

HINDSIGHT

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July, 2015

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Hindsight: Journal of Optometry History publishes material on the history of optometry and related topics. As the official publication of the Optometric Historical Society, Hindsight: Journal of Optometry History supports the purposes and functions of the Optometric Historical Society.

The purposes of the Optometric Historical Society are:

- to encourage the collection and preservation of materials relating to the history of optometry,
- to assist in securing and documenting the recollections of those who participated in the development of optometry,
- to encourage and assist in the care of archives of optometric interest,
- to identify and mark sites, landmarks, monuments, and structures of significance in optometric development, and
- to shed honor and recognition on persons, groups, and agencies making notable contributions toward the goals of the society.

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The official publication of the Optometric Historical Society, published quarterly since its beginning, was previously titled:

Newsletter of the Optometric Historical Society, 1970-1991 (volumes 1-22), and

Hindsight: Newsletter of the Optometric Historical Society, 1992-2006 (volumes 23-37).

Use of the current title, Hindsight: Journal of Optometry History, began in 2007 with volume 38, number 1.

Volumes 1-42 are available online at:

<https://scholarworks.iu.edu/journals/index.php/hindsight/issue/archive>.

OHS website: <http://www.aoafoundation.org/ohs/>

On the cover: An illustration from the monograph *Patient Control*, by Harry Pine. If you can identify the instruments, please write the editor at dgoss@indiana.edu and your identifications will be published in a future issue of *Hindsight*. Tentative identifications of two of the instruments are given in the article on Harry Pine.



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Journal subscriptions are registered by joining the Optometric Historical Society. The cost of an institutional or library subscription is the same as for personal membership.

Manuscripts submitted for publication should be sent to the Editor at the email or postal address above. A Word document attached to an email message is the preferred means of submission. Paper copy submissions sent by postal service will also be considered.

OHS News

From John F. Amos, OHS Advisory Committee President

**BRIEF SUMMARY
OPTOMETRY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Business Meeting – Seattle Sheraton
June 25, 2015**

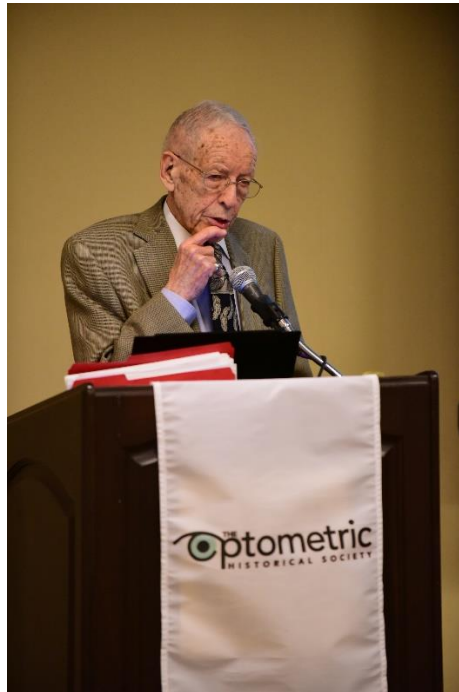
The OHS Annual Business Meeting was called to order by President John Amos. The members of the OHS Advisory Committee were introduced as were staff members in attendance. It was not necessary to appoint a recorder of minutes since the entire meeting was being audio recorded. The minutes of last year's meeting were read and approved by those in attendance. The Treasurer's report was read by Dr. Amos at the request of Dr. Haine since he was unable to attend the meeting. At this time the amount in the account is slightly decreased over that amount from last year, but with the increase in members and the amount of dues to be collected with the rolling membership, it is projected there will be an increase in funds by the end of the fiscal year. The Membership Report finds that the OHS has 97 members, including 87 individuals and 10 libraries.

New Business included the Acknowledgement of the passing of two well-known optometric leaders – Dr. Alfred A. Rosenbloom and Dr. Melvin D. Wolfberg. Brief biographies of the accomplishments of Drs. Rosenbloom and Wolfberg were read. Each of these optometrists contributed significantly to the growth of the profession as well as serving as long-term board members of the OHS. They also contributed papers to *Hindsight: The Journal of Optometry History*. A draft of the charter for the new Advisory Committee was distributed. This charter will be discussed at a later time by the Advisory Committee.

Ms. Kirsten Hebert, an archivist, heritage services and museum specialist, with AOA Heritage Services was called on to discuss several items of business. Among these were the genesis of the new banner, lapel pin, and graphic symbol of the OHS. The new banner was displayed for the first time at this meeting. Kirsten also presented an overview of the Archives and Museum of Optometry including the Appraisal Subcommittee regarding the museum collection, the newly resurrected Oral History Program and the National Register of Historic Places/National Trust. She also briefly mentioned the AOA Reception Story Wall Timeline.

Dr. Amos requested that all those in attendance please provide the names of possible new committee members to serve on the Advisory Committee as well as names for a speaker at Optometry's Meeting 2016 in Boston. The names of potential new OHS members are always welcomed.

Following the adjournment of the Business Meeting and a brief break, Dr. Lester Caplan this year's speaker for the "Blast from the Past" was introduced. Dr. Caplan's topic was "The Early Years of Optometry in the Indian Health Services" (1968-1989). Dr. Caplan's talk was most interesting and provided great detail as to those optometrists who served in the early years of optometry in the IHS. His presentation provided greater detail than that covered during his recent oral history of the same topic.



