

ASSOCIATION
OF OPTOMETRIC
CONTACT LENS
EDUCATORS

November 2009
Newsletter #31

Newsletter Highlights

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GPLI Resident Workshop

UHCO Workshop Summary

The host of the 2009 AOCLE Workshop was the University of Houston College of Optometry. This year's topics included improved use of multimedia and advances in optical correction with aberrometry.

2010 AOCLE Workshop

The date of the next AOCLE Workshop has been set for June 3-6, 2010. It will be hosted by the University of Alabama at Birmingham.

Campus News

Lots and lots of school news.

Awards:

Find out who received the George Mertz travel awards, the Lester Janoff award, and the first ever AOCLE Lifetime Achievement award.

Trivia

Play the second annual AOCLE Meeting Trivia Challenge!

CL Residents

Find out what our future contact lens leaders were up to in Columbus, Ohio.

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Message from the Chair

Where has the summer gone? It's been a busy summer and with all our individual responsibilities, it just flew by (once again)! This summer, though, saw a first for AOCLE: the first time that a lifetime achievement award has been bestowed, and its first recipient was Dr. Les Caplan, a true mentor and friend of AOCLE. The award couldn't have gone to a more deserving individual; not only has he actively contributed to the progression of the AOCLE but also has been a mentor to many of us and continues to be a valuable source of guidance and knowledge. Congratulations Les!

This summer's annual workshop was hosted by the folks from University of Houston College of Optometry and they put on a fantastic event! Thank you to the UHCO team for being such great hosts and making sure to attend to every minute detail. A summary of the workshop is found in this edition of the newsletter. Others were honored, including the George Mertz New Educator Travel Awards for first time AOCLE attendees and the Les Janoff Memorial Award to an educator who has demonstrated excellence in the area of contact lens education, research, and

publications. Details of the recipients are in this newsletter as well and we congratulate them, too. We also need to thank our devoted industry partners for their continued support of contact lens education.

Well, summer has gone and the fall is upon us. I've always felt that the start of a new academic year was a chance for new beginnings. With stored up energy after a well-deserved summer break, educators are full of new ideas and are eager to put them into action. Allow me to update you on some recent information about some ongoing AOCLE projects that will hopefully benefit educators and students alike.

Be on the lookout (this fall) for a survey following the distribution of the 2nd edition of the CL Clinical pocket guide. We hope to have students and faculty offer as much feedback as possible to continue improving this valuable resource. We need everyone's input!

Since the 2008 workshop on Mentorship with Dr. Littlefield, we felt that an article describing mentorship of contact lens educators was important, as well as highlighting AOCLE's efforts in promoting mentorship. The article has recently been submitted to *Contact Lens Spectrum* and should be in print within the next few months.

The AOCLE website is headed for a redesign! A trendy look with additional tools for educators and students will surely make the website a valuable resource.

Until then, have a great beginning of yet another school year and we look forward to next year's workshop, which will be hosted by UAB!

Etty Bitton
Chair, AOCLE

2009 AOCLE Workshop Summary



True Southern hospitality was on display at the 2009 AOCLE Workshop, which was hosted by the University of Houston College of Optometry (UHCO). At the Thursday night poolside welcome reception there was an AOCLE Award Ceremony where multiple awards were bestowed.

The **Lifetime Achievement Award** was presented to **Les Caplan**, OD, MEd, FAAO, for his outstanding commitment, devotion and mentorship to the organization over the past two decades. Dr. Caplan is the first recipient of this award.

Dr. **Ed Bennett** from UMSL received the 2009 **Lester E. Janoff Memorial Award** for excellence in contact lens education, research and publication.

The **George Mertz New Educator Travel Awards** were presented to three new contact lens educators attending their first AOCLE workshop: Dr. **Dawn Lam** from SCCO, Dr. **Pete Kollbaum** from IU and Dr. **Frederic Gagnon** from Montreal.

Dr. **Judith Morris** from London and Dr. **Lewis Williams** from Sydney represented the International Association of Educators (IACLE).



The AOCLE Business Meeting was after the reception, where finances, the Living Library, and past/future projects were discussed.

On Friday Dr. Steve Byrnes gave a lecture entitled “Introduction to Video and Photography Techniques for Use in Contact Lens Evaluation”, and afterwards there were 4 informative **workshops**:

Dr Steve Byrnes: Anterior Segment and Contact Lens Video Photography

Drs. Jan Jurkus and Lewis Williams: Incorporating Interactive Case Reports in Teaching

Dr. Jason Marsack (Visual Optics Institute-VOI): Development of Custom Wavefront-Guided Soft Contact Lenses for Keratoconus

Dr. Katrina Parker (VOI): Fundamentals of Wavefront Sensing

Later on Friday afternoon there was a school tour with research presentations and a look at the Mobile Eye Institute, with dinner following at the “Armadillo Palace.”





