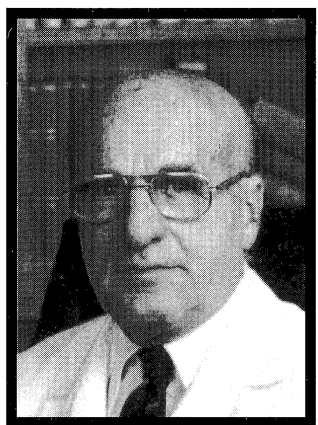




BLODI REMEMBERED



Frederick C. Blodi
 (1917-1996)

by H. Stanley Thompson, MD
 Dr. Fred Blodi died of a second stroke on October 30, 1996, while many of his colleagues were attending the annual Academy of Ophthalmology meeting in Chicago. Very few of our current residents had the chance to get to know him because the aphasia and hemiplegia of his 1993 stroke prevented him from coming to our morning rounds.

Fred Blodi was in the department for 45 years, and I knew him for 35 of those years. His warmth and energy set the tone of the place. The graceful enthusiasm he brought to his teaching made his faculty work hard to become better teachers. He expected each of us to make a mark in our own subspecialty, and he knew that this required time to read, write and travel so we could hear what

was new and could be seen by others in our field. Somehow we were never asked to see more patients and bring in more money, and there always seemed to be an extra hour in the afternoon during which we could have coffee with a resident or fellow and draw graphs on paper napkins in an effort to push our projects forward.

How did Fred Blodi, an Austrian, end up in Iowa City? It is a story of the 1940s and is therefore complicated by World War II. Fred was raised in the village of Mödling on the outskirts of Vienna. In 1939, in his last year of medical school, Fred became engaged to a young woman from Mödling named Otilie. Otty's father had American citizenship, so with the Germans on their doorstep, the family emigrated to America, and Otty went with them. That fall, the Germans arrived, and all medical students were drafted into the German army. Fred was allowed to complete his degree in 1940, and train in ophthalmology under Josef Meller and Josef Böck before entering the army as a medical officer. Towards the end of the war, Fred was helpful to some young Austrians who were contemplating an act of passive resistance to avoid serving in the German army. Fred was court-martialed by the Germans and received an eight-year prison sentence. In the remaining months

of the war, he was moved from one prison to another. Otty, in America, had not heard from him. She joined the WACs, was assigned to Europe and she set about trying to find him. Meanwhile, Fred had been released from a prison in northern Austria and found his way back to Vienna. There, he and Otty found each other and they were married in 1946. In 1947, Fred came to America as a "war bride."

Supported by a stipend from the World Health Organization, he became a fellow with Algernon Reese at Columbia in New York City. There his locker, alphabetically assigned, was next to that of Alson E. Braley, and Blodi was impressed with Braley's generos-

Continued on page 4

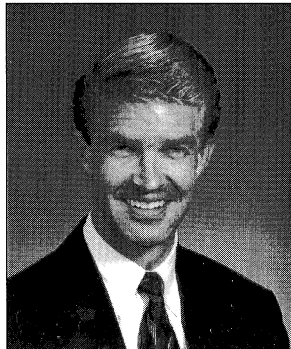
INSIDE	
New Residents/Fellows	2-3
Graduates	3
Leinfelder Award	3
Alumni News	4
New Instruments Enhance	5
Phelps Award	6
MOL Endowed	7
September Meeting	7
Faculty News	8
Med Education Technology	9
Corn Party	10
Calendar	11
Update	12

NEW RESIDENTS & FELLOWS BEGIN

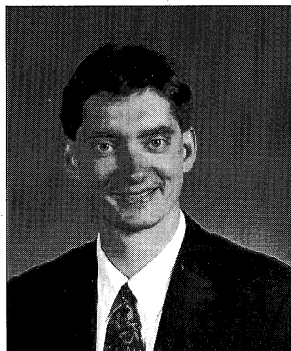
Three new residents and five new fellows began their training in the department on July 1, 1996. New residents are Drs. Edward (Ted) M. Barnett, Christian L. Hess, and Brian E. Nichols. New fellows are Drs. David Dries (pediatric ophthalmology), Anil Patel (neuro-ophthalmology), Cheryl Perkovich Khanna (glaucoma), Peter Sonkin (retina), and William Walters (cornea). In addition, Dr. Jerry Brown remained with the department as a fellow in vitreoretinal diseases and surgery after completing his residency; Dr. Mark Alford, who completed his residency in December 1995, and then served as an associate in the department for six months, began an oculoplastics fellowship.