Top photograph: Lester Caplan making his "Blast from the Past" presentation.
Bottom photograph: OHS president John F. Amos leading the 2015 business meeting.

From Kirsten Hébert, OHS Administrative Support and Heritage Services Specialist, Archives and Museum of Optometry

The Archives & Museum of Optometry Move

In July 2016, The Archives & Museum of Optometry collections are moving off-site to secure, climate-controlled storage in preparation for the renovation of the AOA St. Louis Headquarters. Moving collections such as ours is challenging because many of the objects are at once fragile, heavy and awkward to move. Furthermore, our unseasonably wet weather requires us to modify our schedules and our packing methods and materials. However, the risk of damage to material from vibrations, contamination and deterioration from environmental pollutants during construction is much greater for collections stored on-site.

Since we will be unable to readily access our material, reference services will be suspended during the course of the next year. While this poses an inconvenience to researchers in the short run, this “down time” gives us an opportunity to gain greater intellectual control over our collection by conducting a survey of our holdings. Additionally, it will provide us with time and space to process donations that have been languishing in storage since the 1980s, and to conduct conservation and preservation treatments on materials such as our rolled, panoramic photographs and our motion picture collection. In the long term, this will improve access to our materials by opening up many new objects and archival materials to researchers.

We look forward to sharing our progress with you in the coming months!



Preparing for the Archives and Museum of Optometry move, Heritage Services Specialist Kirsten Hébert prepares the new storage space with Nilfisk Museum Vacuum and HEPA filter.



More photographs showing preparations for the Archives and Museum of Optometry move:

Top: Student volunteer Christopher Murphy unloading museum objects.

Middle left: Objects at the new site awaiting the construction of baked-enamel shelving.

Middle right: University of Missouri Museum Studies Intern, Sarah Budai, returns from shrink-wrapping boxes to protect them from unusual July rain in St. Louis, Missouri.

Bottom: Ophthalmic instrument removed from its stand and packed for moving and temporary storage.

A Brief Biographical Sketch of Harry E. Pine, Jr. (1890-1965), Optometric Leader

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Harry E. Pine, Jr. (1890-1965) was the son of an optometrist. His father was one of many trained in optics while employed by the James Queen Company in the late nineteenth century.¹ Harry E. Pine, Jr. graduated from Northern Illinois College of Optometry in 1923.² A profile indicated that he had B.S. and D.O.S. degrees,² the latter usually being an honorary designation.

Pine was a first Lieutenant in the United States Army in World War I and served in France. He continued with the Army Reserves until he retired in 1955 with the rank of Major.² He practiced optometry in Chicago, and was president of the Illinois Optometric Association for six years. He was the twenty-fourth president of the American Optometric Association, serving in the years 1936-38. It was observed that "his influence extended far beyond his official optometric offices."² He was characterized as an idealist and he worked to advance a positive image of professional optometry.²

Pine published many articles in the *Journal of the American Optometric Association* over a more than twenty year period, primarily on topics of professionalism in optometry. In 1934, he published a paper in the *American Journal of Optometry* entitled "Amblyopic treatment technics." Pine also published two small books, *Patient Control: Applied Psychology for the Optometrist* and *State Board Questions and Answers*.

Patient Control (64 pages) was a fold and staple soft cover monograph published in 1939 by Professional Press in Chicago. Pine gave advice on how to understand and manage patients, how to make a favorable impression, and how to achieve financial success while maintaining a professional practice. In the foreword, Pine noted that the successful optometrist "must understand people and human nature, and be able to approach and influence them. The ability to do so is just as much, and as important, a part of his professional service as the technical ability to diagnose and treat their physical defects." (p. 5)

In *Patient Control* Pine emphasized a good looking office with up-to-date equipment, an immaculately clean examination room, and a thorough and impressive examination. He suggested that orthoptic training should be advised when indicated, not only because it can eliminate the patient's visual fatigue, but also because it is a good practice builder. Pine stressed listening carefully to patients and trying to understand their needs. He noted that patient welfare must come first, but the optometrist should confidently charge fees that will be profitable.

Throughout the book Pine gave examples of how he handled various patient encounters. For example, when the optometrist who examined the patient previously is mentioned by the patient, it is best to be complimentary concerning that optometrist or say nothing. Pine noted that “whenever an optometrist is lowered in public esteem we all suffer.” (p. 25)

A review of Pine’s *Patient Control* stated: “Much importance is given to minute detail and many of the object lessons stressed could be used to advantage by a large majority of practitioners.”³ The book included seven black and white illustrations of office rooms. Two of those illustrations are reproduced here (Figures 1 and 2).

