



# School of Optometry INDIANA UNIVERSITY Alumni Focus

Vol. XXIII

Indiana University School of Optometry Alumni Association

Fall 2004

## School mourns

### Dean Emeritus Gordon G. Heath dies

**W**e are all saddened by the death of Dr. Gordon Glenn Heath, who died Friday, June 4, 2004. He was an outstanding leader in the optometric profession. He was born in Sultan, Wash., on Sept. 22, 1922, but considered himself a native Californian because he moved there with his family when he was only 5 years old. He enrolled in the University of California at Berkeley in 1940 to pursue a degree in chemical engineering, but the outbreak of World War II altered that plan. He joined the U.S. Naval Reserve and, in its V-12 program, attended Los Angeles City College, Peru (Nebraska) State Teachers College, and Northwestern University in Chicago, where he graduated from Midshipmen's School with a commission as an ensign. He was immediately sent to New Guinea, where he joined his ship, the U.S.S. *Carter Hall* (LSD-3), just in time to participate in the invasion of Leyte Gulf in the Philippines. After other invasions and voyages to many Pacific ports and not long after the war's end, the *Carter Hall* was sent to Shanghai.

There Dr. Heath was appointed its commanding officer, a post he held until returning to the United States for discharge from active duty.

In 1946, he resumed his education, entering the University of Southern California. In 1948, he entered the Los Angeles College of Optometry, where he earned the BVS degree in 1950 and the OD degree in 1951. He entered the graduate program in physiological optics at the University of California, Berkeley, in fall 1951, later receiving the MS and PhD degrees. It was at this time that he met and married his wife, Dorothy.



Gordon G. Heath

Dr. Heath came to Indiana University in 1955. He served as director of the optometry clinic from 1955 to 1960 and director of the graduate program in physiological optics from 1960 to 1970, at which time he became director of the Division of Optometry. Under his leadership, the division was elevated to school status in 1975, and he was appointed dean, a position he held until July 31, 1988.

Dr. Heath will be fondly remembered by the many graduate students he has mentored during his lifetime. One of his greatest accomplishments at the School of Optometry at Indiana University was the number of graduates who have gone on to become associate deans, deans, and presidents of other optometry institutions around the country and the world.

Dr. Heath served as president of the Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry from 1963 to 1965 and as president of the American Academy of Optometry for the years 1983 and 1984. He held an appointment as research consultant to the Office of the Surgeon General

of the Army and was a member of the National Academy of Sciences/National Research Council Committee on Vision; the Advisory Council for Health Professions, HEW; and the National Advisory Eye Council, National Eye Institute, NIH. His research interests centered on color vision and photoreceptor directionality. He authored numerous papers and co-authored two books.

He is survived by Dorothy, his loving wife of 50 years, five children, and 12 grandchildren.



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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## Dean's report

# New room, new faculty, new connections

As I write this in early August, the workers are busy remodeling Classroom 105. They have promised that it will be ready for the start of the fall semester. I know everyone who spent many days sitting on those hard seats will be sad to see them go (Ha!). The room will be much lighter with light floor tile, new wall coverings, new lighting, new audio system, and, of course, new soft seats. It will have the latest computer and projection systems, as well as electrical outlets at each seat for computers. There is a wireless Internet connection in the room. What a change from the old days! We appreciate everyone who has "bought seats" with their donations to make this possible. There are still seats available for "purchase" on which we will put a plaque indicating your support. We especially thank Alice Bennett for a very generous donation for the remodeling. In fact, the room will be called the Jack W. Bennett Lecture Hall. A reception was held there on Wednesday evening, Oct. 6, after the courses at the Fall Seminar so that attendees could see the room. Of course, you are welcome to come in anytime.