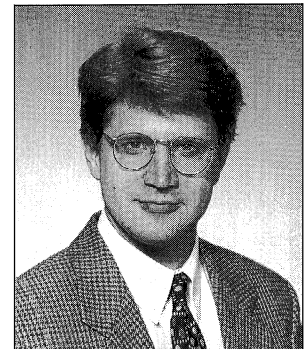
Dr. Ted Barnett is a graduate of the UI College of Medicine. He completed his internship at St. Luke's Hospital in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Ted is married to Cathryn Barnett, a Health Educator at UI Student Health. They have three children: two sons - Ian, age 5, and Quinn, age 3, and one daughter, Andie, age 6 months. In his spare time, Dr. Barnett enjoys Irish history and the Green Bay Packers.



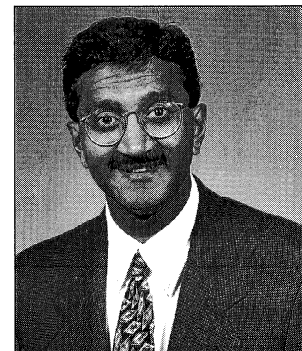
Dr. Christian Hess received his MD from the University of Utah, Salt Lake City, where he also completed his internship. He grew up on his family farm near Farmington, Utah. He enjoys singing and was a tenor with the Utah Symphony Chorus. He also enjoys piano, hiking, poetry, basketball, and working on his car.



Dr. Brian Nichols graduated from the UI with a PhD in genetics as well as an MD. He completed his internship here in internal medicine. His wife, Kim Vandenburg Nichols, works in the Carver Molecular Ophthalmology Lab.



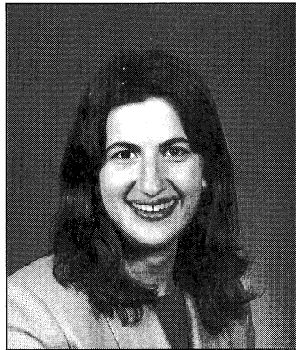
Dr. David Dries graduated from medical school at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and then completed a medicine internship at the University of Chicago. He came to Iowa after completing his ophthalmology residency at the University of Illinois Eye and Ear Infirmary.



Dr. Anil Patel graduated from a residency in ophthalmology at Saskatoon City Hospital, the University of Saskatchewan at the end of June. He received his MD from the University of Saskatoon where he also completed an internal medicine residency. He grew up in Bengough, Saskatchewan, Canada. Dr. Patel enjoys photography, research, golfing, and skiing.

Continued on page 3

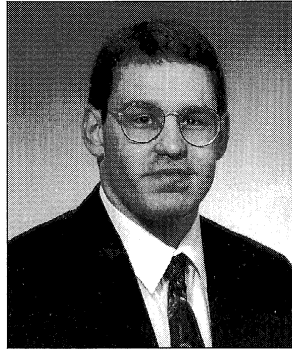
NEW RESIDENTS & FELLOWS



Dr. Cheryl Perkovich Khanna received her MD from the Medical College of Wisconsin. She served a transitional internship at St. Joseph's Hospital in Milwaukee before pursuing ophthalmology training at the Mayo Clinic. She enjoys cross-country skiing, travel, biking, and cooking. Dr. Khanna is married to Sunil Khanna, MD, who practices ophthalmology in Austin, Minnesota.



Dr. Peter Sonkin, a native of Brooklyn, New York, graduated from Duke University School of Medicine and served his transitional year at the University of Virginia, Roanoke Memorial Hospital Program. He completed his ophthalmology residency in June at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center, Dallas, Texas. In his spare time, he enjoys exercise and fitness, tournament tennis, leisure golf and basketball.



Dr. William (Bill) Walters is a medical school graduate of the University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Medicine. He completed a transitional internship at St. Lukes Medical Center, Milwaukee, and his ophthalmology residency at the Medical College of Wisconsin. He and his wife, Cynthia Walters, have two children, ages 2 and 8. His hobbies include basketball, softball, fishing, hunting, and canoeing.

HOUSESTAFF GRADUATE

Three residents and five fellows completed their training June 30, 1996. Dr. Jerry Brown (resident) is now training here as a vitreoretinal fellow. Dr. Jane Mizener (resident) has entered active military service. Dr. Brett Rhode (resident) joined Eye Care Specialists in West Allis, Wisconsin.