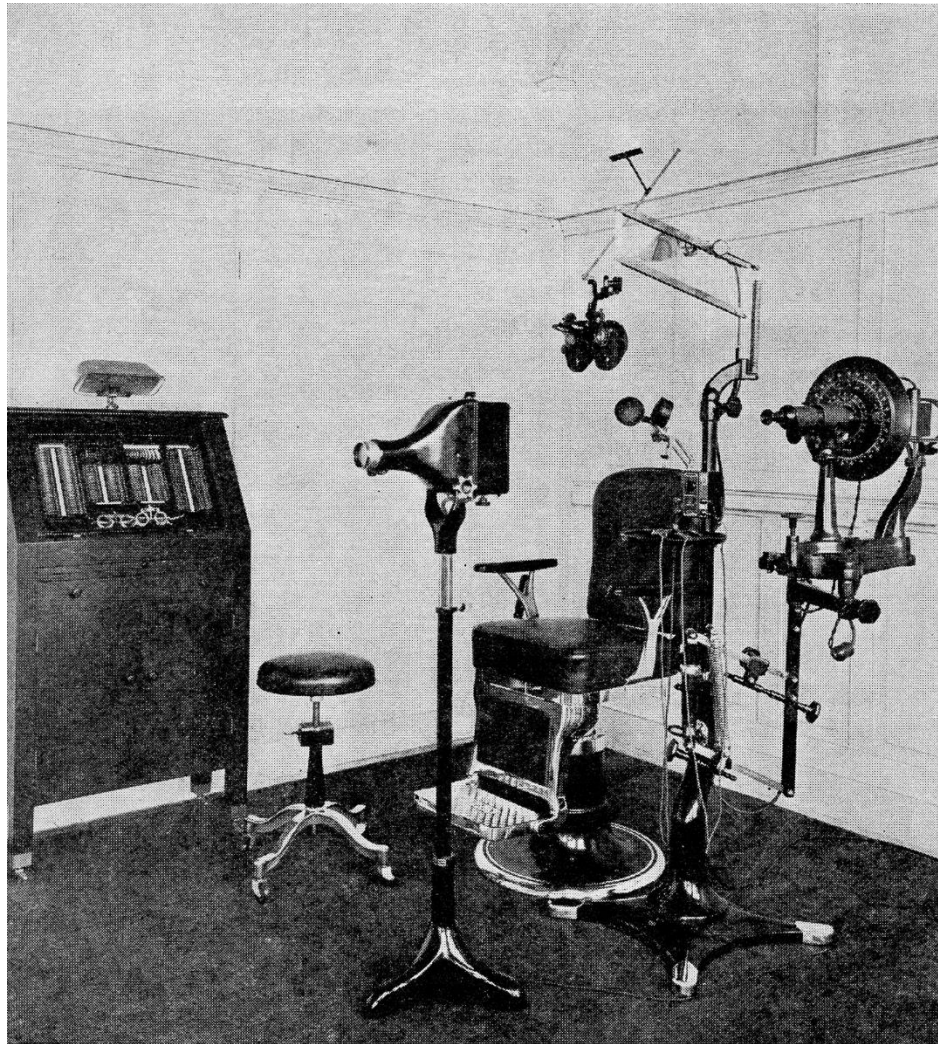


Figure 1. This photograph of an examination room from Shuron Optical Company was in Pine’s *Patient Control* (page 24).



Figure 2. This drawing from American Optical Company was in Pine's *Patient Control* (page 26). This room appears to be an orthoptics and special tests room. The instrument on the left next to the margin of the drawing appears to be a rotoscope, which was a stereoscope arrangement in which the object viewed could be rotated and convergence could be varied. The instrument on the right may be a stereocampimeter for examination of central fields. Can anyone confirm those identifications and/or identify the instrument in the foreground or the instrument just to the left of the door?

Pine's *State Board Questions and Answers* (136 pages) was published in hardcover in 1950 by Professional Press of Chicago. Pine compiled questions and answers from the licensure examinations of several unidentified states. They were grouped into categories of ocular pathology, geometric optics, theoretic optometry, physiological optics, practical optometry, practical optics, and ocular anatomy. The material was compiled to assist those who were preparing to take state board examinations.

In an introduction to *State Board Questions and Answers*, Pine noted that some errors in the answers given by the State Boards were corrected so that those preparing for board examinations would not be confused. Some answers were followed by editorial notes which pointed out problems with the questions or the answers provided by the Boards. Pine stated that this was done partly to help examiners improve their questions.

A review of the book observed that it would be helpful to persons taking state board examinations in showing them the type of questions they were likely to face and the answers that might be expected.⁴ The review also suggested that the book made clear a shortcoming of board examinations. Not only were some esoteric questions included, but they also had answers that extended over multiple pages. The review concluded by stating: "The author has served his profession better by giving such questions and answers wider distribution than he has with the presentation of all the good ones that make up the greater part of the book. Let us hope the full scope of his labors will be appreciated and that it will bring about a long overdue reform."⁴

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Changes in Optometric Education in the 1970s

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Optometric education underwent significant change in the 1970s. This article gives an overview of some of those changes.

The Havighurst Report

In the early 1970s, the American Optometric Association made a \$90,000 grant to the National Commission on Accrediting to make a study of optometric education. Twelve persons, including four practicing optometrists, and staff and officers of the optometrists, were appointed to the Commission on the Study of Optometric Education. Robert J. Havighurst, Professor of Education and Human Development at the University of Chicago, was named study director.

Between June, 1971 and December, 1972, Havighurst met with members of the Commission, students and faculty at all optometry schools in the United States and one in Canada, presidents or deans of optometry schools, and staff and officers of the AOA. The results of study were summarized in a 128 page soft-cover book.¹

Among the recommendations coming from the study were the following: (1) Practitioners should be required to take continuing education courses to maintain licensure. (2) All schools should have some faculty with both O.D. and Ph.D. degrees. (3) Optometry faculty salary scales should approximate those of other health science schools, such as dentistry. (4) Optometry faculty should have time available for research and service activities. The amount of time should approximate one-third of a full-time faculty member's time. (5) There should be more opportunities for graduate training and research. (6) The optometry school curriculum should give greater emphasis to ocular disease and pharmacology, public and community health, social and behavioral sciences related to vision, and optometry practice specialty areas. (7) Standards for vision science libraries should be developed. (8) Optometry schools should cooperate with organizations which provide continuing education. (9) Several new optometry schools associated with universities or health science centers should be established. (10) The optometric profession should continue to study itself so that it can make a wise plan for the future. Within the following decades these recommendations would largely be met.

