrate achievement in both academic performance and extracurricular activities, along with other professional pursuits such as involvement with patients through internships, community service, and other volunteer activities.

**Beta Sigma Kappa Silver Medal Award**
Tony Van Alstine received this award, which goes to the graduating Beta Sigma Kappa member with the highest GPA. BSK is the international optometric honor society.

Two other students were awarded Beta Sigma Kappa research grants at the AOA conference. Ben Snyder received funds for his research, “Street-Crossing Decision-Making in Patients with Age-Related Macular Degeneration (AMD),” Jesslin Quint for her work on the “Role of Lactate in Crystalline Lens Transparency.”

**Heart of America Contact Lens Society Award**
This award, which is given to outstanding contact lens students hailing from “the Heartland” of the United States, was bestowed on Colby Fletcher and Kacie Monroe.

**Vision Service Plan Scholarship**
Recipients Sunni Stewart and Kevin Vandenbosch received this award, which goes to the third-year student demonstrating excellence and a commitment to primary care optometry.

**Vistakon Award of Excellence**
Colby Fletcher received this honor given by the American Optometric Foundation, with the support of the Vision Care Institute (a division of Johnson & Johnson), which recognizes excellence in contact lens patient care and commitment to serve patients’ individual needs.

**Walman Optical Company Scholarship Program**
Sunni Stewart, Jill Liechty, and Aaron McNulty were selected for this honor, based on outstanding academic records, demonstrated leadership, participation in service and community, and relevant work experience.

**Wal-Mart Scholarships**
Ryan Gustus (2011), Dawn Meyer (2012), and Daniel Galle (2013) were nominated by IUSO faculty for these scholarships.

**Other awards and their recipients:**

- **Alcon Scholarship Award**
  Aaron McNulty

- **Alice Bennett Fellowship**
  Megan Walton

- **Barbara (Bobbie) Abrams Scholarship in Optometry**
  Abby Wolf

- **Brett Swanda O.D. Scholarship**
  Kara Tison

- **Charles Shick Contact Lens Award**
  Dan Novack

- **Class of 1959**

- **COVD Award for Excellence in Vision Therapy**
  Eric Weigel

- **David H. Kolack, O.D., Award**
  Tony Van Alstine

- **David J. Kerko Low Vision Award**
  Kacie Monroe

- **Dr. and Mrs. Lewis Scott Scholarship**
  Dan Novack

- **Dr. Henry Hofstetter Scholarship Award**
  Kyle King

- **EF Wildermuth Foundation Harriet Slaughter Fellowship**
  Jenna Liechty and Kate Montealegre

- **Eschenbach Low Vision Award**
  Ryan Gustus

- **Essilor Optical Corneal Reflection Pupilometer Award**
  Colby Fletcher, Ashley Moser, and Jenni Evans

- **Jack Bennett Endowed Scholarship**
  Sunni Stewart

- **Jack Bennett Humanitarian Award**
  Amanda LaPlante

- **Jane Hofstetter AFVA Scholarship**
  Alex Jones

- **John Hitchcock Memorial Scholarship**
  Elizabeth Mauzy

- **John P. Davey Memorial Award**
  Sylvia Mishoulam

- **Joseph Elmer Sidwell and Trula Sidwell Hardy Scholarship**
  Jill Liechty

- **Marchon Eyewear Practice Management Award**
  Ashley Moser

- **Paul Peitsch Scholarship**
  Jane Daniels

- **Robert Bumbleberg Scholarship**
  Dan Novack

- **Robert G. Corns, O.D., Opt Tech Scholarship**
  Jennifer Evans

- **Rogers W. Reading Endowed Award**
  Abby Wolf

- **Roy E. Denny Award**
  Kyle Gilbert

- **Varilux Student Grant Award Program**
  Aaron McNulty

- **William Feinbloom Low Vision Award**
  Tamara Schwalbe
Modern equipment and facilities are a draw for prospective students, and the IU School of Optometry is undergoing renovations to attract and admit the best future optometrists. The multi-phase project received support from the IU Bloomington Provost’s Fund and the School of Optometry’s Student Capital Improvements and Equipment Fund.

