

FROM THE EDITOR: FOCUS ON OPTOMETRIC EDUCATION

In this issue, we feature a variety of articles relating to optometric education. Sampson Listowell Abu, OD presents his remarkable research on the history and current status of optometry in Africa and then relates it to the development of optometry in North America. Edwin Marshall, OD, in the April, 2019 issue of *Hindsight*, quoted Henry Hofstetter, OD as saying at the First World Conference on Optometric Education, that “obstacles and hurdles that ordinarily seem local in origin are in fact worldwide, differing, like allergies, only in their superficial manifestations.”¹ We can see the truth of that statement in Dr. Abu’s interesting analysis of the similarities of the evolution of optometry in Africa and earlier developments in North American optometry.

Also in this issue is a history of the American Optometric Foundation (AOF) by Robert Newcomb, OD, which is now known as the American Academy of Optometry Foundation (AAOF). Dr. Newcomb’s article demonstrates that the Foundation has been very important for optometric education through its Ezell Fellowships, funding for research, and other activities. The website for the AAOF notes that over 20 optometry school deans and presidents and over 130 faculty members have been Ezell Fellows.² We could also mention that five former Optometric Historical Society officers were Ezell Fellows and further that the research reported by Dr. Abu in this issue was funded by an AAOF Fellowship.

The third entry in this issue is an article by two Pacific University students celebrating the 75th anniversary of the Pacific University College of Optometry. Ms. Sandhya Shekar and Ms. Karen to explore the history and current activities of the College. Readers will readily recognize the authors’ pride in their school.

Lastly, we have an article consisting of brief profiles of some of the faculty members at the Pacific University College of Optometry in the early 1970s. We hope that you will find these articles interesting and informative.

REFERENCES

1. Marshall EC. The Hofstetter effect – A vision in world optometry. *Hindsight: J Optom Hist* 2019;50:35-40.
2. American Academy of Optometry. William Ezell Fellowship – History and Purpose. <https://www.aaopt.org/home/aaof/programs/programs-for-graduate-students/programs-graduates>.



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