Four New Schools Open Between 1971 and 1980

In April of 1971, New York Governor Nelson Rockefeller signed bills authorizing the establishment of the State University of New York (SUNY) College of Optometry. Classes started in September, 1971. The founding president was Alden N. Haffner, who was the executive director of the Optometric Center of New York, a nonprofit institution. Haffner served terms as the SUNY College of Optometry president from

1971 to 1979 and from 1987 to 2005, with time in between as the vice chancellor for research, graduate studies and professional programs for the SUNY system. At first the College of Optometry occupied space where the Optometric Center of New York had operated a clinic, but soon the college rented additional space and then in 1976 consolidated facilities in one 130,000 square foot location where it remained for the next quarter century.²

The College of Optometry at Ferris State College (now Ferris State University Michigan College of Optometry) entered 21 students in September of 1975. This was the culmination of efforts of the Michigan Optometric Association, although they had originally envisioned the school at one of Michigan's larger universities. Ferris State president Robert Ewigleben was successful in arguing that the optometry school would be a natural fit with Ferris State's Opticianry and Optometric Technician programs.³ The College of Optometry's first dean was Jack W. Bennett, who served in that role until 1988, when he became dean at Indiana University School of Optometry. The faculty members during the school's first two years were Robert L. Carter, Michael Keating, and Vincent King.³

The next optometry school to open was at Northeastern Oklahoma State University in Tahlequah, Oklahoma, where 24 students started classes in the fall of 1979. One of the attributes of that location that made an optometry school feasible was that Tahlequah was the capitol of the Cherokee Nation and the site of an Indian Health Service U.S. Public Health Service hospital where an optometry clinic could be incorporated.^{4,5} The first dean of the college was Chester H. Pheiffer, who had previously been dean at the University of Houston College of Optometry. The faculty in the first year of the program were Hank G. Van Veen, Lesley L. Walls, and M. Gary Wickham. David A. Goss joined the faculty in August of 1980 and Harry O. House in January of 1981.

The College of Optometry at the University of Missouri St. Louis started classes in the fall of 1980. Efforts to establish the school began in 1967 when the Missouri Optometric Association appointed Jerry Franzel chairman of a task force for that purpose.^{6,7} The founding dean was Jerry L. Christensen. Faculty who started at UMSL in the first few years of the optometry school and subsequently taught there for 25 or more years include G.A. Franzel, Ralph Garzia, William Long, and Carol Peck.⁸

Curricular Additions Related to Pathology and Pharmacology in the 1970s

The 1970s saw increases in coursework in ocular and systemic disease and pharmacology at all optometry schools, corresponding to the expansion in scope of practice occurring in many states. For example, required courses in this area in the optometry curriculum at Indiana University listed in the 1969-70 Bulletin were 4 semester hours in general and ocular pathology, 8 semester hours of applied ocular pathology, and 1 semester hour of ocular pharmacology. In contrast, required disease-related coursework in the 1979-80 Bulletin included 4 semester hours of medical and ocular microbiology, 4 semester hours of general pathology, 3 semester hours of ocular physiology and biochemistry, 6 semester hours of ocular disease, 6 semester hours of

general and ocular pharmacology, and 3 semester hours of physical diagnosis. Other related changes from 1969-70 to 1979-80 at Indiana University were the increase in credits for ocular anatomy from 3 to 4 and addition of courses in optometric histology and neuroanatomy. Implementation of ocular disease management in the teaching clinics was a challenge but was aided at many schools by external rotations.

Accelerated Optometry Program for Ph.D.s

In 1972, the Massachusetts College of Optometry (later named New England College of Optometry) established a program in which students with earned Ph.D. degrees in the sciences could obtain an O.D. in an accelerated two year program. Similar two year programs were already in existence in some medical and dental schools. The program made extensive use of seminars and independent study. By 1976, the program had graduated 22 Doctors of Optometry.⁹ One of the motivating factors in establishing the program was a shortage of optometric educators, and many of the graduates did take faculty positions at optometry schools. For example, in the summers of 1981 and 1982 when Northeastern State University in Oklahoma was expanding its optometry faculty in the third and fourth years of the existence of its optometry school, three of the ten faculty they hired were graduates of the accelerated O.D. program at New England College of Optometry (Lynn Cyert, George Fulk, and Roger West).

Changes in Numbers of Optometry School Applicants in the 1970s

From 1969-70 to 1974-75, the number of persons submitting applications to optometry schools increased from 1,400 to 3,622, the total number of applications from 1,744 to 8,328, and thus the number of applications per applicant also showed an increase (from 1.2 to 2.3).¹⁰ Explanations for the increased number of applicants could include increase in numbers of female applicants to optometry school, increasing recognition of optometry, high regard for health care workers by the public at this time, and possible deferment from military service during the Vietnam War.