Phase one expanded the preclinic, where students learn basic exam procedures during their first two years. Now almost twice its original size, the preclinic features 10 lanes and an additional chair and stand for demonstrations that can be video recorded. Each lane is designed to simulate the look and feel of a modern optometric examination area.

Phase one also included remodeling the geometric optics lab, biology lab, ophthalmic optics lab, and contact lens and advanced procedures lab. Next, administrative space will be renovated, followed by patient-based research space and the student lounge and study areas.

If you’d like to contribute to this effort, consider giving to the Student Capital Improvements and Equipment Fund. Visit www.opt.indiana.edu and click the Give Now button.
Catching Up with Our Vision Science Alumni

Our curriculum and hands-on training prepared our 2009–11 graduates to become leaders in the field. See where they’ve gone:

**Weihua Gao** accepted a full-time position as senior optical engineer at KLA-Tencor, a major manufacturer and manager of products for the semiconductor and microelectronics industries.

**Grazyna Tondel**, Ph.D., is working in private practice in Bloomington. She’s a vision therapist at Hoosier Eye Doctor.

**Jingyun Wang**, Ph.D., who completed a postdoc with Eileen Birch in Dallas, is now an assistant professor of ophthalmology at the IU School of Medicine.

**Maresh Shivana** is a research associate at the Center for Regenerative Biology and Medicine at Indiana University–Purdue University Indianapolis.

**Charanya Ramachandran** is a post-doctoral fellow at the Sudhakar and Sreekant Ravi Stem Cell Lab at the L V Prasad Eye Institute (LVPEI).

**Kah Tan Allen** is doing a postdoc in the medical sciences at Indiana University Bloomington.

**Jason Chen** is a faculty member at the School of Optometry, Midwestern University, Glendale, Arizona.

Residents Spotlight

**Andrzejewski Boosts Her Career at Conferences**

Dr. Tiffany Andrzejewski, an Illinois College of Optometry graduate, was the Indiana University School of Optometry cornea and contact lens resident for 2010–2011. In that role, she attended the 2010 American Academy of Optometry (AAO) annual meeting, where she presented a poster on “Ocular Cicatricial Pemphigoid” for Residency Day. She received additional contact lens training at Contact Lens Resident Meetings sponsored by Vistakon and the Gas Permeable Lens Institute (GPLI) in 2010.

Dr. Andrzejewski participated in the IUSO case conference, where she instructed fourth-year interns on fitting GP lenses and corneal topography. The highlight of the year came when Dr. Andrzejewski received first place in the 2011 American Optometric Association (AOA) Cornea and Contact Lens Student/Resident Travel Grant Award for her research paper “Management of the Dry Eye Patient.” This competitive award included a $1,500 travel grant to attend the AOA Annual Meeting in Salt Lake City, Utah, in June 2011.

Her future looks just as bright. Andrzejewski has a poster accepted for the 2011 AAO Annual Meeting, on “GP Lens Management of a Keratoconus Patient Status-Post Collagen Crosslinking, Conductive Keratoplasty, and Intracorneal Ring Implants (INTACS®).” Her article with IUSO Associate Dean of Clinical and Patient Care Services Neil Pence on toric lenses has been accepted by *Contact Lens Spectrum* for publication in late 2011.

**Kalai Builds a Strong Foundation in Primary Care Optometry**

Dr. Monica Kalai completed the one-year primary care residency program at the IU School of Optometry. Kalai received her B.S. in biology at the University of Indianapolis, where she was the recipient of the prestigious Eli Lilly Endowment Scholarship. Kalai received her Doctor of Optometry degree from IUSO in 2010.

During her one-year residency, Kalai focused on primary care optometry, which includes care of patients with refractive and binocular disorders, ocular disease, and systemic disorders affecting the eye and vision. For her humanitarian and community service activities, she traveled to Guanajuato, Mexico, with IU’s chapter of Volunteer Optometric Services to Humanity, where she participated in community vision screening programs and spoke to a local Latino community group about vision and eye health.

In order to enhance her skills in the diagnosis and management of numerous ocular and systemic diseases, Kalai arranged rotations with several sub-specialty physicians in the fields of ophthalmology, neurology, and dermatology.

