



# School of Optometry INDIANA UNIVERSITY Alumni Focus

Vol. XXIV

Indiana University School of Optometry Alumni Association

Fall 2005

## IUSO helps Guanajuato Clinic grow to serve more

**G**uanajuato, Mexico, is located approximately 200 miles northwest of Mexico City and is noted for its colonial-era Spanish architecture. It was established in 1554, and, being one of Mexico's most important silver mining towns, originally, it was very wealthy. This beautiful city is graced with charming buildings and cathedrals, but its rich heritage belies the poverty that exists there today.

Mexico has a large impoverished population that has little hope of upward mobility and inadequate access to health care. In order to give a helping hand, various humanitarian organizations have stepped in over the years. One of these agencies, I Care International Inc., located in Morris, Ill., had responded with as many as four weeklong trips per year to Mexico, with typically two of those missions to Guanajuato. These trips were principally made up of lay people who distributed donated glasses to the needy. Eventually, the IU School of Optometry's VOSH (Volunteer Service to Humanity) students began assisting in these annual "campaigns." In 1995, **Doug Horner, OD, PhD**, was asked to be the faculty adviser for these trips. As time went on, the IU students and supporting alumni and faculty became the dominant participants.

The annual campaigns consist of approximately 35 IUSO students and another nine participants from the alumni and faculty. During these trips, typically about 3,000 patients are seen. The exams consist of history, acuities, autorefractometry, preliminaries, and direct ophthalmoscopy. Additional testing with slit-lamp, BIO, or additional refractive techniques are performed when indicated. Refractive correction is chiefly achieved through dispensing of donated spectacles. The school has a long and strong relationship with the Lions Club recycling center in Upland, Ind. Students over the years have



The Guanajuato Optometry Clinic has an array of patient services to offer.

participated with Horner in developing a computer system that allows the spectacles with closest correction to be selected for each patient, who tend to have a significant amount of astigmatism and who appear to become presbyopic sooner than

expected. These campaigns met some of the immediate visual needs of the patients, but there was an obvious ongoing issue of referral and follow-up that made some of the diagnostic testing of questionable importance.



Cityscape: Guanajuato as seen from a hotel

All of the campaigns had been in partnership with the Guanajuato Department of Infants and Families. Each DIF organization in the individual states of Mexico has the charge to try to help the indigent. This relationship is particularly critical in Guanajuato because of the immobility of the indigent people. In 1998, the then-medical director of DIF, Dr. Carlos Perez, communicated with the leadership of the school to see if a teaching clinic could be developed. The faculty of IUSO greeted this possibility with unanimous support and decided to establish an external rotation in Guanajuato. Rent-free space of approximately 1,200 square feet was allocated for the clinic in the Guanajuato General Hospital. The

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School of Optometry  
INDIANA UNIVERSITY

## ALUMNI FOCUS

This newsletter is published twice a year by the Indiana University Alumni Association, in cooperation with the School of Optometry, to encourage alumni interest in and support of Indiana University. For activities and membership information, call (800) 824-3044, or e-mail [iualumni@indiana.edu](mailto:iualumni@indiana.edu).

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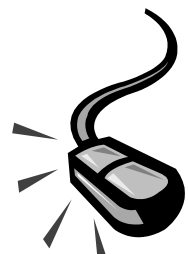
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## Dean's report

# New faculty, new activities welcome

I am writing this during the heat of the summer, which used to mean that activity at the university would be slower. That is no longer the case, with year-round clinics, an increased number of students taking summer classes, working with new faculty, national and international meetings, updating facilities, and other activities. It is busy the year around.

We are fortunate through a couple of campus programs to be welcoming three new faculty this fall. Drs. **Ann Elsner** and **Steve Burns** are senior faculty members joining us from Schepens's Eye Research Institute at Harvard. Ann's main research interests are age-related macular degeneration and basic and applied retinal imaging. She is a leading expert in retinal imaging, developing both sophisticated research imaging techniques and inexpensive clinical imaging devices. She also studies the retinal pathology associated with diabetes and other retinal diseases. Steve's main research interests include the interplay of optical and biological processes, including optical aberrations, the role of photoreceptor sampling, and photodirectionality. He also works in the area of the morphology of the fovea. An important area of his research is optimizing imaging strategies



for retinal disease.

Dr. **Nicholas Port**, a neuroscientist who has been working at the National Institutes of Health for the past seven years, will also join us. He studies eye movements and neuronal processes underlying decisions as to when and where we move our eyes. He has studied neurons in the superior colliculus.