The number of applicants who matriculated at an optometry school increased from 783 in 1969-70 to 1,000 in 1974-75. Thus the percentage of applicants who were admitted to an optometry school decreased from 55.9% in 1969-70 to 27.6% in 1974-75.¹⁰

The numbers of applicants to medical and dental school also showed increases from 1969-70 to 1974-75. At the time, there were ten times as many medical schools as optometry schools and five times as many dental schools as optometry schools. So in terms of numbers of persons, the increases were greater for medicine and dentistry, but on a percentage basis the increases for optometry were greater. From 1969-70 to 1974-75, the number of persons applying to dental schools increased by 45%, to medical schools by 73%, and to optometry schools by 159%.¹⁰

The number of applicants per acceptance at optometry schools increased in the years between 1969-70 to 1974-75 from 1.8 to 3.6, at medical schools from 2.3 to 2.9,

and at dental schools from 2.4 to 2.6. Thus the applicant to acceptance ratio was lower for optometry than for dentistry and medicine in 1969-70 but higher in 1974-75.¹⁰

The number of optometry school applications increased again from 8,328 in 1974-75 to 9,164 in 1975-76, but after the startling increases in numbers of optometry school applications from 1969-70 to 1975-76, the numbers of applications decreased each year in the rest of the 1970s.¹¹ The number of applications decreased to 6,185 in 1979-80.¹¹

The First Year Long Residencies

The first year long residency in optometry was one in vision therapy at the State University of New York. It started in 1974 with four residents: Stanley Appelbaum, Harvey Estren, Kenneth Koslowe, and Robert Sanet.^{12,13} A residency started at the Veterans Administration hospital in Kansas City in 1975 became the first residency accredited by the Council on Optometric Education.¹⁴ The first resident in that program was Thomas Stelmack.¹⁴ By 1979, there were 18 residency programs offered by ten optometry schools.¹⁵ Areas of emphasis of those residencies included general optometry, ocular disease, low vision, vision therapy, pediatric optometry, and contact lenses.¹⁵

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Changing Nature of the Optometry Student Body: Compilations of Illustrative Data Across Several Decades

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This article contains three tables of data which illustrate ways in which the optometry student body changed in the twentieth century and into the twenty-first century. Data were collected from a variety of sources, and there are some years for which data do not seem to be readily available.

Levels of College Training Before Entering Optometry School

At the beginning of the twentieth century, there were generally no academic requirements for admission to optometry school.¹ In 1944, only 19% of practicing optometrists had attended college before optometry school.¹ Optometry school entrance requirements were gradually added, and by the early 1940s, they were increasing to a minimum of one year of college credit. This has incrementally increased to the present standard of four years of pre-optometry college work, although some students with exceptional academic records can gain admittance after three years of college.

Each year from 1999 to 2012, at least 90% of students had a Bachelor's degree or higher entering optometry school. Of course, there have always been a number of students who exceeded the minimum requirements for admittance. In each of the years from 1999 to 2012, one to three percent of entering students had a Master's or Doctorate degree.

Table 1. Percent of United States optometry students with college training and college degrees before entering optometry school.

Year	Percent with college training	Percent having Bachelor's degree or higher	Source
1924	3	<1	Estimated from Figs. 18 & 19 in Hofstetter ¹
1925	14	1	Estimated from Figs. 18 & 19 in Hofstetter ¹
1926	15	<1	Estimated from Figs. 18 & 19 in Hofstetter ¹
1927	13	1	Estimated from Figs. 18 & 19 in Hofstetter ¹
1928	10	<1	Estimated from Figs. 18 & 19 in Hofstetter ¹
1929	13	2	Estimated from Figs. 18 & 19 in Hofstetter ¹
1930	12	1	Estimated from Figs. 18 & 19 in Hofstetter ¹
1931	15	2	Estimated from Figs. 18 & 19 in Hofstetter ¹
1932	15	3	Estimated from Figs. 18 & 19 in Hofstetter ¹
1933	20	3	Estimated from Figs. 18 & 19 in Hofstetter ¹

1934	19	3	Estimated from Figs. 18 & 19 in Hofstetter ¹
1935	10	2	Estimated from Figs. 18 & 19 in Hofstetter ¹
1936	15	2	Estimated from Figs. 18 & 19 in Hofstetter ¹
1937	18	2	Estimated from Figs. 18 & 19 in Hofstetter ¹
1938	22	4	Estimated from Figs. 18 & 19 in Hofstetter ¹
1939	24	4	Estimated from Figs. 18 & 19 in Hofstetter ¹
1940	35	6	Estimated from Figs. 18 & 19 in Hofstetter ¹
1941	39	7	Estimated from Figs. 18 & 19 in Hofstetter ¹
1970	100	41	Seeger ²
1973	100	49	Seeger ³
1977	100	64	J Optometric Education ⁴
1978	100	64	J Optometric Education ⁵
1979	100	65	J Optometric Education ⁶
1980	100	66	J Optometric Education ⁷
1981	100	63	J Optometric Education ⁸
1982	100	62	J Optometric Education ⁹
1983	100	61	J Optometric Education ¹⁰
1984	100	64	J Optometric Education ¹¹
1987	100	62	Data provided by ASCO ¹²
1989	100	76	ASCO Survey ¹³
1990	100	67	ASCO Survey ¹⁴
1991	100	71	ASCO Survey ¹⁵
1999	100	92	Data provided by ASCO ¹²
2000	100	90	Data provided by ASCO ¹²
2001	100	90	Data provided by ASCO ¹²
2002	100	90	Data provided by ASCO ¹²
2003	100	91	Data provided by ASCO ¹²
2004	100	91	Data provided by ASCO ¹²
2005	100	92	Data provided by ASCO ¹²
2006	100	92	Data provided by ASCO ¹²
2007	100	93	Data provided by ASCO ¹²
2008	100	94	ASCO website ¹⁶
2009	100	93	ASCO website ¹⁶
2010	100	94	ASCO website ¹⁶
2011	100	96	ASCO website ¹⁶
2012	100	97	ASCO website ¹⁶