With her residency complete, Kalai is now an associate with Dillman Eye Care Associates, an ophthalmology/optometry practice in Danville, Illinois. Her interests include medical management of glaucoma, diabetes, and macular degeneration, in addition to a special interest in children, especially those with amblyopia.
IUSO professor and researcher Bill Swanson is doing important work to change the way doctors think about glaucoma, ushering in the next generation of visual field testing.

“It’s exciting that I have the chance to have a national and international impact on the disease,” says Swanson. In 2010, his ongoing work to improve testing for and treatment of one of the world’s leading causes of blindness advanced with support from a $2.35 million grant from the National Institutes of Health (NIH).
A progressive blinding degeneration of the optic nerve, glaucoma is a family of disorders affecting approximately 70 million people around the world. “It’s the leading cause of irreversible blindness, and there are no drugs on the market for curing it,” says Swanson. And according to the Glaucoma Research Foundation, half of those 70 million people don’t even know they have the disease because they don’t experience any symptoms.

With the NIH grant, Swanson leads a research group that conducts patient studies at optometry clinics in Bloomington, Indianapolis, and New York City. Armed with additional data from the United Kingdom, Swanson’s team works to improve methods for screening and testing for the presence, progression, and pattern of damage due to glaucoma.

Swanson’s research has been part of a major reconsideration of the conventional thought that peripheral vision defects do not occur until after extensive loss of the ganglion cells that transmit visual information from the retina to the brain.

“Over the last decade, my research has helped transform the understanding of how structure and function relate to each other,” says Swanson. Corroborated both independently by researchers at Columbia University and University of Houston College of Optometry and collaboratively in London, England, Swanson found widespread misinterpretation in comparisons of glaucoma patient data based on “inappropriate statistical analyses” that did not account for differences in units of measurement, lack of an independent variable, and differences in dynamic range.

With the NIH grant, Swanson hopes to influence a common eye exam procedure known as visual field testing or perimetry. Patients look inside an instrument called a perimeter, and push a button each time they see a flash projected onto a screen. A computer notes the site of each flash and whether or not the patient pressed the button when the flash occurred. Areas of vision loss are then marked in a graphical report that the eye doctor evaluates.

Perimetry testing results are used to detect specific patterns of vision loss, especially early changes in vision caused by optic nerve damage from glaucoma. Periodic perimetry tests are also used to monitor whether treatment for glaucoma is preventing further vision loss.

Swanson’s work seeks to optimize perimetry and reduce variability in patient performance. “The purpose of the grant is to lay the foundation for the next generation of visual field testing by using mathematical models to bring the insights of modern vision science to the technology of perimetry,” he says. The grant enables the use of mathematical models to develop improved methods for combining anatomical information from imaging devices with information about visual performance from perimetry.

“This research will produce a deeper scientific understanding of perimetry and will lead to improved methods for using perimetry in clinical studies, treatment trials, and care of individual patients,” Swanson said. “Ultimately, I want to have better methods of perimetry available to doctors, which in turn will have a substantial public health benefit.”

Millions of glaucoma sufferers would have to agree.

At Indiana University, Swanson works with Victor Malinovsky, a clinical professor at the IU School of Optometry's Community Eye Care Center in Bloomington; Bradley Sutton, an associate clinical professor at the IU Indianapolis Eye Care Center; and Julie Torbit, an associate clinical professor also at the IU Indianapolis Eye Care Center. Patient recruitment and testing for this research is made possible by the dedicated support of Michelle Cornett and Julia Wilhite. Specialized testing stations were constructed with the support of an NEI Core Grant. Each summer talented optometry students participate in this research through an NEI training grant.

The Indiana University team collaborates with David Crabb at the Applied Vision Research Centre in the Department of Optometry and Visual Science at City University London; Mitchell Dul, director of the Glaucoma Institute at the SUNY State College of Optometry; and David Garway-Heath and Rizwan Malik, both of the Glaucoma Research Unit of Moorfields Eye Hospital in London.

