



## Director's Message

– Thomas Freddo, OD, PhD, FAAO

### Sustaining Momentum

As we enter the later months of 2009, I'm pleased to be able to reflect on the past year at University of Waterloo School of Optometry as a busy, exciting, and productive one. But the question is: how will we be able to sustain such momentum? The simple answer is: YOU, our friends, alumni, corporate and educational partners, faculty, staff, and students, who have collectively enabled our current accomplishments and will drive our future success. To YOU, I say THANK YOU. It is your ongoing support and involvement that allows us to be innovative and strategic as we work to meet the optometric education needs of our students and alumni.

So what are the highlights from this past year? In my mind, there are many, but here are a few that I think stand out. First and foremost, we completed and celebrated the opening of our new 40,000 square foot addition on June 5th. It was a memorable day that marked the end of 9 years of planning, a lot of hard work, and a tremendous amount of support from our alumni and friends. What made it even more special was that we were able to share this moment with over 400 of you! Thank you to everyone who has supported us to help make this bright and beautiful new addition a reality.

Other events of note in the past year included the first ever white coat ceremony in Canada for Optometry students, our second 'CE on the Sea' Cruise, and a 100-hour TPA program. TLC Laser Eye Centers opened an expanded laser centre on July 24 within our new addition, allowing for further expansion of educational opportunities for UWSO students. We also revived our Vision Science Research Seminar Series, which brought 6 renowned vision researchers to the School this year to share their research and insights with us. All of these initiatives help strengthen optometric education.

Building on the outcomes of our 2007 Forum, 'Creating a Vision of the Canadian Optometrist in 2015', we have begun a detailed review of our Doctor of Optometry curriculum, with an eye to emphasizing practical, clinically relevant material and beginning patient care opportunities earlier in the program. We have also completed an operational and organizational review of the UW clinic, culminating in a report that will provide a basis for future planning and policy development regarding clinical education.

How does an institution make such progress? The answer is quite simple. Build a dedicated and high quality faculty, gather an equally dedicated staff, admit top quality students and graduate students to challenge us to strive for excellence, and earn the generous support of alumni, corporate partners, and government to assist us in achieving our goals.....and keep on moving!!



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Optometry  
NEW S L E T T E R  
UW SCHOOL OF

So what's next? This year we will admit yet another class of 90 outstanding students to our Doctor of Optometry program, hire additional faculty, and admit new graduate students. During this time, we will initiate, continue, and complete a number of projects that are consistent with our core missions of patient care, research, and education.


Among these projects will be the completion of our new \$1.2 million joint clinic with The Centre for Family Medicine at the new UW Health Sciences campus in Kitchener. We are grateful for this partnership, which does so much to promote interprofessional care. We thank the University of Waterloo and our friends at INNOVA for their assistance in helping us build and equip this new facility.

As we move forward, we will embark upon Phase 2 of our construction project: a major renovation of the UW Optometry Clinic. The new clinic will more efficiently support TPAs with a strong primary health care emphasis in clinical education. We are currently in the process of forming plans for this \$4 million undertaking, which is part of our \$12.4 million expansion and renovation campaign.

We will also dedicate the new Witer Learning Resource Centre within the new addition. We will hire a new Associate Director for Clinical Affairs to further strengthen clinical education, implement suggestions made in our clinic review, and continue the process of our curriculum review and revision.

In addition, we hope to provide our alumni and friends with more information on an ongoing basis. Check our Calendar of Events both in this newsletter and online at [www.optometry.uwaterloo.ca/alumni](http://www.optometry.uwaterloo.ca/alumni) to see what is happening at the School. I encourage you to attend these events and keep in touch!

In this issue of our newsletter you will also read about Jake Sivak's retirement, research initiatives and partnerships at UWSO, and our highly successful 5th Annual Reunion Dinner.

Sustaining so much transformation, and building new partnerships in clinical education and training (especially during economic downturns), requires careful planning and strong advocacy and commitment from all of our supporters. I hope you will be inspired by our efforts and will support our program, helping us to sustain momentum and advance the only English speaking optometry school in Canada. As always, never hesitate to call or write – we're listening! 



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*Special thanks to all those who contributed items for the newsletter.*

This issue of the University of Waterloo School of Optometry newsletter is sponsored by



In addition to sponsoring the Optometry Newsletter, Alcon is committed to advancing optometric education through its involvement and support in many other areas: the School's new expansion (which has been recognized through the naming of the Alcon Group Study Rooms), an ongoing lecture series, two annual student awards, Continuing Education initiatives, and various research projects at UWSO.

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#### References:

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With the addition complete and plans under way for significant renovations, we still have an overall fundraising goal of \$12.4 million. This campaign is essential to fund our ambitious expansion and renovation project. We are asking our alumni to stand by us during this time of growth and need by making a donation toward this important project. It is only through your involvement that we can continue to meet the demands of excellence in both optometric education and the profession.