ASCO = Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry

Pre-Optometry Grade Point Averages

Not only have the years of pre-optometry training increased, but available data (Table 2) indicate an increase in pre-optometry grade point averages since the 1960s. Some of this increase can be attributed to grade inflation which has been estimated at an average increase in GPA of about 0.1 per decade.¹⁷

Table 2. Mean pre-optometry grade point averages (GPA). For some years, the available data were the overall mean GPAs for all entering optometry students, and for some years the data available were mean GPAs for entering students at each of the ASCO member schools. In the latter case, the table below gives the range from the school with the lowest mean entering GPA to the school with the highest mean entering GPA.

Year	Overall Mean GPA	Range of Mean GPAs for ASCO Member Schools	Source
1965	2.46		Seeger ³
1966	2.50		Seeger ³
1967	2.56		Seeger ³
1968	2.62		Seeger ³
1969	2.59		Seeger ³
1970	2.67		Seeger ³
1971	2.80		Seeger ³
1972	2.91		Seeger ³
1973	3.00		Seeger ³
1975	3.27		Boucher ¹⁸
1976	3.25		Boucher ¹⁸
1977	3.29	2.89 – 3.53	J Optometric Education ⁴
1978	3.30	2.91 – 3.53	J Optometric Education ⁵
1979	3.31	2.90 – 3.58	J Optometric Education ⁶
1980	3.28	2.87 – 3.48	J Optometric Education ⁷
1981	3.19	2.80 – 3.40	J Optometric Education ⁸
1982		2.86 – 3.38	J Optometric Education ⁹
1983		2.91 – 3.40	J Optometric Education ¹⁰
1984		2.70 – 3.40	J Optometric Education ¹¹
2009		3.03 – 3.57	ASCO website ¹⁶
2010		3.33 – 3.87	ASCO website ¹⁶
2011		3.28 – 3.92	ASCO website ¹⁶
2012		3.03 – 3.73	ASCO website ¹⁶
2013		3.02 – 3.65	ASCO website ¹⁶

Percentages of Women Among Applicants and Entering Students

A survey conducted by the American Optometric Association in 1944 found that about 3% of practicing optometrists were women.²⁰ The pattern of few women in optometry persisted until the 1970s. The percentage of optometry school applicants who were women increased from 5% in 1971 to 19% in 1977.²¹ The proportion of women among optometry students throughout the last quarter of the twentieth century increased until they reached a majority. These trends are shown in Table 3.

Table 3. Percentages of women among optometry school applicants and among entering optometry students.

Year	Percentage among applicants	Percentage among entering students	Source
1971	5		Levine ²¹
1972	7		Levine ²¹
1973	9		Levine ²¹
1974	13		Levine ²¹
1975	14		Levine ²¹
1976	18		Levine ²¹
1977	19	20	Levine ²¹ ; J Optometric Education ⁴
1978		20	J Optometric Education ⁵
1979		23	J Optometric Education ⁶
1980		25	J Optometric Education ⁷
1981		27	J Optometric Education ⁸
1982		29	J Optometric Education ⁹
1983		34	J Optometric Education ¹⁰
1984		35	J Optometric Education ¹¹
1989		50	ASCO Survey ¹³
1990		51	ASCO Survey ¹⁴
1991		53	ASCO Survey ¹⁵
1992		55	Trends in Optometric Education ²²
2008		65	ASCO website ¹⁶
2009		62	ASCO website ¹⁶
2010		64	ASCO website ¹⁶
2011		66	ASCO website ¹⁶
2012		63	ASCO website ¹⁶
2013		65	ASCO website ¹⁶

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1961 Conference on Graduate Training for Research in Vision

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Knowing my interest in optometry history, Indiana University retired professor Graeme Wilson gave me a notebook with material from the Rochester Conference on Graduate Training for Research in Vision, held August 13 to 19, 1961 at the University of Rochester in Rochester, New York. He had not attended the meeting and could not recall how he obtained the notebook. The notebook contained pre-conference information for the participants, biographical information on the participants, some hand written and typewritten notes on discussions at the conference, and a group photograph of scientists who attended the conference.

The stated purpose of the meeting was “to provide an opportunity for scientists working in the field of vision to discuss problems of educational philosophy, goals and content for graduate programs in the various disciplines contributing to research in vision.” It was attended by scientists from industry, government laboratories, and university departments and schools of biophysics, engineering, ophthalmology, optics, optometry, physics, psychology, and zoology. The vast majority of participants were from the United States, but the conference was also attended by scientists from England, France, Germany, Spain, and Sweden. The meeting was funded by the National Science Foundation.