In spring 2006, Dr. **Bill Swanson**, who has been at the SUNY College of Optometry, will be joining

our faculty. Bill's area of expertise includes the relation between human biological processes and visual function in both damaged and healthy visual systems. He has worked in the areas of amblyopia, retinitis pigmentosa, macular degeneration, and color defects. His present major interest and funding is the study of glaucoma and improved perimetric techniques, especially as it relates to ganglion cell loss.

In addition, we are searching for a primary care clinical faculty member and a clinical faculty member to oversee our many outreach programs.

The Eye Care Community Outreach program, headed by the School of Optometry in conjunction with the Department of Ophthalmology and under a \$150,000 grant from the Nina Pulliam Charitable Trust, has grown beyond expectations. It is providing vision care and other health services to hundreds of needy Marion County residents and coordinating services through many central Indiana organizations. The program has received additional grants from the Marion County Department of Health and the Indianapolis Foundation.

During the past year we have had students and faculty go on humanitarian trips to Mexico, Honduras, Dominican Republic, and Bolivia to provide eye care to needy patients.

— Gerald Lowther



## Calendar

Oct. 5-6

IOA Fall Seminar, IMU

Oct. 6

Belgian Waffle Breakfast, 7 a.m.

Oct. 8

Homecoming Tailgate, TBA

## Upcoming class reunions

### Class of '95

Oct. 1, 6 p.m., Irish Lion, Bloomington

Michelle Pedersen and Janet Lomasney, co-chairs

### Class of '70

Oct. 5, 6 p.m., Woodburn House, Bloomington

Russell Elliott, chair

### Class of '85

Oct. 5, TBA

Denise Howard, chair

### Class of '60

TBA

Jim Carty, chair

# School news

## Honors & awards

Several IU alumni, faculty, and students have recently received awards and honors for their work in the profession.

Dr. **Steve Hitzeman** received the Sports Vision Optometrist of the Year Award from the American Optometric Association's Sports Vision Section at the AOA meeting in Dallas in June.

**Stacy Hufnagel**, fourth-year optometry student, won the national Essilor Student Grant Award for her paper titled "Application of Varilux Ellipse in a Young Unilateral Pseudophake." The award was presented at the American Optometric Association meeting in Dallas in June.

On April 21 during the Minority Health Initiative's annual luncheon, Dr. **Ed Marshall** was surprised when Lt. Gov. Becky Skillman announced him as the recipient of the Distinguished Hoosier Award from the Office of the Governor. Marshall was also inducted into the Indiana Academy. He has been selected to receive the Carol Koch Memorial Medal Award at the American Academy of Optometry, meeting later this year. This award is given to a person who has made outstanding contributions to the enhancement and development of relationships between optometry and other professions.

**Roger R. Seelye**, OD'66, was elected to a four-year term on the board of directors of the Association of Regulatory Boards of Optometry at its annual meeting recently in Dallas. He currently serves on the Michigan Board of Optometry and is a past president of the MOA. He received the MOA's Lifetime Achievement Award in 2003 and was the MOA Optometrist of the Year for 1992-93.

**James Wessar**, OD/MS'63, was this year's recipient of the Foley House Award at the AOA Congress in Dallas. This award is given by the IUSO Alumni Association in recognition of alumni who demonstrate long-term support of the school. Wessar practices in Anderson, Ind., where he specializes in children's vision care, learning disabilities, developmental vision, visual rehabilitation, and vision therapy. He has organized and developed visual training programs for those needing vision therapy and training.



## New faculty

**Tiffenie (Larkins) Harris**, BA'89, OD'95, was voted the Consultant of the Year by the Class of 2006 this past year. It served as a reminder of the AI of the Year Award that she received from the Class of 1995. How did this optometrist with an obvious knack for teaching come to Indiana University in the first place, and how did she find her way back?

Her answer: "I came to IU from Detroit in 1985 to follow my high school sweetheart, Walter Harris, who was on a football scholarship." During her undergraduate years she did research for Dr. Gary Hafner for two summers. After receiving her BA in chemistry in 1989, she entered optometry school.

