



SCHOOL OF OPTOMETRY

INDIANA UNIVERSITY
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Alumni Focus

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IUSO breaks new ground, celebrates continued success



Sean Bright/Bright Architects

On Jan. 29, Indiana University officials held a ceremonial groundbreaking at the IU School of Optometry to celebrate the beginning of construction on the new Optometry Eye Care Center. The two-story, 22,000 square-foot facilities will be located across the street from the IUSO on the south edge of campus, at 736 E. Atwater.

This new location improves visibility and will be more accessible than the previous building. The first floor will house one of the largest dispensaries in the state and the Primary Care Clinic; the Binocular Vision/Pediatrics and Contact Lens Clinic will be situated on the second floor. Interestingly enough, the new structure is being built where the Foley House (the original location of the Optometry School Clinic from 1959 to 1968) once stood.

IU President Michael McRobbie hosted the groundbreaking ceremony. In his remarks, he recalled the history of the school and the significant contributions

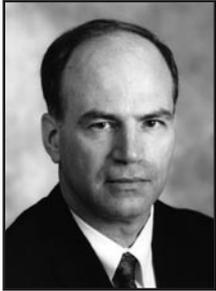
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Chris Meyer/Indiana University

IU Provost Karen Hanson, Director of Clinics Steven Hitzeman, Dean Gerald Lowther, and IU President Michael McRobbie "break ground" on the new 20,000-square-foot clinical facility rendered above.

Exciting horizons make final report bittersweet



Lowther

I have mixed emotions as I write this last column as dean. It has been almost 10 years since I was appointed; it certainly doesn't seem that long.

I want to thank all the alumni who have been so supportive of me and the school. It has always been a pleasure to work with the alumni board, to attend meetings of alumni, and to have alumni visit the school. Even though I step down as dean on July 1, I will still stay involved with the school and the profession. I look forward to continuing my interaction with Indiana University alumni.

Many alumni and friends of the school have provided support through monetary gifts and commitment of time. This help has made it possible for the IU School of Optometry to maintain a leadership position in clinical education and vision research. I would ask that you continue and expand your support for the new dean.

The new clinical facility is finally under construction, with a projected completion date of August 2008. The 20,000-square-foot building will be located across from the optometry building on Third Street. Everyone is anxiously awaiting its completion, as the new facility will provide more modern space and will be more visible and accessible to the public. The new space will enhance our clinical education while providing the community with outstanding vision and health care. The present plan is to host a dedication during the Fall Seminar. Hopefully you will be able to attend.

The white coat ceremony for second-year students was a great success again this year. The ceremony is a time



The Indianapolis Eye Care Center received its first update in 16 years. IECC facilities now include the beautiful Eye Wear Center, above.

to honor the students and impress on them the importance of professionalism and ethics. This event is held after the students have completed their competency exam and before they start providing care to patients in the clinic. There were well over 300 in attendance at the dinner and ceremony, including many family members.

We were fortunate to have Dr. **Joan Exford-Korb**, BA'63, OD'64, as the speaker. Joan was the second woman graduate of the IU School of Optometry, and she was the first — and to date, the only — woman president of the American Academy of Optometry. She is now in very busy practice in Boston with her husband, Donald Korb.

Times have really changed since Joan graduated. More than half of the present classes are now women, and it was nice for this class see how successful she has become. We also want to thank

Vistakon for supporting the white coat ceremony.

The remodeling of the Indianapolis Eye Care Center was completed at the end of 2007. This is the first major overhaul of IECC since opening in November 1992. The renovation included the construction of a new Eye Wear Center, conference room, break room, and new offices. The cosmetic overhaul of the entire clinic includes updated walls and floor coverings. This clinic continues to grow, serving many patients from the surrounding community, indigent patients, patients from community centers, the homeless, and patients in hospital settings.

As always I invite all alumni to visit the school. If you have not visited for several years, the changes will surprise you.

Best wishes,
Jerry Lowther

Alumna named 2007 Kentucky Young Optometrist of the Year

Patricia Ward Adams, OD '03, received the Kentucky Optometry Association's Young Optometrist of the Year Award in April 2007. The award is given to an optometrist who has been in



Adams, OD '03

practice for less than seven years and who has made significant contributions and commitments to the profession.

Adams earned the nomination for her multiple service activities. While in high school, she began taking Voluntary Optometric Services to Humanity trips with her mother, Jeannette, and father, **Andrew Ward, BS'73, OD'73**. She continued doing so in optometry school and has been on 10 mission trips with VOSH since 1995. She co-founded her local VOSH chapter, and provides free eye exams to the needy through various Kentucky organizations.