Of the fellows, Dr. Martin Mizener (glaucoma) is in private practice in Omaha, Nebraska. Dr. Ali Tabassian (retina) joined the faculty of the Department of Ophthalmology at the Medical College of Virginia in Richmond. Dr. Peter Spiegel (neuro-ophthalmology) is doing a pediatric ophthalmology fellowship at the Cleveland Clinic Foundation. Dr. Mayumi Mori (pediatric ophthalmology) entered private practice in Closter, New Jersey. Dr. Arturo Kantor spent one month with Dr. Daniel Durrie in Kansas City learning refractive surgery before returning to private practice in Santiago, Chile.

Leinfelder Award Presented

Richard Olson, MD (pediatric ophthalmology fellow) and C. Tobin Taylor, MD, third-year resident, were presented with the annual P.J. Leinfelder Awards in September at the annual Iowa Eye Association meeting. The awards are given each year to those residents/fellows who present the

best research paper at the Residents/Fellows Research Day. Dr. Olson's project was entitled "Dissociative Phenomena in Monocular Elevation Deficiency;" Dr. Taylor's presentation involved "The Accuracy and Precision of the Orbscan Corneal Topography System in Measuring Calibrated Ellipsoidal Surfaces."

Blodi (continued from page 1)

ity, affability, and openness. Something about Blodi must have also impressed Braley, because a few years later, as the new head of ophthalmology at Iowa, Braley invited him to join the faculty as an ophthalmic pathologist.

In Iowa City, Fred and Otty raised two children, Chris and Barbara, who both became ophthalmologists. At work, Blodi became an associate professor in 1961, professor in 1965, and head of the department in 1967. He was the ideal academic physician: a scholar - a recognized expert in ophthalmic pathology, but also a skilled diagnostician, an accomplished surgeon, an effective administrator, a devoted and thoughtful editor and an indefatigable translator of medical books. But above all he was a teacher.

Blodi was enormously energetic, always taking on new tasks and new responsibilities. He liked to brighten the mood with an amusing remark or a cheerful rejoinder. He was slow to take offence, preferring to say - with a smile, "Ve-er-ry funny!". As head of the department, he kept his desk cleared by addressing a problem only once, making a decision and sending on the paperwork. His memory was very quick, and he did most of his faculty administrative work in the hallway: he would see a faculty member coming and remember instantly the last three items they had been discussing together and all the ramifications of each problem. In less than a minute, he would comment on these issues or solicit a vote, and turn the corner to talk to someone else. Faculty meetings were short.

Once Blodi began to apply his

cheerful and effective collegiality to the AAO, the AOS and the ABO, new jobs and new honors and recognition came to him in abundance. He was the first foreign-trained ophthalmologist to become a director of the American Board of Ophthalmology, and was its chairman in 1975. He was president of the American Academy of Ophthalmology in 1979, and president of the Association of University Professors of Ophthalmology in 1982. The American Ophthalmological Society awarded him their Lucien Howe Medal in 1980, and elected him president in 1991; in 1995, they named him an "Honorary Member." I'm sure this modest sounding title pleased him a lot, because he recognized it as the society's strongest expression of affection and appreciation. In the 130-year history of the AOS, America's oldest medical specialty society, only two other people have been given all three of these honors: Arnold Knapp and Frederick Verhoeff. Oh yes, and he was the editor of the *Archives of Ophthalmology* for a decade in the 70s and 80s.

For years, Dr. Blodi worked tirelessly and brilliantly for his specialty in all parts of the world and especially, for his adopted country and state. We in Iowa are very proud of him and his accomplishments and will honor his memory for a long, long time. We extend our affectionate condolences to Otty, Chris and Barbara.

Alumni News

Jason Barton, MD, (neuro-ophthalmology fellow-1991) completed training and was awarded his PhD from the University of Toronto in June 1996. Dr. Barton joined the neurology and ophthalmology staff at Beth Israel Hospital in Boston as an assistant professor of neurology at Harvard Medical School. His wife has begun her neurology residency in the Harvard/Longwood program. They have a son, Alistair, born June 30, 1994, and they still have their Iowa cats and a Kalona quilt!

Bernard F. Godley, MD, PhD, (resident 1993) was recently appointed associate professor of ophthalmology and visual sciences at the University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston.

Michael A. Motolko, MD, FRCSC, FACS, (glaucoma fellow - 1982) was recently promoted to associate professor of ophthalmology at the University of Toronto.