Postdoctoral fellow Iván Marín-Franch works closely with Dr. Swanson on statistical design and analysis, and visits London periodically to work with Drs. Crabb, Malik, and Garway-Heath.
Awards and Accolades

IUSO faculty garner leading awards in teaching, research, and service

Richard E. Meetz won American Academy of Optometry’s 2010 Michael G. Harris Family Award, optometry’s highest honor in teaching, for his “ongoing and consistent excellence in the education of optometry students and the advancement of optometric education.” Dr. Meetz is a clinical associate professor who in his 33 years of teaching has received every teaching award possible for IUSO faculty.

Stephen A. Burns won the 2010 Edgar D. Tillyer Award, given every two years by the Optical Society of America, its highest award in the field of vision, for his outstanding contributions to the understanding of the photoreceptor mechanisms through electrophysiology, psychophysics, optics, and in vivo retinal imaging. Dr. Burns recently finished serving six years as editor for the Journal of the Optical Society of America. He is now the Chairman of the Publications Council and serves on the Board of Directors.

Dr. Burns renewed “Investigations of Human Cone Directionality,” in which he uses advanced imaging techniques to provide never before seen views of the retina, revealing such phenomena as the changes in adjustment over a wide range of light levels and the light guiding properties of cones, the photoreceptors that provide vision in daylight and sharp visual acuity. Preliminary results indicate that some cones, which are only a few microns wide, appear to be swollen.

Dr. Burns is also the principal investigator of “Core Support for Vision Research,” Indiana University’s first major Core Grant from the National Institutes of Health, National Eye Institute. One of a limited number of national infrastructure grants that enhance existing research projects, the five-year, $2.2 million grant provides computer, electronics, and machining support to the principal investigators of eight qualifying grants at IUSO and the Department of Biology, including IUSO’s Drs. Dean Joseph Bonanno, Rowan Candy, Ann Elsner, Pete Kollbaum, Donald Miller, William Swanson, Larry Thibos, and Dean VanNasdale.

William Swanson renewed his project, “Application of Psychophysical Models to Visual Disorders,” funded by the National Institutes of Health, National Eye Institute. Dr. Swanson incorporates both patients from IUSO clinics and control subjects in his multi-center study designed to improve our understanding of changes to visual function associated with the neural damage from glaucoma. This research is an important step forward because current methodology suffers from variability across patients that is large enough to mask disease onset and progression.

Several IUSO faculty received support from industrial contracts, which help bring new products and materials into IUSO for faculty evaluation and subsequent transfer of knowledge to students. Assistant Professor Peter Kollbaum received significant new support from CooperVision for “Short term evaluation of the on-eye performance of soft contact lenses.” Dr. Kollbaum recruits volunteers who wear the contact lenses during measurements.

Two IUSO researchers were awarded grants as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. Dean Bonanno received funding to supplement the equipment that he uses in his project, “Regulation of pH and Fluid Flux in Corneal Endothelium,” funded by the National Institutes of Health, National Eye Institute. Dr. Elsner received funds to augment her project, “Low Cost Device for Digital Retinal Imaging,” funded by the National Institutes of Health, National Institute of Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering, which investigates a new method of measuring refractive error.
Career Moves
Recent IUSO Faculty Promotions

Susan Kovacich, O.D., F.A.A.O., who serves as chief of the Cornea and Contact Lens Service and coordinator of the Cornea and Contact Lens Residency, has been promoted to clinical associate professor. Dr. Kovacich has served on numerous school committees, and chaired the Awards and Honors Committee. She is active in the local optometric society, IOA, and AOA, where she is a fellow. She is on the Board of the Association of Optometric Contact Lens Educators (AOCLE) and is an active proponent of the association’s mission to foster innovation and leadership in cornea-and contact lens–related education. Dr. Kovacich has published in Contact Lens Spectrum, Optometric Management and Optometry: Journal of the American Optometric Association. Her special interests include silicone hydrogel lenses and the correction of irregular astigmatism with specialty contact lenses. After receiving both her Bachelor of Arts and Doctor of Optometry degrees from IU, Dr. Kovacich completed a hospital-based residency in ocular disease at the John Cochran VAMC in St. Louis, Missouri. She joined the IUSO faculty in 1998.

