FocaPoint
A PUBLICATION OF THE UAB SCHOOL OF OPTOMETRY • FALL 2004

They Wrote The Book
Faculty Authors Set the Standard in Optometric Education
Dear Alumni and Friends,

I am especially pleased that this issue of *Focal Point* is highlighting the School of Optometry’s contribution to ophthalmic literature in the form of published books. In the School’s relatively short history, the faculty have authored 26 books. This is a remarkable achievement for faculty who are also heavily involved in teaching, research, and service. I believe that through this literature these authors have had an enormous influence on not only the UAB School of Optometry’s students and alumni, but also optometry students and practicing optometrists nationally and internationally. Such efforts are of value in the very obvious manner of providing valuable knowledge and information to the reader. But in addition to providing scientific presentations and continuing education, the publication of articles and books has helped establish the reputation of the school in the optometric, ophthalmologic, and vision-science communities. I am especially pleased that these books have been written by faculty from both the Departments of Optometry and Vision Sciences (formerly Physiological Optics).

One of the first books written by a UABSO faculty member was *Clinical Ocular Pharmacology*. This book, now in its fourth edition, is authored and edited by Drs. Jimmy Bartlett and Siret Jaanus. Dr. Bartlett, who is currently serving as the interim chair of the Department of Optometry and Director of the Professional Program, joined the faculty in 1977. Within two years of that time, Dr. Bartlett began planning the contents of the book with Dr. Jaanus. The book was first published in 1984. Twenty years later, *Clinical Ocular Pharmacology* is widely recognized as a classic and is one of the best-known books in the profession of optometry. It has had a significant impact on the teaching and clinical programs of the profession’s schools and colleges and has been an important resource in ocular pharmacology continuing education programs. In addition, this book continues to be a valuable reference source in the daily practice of optometry and ophthalmology across the country.

As a result of his contributions in teaching, research, and service to the profession of optometry, Dr. Bartlett was inducted into the National Optometry Hall of Fame on October 14, 2004, in Cleveland, Ohio. This honor was bestowed on Dr. Bartlett in recognition of the impact *Clinical Ocular Pharmacology* has had on the profession, as well as his many accomplishments in teaching and research. It is safe to say that Dr. Bartlett has influenced an entire generation of optometrists in the area of ocular pharmacology.

I have every reason to believe that the publication of books and scientific or clinical articles by this very busy faculty will continue unabated. How does one explain such a productive output? In my opinion, The UABSO has had the good fortune to hire outstanding faculty who thrive in the atmosphere that exists within the school and across this unique campus.

John F. Amos, O.D.
Dean, UAB School of Optometry
They Wrote the Book 4
School of Optometry faculty members have published more books than any other optometry faculty in the nation. Those texts have helped establish the school as one of the most influential in the field.

Global Sightings 6 John Essinger, O.D., shares his experiences from the recent SOSH trip to Dominican Republic.

Familiar Face, Fresh Vision 8 After 20 years on the faculty in the Department of Physiological Optics, Paul Gamlin, Ph.D., steps into the role of department chair.

Among the Elite 10 Jimmy Bartlett, O.D., recently became the fourth UABSO faculty member to be inducted into the National Optometry Hall of Fame in Cleveland, Ohio.

Welcoming New Faculty 11 In the past year and a half, the UABSO has added four new full-time faculty members.

About the School 12 Sightings of faculty, students, and friends of the school—from social gatherings to scholastic milestones.

Faculty Focus 15 After four years on the job, Marsha Swanson, O.D., is serving as acting director of UAB’s Center for Low Vision Rehabilitation.

From the President 16 News of note from Alumni Association President Lynn S. Hammonds, O.D.

Alumni Profile 16 Norman Johnson, O.D., and Theresa Glass, O.D., know a thing or two about running a successful partnership. For nearly 25 years the two have been partners in their optometry practice and their marriage.

Alumni Board Profiles 17 Hamp Moore, O.D., and Gerald Simon, O.D., each include the UABSO Alumni Board on their long lists of responsibilities.

Development 18 A variety of planned giving options ensure the school’s continued success far into the future. This issue includes a detailed breakdown of each of the planned giving options that are available.
In the UAB School of Optometry’s Henry Peters Building there is a wall lined with books covering virtually every aspect of optometric teaching and practice—from primary care and clinical practice to legal matters and ocular pharmacology. Although students could find answers to almost any question in those books, they rarely enter that room. That’s because when they need answers, it’s usually easier to simply ask the authors.

The wall in question, commonly called the “wall of fame,” is covered in books that were written or edited by former and current UAB faculty members. Right now, the wall includes 26 books, the most produced by any optometry faculty in the nation.

“It speaks volumes about the kind of faculty and environment we have here. It is also clear that our professors have taken advantage of this environment to produce such a large output in the relatively short history of the school,” says John F. Amos, O.D., dean of the school and author of *Diagnosis and Management in Vision Care*. “The amount of scholarly work that has come from our faculty is evidence that the UAB School of Optometry not only has kept pace with the changes in our profession but also has actually helped initiate many of those changes.”

**Foreword Thinking**

The first book published by a UAB faculty member was *Public Health and Community Optometry* by R.D. Newcomb in 1980. By 1989, six other titles had been added to that list, including a second edition of the groundbreaking *Clinical Ocular Pharmacology*, co-edited by Jimmy Bartlett, O.D. Those books drew national attention to the fledgling school while helping to further advances in a profession that was changing by the year.

“The first time I really became aware of the impact of UAB was when I was in school at Southern College of Optometry in Memphis and Dr. Bartlett published the first edition of *Clinical Pharmacology* in 1983,” says Bart Campbell, O.D., an associate professor and director of residency programs at SCO. “At that time, a big change was going on in the profession. Our scope of practice was expanding to include the use of pharmaceutical agents for diagnosis and treatment of ocular disease, and Dr. Bartlett’s book came along right when that was taking off. It was the first non-optics-based textbook I was aware of that was written by an optometrist.”
Bartlett would continue to update his work on ocular pharmacology as well as other writings throughout the 1990s. Meanwhile, a host of other faculty members published their own texts, quickly establishing UAB as one of the premier optometry schools in the nation with arguably the most accomplished faculty.