Gunter K. von Noorden, MD, (resident, 1960, and faculty, 1961-63), recently received the degree of Honorary Doctor of Medicine and Surgery from the University of Bologna, Italy, for his research in strabismus and amblyopia. This was the first time that Bologna, the oldest university in the western world, has awarded this degree to an ophthalmologist. Dr. von Noorden is an emeritus professor of ophthalmology at Baylor College of Medicine, Houston, Texas, and is currently visiting Alexander von Humboldt Professor at the University of Erlangen, Germany.

New Instruments Enhance Corneal Procedures

by John E. Sutphin

The illusive shape of the cornea was first measured by Herman von Helmholtz in the mid nineteenth century using a device he invented termed "the ophthalmometer." This instrument was the forerunner of the Javal-Schiötz ophthalmometer and the subsequent Bausch & Lomb keratometer. The keratometer is widely available and used for estimating contact lens curves and calculating intraocular lens powers. In the 1960s, a modification termed the topogometer by Soper was introduced in an attempt to measure the peripheral cornea to improve contact lens fitting. Dr. Jay Krachmer popularized the use of the keratometer with the patient looking up to determine the peripheral steepness in keratoconus. These instruments are limited to determining four points on the cornea which are generally around the central three millimeter diameter. They do not actually measure the central power of the cornea and give no information about the peripheral curves.

These limitations were recognized by Allvar Gullstrand in his Nobel prize-winning research published in 1896 on the "Photographic-ophthalmometric and clinical investigations of corneal refraction." Professor Gullstrand was the first person to use a photographic method to map the peripheral cornea. The Corneascope by Keravision was introduced into clinical practice in the early 1980s. Based on work by James Rowsey and others, this device rapidly gained popularity for assessing the peripheral cornea.

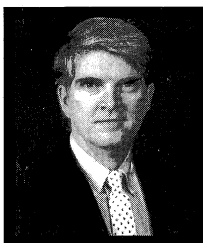
However, it was very cumbersome to calculate true powers away from the central ring. In the mid-1980s, computers were applied to this problem with the invention of the video-keratoscope. This device uses a Placido image reflected onto the cornea and then analyzed from a captured video image. There are now several manufacturers, and with the increasing speed of computers, these instruments have increasingly more sophisticated capabilities. However, they remain limited in what they do. They extrapolate the central corneal power but do not directly measure it. They use a spherically based algorithm to calculate various radii of curvature at different points on the cornea from which we can estimate dioptric power using an averaged index of refraction for the cornea. These devices are very inaccurate in determining the true corneal shape, and in fact, the image they give is only an estimation of the true shape based on the changing radius of curvature from the center to the periphery.

With the increasing precision of lasers for removing submicron layers of cornea, it is necessary to have accurate representation of the true corneal shape. At present, two instruments commercially available in the United States can provide this: 1) the PAR Corneal Topography System (CTS)TM which requires fluorescein in the tear film, projects a grid onto the eye and records the subsequent distortions which give an accurate

representation of the front surface of the eye; 2) the Orbscan made by Orbtecs projects slit images onto the cornea in much the same way as the ophthalmologist observes the slit at the slit lamp. By projecting 20 slits, 10 from the right and 10 from the left, and looking at the resulting pattern, this instrument verifies the reproducibility of the image and analyzes a true three dimensional shape. The instrument determines the anterior corneal curvature, the posterior corneal curvature and the distance between the two to give a true three-dimensional picture of the cornea. It then uses this three-dimensional image to create the true corneal power based on Snell's Law and the thick lens formula. The instrument is not limited in its accuracy by sensitivity to alignment or focus, and it will determine the true apex of the cornea and show the patient's visual axis as well as the center of the optical system. At The University of Iowa, Dr. Toby Taylor and Dr. John Sutphin have verified the accuracy of the Orbscan within the central 6 mm of the cornea using standardized ellipsoids. The ellipsoid more closely matches true corneal shape. Despite previous reports, the Placido systems do not accurately image ellipsoids. In preliminary clinical work, Dr. William Mathers and Dr. John Sutphin have determined the usefulness of the Orbscan in detecting keratoconus, analyzing refractive surgery problems, and managing post-penetrating

(continued on page 6)

Phelps Award Presented to Sutphin



John E. Sutphin, MD

John E. Sutphin, MD, associate professor, was awarded the Charles D. Phelps Memorial Award on September 19, 1996, during the annual Iowa Eye Association meeting. The faculty chose Dr. Sutphin unanimously for two major contributions: He organized a two-week rotation for 175 medical students within the framework of the new College of Medicine curriculum and 2) he is carrying out laser refractive surgery under an FDA approved

Phase 2B protocol using the Novatec LightBlade.