Saturday morning Dr. **Bill Miller** lectured on The Teaching Role of in-Vivo Confocal Microscopy, and there was a video wrap up by Dr. **Steve Byrnes** where the workshop groups presented PowerPoint presentations that incorporated video with an award given to the best presentation. Not all of the videos worked, highlighting the fact that formatting and other problems can spoil a presentation. Dr. **Neil Pence** led his group to victory, narrowly edging out Dr. **John Mark** "Press here to play the MOO-VIE"- **Jackson's** group.



At the end of the morning session, AOCLE attendees were treated to a book signing. *Clinical Manual of Contact Lenses* (3rd edition) editors **Ed Bennett** and **Vinita Henry** patiently signed copies for attendees, along with contributors **Jan Jurkus**, **John Mark Jackson**, **Terry Scheid**, **Gina Sobora** and **Ron Watanabe**.



In the afternoon, those with the "right stuff" enjoyed a visit to NASA with a tour of the command center, the Saturn V rocket (housed in a football field sized warehouse), and other iconic memorabilia from the space race. Those with money went shopping.



Dinner on Saturday evening was at The Grove restaurant. The AOCLE group had dinner on the second floor in the aptly named Tree House, where the branches of live oaks actually touch the building, creating an unusual and natural environment perfect for entertaining. After some laid-back mingling and dining, the evening ended on a rather raucous note with another very competitive trivia contest.





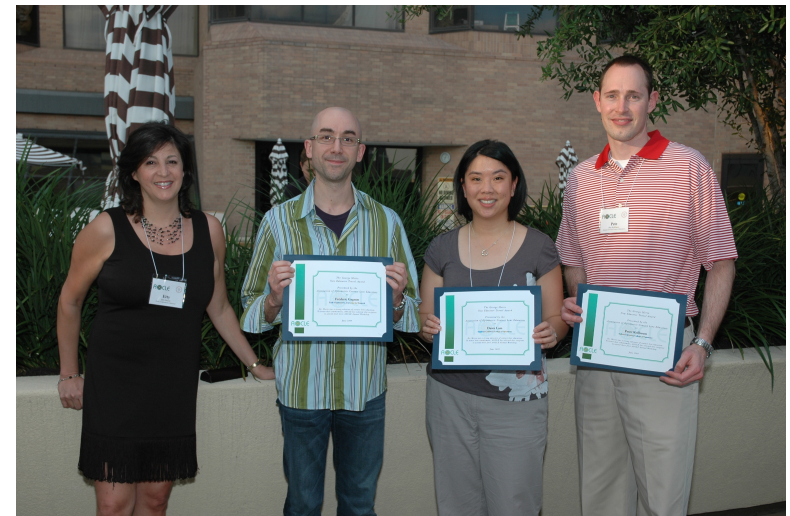
The Lifetime Achievement Award was presented for the first time to Dr. Les Caplan by the Officers of AOCLE. With Dr. Caplan in this photo are his wife Arlene, Ron Watanabe (Immediate past chair), Vinita Henry, Etty Bitton, John Corzine, John Mark Jackson, Bruce Morgan, Andrea Janoff, and Susan Kovacich.



Special thanks to the UHCO group (Dr. Bill Miller, Dr. Judy Perrigin, Dr. Norm Leach, Dr. Katrina Parker, and Dr. Sri Thota) for an educational and fun workshop, Texas style!



The AOCLE Les Janoff Memorial Award was presented to Dr. Edward Bennett (UMSL). The award was presented by committee members Dr. Joel Silbert (PCO), Dr. Mike Spinell (PCO) and Dr. Andrea Janoff (NOVA and daughter of Dr. Les Janoff)



Dr. Etty Bitton presents the 2009 George Mertz Travel Award recipients: Dr. Frederic Gagnon (Montreal), Dr. Dawn Lam (SCCO), and Dr. Peter Kollbaum (Indiana)

Second Annual AOCLE Meeting Trivia Challenge

Questions:

1. Which popular soft drink was invented in Waco, Texas in 1885?
2. What are the official state flower, bird and mammal of Texas?
3. In which country was Etty Bitton born?
4. What was the first word spoken from the moon on July 20, 1969?
5. Who was a professional clown prior to starting a career in optometry?
6. Who was a previous employee of Oscar Meyer?

Answers:

1. Dr Pepper
2. Blue Bonnet, Mockingbird, Armadillo
3. Morocco
4. Houston
5. Julie Schornack
6. Dave Sattler

Corporate Sponsors

We also want to thank our corporate sponsors who attended the meeting and provided support for the event.

Alcon Laboratories

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A very big THANKS! to our industry sponsors!

Mertz Award Winners

This year's Mertz Award winners took the opportunity to thank AOCLE and share their thoughts about attending their first AOCLE meeting:

Fred Gagnon (Montreal): The AOCLE meeting was a great opportunity to learn and share our ways of teaching contact lenses concepts to our students. This incredible networking experience allowed me to validate our impression on specialty contact lenses fitting with new technologies. Thank you to the sponsors for bringing us together and sharing with us the upcoming new products.

Dawn Lam (SCCO): I was very impressed with the level of AOCLE's commitment to contact lens education and the friendliness and camaraderie of everyone at the meeting. This meeting helped me understand the large amounts of work that goes into the various AOCLE projects and the benefits these projects afford to faculty and students. I would encourage all junior contact lens faculty to apply for the George Mertz Travel Award and attend an AOCLE meeting!