The fact that a faculty capable of such wide influence came to UAB is no coincidence, according to UABSO professor John Classé, O.D. It was the result, he says, of the founders’ commitment to creating an optometry school as part of a major academic medical center. That connection helped attract some of the brightest minds in the field—optometrists who shared the desire to integrate optometry as a major element in overall health care. Classé wrote about that connection as part of a tribute to the school’s 25th anniversary that was published in the Journal of the American Optometric Association in 1995.

“[UAB’s early success] was due in large part to the efforts of Dr. Jess Boyd Eskridge, longtime chair of the Department of Optometry,” Classé writes. “A remarkable clinical faculty was recruited, and over the years an outpouring of scholarship yielded research papers and scholarly works in profusion, including leading textbooks on public health, ocular pharmacology, ocular disease, clinical management, contact lens practice, optometry and the law, clinical examination procedures, environmental vision, low vision, and biochemistry.”

Chapter One
For Bartlett, his foray into publishing was a direct result of his teaching. When he began training students in ocular pharmacology, he found the subject difficult for them to grasp, mainly because there were no books on the subject.

“There were one or two books, but they weren’t clinically relevant,” Bartlett says. “They dealt more with animal models—rabbit studies and those kinds of things—so I got together with a colleague, Dr. Siret Jaanus, and we decided to edit a major textbook.” Over the course of the next two years, Bartlett and Jaanus coordinated the work between 30 and 35 contributors before publishing the completed first edition in 1983. By the time the second edition of that book was published in 1989, several other UABSO faculty members had added their own titles to the list of textbooks, including Amos, L.P. Semes, L.J. Alexander, and Classé.

Like Bartlett, many of those professors were responsible for books that changed the way optometry was taught by filling a void in opticometric education. Classé’s Legal Aspects of Optometry, for example, was the first book of its kind geared specifically toward optometrists. “Before that book there was very little published that dealt with legal issues in optometry,” Campbell says. “The class I took on legal aspects of the profession was before Dr. Classe’s book came out, and we used a textbook that was not written by optometrists and so wasn’t always relevant to our field. Of course, when Dr. Classé’s book came out, we realized that we had something that was completely relevant to our profession.”

Expanding the Canon
The flood of published work coming from UAB in the 1980s brought enhanced respect from optometrists around the nation as well as from those closer to home. “When we started optometry school at UAB, there really weren’t many books in the field,” says Martin Habel, O.D., a 1978 graduate of the UABSO. “We were using a few scattered ophthalmology texts, and we even had one professor who made copies of a book for us, because the text we were using was out of print. When professors like Drs. Amos, Bartlett, and Larry Alexander began publishing, it really opened my eyes to what the school had become. These professors I had studied under and had become friends with were internationally known for the influence they were having on the profession.”

Bart Campbell agrees. “Those of us who were in school from the mid-1980s onward knew about UAB because those books were so important to the skills we took with us into practice,” he says. “And the impressive thing is that they have continued to publish new work and update their old work, so these books are just as relevant today as they were 20 years ago. To use Dr. Bartlett’s text as an example, what was current and very useful in the mid-50s has changed quite a bit in the past 20 years, but he has stayed abreast of those changes, and the subsequent editions have kept his book up to date. I continue to refer to the current edition on a regular basis.”

Since 2000, four new editions of faculty members’ previous works have been published to update changes within the profession, and staying in touch with technological changes and advances in patient care remains a priority for the UABSO. “Future generations of optometry students and faculty are likely to be better educated than previous generations,” says Amos. “In addition to their professional degree education, many graduates and almost all clinical faculty will have completed training in clinical-residency programs. It will be their challenge to not only stay abreast of new information but to continue adding to the profession’s clinical knowledge by conducting research and publishing papers and books. I know they are equal to this challenge. The future development of the profession depends on their continuing to build on what has come before.”
A Tale of Two Shoes

Students in Optometric Service to Humanity (SOSH) provides impoverished people with eye care and eyewear. Each year the UABSO students in SOSH organize an overseas mission trip to accomplish this end, which occurs during their spring break. This year, Orphanage Outreach, a U.S.-based organization, hosted our group of interns, doctors and opticians—25 volunteers in all—in Monte Cristi, Dominican Republic. Orphanage Outreach provides financial, educational, and spiritual support to approximately 20 children who live in a Monte Cristi orphanage. While the UAB SOSH group examined the eyes of children, its main purpose was to raise community awareness of the orphanage by providing free eye exams and eyeglasses to the people who live in and around Monte Cristi. John Essinger, O.D.—with help from a pair of his inanimate, but articulate, friends—provides insight into the most recent SOSH trip.

Shoes: As protective footwear, our role is not often to be destined for greatness. There are notable exceptions, of course. Dorothy’s ruby slippers and Michael Jordan’s gravity-defying Nikes come to mind. But typically, our role is simply to protect the feet of the one who wears us. Don’t get me wrong. When he selected me among all of my worthy adversaries in the store that day, I was delighted. But I was also resigned to a life of noble but under-appreciated service. I couldn’t have been more wrong.

Essinger: After participating with SOSH for seven years, my annual trek out of the country has become almost a spring break imperative. Still, I had this nagging regret about the upcoming trip. I was the head coach of a youth basketball team, which included both of my sons, Kenton and Jackson. Because of the trip, I was going to miss seeing them play together in their final game. I pondered this as I packed my suitcase and selected, without any extraordinary thought, some bathroom sandals and the one pair of shoes that would serve me well on those long clinic days—my New Balance cross-trainers. In fact, I wouldn’t even need to pack them. I’d just wear them.

Shoes: After his children’s bare (and dirty) feet stood on me as he hugged them goodbye, we departed to meet the rest of the travelers. Even though nothing was said aloud as they walked through the rain and standing water at the airport, I knew they had to value our keeping their feet dry. After all, it would be a long day of travel to the Dominican Republic. It would be a lot longer if their feet were wet!

Essinger: Our travel day was typical—bus rides, flights, connecting flights and another bus ride. Before we began the final leg of our journey inside the Dominican, we stopped for a last taste of “American” food at a McDonald’s on the outskirts of Santiago. Except for the menu pricing, which was in pesos instead of dollars, we could have been dining at the McDonald’s in my neighborhood. That is, until the store lost power and we spent several seconds in the dark, frozen in mid-bite, waiting for the backup generators to kick in. This was a vivid reminder that, no matter how well the French fries would fare in a taste test with their American counterparts, we weren’t in the U.S. anymore.