Under the rotation program organized by Dr. Sutphin, medical students receive instruction from the faculty, attend subspecialty clinics and have access to interactive computer instruction throughout the year. Students use a CD-ROM program developed by Dr. Thomas Farrell and members of the department. Dr. Stuphin is also working with Dr. Robert Folberg and the Educational Resource Group within the department to develop a computerized testing program for students. Faculty and staff are producing a bank of hundreds of questions. After signing on to the program, students are given a set of randomly selected questions that will be the validated over time.

In addition to working with Dr. William Mathers in the Lions Cornea/External Disease Service, Dr. Stuphin is also director of the Corneal Refractive Surgery Service. In this capacity, he is carrying out laser refractive surgery under an FDA approved Phase 2B protocol using the Novatec (LightBlade). Early in 1997, the department expects to participate as a center of excellence with UCLA, Stanford, Rush Presbyterian, Cleveland Clinic, Tufts, and George Washington University. Dr. Sutphin has been involved in refractive laser surgery since 1991. Prior to joining the faculty at The University of Iowa, he was director of the Cornea Service and ophthalmology chair at the San Diego Naval Hospital.

Corneal Procedures

(Continued from page 5)

keratoplasty astigmatism. The future holds great promise for this technology with the ability to also image the anterior surface of the iris as well as specific pupil topography. Pupil site and location combined with anterior and posterior lens curvatures will allow true ray tracing of the eye's optical system. This will theoretically improve the accuracy of intraocular lens power calculations and allow for better design of refractive surgery procedures to give a more physiologic result. For further information, please do not hesitate to contact Dr. Sutphin at The University of Iowa.

SONKIN SELECTED

Dr. Peter Sonkin (retina fellow) is one of seven residents and fellows chosen to participate in the First Annual Research Forum of the Association of University Professors of Ophthalmology (AUPO) which will take place in February 1997, in New Orleans. The AUPO represents more than 130 residencies in ophthalmology in North America.

The title of Dr. Sonkin's presentation is "The effects of pentoxifylline on the progression of diabetic retinopathy."

Next year, all residents and fellows in the department who participate in the Research Day program will be eligible to take part in the AUPO program which is supported in part by Research to Prevent Blindness. Those selected will receive travel and lodging

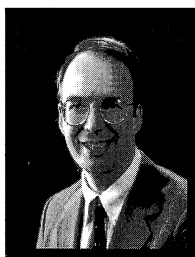
expenses and will be eligible for a \$1000 award and certificate for the best project and presentation.

The 1998 forum will take place in Phoenix.

DEATHS

Sherwood P. Burr, MD, (resident-1948) died at his home in Tucson, Arizona, on October 2, 1996. Dr. Burr attended the University of Oregon and Oregon Medical School. He served in the U.S. Army Air Force during World War II as an M.D. He had been living in Tucson since 1949. He was president of the Southwest Ophthalmology Association and volunteered his time at the Veterans Hospital. He is survived by his wife Mary Anne, a daughter, and two sons.

Molecular Ophthalmology Laboratory Endowed by Carver Trust



Edwin M. Stone, MD, PhD

A \$3 million dollar endowment ensures that the newly named Carver Molecular Ophthalmology Laboratory will continue in perpetuity with its invaluable work. The endowment, established with \$2 million from the Roy J. Carver Charitable Trust and \$1 million from the Department of Ophthalmology, was announced September 26, 1996, during the dedication of the new Eye Institute at The University of Iowa.

Dr. Edwin Stone, director, first established the Molecular Ophthalmology Laboratory in 1987, while still a resident at The University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics. The

laboratory has grown from its initial one room to 2500 square feet. Dr. Val Sheffield, associate professor of pediatrics, joined Dr. Stone in 1990, bringing with him special expertise in gene mapping and mutation detection. Very quickly, Drs. Stone and Sheffield made several significant contributions to the study of eye diseases at the molecular level, e.g., mapping genes for two types of macular degeneration, glaucoma, three corneal dystrophies, retinitis pigmentosa and a type of hereditary obesity. In addition, they developed new methods for detection of disease-causing mutations in retinitis pigmentosa, hereditary retinal detachments, familial macular degeneration, and hereditary optic neuropathy.