Pete Kollbaum (Indiana): The workshop was a wonderful experience to see what was going on at UH and be able to interact with such a great, and fun group of people that are all so enthusiastic about contact lens education. I came away from the meeting with renewed energy and several great ideas to try to incorporate in my teaching methods in the coming year. For this, the award, and for allowing me to attend the workshop, I am very thankful.

2010 AOCLE Workshop

The next AOCLE meeting will be at the University of Alabama Birmingham College of Optometry, June 3-6. Mark your calendars for what will surely be another memorable event.

Campus News

ICO

Dr. **Jan Jurkus** recently got back from teaching in New Zealand. "I was part of the team teaching a therapeutics course at the University of Auckland in N.Z. It was an amazing experience to learn how the profession of Optometry is practiced in the southern hemisphere." Jan also got to go "Zorbing" (see below).



Indiana University

Dr. **Susan Kovacich** was promoted to Associate Clinical Professor this summer. She has been assigned to the Cornea and Contact Lens Clinic since 2005. She is active in the clinic, in clinical

research, and is a co-instructor in the specialty contact lens course.

NECO

Dr. **Clifford Scott** is currently the Dean of Academic Affairs and has also taken on the duties of President with the recent departure of former President Elizabeth Chen. NECO will be going through a search process in the near future to fill the President position.

NOVA

Dr. **Heidi Wagner** has been promoted to Professor. Dr. **Eva Duchnowski** joined the faculty in August. Eva is a former contact lens resident and the faculty is thrilled to have her on board.

NSUOCO

Drs. **Bill and Linda Edmondson**, long-time faculty members at NSUOCO, recently announced their retirement. They will be moving to Memphis, TN where Bill is joining the faculty of SCO. Bill had been at NSUOCO for 27 years and Linda had been at NSUOCO for 26 years. Their presence and expertise will be greatly missed. Dr. **Latricia Pack** has been appointed as the new Chief of the contact lens service.

SCO

Dr. **Bill Edmondson** joined the faculty in October. Dr. **Daniel Fuller** was recently appointed interim chief of the Cornea and Contact Lens Service. Dr. **Chris Lievens** was named Chief of Staff of The Eye Center. The college has also received accreditation for a contact lens residency program starting the 2010-2011 academic year.

University of Alabama Birmingham

Dr. **William Benjamin** was awarded the Statesmanship Award from the CLMA in Berlin, Germany in May. The trophy was engraved with

the following: "In recognition of his outstanding leadership and statesmanship the members of



ISO TC172 SC7 WG9 present this award to William "Joe" Benjamin, Ph.D. as a token of our appreciation and esteem for his impartiality, performance, and the accomplishments achieved during the fifteen years of his convenership."

University of Houston

UHCO has received official approval from the UH System Board of Regents to proceed with its \$70 million dollar Health and Biomedical Sciences Center building plans. The facility, upon approval from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board in October, is scheduled to open its doors in May 2012. It will be a six-story, 137,000-square-foot building connected to UHCO's existing Armistead Building. UHCO will have three floors dedicated to patient care facilities, clinical and basic science laboratories, academic classrooms, and the TSO Alumni Educational Center. The remaining three floors will house additional research laboratories and core animal care facilities for faculty from other disciplines - enabling the university to move forward on its trek toward Tier-One status.

Other News

GPLI CL Resident Symposia and Workshop

The GP Lens Institute—the education division of the Contact Lens Manufacturer's Association—had their 11th Annual Cornea and Contact Lens Residents Symposia and Workshop at The Ohio State University from August 28-30. Twenty-six residents attended the program, which consisted of lectures on GP lens fitting, toric GP design and fitting, writing for publications and public speaking, multifocal fitting and problem-solving, orthokeratology, GP management of the irregular cornea, and three workshops pertaining to spherical and specialty design GP lenses. The faculty included Dr. **Loretta Szczotka-Flynn**, Dr. **Tom Quinn**, **Craig Norman**, and Dr. **Keith Ames**.

Congratulations to:

Dr. **Colleen Riley** for her promotion to Vice President, Professional Development, at Vistakon.

Sharon Teague for becoming a Fellow of the American Academy of Optometry.

Upcoming Meetings:

AOCLE annual workshop
June 3-6, 2010 at UAB

Bausch and Lomb Educators Meeting
January 27-28, 2010



Our future contact lens leaders: the CL Residents

Global Specialty CL Symposium
January 28-30, 2010

Ciba Educators Meeting
February 25-28, 2010

Other Education News

Sign up for the *I-Site Newsletter* from Eef van der Worp BOptom, PhD on GP lenses and corneal shape and health at <http://www.i-sitenewsletter.com>.

Industry News

Menicon invites submissions of photos, news, and studies for its *Horizons* newsletter. Contact Dr. Randall Sakamoto for details at sakamoto@visionhawaii.net.

Contamac invites educators to sign up for their *Global Insight* newsletter at <http://www.contamac.com/news/signup.asp>

Thanks to everyone who contributed photos and information!