Donald Miller, who has pioneered the development of high-resolution ophthalmoscopes for imaging the ocular fundus has been promoted to professor. Dr. Miller is a founding member of the Center for Adaptive Optics, a consortium of university, government, and industry researchers, and a member of a NIH Bioengineering Research Partnership hosted at the University of California, Davis. He belongs to the Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology, Optical Society of America, and Society of Photo-Optical Instrumentation Engineers. Dr. Miller earned a B.S. in applied physics from Xavier University and a Ph.D. in optics from University of Rochester. He held two postdoctoral appointments, one at the University of Rochester and the second at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base. He joined IUSO in 1998.

Julie K. Torbit, O.D., F.A.A.O., who serves as a clinical consultant at IUSO’s Indianapolis Eye Care Center, has been promoted to associate clinical professor. Torbit teaches continuing education courses for the school, including Anterior Uveitis in the Primary Care Setting, Caring for the Plaquenil Patient, and Diagnosing and Managing Ocular Allergies. In addition, she has given multiple continuing education lectures in both Indiana and Tennessee on various ocular therapeutic topics. Torbit is a part-time faculty member and also maintains a private practice. After earning her O.D. from the IU School of Optometry in 1993, Torbit completed a one-year residency in hospital-based optometry at the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Veterans Administration Hospital in Montrose, New York. She served for five years as an assistant professor in the ocular disease department at the Southern College of Optometry in Memphis, Tennessee. She joined the IUSO faculty in 2004.

Elli Kollbaum, O.D., F.A.A.O., who serves as chief of Low Vision Rehabilitation Services for IUSO and is a primary care clinical instructor, has been promoted to clinical associate professor. In addition to her clinical instruction, Dr. Kollbaum teaches in the third-year Low Vision Rehabilitation course. Dr. Kollbaum has published several papers in low vision, as well as presented low vision cases and CE at AAO and AOA meetings. She is a member of the ASCO Low Vision SIG and a co-leader of the VisionWalk team, which raises money for the Foundation Fighting Blindness. Dr. Kollbaum has recently assumed the duties of fourth-year externship director. After receiving her Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Notre Dame, Kollbaum entered IUSO, where she earned her O.D. in 1997. She then completed a year-long residency in Low Vision Rehabilitation at the Chicago VA Healthcare System. She joined the IUSO faculty in 2000.

Jane Ann Grogg, O.D., F.A.A.O., who serves as Advanced Ocular Care Service chief and Ocular Disease lecturer, and was clinical director of the IU Health Center Eye Clinic, has been promoted to clinical associate professor. Dr. Grogg has served on a number of school committees as well as the Continuing Education Quality Assurance Committee for the American Academy of Optometry. Since 2002, she has been faculty of record for the third-year Applied Ocular Therapeutics course. She also lectures in anterior and posterior segment Ocular Disease courses. Dr. Grogg has presented invited lectures at the AAO meeting and at IOA CE meetings on the topic of ocular therapeutics. She received her bachelor of arts degree from IU Bloomington in 1991, and earned her O.D. from IUSO in 1994. After turns as staff optometrist at the Bascom Palmer Eye Institute and Clinical Assistant Professor at Nova Southeastern School of Optometry, she joined the IUSO faculty in 1996.
Donald Miller’s research team at IUSO combines two rapidly evolving technologies—adaptive optics (AO) and optical coherence tomography (OCT)—in the service of early disease detection. These systems provide an information-rich view of the posterior segment that could not have been fathomed a few decades ago, and have the potential to provide even better views.

Much of Miller’s efforts have been focused on creating cameras that capture images of the retina so sharp that individual retinal cells and microscopic structures of that size can be visualized in vivo. When combined successfully, AO and OCT can achieve a 3-D resolution inside the eye that greatly exceeds that of any other imaging technology: three-micron resolution in all three dimensions, which produces an image 50 times sharper than state-of-the-art commercial OCT. In 2010, the AO-OCT system, developed with help from colleagues at UC-Davis and Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, won an R&D 100 Award, the annual prize that recognizes the 100 most technologically significant new devices. The competition is widely recognized as the “Oscars of Innovation.”