Shoes: The ground at the orphanage in Monte Cristi was hard and rocky and dusty. Goats roamed unrestricted over the yard looking for the occasional weed on which to munch. Of course, where there are goats, there are goat droppings. Even though the children at this place lived at a higher standard than most of their compatriots, many of them still walked around without shoes. The people who waited in the long lines for the eye exams wore flip-flops or tennis shoes, or dress shoes, if they wore any shoes at all. You can imagine what the place (and, consequently, people’s feet) looked like when it started raining on the first day of the eye clinic.

Essinger: In seven years (around 30 clinic days in all), I had never experienced a SOSH clinic
affected by rain. Although this was supposed to be the beginning of the Dominican dry season, it did rain the first day of our clinic. We gave it a valiant effort—holding umbrellas over the interns and patients and interpreters at the outdoor stations. In the end though, it was the townspeople who were the limiting factor. We were told that Dominicans would not brave the rain—not even at the chance of getting needed prescription eye-wear. Over the next four days, however, we made up for lost time, giving around 1,200 eye exams and 800 pairs of glasses in all—typical numbers for one of our trips.

Shoes: One other rainy morning we visited the border town of Dajabón. There were men with guns dressed in shiny black boots. When the skies cleared, we marched up a rocky path to a summit 250 feet above the emerald waters of the Caribbean.

Essinger: We had time to see some of the local sites. Across the river from Haiti, a country at war with itself even as we stood there looking at it, we witnessed trash strewn along its banks as far as you could see. Dominican military men protected the border from Haitians trying to escape their strife. The Dominican is poor and needy, but we were told it’s nothing compared to Haiti.

We climbed a path up the side of a mountain on the north coast of the Dominican, passing the 12 Stations of the Cross along the journey. The trail ended at one final cross. It stood at the edge of a cliff, which overlooked the ocean crashing into the rocks far below. We quickly ran out of superlatives to describe the moment, so we just sat in silence on top of that mountain in the sun and the wind that he had arrived with me but was leaving in his bare feet.

Essinger: We spent the last few days of our trip unwinding at a beach resort in a town called Sosua. I didn’t realize it at the time, but in my excitement over our “Team USA” victory against the world in beach volleyball, I left my shoes at the edge of the court. By the time I discovered my oversight the next day, my shoes were long gone. The resort management told me that there was no such thing as “Lost and Found” in the Dominican—only “Lost.” I was put off that someone would take my shoes. Now I would have to wear my bathroom sandals on the trip home.

Shoes: A Dominican woman who cleaned up the grounds each night picked me up later that evening. She had a son whose shoes were being held together with string and duct tape. Even though I was one size too big, I would be perfect for him. And in a year or two, he’d grow into me. To her, I was a heaven-sent gift.

Essinger: When I arrived home (in my bathroom sandals) there was a letter waiting for me addressed “Coach Essinger,” I was stunned to find an Academy Sports gift certificate inside. It had been donated by the players on my basketball team and was worth enough to buy... a new pair of shoes. My irritation over my stolen shoes evaporated immediately. I had to admit to myself that there was a plan here too big for me to see. It took this act of providence to realign my perspective.

I’m not really sure what happened to my shoes after I left them on the beach that day. I do know that every time I put my new shoes on, I think about the unknown person who is wearing my old ones. And I’m thankful for the little things—things that aren’t really little but just seem that way because we have them in such abundance. For it’s the little things like shoes and, say, opportunities, that would become very big things (maybe even heaven-sent gifts) if we didn’t have them at all.
With the retirement last year of Lawrence Mays, Ph.D., as the head of the Department of Vision Sciences, Paul Gamlin, Ph.D., became the department’s senior researcher with 20 years on the job. Who better then to fill Mays’s shoes as chair of the department?

On June 1, Gamlin began his tenure as chair, two decades after arriving in the department as a postdoctoral fellow. Gamlin came to UAB specifically to study with Mays, having become intrigued by Mays’s research on vergence and accommodative eye movements while conducting studies of the pupillary light reflex (PLR) as a graduate student. Mays’s work explained the ways in which the brain controls eye movements in non-human primates, which was similar to Gamlin’s own investigation of PLR in pigeons while he was studying neurobiology and behavior at the State University of New York at Stony Brook. Arriving at UAB as a postdoctoral fellow in 1984, Gamlin saw an opportunity to address fundamental questions. “I’m interested in vision research because it provides insight into how the brain works,” he says. “Humans are visual creatures; more than 30 percent of our nervous systems are given over to vision.”

**Imaging the Possibilities**

Today, Gamlin continues the research that first brought him to Birmingham, but in the last 20 years he says he has seen his discipline undergo many groundbreaking changes. As researchers unravel the complex interactions between the brain and the eyes, technological advances have reshaped the approaches—and the philosophy—that neuroscientists use to study vision and the brain. “There has been an amazing growth in the techniques that we can use to study eye movements and their relationships with various areas of the brain,” Gamlin notes. “Fifteen years ago, we didn’t have many of the imaging tools, such as functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI), that we use today.”

The use of fMRI, which measures changes in blood flow in the brain in response to stimuli, has enabled researchers to probe the ways that the areas of the brain interact to carry out necessary visual tasks. As a result, fMRI and other imaging techniques are changing the very philosophy of neuroscience research. “In the next 10 to 15 years, we will see vision research and neuroscience moving into a ‘systems’ approach,” Gamlin says. “Systems biology requires that we consider our isolated observations as components of larger, interacting systems. Understanding the bigger picture requires sophisticated models and brings technical challenges, and as researchers, we realize that we must form teams of appropriately trained scientists to understand the processes that we observe.”

Reflecting on his two decades at the UABSO, Gamlin notes that some things haven’t changed. “Although the UAB medical enterprise continues to grow, there has always been a willingness to make things work, whether they are new initiatives, resources, or support for service activities,” he states. He credits UAB researchers with promoting and maintaining the collegial atmosphere necessary to launch new partnerships and interdisciplinary teams. “When I arrived at UAB, many of the research programs that we see today were in the early stages of development. To create university-wide centers and make various initiatives work, departments had to work together, and faculty had to share resources. As a result, UAB has developed a real strength in interdisciplinary research and the availability of university-wide resources and centers.”