## Gift/Pledge Form



I/we wish to support excellence in education at the UW School of Optometry by supporting the expansion and renovation campaign.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

Gift/Pledge Amount \_\_\_\_\_ Pledge Period \_\_\_\_\_ Years Start Date \_\_\_\_\_

Project: UW School of Optometry – Building Expansion and Renovation Project

### Method of Payment

I/we have enclosed an initial payment of \$\_\_\_\_\_ and wish to pay the remainder in installments.  
Please send me periodic reminders:

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## Thank You For Your Support!

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Please return this form to:

Andrea Carthew, Senior Development Officer – School of Optometry, University of Waterloo  
200 University Ave. West, Waterloo, Ontario N2L 3G1

# A Reason To Be Proud – The Addition Is Completed!

– Andrea Carthew



Dr. Thomas Freddo, School Director; Dr. Des Fonn, Director, Centre for Contact Lens Research; John Milloy, Ontario Minister of Training, Colleges and Universities; Meg Beckel, Vice President, External Relations, University of Waterloo.


On June 5 2009, UWSO was proud to show off our latest accomplishment. After 9 years of planning and hard work, fundraising and generosity, promotion and partnerships, we have finally completed the building expansion! It was truly wonderful to be able to celebrate this special occasion with over 400 alumni, faculty, staff, students, corporate partners, and friends.

With our recent 50% enrolment increase almost complete, the students were literally ‘feeling the crunch’, which made the significance of the new addition all the more meaningful. This light, bright space will enhance and increase areas for future optometrists to study and flourish. The two storey, 40,000 square foot addition features a stunning 125 seat lecture theatre, the new Witer Learning Resource Centre, many group study rooms and carrels, the new COETF Student Commons, an expanded location for TLC Waterloo, and more prominent space for the Museum of Vision Science.

The ceremony itself included speeches from special guests, including John Milloy, Ontario Minister of Training, Colleges and Universities; Meg Beckel, VP External Relations, UW; Bill Bobier, former School Director; Graham Berg, CAOS President; and Thom Freddo, School Director. This was followed by a ribbon cutting to mark the official opening of the addition, as well as tours and lunch.

This multimillion dollar project was only made possible through the generous support of our alumni, corporate partners, and friends. “It is through their passion and commitment toward the profession of optometry that the school continues to expand its profile and impact on the North American stage,” said Dr. Thomas Freddo, School Director. “It is with heartfelt appreciation that we acknowledge everyone who has contributed to the campaign and to the future of optometric education. Thank you for your generosity!”

Donor recognition was a focal point of the event, while additional acknowledgements were made to: Jake Sivak, Graham Strong and Bill Bobier, all former School Directors, for their roles in initiating and guiding the necessary expansion of both enrolment and space; Gary Marx, Administrator and Financial Officer, who was the project manager; and Des Fonn, Director of the Centre for Contact Lens Research, who is our campaign champion.

To cope with the rise in enrolment, we embarked on a \$12.4 million fundraising campaign to support the expansion and renovation project. To date, \$8 million has been raised toward this ambitious initiative. With \$4 million left to raise and the launch of the clinical renovations phase of the project imminent, we plan to extend the campaign to ensure we meet our goals. This will provide UWSO with the resources needed to support the expansion and renovation of current facilities while ensuring critical funding for the costly clinical program, the very basis of an optometric education. 



# TLC Waterloo Celebrates Its Expanded Facility

– Andrea Carthew



on laser surgery, providing students with valuable insight and information on the optometrist's role in pre- and post-operative care.

In their new facility, TLC hopes to expand student participation. They are also looking forward to providing other refractive services, thus providing our patients and referring doctors with a full scope refractive centre. "We are pleased to be able to provide learning opportunities

On July 24 2009, TLC Waterloo invited local optometrists, UWSO faculty and staff, and other friends to officially unveil and celebrate their new, expanded facility in the UW School of Optometry building addition. The new space features two surgical suites and four pre- and post-operative exam rooms.


"We were very excited to move into this bright new space that will allow us to grow our business and provide new and exciting learning opportunities to optometry students," says Michele McLaughlin, Regional Manager/Canada for TLC.

TLC Waterloo began at the School as a consult centre in 1998 and expanded to a fully equipped laser center in 1999 with the addition of Dr. Hugh Jellie as Medical Director and lead surgeon. They began by operating out of a tight 1,300 square foot facility in the back of our clinic and remained there for 10 years.