The planning committee for the conference consisted of: Robert M. Boynton, Jean S. Cameron, Norma D. Miller, and G. Richard Wendt, all of the University of Rochester; Glenn Fry of The Ohio State University; and Oscar Richards of American Optical Company. Five days of the conference were devoted to one topic of discussion each and participants were split into three groups for elaboration on those topics. There were also plenary sessions and opportunities for sightseeing and tours of Bausch & Lomb, Eastman Kodak, and Corning Glass Works. The topics of discussion and some of the thoughts that were expressed were:

(1) For what roles should we educate visual scientists?

Roles include teaching, research, engineering, clinical practice, and propagation of visual science. The multiplicity of roles implies a multiplicity of programs.

(2) What is common in the training of all scientists working in the field of vision?

The fact that people entering the field of vision science come from many different disciplines is healthy and should continue. However, it would be useful in training programs to have survey courses providing some basic level of understanding in areas of knowledge of vision science.

(3) Has the field of vision reached the level of a separate discipline?

It appears that most discussants thought the answer to this question was no, and the contemplation of this question led to discussions of the formation of an organization of vision scientists.

(4) What can be done to facilitate communications between the different disciplines contributing to knowledge about vision?

It was noted that a survey of vision scientists, 175 respondents named 104 different journals as the preferred periodical for submission of their papers. It was suggested that abstract volumes be published or an annual review of visual science similar to the *Annual Review of Psychology*. The publication of review papers which include all relevant literature was encouraged. The *Dictionary of Visual Science* by Schapero, Cline, and Hofstetter was recommended as a basis for consistency in terminology. A directory of vision scientists compiled by Norma Miller and Glenn Fry was thought to be a useful resource for identification of scientists working in vision.

(5) What specialized equipment and techniques used in individual disciplines could be profitably applied to other disciplines?

Many different types of equipment were discussed. Courses in methodology should be included in training programs.

Of particular interest in this notebook of material was a group photograph of meeting participants (Figure 1). Well-known optometrists such as Jay Enoch, Glenn Fry, Henry Hofstetter, Meredith Morgan, and Donald Pitts can be seen in the picture. I also noted two of my former teachers at Pacific University College of Optometry in the early 1970s, Niles Roth, who was at UCLA at the time of the conference, and Oscar Richards, who worked at American Optical Company at the time of the conference. The biographical material in the notebook included portrait photos of many of the meeting participants, so I was able to identify most of the persons in the group picture that I was not able to otherwise recognize. Four persons remain unidentified. Can any readers identify them?



Front row: Louise Sloan, Oscar Richards, G. Richard Wendt, Jean Cameron, Robert Boynton, Norma Miller, Glenn Fry, Rico-Mariano Aguilar, Kenneth Ogle, Ernest Baumgardt, Eric Ingelstam
 Second row: Frederick Mote, Judith Wheeler Onley, Henry Imus, ??, Donald Pitts, Sylvester K. Guth, Manfred Richter, W.S. Stiles, W.D. Wright, Robert A. Weale, ??
 Third row: Robert J. Fletcher, Frank W. Weymouth, Leonard C. Mead, Gordon Walls, Meredith Morgan, Niles Roth, Thorne Shipley, Jay Enoch, James Peskin
 Back row: Everett M. Strong, Neil R. Bartlett, C.L. Crouch, ??, Leo Lipetz, Henry Hofstetter, Henry Knoll, ??, Harris Ripps, David Megirian

Book Review: Vision Realized: A History of the MCO

Vision Realized: A History of the MCO. J. James Saladin and Robert L. Carter. Big Rapids, MI: Ferris State University, 2012. 68 pages. ISBN 978-1-300-13910-2. Softcover. \$25 at www.Lulu.com.

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This book tells the story of the Ferris State University Michigan College of Optometry. In 1967 the Michigan Optometric Association formed a committee to promote the idea of an optometry school in Michigan, and within a few years they were lobbying the state legislature to establish one. During the 1973-74 legislative session, it appeared that this could become a reality. The Michigan Optometric Association favored establishing the school at Michigan State University, but their priority was to start a new law school.

Ferris State College President Robert Ewigleben lobbied the legislature for the establishment of the optometry school at Ferris State, where there was already an existing opticianry program and newly formed optometric technician program. In July of 1974, a bill which authorized an optometry school at Ferris State was passed by votes of 35-0 in the Michigan Senate and 91-6 in the House.

In early 1975, Jack W. Bennett, then a faculty member at Indiana University, was named Dean. Over 350 applications for the first class were received and a class of 21 was accepted for classes beginning in September of 1975. The initial optometry faculty members were Robert Carter, O.D., Michael Keating, Ph.D., and Vincent King, O.D.

Soon after classes started in September, 1975, the Michigan governor vetoed the budget for health programs at Ferris because it included funding for the College of Optometry. The school year proceeded as legislative support for a veto override grew. The threat of an override led to compromises in June of 1976 and the College of Optometry was able to admit 22 more students to start in September, 1976. By then it was too late to hire additional faculty, so the faculty that taught the first year classes in 1975-76 had to teach first and second year classes in 1976-77. Five new faculty members were hired in the summer of 1977 and five more faculty in the summer of 1978.