One such center that Gamlin knows well is the Vision Science Research Center (VSRC), which he directed from 1995 until 1999. He credits his experience at the VSRC with providing a global perspective on conducting research in a clinical setting. “Directing the VSRC taught me a lot about the importance of team building. I had to think about innovative ways to bring researchers together to meet common goals.”
Refining the Focus

In 1999, Gamlin returned to the lab, and he sees his appointment as chair of the department as an ideal way to apply his rich history and diverse experience at UAB. “It is exciting for me to have the chance to help a great department get even better and grow into new areas. Having been associated with physiological optics for so long, I know the strengths of the faculty and have suggestions for how these strengths can be used to move in new directions.”

To map a vision for the department, Gamlin planned a retreat this fall that included faculty from other departments. “We want to discuss and refine the research directions, both basic and translational, that the department will pursue in the next few years,” he says. “With the help of outside faculty, we will identify and discuss how to make collaborative opportunities available.”

Gamlin also envisions several areas of research focus for the department, including retinal diseases, central visual processing and eye-movement control, fMRI for non-human primates, and corneal and lens-related research. “Our faculty has a wide range of expertise, and the research in this department can lead to clinical impact on diseases ranging from glaucoma and macular degeneration to cataracts,” he says.

As he refines his plan for the Department of Vision Sciences, Gamlin recognizes that successful translation of vision research from the lab to the patient has its challenges, such as creating ways to fund innovative research and to form interdisciplinary research teams. However, such hurdles have never diminished Gamlin’s outlook. After more than two decades in the profession, he continues to be inspired by the research process. “I still get excited about each new finding. The joy of discovery—that brief period where you know something new—is extremely satisfying and rewarding. To do good science,” he concludes, “you have to enjoy it.”

Former UABSO dean Arol Augsburger catches up with faculty member Rodney Nowakowski ('75) at the ceremony.

Augsburger Portrait

Unveiled at UABSO

Former dean of the UAB School of Optometry Arol Augsburger, O.D., was honored at a portrait-unveiling ceremony in August. Augsburger served as the dean of the school from 1994-2000 before taking over the role of UAB interim provost. He left UAB in 2003 to become president of the Indiana School of Optometry. Artist Mark Carder painted the portrait, which will be displayed in the waiting area of the newly renovated UABSO clinic. Above, Augsburger is pictured with Carder in front of the portrait. At right, Augsburger is joined by the artist’s father, David Carder, looking at the work before it was hung on the wall.
For the past 20 years, Jimmy Bartlett, O.D., has been a pioneer of sorts among optometrists by his research writings and teachings on the subject of ocular pharmacology.

It’s fitting then that Bartlett officially took his place in October as a member of the Hall of Fame—the National Optometry Hall of Fame, that is. Bartlett was one of six inductees in this year’s class and the third UAB professor to be inducted, joining Larry DeLucas, Ph.D., and former professor Melvin Shipp, O.D. The ceremony was held at the East/West Eye Conference in Cleveland.

“I am honored and extremely flattered to be listed among that special group of individuals,” Bartlett says. “I am very fortunate to have come along during a time when there has been so much growth in the area of pharmaceutical utilization, and I feel privileged to have played a role in that.”

The role Bartlett played was not a small one. After graduating from the Southern College of Optometry in Memphis, Tennessee, Bartlett went on to hold teaching and administrative roles at the University of South Florida College of Medicine as well as other positions at various Florida hospitals.

Since coming to UAB, though, Bartlett has made a name for himself nationwide through his teaching of optometry residents, glaucoma fellows, and practicing optometrists through continuing education. Arguably, though, it is his published work that has brought him the most attention, most notably the textbook on clinical ocular pharmacology he co-edited in 1984.

“Most students or practitioners with an interest in the area of clinical ocular pharmacology are likely to be familiar with Dr. Bartlett and his work. He has established himself as an authority on the subject, and that status has grown with each new edition of the textbook,” says UABSO Dean John F. Amos, O.D.

In addition to his writing and teaching, Bartlett has remained heavily involved in research into toxicology, investigational ophthalmic drugs with emphasis on drug delivery and glaucoma, and clinical ocular pharmacology. Significant research contributions include the clinical investigations of loteprednol (a novel ophthalmic steroid), the development of a model to identify high intraocular pressure responders for clinical research, and the development of ophthalmic sprays as a unique drug delivery system for use in the pediatric population.

Bartlett is an adviser or consultant to numerous ophthalmic drug companies and organizations, including the Association for Ocular Pharmacology and Therapeutics and the International Symposium on Ocular Pharmacology and Pharmacy. He has served as director of residency and fellowship programs in the past, and currently is the interim chair of the Department of Optometry.

“The thing that attracted me to UAB originally in 1977 is the thing that keeps me here,” Bartlett says. “There is a very consistent perception among clinicians and academic optometrists that our faculty is held in a very high regard by others in the field. That, along with the wonderful resources we have here as part of a major academic health center and my involvement with students in the classroom—all of those things keep me as energized and excited as I was the day I started.”
Since July of 2003, the School of Optometry has added several new full-time faculty members to its ranks, though some may have needed less time to find their way around than others.

Janene R. Sims, O.D., was officially welcomed to the faculty in September of last year, although she has been affiliated with the school for much longer than that. A 1996 graduate of the UABSO, Sims is currently completing her dissertation for a Ph.D. in vision science. She also received her bachelor's degree from UAB in 1992.

Sims now serves as an assistant professor in optometry and is responsible for second-, third-, and fourth-year students in the Primary Care Clinic.

As part of her clinical research for her Ph.D., Sims is conducting screening tests for glaucoma and glaucoma suspects. She is also participating in the Collaborative Longitudinal Evaluation of Ethnicity and Refractive Error Study for children in first through eighth grades, which examines the ocular changes that occur with growth during those years.

Another familiar face joining the faculty is Marcela G. Frazier, O.D., a 2002 graduate of the UABSO.

Frazier, a Colombian native, received her undergraduate degree in molecular biology from the University of Central Florida. After graduating from the UABSO, she completed a one-year residency in pediatric optometry and vision therapy at the school before joining the faculty full time in 2003.