We just had a research faculty retreat to help plan for the future of our growing research program. Our research activity has increased severalfold in the last few years. We expect it to continue to rapidly grow



with many new federal and corporate grants. We have three new research faculty signed up to come in next summer. They, too, were here for the meeting. Ann Elsner and Steve Burns are coming from Harvard. Ann does clinically based research in ARMD and other topics. Steve does research in ocular imaging. Nicolas Port will be coming from the National Eye Institute. He does neurological research with emphasis on eye movements. We have searches going on for additional research

and teaching faculty, thanks to a special program supported by the campus.

Our clinical capabilities continue to expand. We have OCT III's in both the Bloomington and Indianapolis clinics, digital retinal cameras, a sophisticated electrodiagnostic clinic, and an infant vision program with electrodiagnostic capabilities to evaluate non-responsive infants.

We were disappointed when Deb McConnaha decided to spend full time in her practice. Thus, we are now searching for a full-time faculty member to handle our growing low-vision patient load at the Indianapolis Eye Care Center and at our new IU Eye at Carmel clinic, which is in conjunction with the IU Department of Ophthalmology.

— Gerald Lowther

## Professor Emeritus Merrill J. Allen dies at 85

Merrill J. Allen, OD, PhD, FCOVD, died on Dec 28, 2003, in Bloomington. A native of San Antonio, Dr. Allen studied at the University of Texas, later transferring to Ohio State University, where he completed his optometry degree in 1941 and master's in 1942.

During World War II, he worked for the National Defense Research Council. Dr. Allen was commissioned by the U.S. Naval Reserve and served at the West Coast Rocket Training Command in El Centro, Calif.

After the war, Dr. Allen returned to Ohio State to earn a PhD in physiological optics and to teach. When the IU Division of Optometry was founded in 1953, Dr. Allen was one of the first faculty members hired. He was a pioneer in vehicle safety and published two books, *Vision and Highway Safety* and *Forensic Aspects of Vision and Highway Safety*. He conducted early research on the use of daytime running lights and higher mounted brake lights. His research showed that when the brake lights on a car were elevated it dramatically improved the distance at which a braking vehicle could be seen, and, subsequently, brake lights were mounted higher on cars.

Dr. Allen retired from the Indiana University School of Optometry in 1987, after a career that included teaching, research, and the publication of hundreds of articles. He was preceded in death by his wife, Joanne, and is survived by two children and several grandchildren.

— Excerpted with permission from the Bloomington Herald-Times.

# Optometry celebrates 50 years of service

On Oct. 1, 2003, Dean Gerald Lowther welcomed alumni, friends, family, and respected associates of the School of Optometry to a 50th anniversary gala event. More than 500 people gathered in the IU Memorial Union to thank those past and present who were instrumental in the successes of the school and to honor alumni and friends. The event was held in conjunction with the Indiana Optometric Association's annual Fall Seminar in Bloomington, which allowed many optometry graduation classes to hold reunions during the banquet. Each attendee received a copy of the fall 2003 *Indiana Journal of Optometry*, which offered a detailed history of the school through 1975 written by Dr. David Goss, and a commemorative poster.



# School unveils Wall of Recognition in 2003

A "Wall of Recognition" was unveiled in the third-floor lobby of the school on Oct. 1, 2003, during the Fall Seminar. Individuals who were essential to the founding and development of the school were honored. Their photos and a statement of their contributions will be perpetually on display. In future years, the names of other individuals making special contributions to the school or to the profession will be added. Visiting alumni celebrated the 50th anniversary of the school (see photos on page 3) and took photographs of the commemorative wall.