Currently, TLC Waterloo has a rotation of Optometry students through the clinic, and the fourth year students spend time learning how to manage laser vision correction patients. Their Clinical Director, Dr. Lisa Willms, a graduate of the UWSO program, also teaches a second year course

to Optometry students and also for our referring optometrists. We are honoured to be affiliated with such a highly respected educational institution such as the University of Waterloo School of Optometry," says McLaughlin.

"We value the partnership that we have with the TLC Laser Eye Centers and the wonderful people we work with here at the School who help enhance the clinical education experiences of our students," adds Dr. Thomas Freddo, School Director. This relationship is further complemented through TLC's tremendous leadership support of \$500,000 toward the expansion and renovation campaign, one of the largest gifts UWSO has ever received.

TLC Laser Eye Centers is one of the largest providers of laser vision correction in North America and has continued to partner with some of the most experienced optometrists in the industry. TLC keeps their sights set on providing advanced technologies for patients and referring doctors with the latest Custom Bladeless platforms. 

## Calendar of Events

Date	Event	Location
October 15 2009 - January 10 2010	<i>Cosmos</i> exhibit (with artefacts on loan from the Museum of Vision Science)	Canadian Clay and Glass Gallery, Waterloo
November 2 2009	Dedication of the Witer Learning Resource Centre	University of Waterloo School of Optometry
November 2 2009	White Coat Ceremony (for first year students)	University of Waterloo School of Optometry
November 5 2009	Fall Student Awards Ceremony	University of Waterloo School of Optometry
November 13 2009	American Academy of Optometry, School of Optometry Alumni Reception (as part of the AAO's Joint Alumni Reception)	Orlando, Florida
May 5-9 2010	Ontario Association of Optometrists Symposium and InfoMart	Mississauga, Ontario
June 2010	Continuing Education Weekend	University of Waterloo School of Optometry

For more information or to confirm your interest in attending an event you may contact Andrea Carthew at [acarthew@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:acarthew@uwaterloo.ca) or at 519-888-4567, ext. 36319.

# Cochrane Library: Free, Fast, And Reliable Evidence To Aid Clinical Decision Making

– Kathy MacDonald, MLIS

The Cochrane Collaboration is an international, nonprofit, healthcare research and dissemination organization. It supports many research groups that systematically review prevention and treatment intervention research for specific conditions and diseases. The Cochrane Eye and Vision Group (CEVG) is one such group. The CEVG functions to develop, implement, publish, and update systematic reviews on the prevention and treatment of eye diseases, visual impairment, and blindness. Systematic reviews are conducted by volunteer teams of international researchers using Cochrane protocols for proposal submission, review implementation, and dissemination of findings.

Cochrane reviews cover both traditional and complementary medicine. For example, systematic reviews on topics such as interventions for unilateral refractive amblyopia and the efficacy of acupuncture or aqueous shunts to treat glaucoma can be found in the Cochrane Library.

The Cochrane Library provides free online access to Cochrane's systematic reviews, along with other high quality research in various databases. One of these databases contains abstracts of systematic reviews produced by the National Health Service Centre for Reviews and Dissemination in the United Kingdom. Other databases hold technology assessment, economic evaluation, and clinical trial summaries or abstracts with links to full text (where possible).


Each Cochrane review has a one page summary as well as access to the full review. Cochrane is providing free access to their full review reports in Canada until the end of 2009. If you live in New Brunswick, the Northwest Territories, Nunavut, the Yukon Territory, Nova Scotia, or

Saskatchewan, you will continue to have full access after that date through special, ongoing funding arrangements set up with those jurisdictions.

The other systematic reviews, technology assessment, and economic evaluation databases have 1-2 page summaries of each item. The clinical trials search results look similar to a PubMed record. If you find an article that is not freely available, please use the WLRC article request service ([www.optometry.uwaterloo.ca/wlrc/alumnicao.html#requests](http://www.optometry.uwaterloo.ca/wlrc/alumnicao.html#requests)) to obtain up to 10 free articles per year.

For optometrists, there are two ways to search for information in Cochrane. The first is to periodically visit the CEVG website ([www.cochraneeyes.org](http://www.cochraneeyes.org)) and browse the list of CEVG reviews or read the CEVG news. This provides you access to reviews completed by this group only.

The second route uses the Cochrane Library ([www3.interscience.wiley.com/cgi-bin/mrwhome/106568753/HOME](http://www3.interscience.wiley.com/cgi-bin/mrwhome/106568753/HOME)) and gives you Cochrane reviews as well as research evidence from the different databases. For example, a search for glaucoma screening brings up 1 Cochrane review, 2 other systematic reviews, 85 clinical trials, 7 technology assessments, and 8 economic evaluation studies. The Cochrane reviews show up on the search results page, while links to the results in the other databases are listed across the top of the search results page for easy access.