Harris was raised by her grandparents and became interested in the eye care profession after accompanying her grandmother to many glaucoma checks. "I found the process fascinating and wanted to help people in a similar manner," she says. While an undergraduate, she learned the difference between an ophthalmologist and optometrist during an interview with Dr. Ed Marshall for a business class paper. She subsequently decided to pursue optometry because she was more interested in the primary health-care aspect of the profession. While in optometry school, she



Tiffenie Harris

again worked for Hafner, this time as an AI for Gross and Ocular Anatomy. She was also an AI for Neuroanatomy (Pietsch), Ocular Pharmacology (Hegeman), and Gross Anatomy (in the medical sciences department). During this time, Harris says she was "bitten by the teaching bug." In order to pursue her goal of a career in academia, she planned on completing an optometric residency. Life, however, took her in a different direction.

At the end of Harris's schooling, her grandparents became ill. She abandoned her dream of a residency and went home to Detroit with her policeman husband, Walter, to care for her relatives and start her career. Harris worked for an HMO and, eventually, landed at the organization's medical center, where some of the sickest patients were seen. This tertiary care experience developed Harris's ocular and systemic disease skills and taught her a lot about dealing with older patients. Even today, geriatric patients are her favorite demographic.

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## In memoriam

**Steven Peden**, OD'64, 63 (1941-2005), of Winchester, Ind., died on Jan. 15. He was born in Portland and graduated from Dunkirk High School. Active in optometric associations, he was awarded the Meritorious Service to Optometry Award in 1994 and again (posthumously) this year by the IOA. Peden was the IOA liaison to the School of Optometry for several years. He is survived by his wife and two sons.

**Brett Alan Swanda**, OD'05, 28 (1976-2005), died on March 4 while on rotation in San Antonio. He was the son of Dr. John and Gwendolyn Swanda, and is survived by his parents and a sister and brother. Swanda was born in South Bend, Ind., and was a graduate of Clay High School, where he was active in athletics. He was awarded his OD degree posthumously. A scholarship has been established in his name.

**Andy Nemeth**, OD'72, 59 (1945-2005), died on March 15 in Boynton Beach, Fla. He was born in Mishawaka and practiced in Granger, Ind. He is survived by his wife and two sons. Nemeth was a graduate of Riley High School, where he was a member of the 1962 state championship golf team and was a 1963 individual state medalist. He graduated with a BS in biology from Loyola University, where he played on the golf team. Nemeth was an adjunct professor at Indiana University South Bend. He was active in national, state, and local optometric associations and was awarded the Meritorious Service to Optometry Award in 1998 by the IOA. In 2000, he received the Spirit of Philanthropy Award, presented by the IU School of Optometry.

# Alumni notebook

## 1960s

In 2004, **Roger R. Seelye**, BS'65, MS'66, was elected chair of the Michigan Board of Optometry. He lives in Owosso, Mich., and can be reached at [seelyerr@chartermi.net](mailto:seelyerr@chartermi.net).

## 1970s

For the children of **Mel Wilson**, BA'70, BS'73, OD'74, Indiana University is a fact of life. He and his wife, Debbie, have five — twin sons and triplets (two sons and one daughter) — who are undergraduates at IU. All four sons are in the Kelley School of Business, and the daughter is pre-med. Wilson, who is a partner and optometrist at Family Vision Care in Muncie, Ind., was the Indiana Optometrist of the Year in 2004. His address is [dwilson@fvc-eyes.com](mailto:dwilson@fvc-eyes.com).

**Dana Meyer**, BA'72, OD'76, is an optometrist at Meyer-Prather Optometry. In January, he wrote, "I happily associated with **Christopher R. Prather**, BS'97, OD'03, in Noblesville, Ind., where I have practiced for 25 years. Of course, more people means more space. We've built a new office building and are finally settling into a new routine. Part of our growth has come from incorporating the practice of **Wayne A. Ten Cate**, BS'59, MS'60, who has retired." Meyer can be reached at [meyerprather@sbcglobal.net](mailto:meyerprather@sbcglobal.net).

From Jan. 21 to 29, **Raymond A. Hopper Jr.**, BS'77, OD'79, of Peru, Ind., and **Thomas O. Troutman**, BS'71, OD'72,

of Rochester, Ind., went on a medical mission to Belledere, Haiti., where they were joined by Lisa M. Comerford, BSN'85, MSN'94, and Michael Vanden Bossche, BS'60. Sponsored by Saint Joseph's Catholic Church of Rochester's twinning program, the group provided eye, pediatric, and general health care to local Haitians.

## 1980s

**Crystal H. (Bell) Jackson**, ASOpt'80, is vice president for American Contact Lens Service in Indianapolis. She lives in Zionsville, Ind.