Adams is also a captain in the Kentucky Air National Guard where she has been the chief of optometric services for the last two years. She says her job there is to "keep the flyers flying." Congratulations, Tricia! — *excerpted from an article by David Blackburn of the Messenger Inquirer*

Membership Matters

To join, renew, upgrade your annual membership to life membership, or give a gift membership, call (800) 824-3044, e-mail iuaamemb@indiana.edu, or visit www.alumni.indiana.edu

IUSO welcomes new faculty members

Shirin Hassan is an assistant professor of optometry at the Indiana University School of Optometry. Originally from Australia, Hassan completed her optometry training in 1995 and has practiced part-time as a primary-care and low-vision optometrist.

Following completion of her PhD in optometry in 2000, Hassan undertook a research fellowship and was later promoted to the rank of assistant professor of ophthalmology at the Lions Vision Research and Rehabilitation Center at Johns Hopkins University's Wilmer Eye Institute. She held this position for four years before joining the IUSO faculty in November 2007.

Hassan's research interests focus principally in the area of low vision and mobility. Specifically, she has conducted studies in the assessment of gaze (eye movement) behavior and mobility performance in normally sighted and visually impaired people as well as investigating the fixation patterns of people with age-related macular degeneration.

Hassan also studies how people use their vision to navigate safely and independently; how normally-sighted, visually impaired, and blind pedestrians use their vision and hearing to make appropriate street-crossing decisions; as well as the vision and cognitive factors associated with driving performance in older drivers.

Todd Peabody, OD '03, returns to IU School of Optometry after a four-year absence. Before entering optometry school, Peabody received a Navy scholarship that required a four-year commitment to the Navy after graduation.

He was assigned to the Naval Health Clinic Great Lakes in Illinois, where he served as a staff optometrist. There, Peabody was active as extern director and adjunct assistant clinical professor for ICO and SCO. Near the end of his time in the Navy, he was selected to be the sole coalition optometrist in Kuwait from August 2006 to February 2007. In Kuwait, Peabody was responsible for the eye care for coalition troops from Kuwait, Afghanistan, Iraq, and the Persian Gulf.

Peabody enjoyed the time he spent teaching students at NHCGL so much so that in 2007 he joined the IUSO clinical faculty in the primary care clinic. He is active in several committees and is one of two faculty advisors to the IU Optometric Student Association. Additionally, he is involved with Voluntary Optometric Services to Humanity, and he is the vice president of the local optometric association.

Since returning to Bloomington with his wife, Erin, and their two golden retrievers, Peabody has also started a running club for IUSO faculty, staff, students, and friends of the program. They run once a week. The group is currently training to run this spring's Kentucky Derby Festival Mini-Marathon, held in Louisville, Ky.



Hassan



Peabody, OD '03

IUSO optometrist awarded Rural Health Fellowship



Perotti, OD'97

Jeffrey Perotti, OD'97, was one of 12 people nationwide awarded the National Rural Health Association Rural Health Fellowship. He is the first optometrist to receive this award.

Currently in its second year, the program is designed to develop leaders in rural health issues across the country. Perotti, who is Indiana University School of Optometry community outreach director, sees the program as an opportunity to learn how to best approach rural health eye care issues.

Perotti has worked with underserved populations before. He served in the United States Public Health Service, providing primary eye care to Native Americans in Montana and Arizona. After five years working part-time for the school, he joined the IUSO faculty in 2006 as a full-time clinical assistant professor. He also serves on the board of Prevent Blindness Indiana, is a member of the American Optometric Association, and was recently elected president of the Stonebelt Society of the Indiana Optometric Association.

IUSO currently maintains four rural health clinics that provide care to underserved individuals. In addition, the school is involved in many programs that offer vision care to those with limited access to such care.

The Eye Care Community Outreach program, a grant-driven initiative currently funded by Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield, was created to improve access to vision health care services for uninsured and low-income individuals in Marion and surrounding Indiana counties. Find out more about IUSO outreach programs at www.opt.indiana.edu/outreach.

In Memoriam

Remembering Dustin Jones

On Nov. 10, 2007 the Indiana University School of Optometry class of 2010 lost fellow student **Dustin Lee Jones** to an automobile accident. Born Feb. 5, 1983, Jones was the son of Terry and Cindy Jones, of Scottsburg, Ind. He is also survived by his brother Derek, a current IU freshman. Dustin graduated from IU in May 2005 before joining the School of Optometry's class of 2010.