The value of a systematic review and the other Cochrane Library content is that the critical appraisal of a particular piece of research or set of research findings has already been done, so it reduces the amount of critical appraisal you need to do. 

## Stay Current Through The Witer Learning Resource Centre!

The Witer Learning Resource Centre offers FREE research services to CAO members and OD program alumni:

1. **NEW** – Free online access to E-Therapeutics+ (includes e-CPS)
2. Free access to the 2008 online version of *Wills Eye Manual*
3. Online access literature searches at your request \*
4. Journal article photocopying and delivery\*
5. Access to the VisionCite research database
6. In-person library borrowing privileges at University of Waterloo, Wilfrid Laurier University and University of Guelph

For full details email us: [optlib@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:optlib@uwaterloo.ca)

\* Limitations apply – see full details at [www.optometry.uwaterloo.ca/wlrc/alumnicao.html](http://www.optometry.uwaterloo.ca/wlrc/alumnicao.html) (Services contingent upon continued funding)

# Roundup – Dr. Marlee Spafford

## Optometrists Program

On June 5-7 2009, 220 optometrists registered for our 3-day Continuing Education program, “TPA Refresher: An Evidence and Case-based Approach.” It was a uniquely busy weekend, as participants in the Friday program were also able to attend the grand opening of UWSO’s new building addition.

Three of our faculty lectured in the 20-hour TPA refresher: Dr. Lisa Prokopich (Optometrist and Clinical Lecturer) presented on ocular anti-inflammatories; Dr. John Flanagan (Optometrist and Professor) discussed contemporary issues in glaucoma; and Dr. Thomas Freddo (Optometrist, Professor, and School Director) reviewed dermatological differential diagnoses.

We were also fortunate to have several external speakers, including:

- Dr. Tim McMahon (Optometrist and Professor, University of Illinois), who lectured on corneal transplant surgery and anterior segment infections and inflammations
- Dr. Robert DiMartino (Optometrist and Professor, University of California, Berkeley), who reviewed ocular diseases of the adnexa and seasonal allergic conjunctivitis
- Dr. Michelle Steenbakkers (Optometrist and Private Practitioner, Nova Scotia), who discussed gonioscopy and ocular implications of pregnancy
- Dr. Vishakha Thakrar (Optometrist, Private Practitioner, TLC Laser Eye Centers and Professional Services Manager, Johnson & Johnson Vision Care, Ontario), who reviewed refractive surgery
- Dr. Peter Waind (Ophthalmologist, Private Practitioner, Ontario), who discussed contemporary issues in glaucoma (with Dr. John Flanagan)
- Dr. William Hodge (Ophthalmologist, Professor and Chair, Ivey Eye Institute, University of Western Ontario), who lectured on paediatric red eye and knowledge synthesis in healthcare
- Nadia Sutcliffe (Pharmacist and Inspector, Ontario College of Pharmacists), who discussed best practices in pharmaceutical prescription writing

The CE program also offered two additional hours of continuing education through UWSO’s Distinguished Emerson Woodruff and Clair Bobier Award lecture series. Now in its 15th year, the lecture series was hosted by Dr. Jacob Sivak. This year’s recipient of the Emerson Woodruff Award was Dr. Judith West-Mays (Associate Professor, McMaster University), a graduate of both our MSc and PhD programs in Vision Science. She presented her research on ocular genetic disease. This year’s recipient of the Clair Bobier Award was our own Dr. William Bobier (Optometrist and Professor). This was a truly special event, as Bill Bobier’s distinguished research career in binocular vision was honoured through an award dedicated to the scholarly contributions of his father.

Thank you to all who attended and to those who spoke. This program would not have been possible without the generosity of corporate sponsorship.

## Optometric Assistants and Staff Program

Over 50 optometric assistants and optometry office staff registered for this 2-day CE program. On Saturday, June 6, attendees enjoyed Joyce Van Rooyen from Hoya Vision discussing the implications of TPAs in the optometric practice and Uzo Ubani from Younger Optical talking about DriveWear lenses. UWSO’s Dr. Graham Strong (Optometrist and Professor) lectured about low vision and Dr. William Bobier (Optometrist and Professor) reviewed aspects of binocular vision. Dr. Michelle Steenbakkers (Optometrist and Private Practitioner, Nova Scotia) spoke about emergency phone call triaging and the ocular effects of diabetes mellitus and hypertension.

On Sunday, June 7, the program was dedicated to workshops, led by our own Marilyn Smith (Optician and Clinical Lecturer) covering PALs and rimless spectacles (with Joyce Van Rooyen) and guide dogs (with the K-W Community Lions Club).

The CE Committee is indebted to the various companies that sponsor the participation of the high quality speakers in our program.

Suggestions for future lecture and workshop topics are always welcome! 