Those honored appear in alphabetical order from top to bottom, left to right:

- Noah Bixler**, OD; member, Founding Committee; president, IOA 1923-24
- Irving M. Borish**, OD; member, Founding Committee; faculty member, 1973-83; president IOA, 1954
- Herman T. Briscoe**; IU vice president and dean of faculties; worked to establish the Division of Optometry
- Edgar J. Cain**, OD; president, IOA, 1945-46, at forming of Founding Committee; IOA OD of the Year, 1960
- John P. Davey**, OD; chair, Founding Committee; author of 1935 Optometry Licensure Law Resolution
- Ellis C. Doering**, OD; member, Founding Committee; president, IOA, 1934-35
- C. Earl Fischer**, OD; member, Founding Committee; president, IOA, 1933
- Henry W. Hofstetter**, OD, PhD; director, Division of Optometry, 1952-70; faculty member, 1952-79; Rudy Professor of Optometry, 1974
- Galen F. Kintner**, OD; member, Founding Committee; editor, Indiana Optometrist, 1943-45
- Kenneth E. Kintner**, OD; member, Founding Committee; IOA OD of the Year, 1968
- Cedric B. MacDaniel**, OD; chair, IOA Trust Fund Committee; IOA OD of the Year, 1958
- Virgil A. McCleary**, OD; president, IOA, at passing of House Bill 199; IOA Distinguished Service in Optometry Award, 1969
- Robert Tubesing**, OD; member, Founding Committee; president, IOA 1953
- Lloyd Wedeking**, OD; member, Founding Committee; president, IOA 1952
- Herman B Wells**, president of Indiana University at founding of the Division of Optometry

## Chuck Haine joins Foley House ranks



The 2004 Foley House recipient Chuck Haine, OD'74, from left, is congratulated by fellow Foley winner Steven Hitzeman, OD'76, and Dean Gerald Lowther. Haine has distinguished himself not only as a great educator at Southern College of Optometry and as a supporter of Indiana University School of Optometry, but also by his work in the VA system and with the National Board of Examiners in Optometry, as well as in the development of the Optometric Residency Matching System ([www.orms.org](http://www.orms.org)).

### Previous Foley House Awardees

- 2003 Steve Van Cleve
- 2002 Doug Morrow
- 2001 Jeff Marshall
- 2000 Ed Marshall
- 1999 Bob Moses
- 1998 George Rector
- 1997 Jerald Strickland
- 1996 Dawn Kaufman
- 1995 Steve Hitzeman
- 1994 Lois Selk
- 1993 Dan Gerstman
- 1992 Donald Robins
- 1991 Felix Barker
- 1990 Dennis Escol

# Alumni notebook

## 1960s

**Charles Comer**, BS'60, MS'60, was an Air Force optometrist from 1961 to 1965, after which he started a private optometry practice in East Chicago. He was the manager/meeting planner for the National Optometric Association from 1995 to 2004. He lives in East Chicago, Ill., and can be reached at ccomer2@aol.com.

**Robert F. Robb**, BS'60, MS'60, and his wife, Phyllis, were awarded a National Conservancy Award from the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution for their donation of the Robb Hidden Canyon Nature Preserve, which is a 65-acre nature preserve in Steuben County, Ind. Robb and his wife live in Fort Wayne, Ind.

**Robert E. Miller**, BS'68, OD'70, MS'82, writes that he is "back working in research for USAF laser eye protection for pilots at Brooks Air Force Base in San Antonio." He lives in Universal City, Texas.

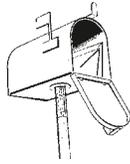
**Norman E. Wallis**, MA'68, PhD'73, was recently honored with a doctor of ocular science honorary degree by Southern College of Optometry in Memphis, Tenn. He lives in Arlington, Va.

## 1970s

**Melvin D. Shipp**, BS'70, OD'72, was inducted into the National Optometry Hall of Fame on Oct. 31, 2002. He heads the optometry school at the University of Ohio. Previously, he was an associate professor of optometry at the University of Alabama at Birmingham and treasurer of the American Public Health Association.

**John F. Amos**, MS'72, was named dean of the University of Alabama at Birmingham's School of Optometry after having served as interim dean since October 2000.