In 1993, with a \$450,000 grant from the Roy J. Carver Charitable Trust, Drs. Stone and Sheffield created the Carver Laboratory for

Ophthalmic Molecular Diagnosis. This allowed the laboratory to provide access to molecular diagnosis to patients around the world, utilized the increased access to samples from patients with heritable diseases to make additional important genetic discoveries, and developed new technology for efficiently and accurately handling very large numbers of genetic samples. Working with collaborators in Switzerland on samples gathered from a group of Swiss families affected with an unusual form of heritable macular degeneration, Drs. Stone and Sheffield were able to identify the chromosomal location of a gene very likely involved in a significant fraction of typical macular degeneration. This finding is one of the most important in the laboratory's nine-year history and is the direct result of the international dialogue made possible by the initial Carver funds.

September Meeting and Symposium a Success

The opening of the Eye Institute was celebrated during the September 19-21, 1996, Iowa Eye meeting. Among the distinguished guests were Dr. Carl Kupfer, director of the National Eye Institute (Wolfe Foundation Lecturer); Diane Swift, Executive Director of Research to Prevent Blindness; Dr. H. Dunbar Hoskins, Executive Vice President of the American Academy of Ophthalmology; Dr. Dan B. Jones, chair-

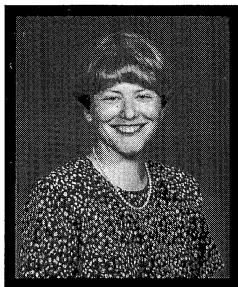
man of the Cullen Eye Institute at Baylor College of Medicine (Braley Lecturer); and Dr. Ronald E. Smith, chairman of the Department of Ophthalmology at the University of Southern California.

The announcement of the \$3 million endowment for the Carver Molecular Ophthalmology Laboratory highlighted the scientific meeting. Dr. John Sutphin received the Charles D. Phelps Memorial Award (see page 6).

Highlighting the Thursday evening reception in the Pomerantz Family Pavilion was the arrival of Dr. Fred Blodi.

Attendance for the meeting was exceptionally high. Alumni and guests came from as far away as Japan, Saudi Arabia, and Alaska. The famous Thompson Corn Party was a great success (see picture on page 10) and a fitting end for the meeting.

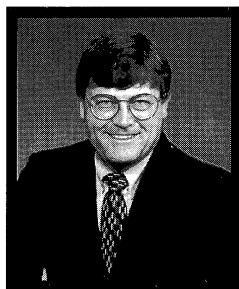
Gehrs and Russell Appointed



Karen M. Gehrs, MD

Karen M. Gehrs, MD, joined the department in late August as an assistant professor on the Vitreoretinal Service. Dr. Gehrs received her MD degree from the University of Missouri-Columbia, in 1987. She completed her residency in ophthalmology and a vitreoretinal fellowship at Duke University, where she was also chief resident and clinical associate. She was an assistant professor of ophthalmology at the Anheuser-Busch Eye Institute, St. Louis University and then joined a private practice, Mid-America Retina Consultants, in Kansas City, Missouri.

Stephen R. Russell, MD, was appointed associate professor, also on the Vitreoretinal Service, in September 1996. Dr. Russell was most recently associate professor of ophthalmology at St. Louis University, where he was first appointed in 1988. He received his MD degree from UCLA in 1982. He completed his residency in ophthalmology at Bascom Palmer Eye Institute, and a fellowship in vitreoretinal diseases and surgery at The University of Iowa.



Stephen R. Russell, MD

Dr. Russell is married to Trudy Foster Russell. They have three children: Christopher, 13, Jonathan, 10, and Carolyn "Dazi," 8. Dr. Russell enjoys fly-fishing and guitar playing in his spare time. He comments that "things haven't changed a bit since I was here 10 years ago."

Faculty Among Best in U.S.

In a recent survey conducted by the *Ophthalmology Times*, three faculty members from Iowa were named among 111 ophthalmologists as the best in the United States. Those Iowa physicians named were Robert Folberg, MD, professor and director, Frederick C. Blodi Ocular Pathology Laboratory; William E. Scott, MD, professor and director, Pediatric Ophthalmology Service; and H. Stanley Thompson, MD, professor and director, Neuro-ophthalmology Service. The survey polled all the academic chairs and directors of ophthalmology residency programs across the nation.

Kimura and Miller-Meeks Depart

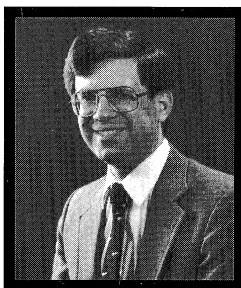
Dr. Alan Kimura, associate professor, left the department in July to join Retina Consultants of Colorado, 2005 Franklin St., Suite 180, Denver, Colorado 80205. Dr. Kimura had been on the faculty since 1989, and previously completed a one and one-half year vitreoretinal fellowship at Iowa.