## CONTINUING EDUCATION 2009

# Industry Information Trade Show And Luncheon – Marilyn Smith, RO



UW Catering Services provided a wonderful spread of finger foods and desserts and representatives and delegates raved about the delicious variety. University of Waterloo Stores brought optometry related textbooks and other books of interest from the CE lecture topics to sell to attendees. Also, the Office of Development highlighted the School of Optometry building addition, which officially opened on June 5 2009. Thanks again to all these UW departments for your contributions to this important day! ☺

On Saturday, June 6 2009, the 11th Annual CE Industry Information Trade Show and Luncheon was held as part of the Continuing Education weekend at UWSO. Perfect weather was the order of the day! Sunshine and a light breeze prevailed, making the whole event a pleasure for everyone.

With 26 companies and interest groups participating, we had 30 booths set up in the large outdoor tent in the Optometry parking lot. The two hour lunch break allowed CE attendees to visit company booths and enjoy a beautiful array of food. As always, every aspect of optometry was represented: new frame styles, lens materials and contact lenses, amazing computerized technology, and all the latest equipment for the modern optometric office. UWSO and the CE Committee sincerely thank all of the company representatives who participated in the trade show. It has become an integral and exciting part of the Continuing Education weekend!



**The following companies and services generously donated time, energy, and funding to make the 2008 Industry Information Trade Show a success:**

Abbot Medical Optical  
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OSI  
Pro Design Denmark  
Rodenstock Canada  
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UW Development  
UW Stores

## Jake Sivak Retires And Receives Honours – Andrea Carthew



On June 30 2009, UWSO saw the end of an era. Dr. Jake Sivak, a wonderful teacher, outstanding researcher, and true gentleman, retired after 37 years of commitment and excellence. Through his leadership, mentorship, and knowledge, he has helped ensure the

success of not only the School but also our graduates, both in the OD program and the postgraduate Vision Science program.

When you look back at the 42 years that the School of Optometry has been at University of Waterloo, it is easy to think of Jake as one of the individuals who has helped to shape and advance optometric education and research in Canada and worldwide. He has established himself as a research leader in ophthalmic toxicology and biotechnology, served as School Director (for 12 years, the longest term in our history), and taught close to 75% of the program's graduates. Most people who have passed through UWSO have been touched by Dr. Sivak in some way. This also holds true for Dr. Barbara Sivak, whom we lost suddenly last year and remember fondly.

Through the years, Jake has received many awards and distinctions from various national and international organizations. Most recently, he was honoured with two very distinguished accolades. In April, during the Ontario Association of Optometrists conference, Jake received the OAO's highest honour, the H. James Cobean Memorial Award, which recognizes a lifetime of service to the profession. Complementing this, Dr. Sivak will be the first Canadian to receive the American Academy of Optometry's highest award, the Charles F. Prentice Medal, which recognizes those who have contributed significantly to the advancement of knowledge through research in vision science. This award will be presented to Jake for his "innovative work on comparative optics, ocular toxicology and ocular anatomy which is considered an exceptionally good role model for others to aspire to" during the AAO Congress in November in Orlando, Florida.

Join us in congratulating Jake on both his retirement and these tremendous honours. On behalf of all of his friends in the optometric community, we would like to acknowledge Dr. Sivak's many, many contributions to the profession. Jake will always have a home here at UWSO, and while we wish him the best upon retirement, we also hope he doesn't go too far and will continue to share his knowledge, wisdom, kindness, and friendship. ☺

## Dr. Thomas Freddo Appointed To Second Term As Director Of The School Of Optometry – Andrea Carthew

University of Waterloo School of Optometry is pleased to announce that Dr. Thomas F. Freddo has recently been reappointed as School Director and Associate Dean, UW Faculty of Science.

"Since his arrival, Dr. Freddo has used his vast wealth of knowledge and expertise to develop a dynamic vision for Waterloo's School of Optometry," says UW President David Johnston. "We are thrilled that he has committed to serving a second term as Director and will lead the School through this important time of reinvention and growth in the optometric profession in Canada, while enhancing our international profile."

Having been at the helm of the School since September 2006, Dr. Freddo has already seen many milestones, such as the School's 40th anniversary, the opening of our new building addition, and the passing of TPA legislation in Ontario. He has also supported new initiatives, including an extensive curriculum and clinic review, changes to our admissions process, and the expansion of our alumni

affairs program. In addition, he takes time out of his busy schedule to co-teach first year students in human gross anatomy and third year students in clinical medicine for optometric practice. His commitment to teaching was acknowledged in 2006 and again in 2009 when he received the Distinguished Teaching Award from the student body.