With AO-OCT, the researchers have been able to capture volume images of retinal structures previously only visible with histology. They have recently published several studies using AO-OCT to image retinal nerve fiber bundles, foveal capillaries, and cone photoreceptors. In these studies, Miller successfully measured the cross-sectional profiles of individual nerve fiber bundles, the diameters and depth range of individual foveal capillaries that define the terminal rim of the foveal avascular zone, and the spacing and length of individual cone photoreceptor outer segments near the fovea. More recently, his team has extended morphological measurements to physiological ones, including the first reported in vivo measurements of renewal rates of cone photoreceptor outer segments.

A major motivation of AO-OCT development is improving detection of very early morphological and physiological changes associated with leading causes of blindness, such as glaucoma, diabetic retinopathy, age-related macular degeneration, and retinitis pigmentosa. Miller’s results to date suggest that AO-OCT holds considerable promise here and may ultimately empower the eye care specialist to manage and treat disease at the earliest stages of onset. Here, much work remains to be done.
An Investment in Our Graduates

PROFESSOR’S GIFT SUPPORTS PRECLINIC RENOVATIONS TO BENEFIT STUDENT LEARNING AND RECRUITMENT

A recent gift to the IU School of Optometry is improving training for the students of today and tomorrow.

Victor E. Malinovsky, a graduate of the school who now serves as a clinical professor on the faculty, and his wife, Janice, created the Student Capital Improvements and Equipment Fund with just one goal in mind: to help students.

“Because my wife and I both hold two degrees from IU—and even met here 42 years ago—the university is very near and dear to us, both its past and present impact,” says Malinovsky. “This gift is our way of expressing our gratitude and encouragement to future IU optometry grads.”
With no restrictions on the fund other than that the money be used to benefit students, the school decided to renovate its student spaces, an idea that pleased the Malinovskys. Prior to the renovation, Malinovsky says the student spaces were dated, uninviting, and lacked the tools for a state-of-the-art learning experience.

 Those days are gone. The refurbished preclinic features 10 cubicles with a chair and stand, each simulating the look and feel of a modern optometric examination area. The eleventh cubicle includes video equipment that allows students to record their techniques for review later on. “The newly renovated student space is inviting physically and now has the high-tech conveniences that afford both the faculty and the students a quality education,” says Malinovsky. “The video technology is now one of the school’s most valuable teaching tools, and the improvements are important for recruiting the very best new students.”

 IU School of Optometry Dean Joseph A. Bonanno agrees. “This wonderful gift from Jan and Vic acknowledges the need to maintain excellent teaching facilities and represents an investment in our graduates, who are the future of the optometric profession,” he says.

 Malinovsky’s dedication to students is deep and mutual. He has been voted the school’s Teacher of the Year 15 times and received three Teaching Excellence Recognition Awards from Indiana University. He is a professor who is passionate about teaching. “I love the interaction with students, seeing them on a daily basis bettering their classroom and clinical skills,” he says. “I am committed to the students developing a solid foundation of the subject material with a clear understanding that their learning is an ever-evolving experience for their entire career.”

 In addition to fulfilling Malinovsky’s wish to better the education of his students, the fund is also a way for him commemorate the mentors in his own career path. Take, for instance, his friend and role model, Jack Bennett. The two met when Malinovsky was earning his O.D. degree from IUSO in the 1970s and Bennett was one of his favorite professors. They met again at Ferris State University School of Optometry in Big Rapids, Michigan, where Malinovsky began his academic career and Bennett was dean.

 The Malinovskys became close with Bennett and his wife, Alice, and eventually all four found themselves at the IUSO, where Jack Bennett was the beloved dean from 1988 to 1998. Although Jack has passed on, Malinovsky keeps in touch with Alice Bennett. “Alice is a great lady, and Jack was my mentor, role model, and dear friend,” says Malinovsky. “His encouraging, personal, positive approach to administration and everyday life made those of us fortunate enough to work for him want to better ourselves and emulate his admirable characteristics.”

 In years to come, IU optometry students just might say the same things about Professor Victor Malinovsky, who, along with his wife, has created a better environment for learning and teaching.
Building on Our Scholarship Success

The IU School of Optometry is energizing its fundraising and development efforts. We’ve hired a new development officer, Tami Tarpley (see profile below). She will seek support for scholarships, renovations, a visual optics endowed chair, and community outreach.