**Lorilee A. (Calbert) Krohne**, ASOpt'84, is an ophthalmic technician for Southside Eye Associates in Indianapolis. She has worked for Dr. David F. Box, BA'79, BA/MD'83, for more than 11 years. Her husband, Richard, works in sales for Marchon. They live in Greenwood, Ind., and have two sons.

**David J. Seay**, BS'83, OD'87, opened solo practices at Dixie Vision Center in Louisville, Ky., and the Mount Washington (Ky.) Vision Center.

## 1990s

**Joseph P. Carlino**, BS'88, OD'90, is an optometrist at Advanced Healthcare in Menomonee Falls, Wis. He and his wife, **Roxanne Phelps**, BS'88, OD'90, have two children, Griffin Phelps Carlino, born June 16, 2004, and older brother Colton.

**Troy W. Crist**, OD'92, owns a private practice, is married, and has three children. He lives in Madisonville, Ky., and can be reached at [dr crist@e-dr.net](mailto:dr crist@e-dr.net).

**Becki Hanna Hogan**, BS'93, OD'95, is an optometrist for Optical Expressions in Berlin, Vt. She writes, "I moved to Vermont in 2000. My husband and I built a house on 26 acres with a beautiful view of the mountains. We have two daughters, born in 2001 and 2004." She lives in Plainfield, Vt., and can be reached at [bhogan@pshift.com](mailto:bhogan@pshift.com).

**Julie A. (Tyler) Black**, OD'96, is chief of primary care for the Eye Institute of Nova Southeastern University in Fort Lauderdale, Fla. She and her husband, **Gregory Black**, OD'96, are assistant professors at NSU's College of Optometry. Her address is [jtyler@nova.edu](mailto:jtyler@nova.edu).

The last months of 2003 were busy ones for **Trina R. (Crowe) Warden**, OD'97. In October, she opened her private practice, Love and Warden EyeCare. On Dec. 29, her son, Trent, was born. She lives in Bowling Green, Ky., and can be reached at [drwarden@bellsouth.net](mailto:drwarden@bellsouth.net).

**Marilyn K. Holm**, OD'99, president of Holm Vision Center in Wichita, Kan., opened a new office in October 2004. She lives in Haysville, Kan., and can be reached at [holmvision@hotmail.com](mailto:holmvision@hotmail.com).

**Darcy Calvin Ryan**, BS'98, OD'99, is an optometrist for Super Vision Center in Santa Ana, Calif. He writes, "I moved into a new house and am working on buying my first practice." His address is [dcryan2001@earthlink.net](mailto:dcryan2001@earthlink.net).

## 2000s

**Kristina M. Dunlap**, ASOpt'00, moved back to Bloomington, Ind., to work as an optometric technician for the IU School of Optometry. Her address is [kmdunlap@indiana.edu](mailto:kmdunlap@indiana.edu).

**Brent E. Shelley**, BS'95, OD'00, writes, "I'm living in sunny southern New Mexico, where, when I'm not doing eye exams, I am racing my racecar, flying airplanes, and mountain biking in the Organ Mountains." He lives in Mesilla Park, N.M., and can be reached at [drshelleyod@yahoo.com](mailto:drshelleyod@yahoo.com).

**Jean Berkey Israelson**, BS'97, OD'01, is an optometrist and full partner at Envision Boulder in Boulder, Colo. She writes, "I have enjoyed being home in Boulder!" The Louisville, Colo., resident can be reached at [jeanisaelson@yahoo.com](mailto:jeanisaelson@yahoo.com).

**John D. McKenna II**, BS'97, OD'01, has his own practice, Dr. John D. McKenna, Optometrist, in Indianapolis. The practice was formerly owned by Dr. **Norman D. Young**, BS'60, MS'61. McKenna can be reached at [drjohnmckenna@yahoo.com](mailto:drjohnmckenna@yahoo.com).

**Christopher J. Browning**, BS'98, OD'02, bought a 25-percent partnership in VisionQuest EyeCare, where he is an optometrist. VisionQuest EyeCare has four offices in central Indiana. Browning lives in Greenwood, Ind., with his wife, Amy, and their first child, Grace Elizabeth, who was born on March 29, 2004. His address is [cbrowning@visionquesteyecare.com](mailto:cbrowning@visionquesteyecare.com).

## New faculty

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Eventually, Tiffenie and Walter started thinking about where they wanted to raise their children. Both of them had enjoyed Bloomington when they were students and frequently returned for football games. Walter applied to return to the Bloomington Police Department. Tiffenie applied for a Primary Care Clinic position at IUSO and was hired as an assistant clinical professor in 2004.