Frazier is a member of the Lions Club International UAB chapter and often volunteers her time teaching Spanish to the doctors and volunteers of the UAB Lions Club.

In the Department of Vision Sciences, Claudio Busettini, Ph.D., recently joined the faculty as a tenure-track assistant professor after previously working as a research professor in the department.

Born in Trieste, Italy, Busettini studied electronic engineering, receiving his doctorate and certification as a clinical engineer at the University of Trieste. He served as a postdoctoral fellow at the Laboratory of Sensorimotor Research at the National Institutes of Health and later returned to the same job as a visiting scientist.

Busettini arrived at UAB as a postdoctoral fellow before becoming a full-time faculty member last year.

His research at UAB is focused on how humans and non-human primates execute eye movements in a three-dimensional environment.

Finally, E. Eugenie Hartmann, Ph.D., joined the faculty in December 2003 as a professor of optometry.

Hartmann received her Ph.D. in applied biopsychology from the University of New Orleans in 1987. Her background is a combination of developmental and experimental psychology merging into vision sciences. She has extensive experience in both behavioral and electrophysiological testing of vision with infants and young children for clinical as well as research purposes. She has also been involved with the development of two vision-screening devices.

Hartmann is an active research member of the Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology and Vision Sciences Society, and she serves on the Pediatric Advisory Board for the national offices of Prevent Blindness America.
About the School
News from In, Around, and Beyond UAB

Springer Lecture
Every August, the UAB School of Optometry hosts the Medical Retina and Pharmacology CE lectures. This year, the lectures were held in conjunction with the sixth annual Springer Lecture. This year’s Springer Lecturer was V. Michael Patella, O.D., a graduate of the University of California at Berkeley School of Optometry. He is a founding member of the Optometric Glaucoma Society and was instrumental in the development of Static Automated Perimetry.

Alumni/Student Mentoring Luncheon
Every quarter, the UABSO Alumni Association hosts the Alumni/Student Mentoring Luncheon, at which alums speak to the third- and fourth-year students about their experiences out in the “real” world. The association’s goal is to expose students to all aspects of the practice of optometry, from the typical private practice to the most unconventional research and teaching opportunities. This year, Mike Parker, O.D. (’80), Rose Betz, O.D. (’81), and David O’Leary, O.D. (’93), shared their experiences and insights with students who are eager to hear about the realities of life after optometry school so they can be better prepared. It is a great service to the school and to our future practitioners. If you would like to join us as a guest speaker, please contact Virginia Rogers at 205-934-5605, or vsr@uab.edu.

Dean John F. Amos accepts a renovation gift from Southern Council of Optometry executives Doug Clark (’82) and Richard Phillips.

Marcela Frazier (’02) and Dana Day (’98) enjoy the festivities at the annual AOA meeting.

Alumnae Mary Ayer (’85) and Masherrill Koonce (’90) visit during the Alumni Reception at the 2004 meeting of the American Optometric Association.

Rita and Don Springer are pictured here with Springer Lecturer Michael Patella of Dublin, California.

FOCAL POINT | UAB School of Optometry

Rita and Don Springer are pictured here with Springer Lecturer Michael Patella of Dublin, California.
Shipp Retirement
Melvin D. Shipp, O.D., who recently retired from the UAB School of Optometry to take over as dean of the Ohio State University College of Optometry, was feted in June at a reception hosted by the Alabama Chapter of the National Optometric Association, the UAB African American Faculty Association, and the UAB Office of Equity and Diversity. Numerous UABSO alumni, faculty, students, and friends attended the event to wish him well.

UABSO Alumni Association president Lynn Hammonds (’91) awards Marston Martin (’96) with a $100 door prize, one of three given each year to a dues-paying alum.

AOA Meeting
The 2004 AOA meeting was held in Orlando, Florida, at the Gaylord Palms Resort. The UABSO Alumni Association manned a booth at the Exhibit Hall, and hosted an alumni reception on Friday night. Especially welcome at the event were the many Florida alums who sometimes are unable to make it to meetings in more distant locations.

Gulf Coast Summer Conference
The annual Gulf Coast Summer Conference, hosted by the Alabama Optometric Association and the UAB School of Optometry Alumni Association, was held as usual at the Sandestin Hilton in Destin, Florida. In addition to the continuing education, O.D.s and their families were treated to a reception hosted by OOGP and enjoyed the many recreational opportunities of Sandestin.
School News

More About the School

Clara Edwards, a data information coordinator in the Clinical Eye Research Facility, was named the September 2004 Employee of the Month for UAB, at a reception in her honor. Clara, who has been at the School of Optometry for 13 years, has worked with many of the research faculty, winning their respect and admiration.

UABSO Dean John F. Amos was awarded the 2004 Honorary Alumnus Award from the UAB National Alumni Society at the Alumni Leadership Recognition and Awards Luncheon. Joining him at the luncheon were, from left, staff members Virginia Rogers, Brenda Carter, Linda Myers, Dean Amos, Peggy Striplin, Barbara Sobko, and former UABSO Financial Officer Dan Osborn.

Guests at the UAB School of Optometry’s annual Open House were able to gather information from a variety of sources. Below, a pair of guests are greeted by student affairs director Connie Wright and Dean John F. Amos.
Save This Date!
Monday, April 25th, 2005

The first annual UABSO Golf Tournament is scheduled for Monday, April 25, 2005, at Pine Tree Country Club in Birmingham. The tournament, sponsored by the Dean’s Community Advisory Committee, will benefit scholarships and research at the UABSO. For more information, contact Virginia Rogers at vsr@uab.edu or at 205-934-5605 or Peggy Striplin at striplin@uab.edu or 205-934-9838.

Open House
On October 3, 2004, the UAB School of Optometry hosted its annual Open House for potential students. Although Hurricane Ivan caused the original date to be abandoned, approximately 90 interested people and their guests came two weeks later to check out the facility, the program, and the faculty. Once here, guests were provided with information on many topics, from financial aid to demographics to the future of optometry.

Fourth-year student Amanda Paull, far right, conducts a tour of the teaching clinics at Open House.

