Abstract

Brief biographical profiles and recollections of some of the optometrists who provided didactic and clinical instruction at Pacific University College of Optometry in the early 1970s are provided.

Keywords

Optometric education, optometric research, optometry curriculum, optometry history, Pacific University

This article continues discussion of optometry faculty at Pacific University in the early 1970s. Part 1 profiled Charles Margach, O.D., M.S., Colin Pitblado, Ph.D., and Don West, O.D.; Part 2 presented notes on John Gerke, Ph.D., Margaret Gilbert, Ph.D., Mort Gollender, Ph.D., Leonard Levine, Ph.D., Jurgen Meyer-Arendt, M.D., Ph.D., Theodore Oakberg, Ph.D., Oscar Richards, Ph.D., and Frank Thorn, Ph.D.; and Part 3 provided brief bios of Bradford Wild, O.D., Ph.D., Earle Hunter, O.D., and Richard Septon, O.D., M.S.1-3 Considered first in this part will be some of the optometrists whose instructional duties were mostly in the classroom and laboratory. The latter part of this article will present notes on a few of the part-time faculty who worked in the clinic.

Donald A. Bybee, O.D., M.S. (1931-1974)

Dr. Don Bybee was born in California and earned an A.A. degree from Fresno City College. Dr. Bybee then attended Pacific University completing a B.S. degree and graduating from optometry school in 1968. He also earned an M.S. degree in 1970 from Pacific University.4 For his M.S., he completed a thesis titled “A comparison of a subjective and an objective method of measuring accommodation using laser reflection and retinoscopy respectively.”

Along with Dr. Michael Jessen, Dr. Bybee developed and taught a three-semester series of courses called Optometric Procedures which about a third of our class (Class of 1974), myself included, took as a test group instead of taking the one semester Pre-Clinic course. The Optometric Procedures courses were designed to teach examination procedures and prepare students for some limited work in the clinic in the second year. I can recall there being a great deal of emphasis in the course sequence on becoming proficient with retinoscopy. Drs. Jessen and Bybee’s experiment with the Optometric Procedures course sequence was apparently a success because it was adopted into the required curriculum for subsequent classes. Dr. Bybee also served as a laboratory instructor for some binocular vision and vision therapy labs in other courses.

Jane Brent Carmichael, O.D.

Dr. Jane Brent Carmichael taught in laboratories for binocular vision and vision therapy courses. In 1936, she received a B.A. degree from Mississippi State University, and in 1945, she earned her doctor of optometry degree from Southern College of Optometry.4 Dr. Carmichael was second author with Charles Margach of a series of three monographs published by the Optometric Extension Program (OEP) and titled Visual Behavior: Its Evaluation and Guidance which we used as a textbook for learning the OEP 21-point test sequence.
Alfred Furie, O.D. (1930-2018)

Dr. Alfred Furie was born in New York City. He earned a bachelor’s degree in agriculture in 1952 from Delaware Valley College. After serving in the U.S. Air Force for four years, Furie attended Pacific University, completing a bachelor’s degree in 1958 and his doctor of optometry degree in 1960. He then set up practice in Hillsboro, Oregon, where he practiced for 48 years. Dr. Furie taught part-time at Pacific, serving as an instructor in a course titled Ocular Pathology Detection and working in the clinic. I remember Dr. Furie as being a dedicated and caring individual. He received alumni achievement awards from both Delaware Valley College and Pacific University.


Born in Pittsburgh, Dr. Harold Haynes was raised in West Virginia. He graduated from Northern Illinois College of Optometry in 1946. He was on the faculty at Pacific University from 1948 to 1994. Several authors credited him with originating monocular estimation method (MEM) dynamic retinoscopy. During his career, Dr. Haynes published papers on dynamic retinoscopy, including the first publication on accommodation in infants, as well as papers on accommodative facility testing and nearpoint lens prescribing. One of Dr. Haynes’ accommodative facility papers incorporated data collected by my classmates Stuart Mann, Stephen Martin, and Richard Moore. Dr. Haynes was heavily involved in university faculty governance and local government activities, chairing Pacific University’s faculty council and leading Forest Grove’s Committee for Citizen Involvement.

In the early 1970s, Dr. Haynes taught three courses covering theory and analysis of accommodation and convergence test results, vision training, and strabismus. He was obviously quite knowledgeable, but his lectures were frequently difficult to follow due to his unique terminology and phrasing. For example, rather than talking about the nearpoint test card and the distance test chart, he spoke of the proximal stimulus and the distal stimulus.

Dr. Haynes derived his own set of norms for accommodation and convergence and designed an analysis system which provided an accommodative index and a convergence index. He derived means and probable errors (0.6745 times the standard deviation) from the results of examinations of 15 through 35-year-olds. Then, for each subsequent patient, points were assigned for each clinical test result based on how many probable errors it was away from the mean. The point values from groups of tests were used to calculate the accommodative index and the convergence index. Those index values did not yield a diagnosis, but rather indicated the magnitude of a vision problem, related the test results to the severity of symptoms, quantified improvement with treatment, or demonstrated changes with time.

Michael G. Jessen, O.D., M.S.