Dr. Mariannette Miller-Meeks will leave the department at the end of December to join Drs. Greg Thorgaard and Norman Hutchison in Ottumwa, Iowa. Dr. Miller-Meeks completed her residency training here in 1991. She completed a glaucoma fellowship and was assistant professor at The University of Michigan Kellogg Eye Center before coming to Iowa as assistant professor and director of the Comprehensive Eye Clinic in 1994.

Training Program Recognized

The UIHC ophthalmology resident training program ranked #4 in the U.S. among best clinical (patient care) and best teaching programs in a recent survey conducted by the *Ophthalmology Times*. The survey polled chairmen and directors of U.S. residency programs. The top five programs were Wilmer Eye Institute, Bascom Palmer Eye Institute, Wills Eye Hospital, Iowa, and Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary.

NEW ERA PIONEERED IN MEDICAL EDUCATION



Robert Folberg, MD

In a medical education breakthrough, Dr. Robert Folberg has used sophisticated telecommunications technology to teach an accredited course to physician students at a second institution 800 miles away. Dr. Folberg pioneered this remarkable new "virtual classroom" project in collaboration with colleagues at West Virginia University. Using a computer and microscope linked to a television monitor, Dr. Folberg showed actual images of the eye to demonstrate eye anatomy and pathology, and displayed other interactive teaching tools like CD-ROM programs.

All the while, the students in Morgantown could see Dr. Folberg in separate smaller (picture-in-picture) images on the television monitor. It's all part of a revolutionary new way to reduce the cost of higher medical education while simultaneously sharing faculty between institutions located hundreds or thousands of miles apart. Dr. Folberg believes the "virtual classroom" telecommunications link he and colleagues at West Virginia University successfully carried out on October 15, 1996, will someday become commonplace. Meanwhile, the project earns praise as a cost-effective innovation that could help ophthalmology resi-

dency training programs that do not have an eye pathologist on staff to maintain accreditation.

The "virtual classroom" resembles electronic telemedicine, where doctors located at distant sites confer about individual cases or patients. The doctors can see each other and share information such as X-rays and CT scans on television monitors as they talk. Training requirements for resident physicians in ophthalmology are established by the Residency Review Committee (RRC), an affiliate of the American Association of Medical Colleges (AAMC). Many residency training programs, including the one at West Virginia, do not have a qualified ocular pathologist (which Dr. Folberg is) on their staffs.

Instead, West Virginia has paid travel and lodging expenses for an ocular pathologist to visit the campus and present the lectures. Now, the "virtual classroom" permits Dr. Folberg to conduct the required number of classroom sessions, and interact with West Virginia's ophthalmology residents, without leaving Iowa City and at less cost.

Dr. Charles Francis, a third-year resident in ophthalmology at West Virginia, described the "virtual classroom" as an exciting project made even better by the effectiveness of Dr. Folberg's presentation. "Afterwards, I told some of my colleagues that I would have spent 12 hours reading books and looking up the

information I learned in one hour with Dr. Folberg", he said. "It was really incredible."

Dr. John Linberg, professor and head of the ophthalmology department at West Virginia, said he and his colleagues were excited to collaborate with the University of Iowa in developing the "virtual classroom" program. "Dr. Folberg is a uniquely gifted and qualified ocular pathologist, and it's wonderful to be able to share this resource," he said. "I think it bodes well for the future of ophthalmology, that we can collaborate with other institutions for the overall common good." Dr. Linberg's comments were echoed by Dr. Thomas Weingeist, professor and head of ophthalmology at Iowa. Dr. Weingeist said he believes many institutions will soon launch similar tele-education services. "It's inevitable", he said. "Dr. Folberg has forged an exciting new path for others to follow." Al Salas with the AAMC's Division of Medical Education, said the "virtual classroom" project may be the first program of its kind. "It's very hard to track this type of information, but this program almost certainly breaks new ground," he said.

Iowa's tele-education project intertwines the expertise of a team of UI telecommunications specialists led by Patrick Duffy and Randy Verdick, and their counterparts at West Virginia, led by Bob Pennington, program director for Mountaineer Doctor Television. NEC America, Inc. provided telecommunications technology and support for the project, with Paul Pausieck as site manager. (See *Pacemaker*, November 1996.)

1996 Iowa Corn Party



Photo by Paul Montague

"Together, we have a vision for the future."