Dr. Freddo joined the University of Waterloo in 2006 after having served as Professor of Ophthalmology, Pathology and Anatomy at Boston University School of Medicine, where he also served as Senior Consultant in Diagnostic Ophthalmic Pathology and Vice-Chairman for Research in the Department of Ophthalmology. For 23 years, he practised comprehensive optometry at Boston Medical Center. He completed a BA at University of Connecticut, a Doctor of Optometry degree at the New England College of Optometry, and a PhD at Boston University School of Medicine, where he also completed a Fellowship in Ophthalmic Pathology. ☺

# UWSO Honours Two Outstanding Alumni – Andrea Carthew

On Saturday, August 1 2009, during the luncheon at the CAO Congress in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, UWSO presented the first Biennial Alumni of Honour Awards to two outstanding individuals. Congratulations to our 2009 recipients: **Dr. David McKenna** and **Dr. Dorrie Morrow**! We are proud of your accomplishments and happy to be able to recognize such tremendous individuals with this special honour.



**Dr. David McKenna** (OD '82)  
Charlottetown, PEI

After graduating from the Optometry program, Dr. McKenna opened his own small practice in Charlottetown. His practice has grown substantially and now covers a catchment area encompassing all of Prince Edward Island.

David has been very active in the profession both provincially and nationally. He has served as President of the PEI Association of Optometrists, Registrar for the PEI College of Optometrists, Chairman for the PEI College of Optometrists, PEI Representative to the CAO (where he sat on the Steering Committee for provincial TPAs), PEI representative to the Canadian Examiners in Optometry (where he sat on the Executive Committee), Trustee of the Canadian Optometric Education Trust Fund, Chair for the 1993 CAO Congress, and Co-Chair for the 2009 CAO Congress. Dr. McKenna is also a TLC Board Member and Past President of the CNIB Advisory Board, PEI Division.

David is also a very active member of his community of Stratford, PEI, where he has served as Vice-Chair of the Queens Region Health Board, sat on the Safety Services and Environment Committee for the Town of Stratford, and served as a member of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital Foundation Board. He is also an active fundraiser for many charitable groups in his community.

In addition to all of this, Dr. McKenna has a longstanding involvement with the PC Party. In 2003, he was elected to the Provincial Legislature and he currently serves as a member of the Treasury Board, as well as several Standing Committees. David is Candidate of Record for Stratford/Kinlock, and acts as a Fundraiser and Consultant for the PC Party both provincially and federally.




**Dr. Dorrie Morrow** (OD '80)  
Sherwood Park, Alberta

Upon graduation from UWSO, Dr. Morrow returned to her hometown of Sherwood Park to start a solo practice. For over 20 years now, she has been involved with the advancement of optometry both in Alberta and across Canada. She

has held various positions on the council of the Alberta Association of Optometrists and was its first female President. During her time as AAO President, Dorrie was very involved in negotiating and obtaining TPA legislation for optometry in Alberta, making it the first province in Canada to be granted this privilege. She received the prestigious President's Award from the AAO and is the first and only female recipient.

Through her involvement with the Canadian Association of Optometrists council, Dr. Morrow has served as chair on many executive committees. She has always had a passion for children's vision and in 2002 led Alberta's Children's Vision Initiative committee, which was instrumental in the development and execution of the "Eye See Eye Learn" program. This program was so successful that the CAO adopted a similar initiative and Dr. Morrow is now involved with the Children's Vision Initiative on a national level. Dr. Morrow is also a Past President of the CAO.

Dr. Morrow has been a longtime volunteer with the PC Party in Alberta and has worked the Multicultural Health Broker's Co-op in Edmonton to help develop Children's Vision brochures in numerous languages for immigrants and newcomers. Most of all, outside of optometry, Dorrie commits her spare time to her family. 



Dr. Neepun Sharma and Dr. Susan Joe (who received the award on behalf of Dr. Dorrie Morrow), Dr. David McKenna, and Dr. Thomas Freddo, School Director

To see their full biographies and pictures of the presentation, please visit [www.optometry.uwaterloo.ca/alumni/awards](http://www.optometry.uwaterloo.ca/alumni/awards).

The Biennial Alumni of Honour Awards were initiated in response to the overwhelming number of nominations we received in 2007 for our 40th Anniversary Distinguished Alumni Awards. It was made apparent that UWSO is fortunate to have many alumni who stand out as leaders and supporters with significant involvement in the profession and/or their communities, and these graduates of our program deserve to be recognized by their alma mater for their contributions. These new awards will now be presented every other year during the Canadian Association of Optometrists Biennial Congress. The next Congress will be held in 2011 in Winnipeg, so be sure to watch for information in the coming year on how to nominate a colleague for the 2011 Alumni of Honour Award.