Marsha Swanson
Helping Others Cope with Low Vision

If there’s one thing Marsha Swanson, O.D., didn’t expect to find right out of school, it was a near perfect job. “I couldn’t have asked for a better fit,” says Swanson. “I love teaching and I love patient care and I love low-vision rehab, so I got a great job right off the bat.”

Swanson, who graduated from the UAB School of Optometry in 2000 and completed her residency at the VA Medical Center, is currently the acting director of UAB’s Center for Low Vision Rehabilitation. She had previously been working at the clinic as a co-director since it began in 2001.

This is not your typical optometry clinic. First, it primarily accepts patients who have been referred by other optometrists or ophthalmologists. Also, it helps patients who have permanent vision loss, often working with the elderly to treat macular degeneration.

“We can’t give back the vision that these patients have lost, but we try to prescribe magnification devices and teach them different daily-living skills—how to go about routine tasks with their impaired vision,” says Swanson. “We offer different telescopic devices and educate them on services that are available to them now that they are legally blind or visually impaired.

“We also have occupational therapists who run an outpatient rehabilitation program,” says Swanson. “When the patients come in, they see me or one of the other doctors for an evaluation, and then they see an occupational therapist, who trains them on the devices and all these different skills so they can live life more independently.”

The center, which is located in the Callahan Eye Foundation Hospital, was initiated by former UABSO assistant professor Dawn DeCarlo, O.D. (’92)

In addition to her clinical work and teaching, Swanson takes optometry with her on vacation. She has participated in several medical mission trips with fellow doctors and students. She’s visited Honduras, Peru, and the Dominican Republic, and is currently planning her second trip to Costa Rica.

“We go down and do eye examinations and hand out free glasses. If there’s anything else we need to work on, we do that as well,” says Swanson. “Even though the groups work from sunup to sundown, it’s just complete fun.”
From the President

As I sit down to write this, my last letter as president of the Alumni Association, a touch of fall is in the air. I love the fall. The cool crisp mornings, the gorgeous colors that add a touch of beauty to the drive to work, the anticipation of the holidays with their hustle and bustle, all remind me of the many blessings that I have so generously been given. What great fortune to be in a profession that affords each of us a comfortable lifestyle with so many opportunities to touch the lives of those around us.

Each year about 40 percent of our graduates make a commitment to be a part of the UAB School of Optometry Alumni Association. The purposes of the alumni association include promoting the interest of the profession and the UABSO, fostering a fraternal spirit among the alumni, aiding in the procurement of qualified students for the school, and establishing special funds for the benefit of the school. By coming together in an organized fashion, our alumni have the capacity to help recruit good students, influence legislators, provide advice, give money, and serve as advocates and ambassadors for the school.

Although our membership dues are nominal and our budget small in comparison to the other UAB professional schools, our board’s commitment to the school, alumni, and students provides the impetus for us to meet our purposes and goals. I sometimes wonder what even greater things we could accomplish if all our graduates were willing to be members of the alumni association.

In November we will come together with the UABSO faculty and staff to celebrate the completion of the Clinic Renovation Project. Many of our alumni have made significant financial contributions to this project. This project exemplifies what can happen when we come together for a common cause. I have personally had the opportunity to tour the clinic several times during its renovation. The finished project is fabulous. I believe that each one of our graduates who has had a part, no matter how large or small, will be very pleased and proud to be a part of this effort.

In closing, I would like to thank Peggy Striplin, Virginia Rogers, and my colleagues who have served on the Alumni Board during my tenure as president. What a fine group of individuals, a group of exceptional, gifted people with a passion for optometry and a desire to see the UABSO continue its long history of strength and influence in the professional community.

Lynn Hammonds, O.D.
President, UABSO Alumni Association

Norman Johnson, O.D., & Teresa Glass, O.D.

School of Optometry graduates Norman Johnson (’80) and Teresa Glass (’78) have not only gone on to have successful careers, they’ve done it all together.

In 1981, Johnson and Glass were married, and a year later they opened an optometry practice together. They’ve been happily married co-workers ever since. “Everybody always kind of wonders,” says Johnson of their double union. “When they hear it, they say, ‘Oh I would never be able to do that,’ but we’ve been able to do it successfully, and we’re still enjoying it.”

The couple met during optometry school at UAB. Glass studied as an undergraduate at UAB, while Johnson studied at Rutgers University and got his undergraduate degree from Auburn University in Montgomery. Their Scottsboro practice became the 19th branch of Birmingham-based Eye Care Associates in 2003.

Johnson describes the unique professional relationship as one with more plusses than minuses.

“One of the plusses is that we can consult with each other when we’ve got interesting cases and bounce ideas off each other,” he says.

“Another was that when the children were small,” says Glass, "if he had to leave at four o’clock to go to the tee-ball game because he was coaching, I understood. As our children grew up, that was a definite advantage of being married and being partners.”

Their marriage has also allowed Glass and Johnson to divide the clinic’s workload more easily. For instance, Glass typically sees more children, and Johnson has been active on both the state level in the Alabama Optometric Association and the national level in the American Optometric Association.

“Over the years, a lot of our vacations have been planned around continuing-education meetings that we’ve gone to,” says Johnson. “Our kids have grown up going to optometry education meetings.”

Their professional relationship has also allowed them to get more out of such conferences and educational trips. “We both go and keep up, and when we have an opportunity, we take different courses, so we don’t sit in on the same courses all the time,” says Johnson. “That way we can bring more back to our practice and our patients.”

One of the few downsides of their unique family and professional situation is that family vacations are difficult. “If we both go somewhere together, we have to more or less shut the office down,” says Johnson.

Johnson and Glass have two children, who are both currently studying at Birmingham-Southern College. They’ve each expressed interest in the medical field.

With so much childhood experience, will they go into the family business? “Time will tell,” Johnson says with a laugh.
Hamp Moore, O.D.
Nurturing a Lifelong Ambition

For Florence optometrist Hamp Moore, his career choice was one that he envisioned at a very early age. He is a 1986 alumnus and serves on the Alumni Association Board of Directors.

Growing up in Albertville, Alabama, he had to have glasses to correct myopia at the age of 10. “I remember my very first eye exam by Dr. A.G. Long in Guntersville. Although I was less than thrilled with needing glasses, I always enjoyed going to see Dr. Long, and I remember telling my mom soon after that first exam that I wanted to be an optometrist when I grew up.” It is a decision that he says he has never regretted.