Although life is challenging for this full-time working mom, during her "spare time," Tiffenie Harris loves playing with her kids (Walter, 8, Joshua, 4, and Victoria, almost 3), crocheting baby clothes and blankets, and reading. She finds her faculty appointment the perfect way to combine her love of optometry and teaching. Her students seem to agree.

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## Guanajuato

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space was remodeled by IUSO to include a reception/dispensary area, four lanes, and an office for the attending OD. The plan was to have one optometrist supervise four fourth-year clinical interns, the same as stateside. IUSO would provide the faculty salary and benefits for the attending optometrist and send interns who selected the rotation, and the Mexican government would pay the salary of the Mexican receptionist and janitor. The original supervising doctor was **Cindy Foster**, OD'95, who had already spent significant time in Guanajuato. In late 2004, **Jennifer Page**, OD'02, took over. Page has been instrumental in establishing an optical lab so that patients can have their actual prescriptions filled.

Because Guanajuato is at an elevation close to a mile above sea level, there are many problems associated with exposure to the elements and ultraviolet radiation, including pterygia and cataracts. Vernal conjunctivitis is common in children, and the indigenous people are prone to diabetes and glaucoma, which often go unchecked due to lack of access to routine examinations and medication. During the campaigns, patients who have problems that need to be addressed are scheduled at the clinic, and, for the first three or four months after a campaign, the clinic sees these patients. The clinic is scheduled by the social workers of DIF and with transportation DIF can provide. During the rest of the year, about 40 percent of the patients are DIF patients and the rest are self-pay patients from Guanajuato and the surrounding area.

The Guanajuato Clinic has made some progress in meeting the eye-care needs of the local population, but much needs to be done. It is estimated that only 100 cataract surgeries were performed for the needy in

the DIF system, with estimates running into the tens of thousands of patients who need common eye surgeries. To meet this need, the plan is to build a large new vision clinic in Silao, which is about 20 minutes from Guanajuato. The new clinic will be approximately four times as large as the older one, with eight examination lanes, two operating rooms, recovery areas, and relocation of the manufacturing lab. The Mexican federal government has committed \$600,000 (6 million pesos) to this project, and DIF, at last report, has raised another \$400,000 to bring the total to \$1 million for construction. It is likely that a combination of Mexican ophthalmologists and frequent surgical missions from the United States will staff the ORs.

Throughout the years, the largest challenge for the students has been to raise funds for airfare to Guanajuato. The students pay for the trip out of their own pocket, and this year's trip will cost them around \$25,000. VOSH students work diligently year-round to reduce the cost of the trip with fund-raising efforts, such as selling pizza at lunchtime to students and staff, phonathon campaigns, mail appeals, and other events.

There is no doubt that IU students who attend the annual trips and select Guanajuato as one of their external sites profit by giving of themselves to others. There are other benefits from this activity, including viewing conditions not commonly seen in the United States. These students gain confidence and expertise in examining patients in Spanish, also useful at home, where there is a large (and growing) Hispanic population. More and more students will benefit from this opportunity as the Guanajuato Clinic continues to grow and provide eye care to more and more people.

## One doctor's story



Jen Page

Jennifer Page, OD'02, grew up in northwestern Indiana and attended Indiana State University. While in optometry school at IU, she joined VOSH during her third year and went on her first campaign. She selected Guanajuato as one of her external rotations, and then ended up doing a second rotation there when a classmate backed out. After working in private practice for a short while, Page came back to work at IUSO and found herself traveling back and forth to Mexico for various projects. When the position of supervising optometrist became available, she applied and was hired.

Under Page's supervision, the clinic provides eye care at affordable prices to the Mexican people. Eye exams are 45 pesos, or about \$4. Glasses are about 125 pesos (\$12). Recently, a large shipment of supplies was received, which Page calls "Christmas in July."

"We now have a printer, fax, scanner, and copier, with three new Dell computers that are up and running," she says. "The receptionist is happy as a lark."

Page enjoys the challenge of providing eye care in a foreign country and teaching students who are willing to leave the comforts of home for 12 weeks. She is excited about the new clinic, which is expected to be completed by 2006.

"Guanajuato is a beautiful city, and I love being there," she says. She also enjoys dancing the salsa, which doesn't hurt when living in Mexico.



Patients wait patiently beneath a tent to have their eyes checked.

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