**Felix M. Barker**, OD'73, BS'71, writes, "My daughter, Adrienne R. Barker, BA'02, is serving in Iraq. She was commissioned as an Army Corps second lieutenant in June. She is an IU ROTC graduate and a member of the Kappa Delta sorority. She was captain



*Get in touch:  
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of the Army ROTC Little 500 team for two years. She has been stationed near the Baghdad airport but was recently reassigned to tactical satellite platoon leader in Iraq." He can be reached at felix@pco.edu.

Capt. **Keven C. Reed**, BA'73, OD'77, is transferring from Maryland to Jacksonville, Fla., after completing three years as the Navy's specialty leader for optometry and as the assistant staff director for the clinical division of the joint readiness clinical advisory board. Previously, he and his wife, Kiyoko, were stationed at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. They can be reached at kevenreed@earthlink.net.

**Patricia Jennings Eckerty**, ASOpT'77, is a sales representative for Lee Jeans Co. She lives in Indianapolis.

**Steven E. Rosen**, BS'77, OD'79, is going on his ninth and 10th eyeglass missions to Peru and Costa Rica, respectively. His wife, Karen B. Rosen, BA'77, will be taking her ninth and 10th trips to El Salvador and Paraguay, respectively. The couple lives in Chesterfield, Mo.

## 1980s

**Nancy S. Manning-Kidd**, AS'81, is working toward her BA in art education at Brenau University in Gainesville, Ga. After graduation, she plans to teach and continue working toward her master's degree.

**Christopher S. Ralston**, ASOpT'87, BA'93, is a school safety specialist for the Greater Clark County School District in Jeffersonville, Ind.

**Richard J. Schamerloh**, BA'87, OD'92, is an optometrist for Eyecare Associates of Bluffton, Ind. He lives in Fort Wayne, Ind., with his wife, **Sara L. Schamerloh**, BS'85, OD'87, who is an optometrist for the Northern Indiana VA Medical Center.

## 1990s

**Janet Schreiber Ashley**, BS'90, OD'93, writes, "After living in Georgia for eight years, I returned to Indiana and am busy raising my three daughters and working part time as an optometrist in Huntington and Warsaw." She and her husband, Tom, live in Huntington and can be reached at tashley@kconline.com.

**Laura (Lee) Jansen**, BS'87, OD'92, and her husband, Jay C. Jansen, BA'88, MD'92, celebrated the birth of their fourth child, Ella Cate. They live in Arden, N.C., and can be reached at jjansen@charter.net.

**Todd A. Neugent**, OD'92, owns his own practice in Albuquerque, N.M.

**David W. Koles**, BS'92, OD'97, writes, "I am a captain in the U.S. Air Force, stationed at Lajes Field in Azores, Portugal."

**Carisa A. McFadyen**, BS'93, OD'97, is an optometrist with Dr. James Schoelles. She lives in Batavia, Ohio.

**Jennifer R. Bailey**, OD'95, owns her own practice in New Castle, Ind.

**Julia A. Regazzi**, AS'95, works for Dupont Vision Center in Fort Wayne, Ind.

**Dana L. Miner**, AS'96, is an RN for Community Hospital in Munster, Ind. She lives in Crown Point, Ind.

In November 2003, **Kathleen I. (Henry) Busby**, OD'97, opened her own optometry practice, Busby Eye Care, in Carmel, Ind. She can be reached at kathleen\_henry@hotmail.com.

**Monica M. Price**, BS'97, OD'02, practices with the pediatric ophthalmology and adult strabismus group at Midwest Eye Institute in Indianapolis.

## 2000s

**John D. McKenna**, BS'97, OD'01, recently celebrated his two-year anniversary as an associate optometrist with Lanter Eye Care and Laser Surgery in Carmel, Ind. The Indianapolis resident can be reached at drjohnmckenna@yahoo.com.

Announcing

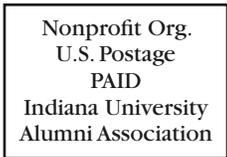
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