Moore has practiced in a variety of clinical settings. He started out as an optometrist in the U.S. Navy at Portsmouth Naval Hospital in Virginia and later at N.A.S. Oceana Branch Medical Clinic. After completion of his Navy commitment, he returned to Florence where he had attended undergraduate school at the University of North Alabama on a football scholarship.

In Florence, he was initially in a two-optometrist private practice for eight years and then joined an ophthalmologist/optometrist group practice for the next six years. In April 2003, he left to join Barry Basden, O.D. (’91), at Florence Eye Center. In November of last year they opened a second office in nearby Tuscumbia.

“I have had the opportunity to experience several different modes of practice in my career and have found each of them to have their own benefits as well as drawbacks. But now I really enjoy being an owner in the practice because I feel so much more in control of my own destiny. My partner Barry is also a UABSO graduate, and we have a very similar philosophy of practice. I think we both try to go the extra mile to do whatever is necessary to meet the needs of our patients.”

When he’s not working at his private practice, Moore enjoys running, weightlifting, and following his favorite football teams. He also has a part-time job as the color commentator on the radio broadcast for the Florence High School football games.

With his wife, Melinda, 14-year-old stepson, Nathan, 6-year-old daughter, Mary Claire, and 2-year-old twin boys, Dean and Clayton, life is very full. “I am truly living the dream that I had so long ago of being an optometrist and having a family. I feel I owe the UABSO so much. I appreciate the education that I received there every day. My membership in the alumni association and serving on the board of directors are just small ways of repaying the school and profession that have provided me with so much.”

Gerald Simon, O.D.
Variety of Interests Make a Full Schedule

Gerald Simon calls himself a “true Gemini.” Like the twins in the zodiacal constellation, Simon says he almost leads two separate but equally satisfying lives, splitting time between UAB and the Simon-Williamson Clinic Department of Ophthalmology and Optometry.

Add to that his myriad other responsibilities, however, and the sky gets a little more crowded. Simon recently began his second term on the UABSO Alumni Association Board, adding its activities to his involvement in church, family, and other professional responsibilities.

A native of Bessemer, Alabama, Simon is married with two children, ranging in age from 8 to 25 years old, and a 3-year-old granddaughter. At the UABSO, Simon is an associate clinical professor of optometry, instructing second year students in the Community Vision Service Program. He also is a member of the admissions committee and is the director of minority recruitment.

“I have really enjoyed my experience at UAB,” says Simon. “It blends nicely with my practice. I am able to give the students a slightly different flavor of optometry, based on real-world practical experiences. Likewise, being the only faculty member currently on the Alumni Board, I bring a slightly different perspective to that group.”

Simon graduated from UAB with a B.S. in nuclear medicine technology and received his O.D. from the UABSO in 1985. In his professional as well as his personal life, he says he has always been motivated by discovering ways that he can have a positive impact on the lives of others.

“If you had told me a few years ago that I would be teaching a Sunday School class and be on the faculty at UAB, I would not have believed it,” says Simon. “I believe that it is God’s will for each one of us to make a positive impact on someone else’s life. Every day in my practice, on the faculty, and in my Sunday-school class, I am afforded that opportunity.”

At home, Simon says he enjoys spending time with his family. With an 8-year-old, that doesn’t leave much time for anything else, but he says he still finds room to include some of his other passions.

“I enjoy spending time with my family, playing basketball, and watching and attending sporting events,” he says.
Planned Giving
Planting the Seed for Tomorrow

In planning for the future, most of us don’t think past the next few months or years—and certainly not past our own retirement. The School of Optometry, however, is committed to a long-term view, always mindful that the plans we put in place today will be crucial to the health of eye-care education in this state long after we are all gone.

That’s why planned giving is so important to the overall mission of the UABSO. The gifts given to us today, whether as part of a will or through a charitable gift annuity, help us to ensure the continued success of the school and give us the comfort of knowing that it will be on firm financial footing well into the future.

“Planned giving is like planting a seed,” says UABSO Senior Director of Development Peggy Striplin. “You plant the seed in faith that it will grow into a tree and mature at a much later date. When alumni and donors make such a gift now, it keeps gifts coming on a regular basis. If you haven’t already included the school in your planned giving, please take a moment to consider any of the many options we have available. A well thought-out gift can be a win-win situation for all involved.”

The UAB Charitable Gift Annuity

By establishing gift annuities, individuals can ensure income for themselves during retirement while maximizing the currently available tax breaks. In exchange for a transfer of cash or marketable securities, UAB agrees to pay a fixed sum of money to you (or to you and your spouse) for life. The fixed rate of return is based on an individual’s life expectancy and is set by the American Council on Gift Annuities. In today’s low-interest-rate environment, the gift annuity rates are extremely attractive and guaranteed for life. The payments are backed by the assets of the UAB Educational Foundation and will not fluctuate with market volatility. In addition, a portion of your annual annuity payment is tax-free. The minimum requirement for a gift annuity at UAB is $10,000, and the remainder can be designated to support the UABSO program of your choice. Charitable gift annuities help provide you income and help the school’s long-range planning.

Real Estate and Life Insurance

A gift of a remainder interest in a home or farm enables you (and a spouse) to continue to use your property for your lifetime and provides for a future gift. The UABSO will consider accepting all forms of real property, including residential, commercial, and industrial properties and undeveloped land.

Additionally, if you name the UABSO owner and beneficiary of an existing life insurance policy, you receive a charitable tax deduction in the amount of the cash surrender value. If you name the UABSO owner and beneficiary of an existing policy, you receive a full charitable tax deduction for each premium you pay through the UAB School of Optometry.

Charitable Lead and Remainder Trust

We encourage you to benefit your heirs and help support the UABSO through this program, which allows you to reduce your taxes, increase the yield on your holdings, and make a philanthropic gift to your organization.

A charitable trust can provide current support to the UABSO, and at the end of the trust term, assets are distributed to your heirs free of estate tax.

As with any gift to the UAB School of Optometry, proceeds may be directed to the program of your choice. For more information, please visit www.uab.edu/plannedgiving, or for specific questions about your individual plans or needs, contact Peggy Striplin at striplin@uab.edu.