Dr. Michael Jessen was born in 1942, the son of noted contact lens pioneer George N. Jessen (1916-1987), co-founder of the Wesley-Jessen company. Dr. Jessen received an A.B. degree from Indiana University (1965), B.S. and O.D. degrees from Illinois College of Optometry (1968), and an M.S. from Purdue University (1970). After joining the Pacific University faculty in 1970, Jessen taught Biostatistics, a first year course, and was co-instructor with Donald Bybee, OD of the Optometric Procedures three-course sequence. In addition, he gave some lectures on contact lens optics and various specialty topics in the contact lens course. He also practiced part-time with Alfred Furie, OD in Hillsboro. I recall thinking of Dr. Jessen as being quite competent and knowledgeable. Dr. Jessen was the advisor for Wayne Cary, Dan Holyk, and me on our O.D. thesis study on contact lenses for athletes.

Niles Roth, O.D., Ph.D. (1925-2018)

Dr. Niles Roth was born in 1925 in New York City. All of his degrees were from the University of California Berkeley: a B.S. in 1955, his optometry degree in 1956, and a Ph.D. in physiological optics in 1961. He worked as a research biophysicist at the University of California Los Angeles from 1961 to 1969. He joined the faculty at Pacific University in 1969, where he remained until his retirement in 1992. He taught courses in physiological optics at Pacific. Dr. Roth did research and published in various areas of vision science, including optometers, accommodation, pupil size, and psychophysical aspects of vision testing.
BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH  DAVID A. GOSS, OD, PHD

Clifton M. Schor, O.D., Ph.D.

Dr. Cliff Schor worked in his family’s optometry practice as an optician while he was in school.28 His father Bernard and two uncles founded the Colorado Optometric Center in Denver. He received all his academic degrees from the University of California Berkeley: B.S. (1965), M.Opt. (1966), O.D. (1967), and Ph.D. (1972).29 Dr. Schor taught at Pacific University from 1972 until returning to Berkeley as a faculty member in 1977. Our class respected Schor for the expertise he showed in the physiological optics course on oculomotor function he taught. One incident in his class stands out in memory. He dressed more casually than many of our professors and never wore a belt. About mid-semester in our course with him, one of our classmates interrupted Schor’s lecture to present him with a gift – a belt. Dr. Schor accepted the belt without fanfare, put it on, and resumed his lecture as if nothing had happened.

Dr. Schor has had an impressive research career at Berkeley, publishing extensively on accommodation, convergence, oculomotor adaptation mechanisms, fixation disparity, amblyopia, and related topics. He was also co-editor with Kenneth Ciuffreda of a comprehensive book on vergence eye movements.30 Schor’s research has been recognized with the Garland Clay Award (1981), the Fry Award (1985), and the Prentice Medal (2008) from the American Academy of Optometry.31

Part-time clinic faculty

An important instructional role was also played by a number of optometrists who spent a day or two a week away from their practices to serve as consultants in the Pacific University clinics. Considered next are a few of those part-time instructors.

Thomas A. Ambler, O.D. (1914-1981)

Dr. Thomas Ambler was born in Iowa. In 1936, he completed a B.S. degree from Buena Vista College in Storm Lake, Iowa.32 The 1940 federal census shows him living in Storm Lake and lists his occupation as bookkeeper. He was in the U.S. military from 1942 to 1946 and was a captain in the adjutant general’s department.32 Ambler received his Doctor of Optometry degree from Pacific University in 1965. He worked for Alfred Furie, OD in 1966-67, and then set up his own practice in Forest Grove in 1967. I enjoyed working with Dr. Ambler in the school’s clinic and I remember him as a kind and patient man.

William E. Preston, O.D. (1928-2011)

Dr. William Preston was born in Sparta, Wisconsin, and grew up in Moorhead, Minnesota.33-35 After attending college for a few years, he served in the U.S. Marines from 1951 to 1953 during the Korean War, advancing in rank to sergeant. Returning to school, he then earned B.S. (1957) and O.D. (1958) degrees at Pacific University. From 1958 to 1966, he practiced general optometry in North Dakota with an emphasis in pediatric optometry and contact lenses.36

Dr. Preston returned to Oregon in 1966 and worked for Raymond Roy, OD in Portland until 1969, when he established a practice in Beaverton, Oregon, and while there he started working part-time in the Pacific University optometry clinic.37 In 1976, he joined the Pacific University faculty on a full-time basis and continued there until his retirement in the late 1990s. He served the optometry school in various instructional and administrative capacities, including several years as clinic director at the Forest Grove clinic.36 I can recall thinking of him as a gentleman who was quietly competent from my interactions with him in clinic in the early 1970s.

Raymond R. Roy, Jr., O.D.

Dr. Raymond Roy, Jr., was born in 1941, a fourth-generation optometrist and the son of Dr. Raymond Roy, Sr., (1917-2002), who graduated from North Pacific College of Optometry in 1938, and published papers and lectured on headaches, binocular vision stress, and prism prescription.38-43 Dr. Roy, received his B.S. (1964) and O.D. (1965) degrees from Pacific University. He was an optometrist in the U.S. Air Force from 1966 to 1969, and then joined his father in practice in Portland. He later opened his own practice in Cedar Mill, a suburb of Portland.
Acknowledgment

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References

34. 1930 and 1940 United States Federal Census. Available at ancestry.com.
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