From the beginning in 1975, the Ferris State curriculum involved having all classroom and laboratory work in the first three years of school and having the fourth year devoted solely to clinic work. Because of the limited population base in the area, the fourth year was divided into three 14-week rotations, only one of which was conducted on the Ferris State campus. The late 1970s and early 1980s saw curricular changes due to optometric expansion in scope, adaptation to changes in testing and

management technologies, increase in class sizes to 32, expansion of the optometry library collection, and increase in number of sites for fourth year rotations.

When Jack Bennett left Ferris in 1988 to become dean of the optometry school at Indiana University, Michael Keating served as interim dean. After Kenneth J. Myers served as dean for a few months, Keating once assumed the role of interim dean. In December, 1991, Alan L. Lewis took over as dean. Subsequent deans have been C. Allyn Uniacke (interim, 1999-2000), Kevin Alexander (2000-2008), Nancy Peterson-Klein (interim, 2008-2009), and Michael T. Cron (2009-).

The College of Optometry started its first affiliated residency program in 1988-89 at the Battle Creek VA Hospital. By 2011, it had ten different residency positions at seven locations.

In January, 2011, the College of Optometry assumed occupancy of a new optometry building. Since 1977 the college had been located in a building which originally was a dormitory and its limitations had been obvious for some time.

In 2001, a new Ferris Library for Information, Technology, and Education, incorporating the main optometry collection, was dedicated. An optometry reading room had been maintained within the optometry building since the early years of the college and its smaller duplicate collection was included in the new optometry building in 2011.

By 2010-2011, the three fourth year rotations were 16 weeks long and about 70% of students were doing all three rotations off campus. By 2010, the curriculum had also expanded to the point that there were required classes between the second and third years.

The two year optician program at Ferris, which had started in 1959, was discontinued in 2002. The optometric technician program operated from 1973 to 1997, averaging 15 students per class over those years.

The book also covers student life and organizations, clinics, faculty hirings, and some humorous anecdotes. It is well illustrated with numerous black and white as well as color photographs.

Three Prominent OHS Members Remembered

Alfred A. Rosenbloom, Jr. (1921-2015)

Alfred A. Rosenbloom, born and raised in Pittsburgh, received a B.A. degree from Pennsylvania State University in 1942.^{1,2} He joined the United States Army during World War II and served as a master sergeant for a medical unit on an Army base in Georgia. Being inspired by optometrists in that unit, he enrolled in Northern Illinois College of Optometry after his military service.³

Rosenbloom went to work at Northern Illinois College of Optometry after his graduation in 1948. Rosenbloom received an M.A. degree from the University of Chicago in 1954. His thesis was entitled *Aniseikonia Among Good and Poor Readers*.

Rosenbloom was Dean of Illinois College of Optometry from 1955 to 1972 and president of ICO from 1972 to 1982.⁴ Rosenbloom was recognized as an expert in low vision. He was a diplomate of the Low Vision Section of the American Academy of Optometry. He helped found the Low Vision Clinic at the Chicago Lighthouse, and he was on the board of directors of the American Foundation for the Blind.¹

Rosenbloom was co-editor with Meredith Morgan of two books: *Principles and Practice of Pediatric Optometry* (1990) and *Vision and Aging* (1986, 1993, 2007). Rosenbloom received many awards and recognitions, including an honorary D.O.S. degree from Northern Illinois College of Optometry in 1954, William Feinbloom Award from the American Academy of Optometry in 1995, Carel C. Koch Medal from the American Academy of Optometry in 1999, VOSH International Humanitarian of the Year in 2007, Distinguished Service Award from the American Optometric Association, Migel Medal from the American Foundation for the Blind, and election to the National Optometry Hall of Fame in 2010. Rosenbloom served on the Optometric Historical Society Board of Trustees for several years.

John N. Schoen (1918-2014)

John Schoen was the son of an Owatonna, Minnesota jeweler.⁵ After his graduation from Northern Illinois College of Optometry in 1939, he returned to his hometown where he practiced optometry for 50 years. He was very active in his community in various service organizations, musical groups, and other activities.

Schoen was assistant secretary of the American Academy of Optometry from 1967 to 1973 and then secretary-treasurer from 1973 to 1982.⁶ He participated in many optometry humanitarian mission trips. Schoen was a charter member of the Optometric Historical Society, and in his later years he contributed letters to the editor to *Hindsight*.

Melvin D. Wolfberg (1926-2015)

Melvin Wolfberg was born in Altoona, Pennsylvania. He served in the U.S. Army Infantry in Europe during World War II and received Purple Heart and Silver Star medals.⁴ After military service he attended Pennsylvania State University and

Pennsylvania College of Optometry.⁷ After completing optometry school in 1951, he practiced in Selinsgrove, Pennsylvania.

Wolfberg served in numerous leadership roles in optometry. He was president of the American Optometric Association in 1969-70, president of the American Academy of Optometry in 1985 and 1986, and president of the Pennsylvania College of Optometry from 1979 to 1989. He also served as a vice president at Bausch & Lomb for two years before retiring.⁸ Among the awards he received were the Distinguished Service Award from the American Optometric Association in 1994 and the Eminent Service award from the American Academy of Optometry in 2005. Wolfberg was president of the Optometric Historical Society in 2007 and 2008.

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Material submitted for publication should be sent to the editor: David A. Goss, School of Optometry, Indiana University, Bloomington, IN 47405; dgoss@indiana.edu. Material may be submitted by postal service or by email, although the preferred mode of reception of submissions is a Word document in an email attachment.

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