# Alumni Reunion Dinner 2009 – Andrea Carthew

University of Waterloo School of Optometry was pleased to host the 5th Annual Reunion Dinner on Saturday, June 6 during our annual CE weekend. Our host for the evening, Dr. Marlee Spafford, kept people laughing, and Dr. Jake Sivak, our guest speaker, reflected eloquently on how optometry and the School have changed over the years. The event was once again a success, thanks to all who attended! In particular, we had a very large number of people who graduated in the 1980s, as well as a couple who graduated in the 1940s – Dr. Ron Bock and Dr. Bill Bryans.

This year we were able to host the event in the COETF Student Commons in the School's new building addition. It was a wonderful venue for such a celebration and we look forward to hosting many other events in this space in the future. We would also like to thank INNOVA Medical, who once again sponsored the event and helped make the evening possible.

Are you celebrating an anniversary year in 2010? If so, we hope you will consider making the UWSO's Reunion Dinner a part of the occasion. Look for more information on next year's event in the Spring 2010 newsletter and on our alumni events webpage at [www.optometry.uwaterloo.ca/alumni](http://www.optometry.uwaterloo.ca/alumni). ☺



## Vision Science Grad To Receive Glenn A. Fry Lecture Award

Austin Roorda (PhD '96) will receive the Glenn A. Fry Lecture Award in recognition of his work in the field of adaptive optics, which has led to significant advances in areas such as microscopic retinal imaging. During his time at UWSO, Austin was supervised by Dr. Melanie Campbell and Dr. Bill Bobier and has since established an impressive reputation for his research. In 2007, he was one of our 40th Anniversary Distinguished Alumni Award recipients. Congratulations to Dr. Roorda!

The Glenn A. Fry Lecture Award, which was established 1970, is sponsored by the American Optometric Foundation. The award is given to recognize a distinguished scientist or clinician for his or her current research contributions by inviting the recipient to present a special paper at the annual meeting of the American Academy of Optometry. Dr. Roorda's lecture will take place during the AAO congress in November in Orlando, Florida.

# CSE Update – Dr. Graham Strong

The Centre for Sight Enhancement (CSE) recently made several important administrative changes and appointments. We are pleased to announce that Dr. Ann Plotkin has been appointed Associate Director and Dr. Tammy Labreche has been appointed to the Executive Committee.


The CSE Executive Committee makes general policy decisions in order to implement the long and short term goals of the Centre. It is also responsible for budgetary decisions regarding CSE non-contract expenditures. The Executive Committee historically consisted of the Director of the CSE, the CSE Administrator, and the Head, Low Vision Clinic. The reconstituted CSE Executive Committee is as follows:

- CSE Director (Dr. Graham Strong)
- CSE Associate Director / Head, Low Vision Clinic (Dr. Ann Plotkin)
- CSE Administrator (Pauline Bevers)
- Head, External Geriatrics Clinics (Dr. Tammy Labreche)

An important activity for this revised Executive Committee was to plan and prepare for CSE's re-accreditation by the National Accreditation Council (NAC) for Agencies Serving People with Blindness or Visual Impairment. The CSE has been NAC-accredited since 1989. It is the first and only externally accredited vision rehabilitation service in Canada and the only accredited low vision service in any school or college of optometry.

The first step in accreditation renewal is a meticulous and extensive self study, wherein ongoing rehabilitation services (including clinical, rehabilitation support, counselling, and high technology services), service outcomes, facilities and infrastructure, personnel qualifications, and centre administration and management are documented alongside established standards. This report is reviewed by a team of distinguished experts (who conducted an onsite review during October 18-21 2009). This onsite review serves to verify the details of the self study, provide written commendations and recommendations based on this review, and make recommendations to NAC with respect to CSE's application for accreditation renewal.

The visiting reviewers were Dr. Hank Baud (former Executive Director of the Cincinnati Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired) and Dr. Elton Moore (Director of the Rehabilitation Research and Training Center on Blindness and Low Vision and Dean for Research and Assessment at Mississippi State University). Dr. Moore is a former Associate Director of the Journal of Visual Impairment and Blindness and he is the current Consulting Editor for Rehabilitation and Practice for the Journal of Visual Impairment and Blindness.

The final accreditation decision will be determined at the next meeting of NAC's Board of Directors in December 2009. 

## Continuing Education, June 4-6, 2010

Be sure to save these dates for our annual CE weekend program. As we have for the past several years, we are offering a 20-hour TPA refresher program. With the anticipated change in Ontario regulations authorizing the independent management of primary open-angle glaucoma by optometrists, our program will emphasize glaucoma management this year. Our programs are COPE-approved and meet both Canadian and US continuing education licensing requirements.

Please watch our web site (<http://www.optometry.uwaterloo.ca/ce/>) for more information on the program and registration details.