Four-year scholarships are a particularly effective recruitment tool, as the cost of optometry school rises and the competition for the best applicants gets tougher. We recently funded a handful of four-year scholarships from $2,500 to $7,000 a year. These awards have been a recruitment success story. In fact, according to our Office of Student Administration, the scholarships attracted eight students to the school last year alone.

We are building on that success by working to create additional scholarships, funded through endowments. If you would like to contribute to this effort, contact Tami Tarpley, (812) 855-7904, tatarpile@indiana.edu.

Tarpley Takes Helm of Development and Alumni Relations

The school’s new director of development and alumni relations has years of experience in the field. Tami Tarpley, who was hired in March 2011, oversees the school’s fundraising and alumni initiatives, as well as external affairs including communications and overall branding.

Prior to joining the school, Tarpley spent six years with the Partnership for Philanthropic Planning at IUPUI. In her role as director of strategic initiatives, she established corporate and nonprofit partnerships, led international philanthropy awareness campaigns, and worked with 125 U.S. chapters in the planning and implementation of award-winning fundraising, membership development, and communications programs.

“Tami will be instrumental in reaching out to alumni, community organizations, and foundations, communicating news of the school, and directing events to celebrate alumni and school accomplishments,” says IU School of Optometry Dean Joseph A. Bonanno. “We are very lucky to have Tami at IUSO.”

Tarpley earned her master’s degree in philanthropic studies from the Indiana University School of Liberal Arts and received her graduate certificate in nonprofit management from the Indiana University School of Public and Environmental Affairs.
**Soni’s Leadership Talents Benefit School and University**

Alumna, teacher, researcher, administrator, supporter—P. Sarita Soni has dedicated much of her professional life to Indiana University and the School of Optometry. In recognition of her service and support, the School of Optometry presented her with its 2011 Spirit of Philanthropy award.

Dr. Soni’s association with the school began as a graduate student in the 1970s, when she earned her O.D. degree and M.S. degree in pathology from Indiana University. She became a faculty member at the School of Optometry in 1977, teaching courses in optometry, vision science, and optometric technology programs. In 1995 she helped establish the Borish Center for Ophthalmic Research and served as its co-director until 2006. Dr. Soni held the school’s highest administrative position, serving as interim dean from 2008 to 2010.

Dr. Soni’s leadership has been recognized outside of the School of Optometry. She currently serves the university as associate vice president for research and vice provost for research at Indiana University Bloomington. In those roles, she is responsible for coordinating and developing research across disciplines and schools and overseeing the internal grant programs administered by the Office of the Vice Provost for Research.

In the lab, Dr. Soni’s research focuses on cornea and contact lenses and correction of refractive errors. She is a diplomate of the Cornea and Contact Lens Section of the American Academy of Optometry and an elected distinguished fellow of the National Academies of Practice.

**Philanthropy Is a Priority for the ‘First Lady of Optometry’**

From 1988 to 1998, Jack W. Bennett served as the beloved dean of IUSO, where he became known for his encouraging leadership style and steadfast commitment to the profession. Although he passed away in 2000, his dedication to IUSO lives on in his wife, Alice Bennett.

As the dedicated spouse of the dean and a passionate advocate for optometry, Alice Bennett was happy to be referred to by many students as “the first lady of the IU School of Optometry,” a label that resonates with alumni to this day. Through the years, Alice Bennett has been a generous supporter of the school’s renovation efforts. In 2005, she established the Jack W. Bennett Lecture Hall, the school’s largest classroom. Alice has also contributed to the construction of the $3 million Atwater Eye Care Center, which opened in 2010.

Alice Bennett’s generosity extends to student scholarships as well. She established the Andrya Lowther Scholarship, awarded to a third- or fourth-year student with a record of humanitarianism or community service, to honor her friendship with Gerald and Andrya Lowther. The Bennetts mentored the Lowthers when Dr. Gerald Lowther succeeded Jack Bennett as dean of the school. The couples became close, and the Lowthers have continued to be a great source of friendship to Alice since Jack’s passing.

Alice presented the 2011 Jack W. Bennett Humanitarian Award to Amanda LaPlante at the IOA President’s Banquet.
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