A gentleman who truly cared for everyone he knew, Dustin grew up with a passion for serving people in a healthcare field. He devoted his time to getting to know everyone he could; anyone who knew him could honestly say he enjoyed everything in his life to the fullest. He was a young man who always had a smile on his face, and he was the go-to-guy when planning the next social event for his friends. Drew Hoffman, Dustin's best friend, said Dustin was "passionate about everything he did. He just loved life."

Dustin's passing has been a great loss to the school and profession of optometry. Now, some of his closest friends are working with the Jones family and the school to donate memorial funds to better IUSO student facilities in his honor. All students of the class of 2010 will remember Dustin with permanent memorial ribbons stitched on their white clinic coats. The ribbons are red for IU and blue for the Indianapolis Colts, two of Dustin's loves.

Dustin had great vision for his future career as a family practice optometrist. As his friends and classmates, we can say he would have been one of the best; the profession of optometry is missing out on a great asset. Our friend and classmate is truly missed everyday.

— Elizabeth Roush and Drew Hoffman



Dustin had great vision for his future career as a family practice optometrist.

Alumni Notebook

1960s

Rollan J. Gongwer, BS/BA'66, OD'68, a retired optometrist, lives in Oro Valley, Ariz., two hours south of Tempe. He writes that on Dec. 31, 2007, he attended the Insight Bowl in Tempe, the first Hoosier football game he has attended since graduating from IU Bloomington.

1970s

John M. Brand, BS'72, OD'74, provides vision-care services to veterans at the George E. Wahlen VA Medical Center in Salt Lake City. He also works as an adjunct professor of optometry for the Pacific College of Optometry, the Southern California College of Optometry, and the Ohio State University College of Optometry. A mission pilot for the Civil Air Patrol, Brand flew airborne reconnaissance missions for the 2002 Winter Olympics. He lives in West Jordan, Utah, with his wife, Mary (Green), BS'73, who received a master's degree at the University of Utah.

1980s

Jill Ellis Reeb, AS'83, is an optician at Deerfield Opticians Inc. in Deerfield Beach, Fla. She and her husband, David, BS'86, a claims representative, live in Deerfield Beach with their daughter, Athena.

1990s

Julie Helvie Townsend, Cert'92, AS'93, is optical manager at Eye Physicians Inc. in Kokomo, Ind. She lives in Peru, Ind.



Class of 1982 reunion



Class of 1985 reunion

"I am blissfully self-employed and run the Shelley Eye Center in Las Cruces, N.M.," writes **Brent E. Shelley**, BS'95, OD'00. "I am still an avid pilot. My son and I spend two or three weekends a month at the airport toying around." Shelley lives in Las Cruces.

Jill Harder, AS'99, is a sales representative at Marchon Eyewear Inc. in Melville, N.Y.

2000s

Valerie J. Christian, OD'03, celebrated the birth of her second set of twins in October 2006. Christian lives in Honaker, Va.

Nicole Bonham, OD'05, is an associate optometrist at EyeCare Specialists in Brazil, Ind. She also serves as vice president of the Western Indiana Optometric Society. Bonham lives in Terre Haute, Ind.

Jennifer L. Kellems, OD'05, works at the Wal-Mart Vision Center in Corydon, Ind. Her son, Hunter Thomas, was born July 31, 2006, and her daughter, Hope Deborah, was born Aug. 24, 2007. Kellems lives in Derby, Ind.

Tiffany J. Stuckey, OD'05, of Maryland Heights, Mo., is an optometrist in St. Louis. On Nov. 3, 2007, she married Mark A. Johnson, who works in computer desktop support. The couple honeymooned in Paris.

Kristie Wolfe, AS'05, is an optometry technician in the office of Dr. John R. Wade in Batesville, Ind. She lives in West Harrison, Ind.



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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 ialumni@indiana.edu.

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New clinic

(continued from page 1)

IUSO has offered and will offer the optometric world. Provost Karen Hanson touched on the quality clinical care that IUSO provides the Bloomington and southern Indiana communities. Director of Clinics Steve Hitzeman and IU Optometry Students Association President Natalie Lambert spoke as well. Both addressed the enhancements that the new facility will make to the education of students as they provide optometric care.

“The building will provide our students and the Bloomington community with the best eye care technology available as well as create space in the current clinic’s location for cutting-edge research,” IUSO Dean Gerald Lowther said. Following the speeches, McRobbie and fellow speakers took part in a traditional dirt-turning.

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