# A Tribute To A Colleague And Friend – Andrea Carthew



On Sunday, June 7th 2009, members of University of Waterloo School of Optometry were joined by family, friends, classmates, and colleagues of Karen Tompa Nowy (OD '01) for a special tree dedication in her memory.

When Karen passed on July 11 2008, the optometric profession lost a brilliant optometrist and an insightful teacher; the world lost an artist and a compassionate caregiver,

a friend, a mentor, a partner, and a loved one. Those in attendance together reflected on the many ways she touched the lives of all who knew her both professionally and personally. A UWSO graduate from the Class of 2001, Karen went on to private practice, where she was dedicated to providing the best possible care to her patients and ensuring their overall wellbeing. With a natural talent for teaching, Dr. Tompa Nowy soon returned to the School as a guide and mentor to Optometry students as a clinical supervisor in the Primary Care Clinic. This tree is just one of the ways that we will remember Karen and her impact on her community, family, and friends.

During the dedication ceremony, Dr. Lisa Prokopich shared some touching stories of Dr. Tompa Nowy as an energetic student with a gift for engaging others and a flair and passion for patient care. When she returned to the School shortly after graduation as a clinic supervisor, we were thrilled, as she could teach something that isn't in the textbooks or classrooms. She shared her energy and compassion with students and influenced those she taught to strive to be better practitioners.

Many of Karen's friends from the Class of 2001 were in attendance, and her close friend Dr. Shirley Blanc spoke about her as a friend and classmate. Her parents, Frank and Helen Tompa, also said a few words to the many who were there to remember Karen.

During the dedication, Dr. Prokopich ended her remarks with a wonderful analogy when she said, "this tree will spread, strengthen and nurture, both under the earth and above it, and will continue to become more impressive with

each passing year. This is a metaphor for Karen's legacy of creativity, compassion, and joy, which will flourish as we all strive to be *Just Like Her*".

Karen's tree is located on the north side of the Optometry building, facing Frank Tompa Drive – a street named in honour of her father for his many contributions as a teacher and scientist in the UW Faculty of Mathematics, providing added significance to this special dedication. Friends at the School will watch this tree grow every day and trust that Karen's family, classmates, and colleagues will come, visit, and remember her often. ☹



Dr. Lisa Prokopich, Dr. Shirley Blanc, Frank Tompa, Helen Tompa, and Tom Nowy



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# Museum Matters – Paul Lofthouse

Like so many other entities at UWSO, the Museum of Vision Science has been experiencing a sea change of its own. Over the summer, we moved into our brand new administration office in the building addition, and we are currently in the process of renovating many of our display cases for use in the much more prominent exhibit space on the main floor. Next will come signage, as well as a migration of our vast archive to the better suited storage space (also on the main floor). We have much to do, but in the end, our new, larger, and better lit facility will enable us to finally display a more significant proportion of our collection – which is the only one of its kind in Canada!

This more visible space also presents us with greater opportunities for tours, exhibit rotations, and demonstrations and talks for anyone interested in the social or technical history of the profession. In fact, the Museum's makeover has already caught the interest of the Canadian Clay and Glass Gallery, whose new *Cosmos* exhibit

(as a component of the Perimeter Institute's Quantum to Cosmos Festival) considers extraordinary "antique devices and contraptions...once used in order to measure, document, and understand the world and cosmos." We were proud to help enhance this project through the loan of a series of our more unusual looking early 20th century equipment (such as phorometers, amblyoscopes, and keratometers), as well as an assortment of telescopes, model eyes, and other artifacts in keeping with the spirit of the initiative. The installation is the work of Cédric Ginart and it runs from October 15 2009 to January 10 2010 at the Canadian Clay and Glass Gallery in Waterloo (<http://www.canadianclayandglass.ca/>).


The Museum of Vision Science is truly excited about the possibilities of such a partnership. Watch this space for further developments, and for news about our in-house displays as they take shape. 

## Eye Care and The Homeless Community

The Communities and Partnerships Division of the Homelessness Partnering (HP) Secretariat is launching a pilot project to improve access to eye care for homeless people. Project partners include students from Canada's two optometry schools, the CAO, optometrists, an eyeglass frame manufacturer, a lens manufacturer, and organizations serving homeless people.

The project begins November 3 2009 at the Cambridge Shelter in Cambridge, Ontario, with student eye examinations supervised by Dr. Debbie Jones and

Dr. Tammy Labreche. A similar clinic will also be held November 27 in the Montreal area. In both instances, the media and elected officials are invited to attend. If everything goes well, the Secretariat hopes to expand the project in terms of where it is offered and how often.

This initiative provides UWSO students an opportunity to be involved in a unique community project and experience the provision of eye care to an underprivileged section of the population. Watch for a summary of the day's events in our Spring newsletter! 



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