2003 Gifts/Gifts-in-Kind

|$100,000 and above
The EyeSight Foundation of Alabama
| $20,000 to $99,999
Allergan
Essilor of America Inc.
Helen Bunkin
Seymour R. Marco Family Foundation
Vision Service Plan
| $10,000 to $19,999
William Ambler
CIBA Vision Corporation
Eyecare Associates Inc.
Haag-Streit USA
E. Frank Schmidt
SCI Research Advancement
| $5,000 to $9,999
Abba Optical Inc
Alcon Laboratories INC.
John F. Amos
Better Optics Inc.
Jeanine Cariri
Eye Health Partners Of Alabama Inc.
A. Teresa Glass
Norman C. Johnson
Marchon Eyewear Inc.
Southern Council of Optometrist Inc.
UAB Optometry School Alumni
John A. Williamson Jr.
H. Ralph Winton
| $2,500 to $4,999
Stewart Abel
Alabama Optometric Association
James W. Bedsole
Hernan G. Benavides
Eric S. Caplan
G. Robert Crosby
Dr. and Mrs. Larry J. DeLucas
Martha and Sidney Greenberg
Lynn S. Hammonds
Dr. and Mrs. Danny L. Hartzog
Rodney O. Horton
Wilburn Lord Jr.
James W. Marbourg and Robin L. Marbourg
Dennis E. Mathews
Mr. and Mrs. William A. Ochsenhirt III
Tim and Arlene Parker
Jerry R. Pederson
Terry E. Reynolds
Rosemore Family Foundation Inc
Mazen N. Sahawneh
Leo P. Semes
Carl H. Spear Jr.

| $100,000 and above
The EyeSight Foundation of Alabama
| $20,000 to $99,999
Allergan
Essilor of America Inc.
Helen Bunkin
Seymour R. Marco Family Foundation
Vision Service Plan
| $10,000 to $19,999
William Ambler
CIBA Vision Corporation
Eyecare Associates Inc.
Haag-Streit USA
E. Frank Schmidt
SCI Research Advancement
| $5,000 to $9,999
Abba Optical Inc
Alcon Laboratories INC.
John F. Amos
Better Optics Inc.
Jeanine Cariri
Eye Health Partners Of Alabama Inc.
A. Teresa Glass
Norman C. Johnson
Marchon Eyewear Inc.
Southern Council of Optometrist Inc.
UAB Optometry School Alumni
John A. Williamson Jr.
H. Ralph Winton
| $2,500 to $4,999
Stewart Abel
Alabama Optometric Association
James W. Bedsole
Hernan G. Benavides
Eric S. Caplan
G. Robert Crosby
Dr. and Mrs. Larry J. DeLucas
Martha and Sidney Greenberg
Lynn S. Hammonds
Dr. and Mrs. Danny L. Hartzog
Rodney O. Horton
Wilburn Lord Jr.
James W. Marbourg and Robin L. Marbourg
Dennis E. Mathews
Mr. and Mrs. William A. Ochsenhirt III
Tim and Arlene Parker
Jerry R. Pederson
Terry E. Reynolds
Rosemore Family Foundation Inc
Mazen N. Sahawneh
Leo P. Semes
Carl H. Spear Jr.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Donors</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$1,000 to $2,499</td>
<td>C. David Allgood, Aharon Sternberg, Charles G. Stevenson III, W. David Sullins Jr., Mike Utley Foundation, H. Fred Wallace Jr.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$500 to $999</td>
<td>Blue Cross and Blue Shield Of Alabama, Thomas K. Boan, Lowell J. Bonds, Earnest L. Cardwell, Larry D. Carter, Cheryl J. Cheatham, Dr. and Mrs. Douglas Curtis Clark, David Cooper, Dr. and Mrs. Kent M. Daum, Kimberly M. Dunagan, Robert E. Edge, George Nicholas Eischens, Entergy Services Inc., Howell Madison Findley, Patti S. Fuhr, Barry M. Gaffney, Wayne H. Gillis, Stephen Morgan Gross, K. Delton Hartzog, Jeff R. Hicks, W. David Jr., Sheila W. Kirk, L. Allen Loyd, Leroy Maxwell, Sarah Gordon Miehle, W. Hampton Moore, Dr. and Mrs. Lyman C. Norden, Dr. and Mrs. David K. O’Leary, Dr. and Mrs. Michael R. Parker, Willard D. Pierce, Margaret F. Powell, Bruce L. Reese, Leroy S. Roberson, Mary Jean Sanspree, Franklin Neal Smith, Kerry Stein, Dr. and Mrs. Stuart Andrew Sullins, Michael E. Tyner, Kristina F. Walks, Wendy A. Waguespack</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$250 to $499</td>
<td>R. Joe Adcock, Dr. and Mrs. Paul C. Ajamian, Dr. and Mrs. Jimmy D. Bartlett, Sherri L. Becker, Rose Marie Betz, Michael Dwayne Brown, Dr. and Mrs. Lester Caplan, Michael Roy Duenas, Ami Abel Epstein, Gary L. Farley, Dr. and Mrs. Ian Ben Gaddie, Martin L. Habel, Christi Crabtree Hill, Jeffrey D. Hill, Kristine B. Hopkins, Shanna F. Kirk, Donald R. Macqueen, Kye L. Mansfield, Marston Curtis Martin, Robert L. Moore, Gary W. Murrell, Sheila A. Peoples, Bruce A. Perry, Dale A. Potter, P. Duncan Roy Jr., Alice Sterling, Daniel J. Sullivan, Tasman Eye Consultants PC, Thomas E. Tucker</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
“Those of us who were in school from the mid-1980s on knew about UAB because those books were so important to the skills we took with us into practice.”

— Bart Campbell, O.D.
Associate professor at Southern College of Optometry

“There has always been a willingness at UAB to make things work, whether they are new initiatives, resources, or support for activities.”

— Paul Gamlin, Ph.D.
Chair of Department of Vision Sciences

“I am very fortunate to have come along during a time when there has been so much growth in the area of pharmaceutical utilization, and I feel privileged to have played a role in that.”

— Jimmy Bartlett, O.D.
UABSO professor and 2004 inductee to the National Optometry Hall of Fame