CLINICAL CONFERENCES

December 13

Featured Speaker Myron Yanoff, MD
Hahnemann Medical College
Topic Ocular Pathology
Host Robert Folberg, MD

February 7, 1997

Featured Speaker Richard G. Weleber, MD
Oregon Health Sciences University
Topic Retina/Cataract
Host Edwin M. Stone, MD, PhD

March 7

Featured Speaker Michael X. Repka, MD
Johns Hopkins - Wilmer Eye Institute
Topic Pediatric Ophthalmology
Host William E. Scott, MD

April 4

Featured Speaker Richard K. Parrish II, MD
Bascom-Palmer Eye Institute
Topic Glaucoma
Host Wallace L.M. Alward, MD

June 5-7

Iowa Eye Meeting

In Honor of H. Stanley Thompson, MD

Wolfe Lecturer: Neil R. Miller, MD
Wilmer Eye Institute

VIDEO AVAILABLE

“The History of the Department of Ophthalmology at The University of Iowa,” video shown at the September meeting of the Iowa Eye Association, is now available for purchase. The 22-minute program follows the Department of Ophthalmology from its beginning to the present, recognizing the people and facilities. It was written & produced by H. Stanley Thompson, Randall E. Verdick, and John C. Lee of the Department of Ophthalmology and is narrated by Tom Moore of the UIHC Department of Public Information. Also available is the video “The Pomerantz Family Pavilion Construction.” Either video may be purchased with a \$50 donation payable to the U of I Foundation, or both may be had for \$75. Proceeds go to support the Videography Service.

The *Iowa Eye* is published 2-3 times yearly by the Department of Ophthalmology for friends and alumni of the department.

Editor-in-Chief:

Thomas A. Weingeist, PhD, MD

Managing Editor:

E. Diane Anderson

Photos by

Ophthalmology Staff Photographers:

Ed Heffron

Stephanie Karakas

Bill Ward

Please direct comments and inquiries to managing editor:

319/356-0453

FAX 319/356-0363

e-diane-anderson@uiowa.edu

UPDATE

Thanks to all alumni and friends who contributed to the 110 Chairs in Ophthalmology Campaign. The endowment supporting educational activities in the Braley Auditorium surpassed \$150,000. Those who are still interested in contributing should make pledges or contributions by December 31, 1996.

We now have a set of 75 keypads to allow instantaneous responses from the audience in addition to a variety of state-of-the-art audiovisual equipment. Morning rounds and clinical conferences continue to be among the best education experiences for faculty and staff alike.

All pledges of \$1,000 or more will be recognized on a plaque to be displayed in the Alson E. Braley Auditorium prior to the June 5-7, 1997, annual Iowa Eye meeting.

This year's meeting will honor Dr. H. Stanley Thompson who has served more than 30 years on the faculty. Stan has an international reputation as a preeminent neuro-ophthalmologist, an expert in physiology of the pupil and an

endearing teacher. Dr. Neil Miller, Wilmer Eye Institute, will deliver the 26th Wolfe Foundation Lecture. On Saturday, June 6, multiple subspecialty conferences will be held. The entire meeting will take place in the Eye Institute of the Pomerantz Family Pavilion.

The F.C. Blodi endowment for Ophthalmic Pathology has surpassed the \$2 million mark. Interest from this fund is used to maintain the Frederick C. Blodi Ocular Pathology Laboratory, directed by Dr. Robert Folberg. Dr. Folberg is one of only a handful of ophthalmic pathologists who are board certified in ophthalmology and pathology. The laboratory receives specimens from throughout the country as well as many foreign locations. Since Dr. Folberg joined the faculty, he has received continuous funding from the National Eye Institute for his innovative research on choroidal melanoma. He also received a Senior Scientific Investigator Award from Research to Prevent Blindness. His two-year fellowship program is sought after

by applicants throughout the world.

The Robert C. Watzke Vitreoretinal Research Fund has nearly \$750,000.

Thanks to our loyal alumni and friends we are continuing to strengthen our basic and clinical research program in spite of reductions in reimbursement and increases in operating expenses. Our mission remains the same, "to provide superb comprehensive ophthalmic care that is both accessible and cost-effective while reducing blindness through teaching and research."

We are looking forward to seeing you at our clinical conferences and at the annual Iowa Eye meeting in June.

Best wishes for the holidays and happy new year to you and your families from all of us in the Department of Ophthalmology.

Thomas A. Weingeist, PhD, MD

Iowa Eye Association, inc.

**Eye Institute
Pomerantz Family Pavilion
University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics
200 Hawkins Drive
Iowa City, Iowa 52242-1091**

Nonprofit organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 68
Iowa City, Iowa

"Together, we have a vision for the future."