In Memoriam
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2015 Richard G. Scobee Lecturer
Steve Archer, MD

Steve Archer was the 46th Richard G. Scobee Memorial Lecturer at the 2015 AACO Annual Meeting, held in Las Vegas in November.

He is no stranger to the AACO. He attends and often presents at most Midwest AACO regional meetings and at our national meetings.

His Scobee lecture “The Necessity of Amblyopia” drew on his neurobiology background as well as his long clinical experience.

His research interests include infant visual development, strabismus, physiological optics, retinopathy of prematurity and retinoblastoma.

Dr. Archer was presented with a plaque by Kathy Fray after delivering the 2015 Scobee Lecture.

In addition to treating pediatric and adult patients, Dr. Archer has published 56 peer-reviewed articles, three books, and six book chapters. He has held an editorial position on the Journal of AAPOS since 1994 and is now an associate editor.

Dr. Archer and his wife Carol have two sons and a daughter. His other passions include telemarking the mountains of Utah, sailing, and traveling.

When asked to list a few of his favorite things, he mentioned Dilbert, dark chocolate, his China travels, and of course, the AACO!

(See more about Dr. Archer on page 10.)

Katherine J. Fray, CO
Scobee Committee Chair

2015 Scobee Award Winner
Nina Palomba received the Richard G. Scobee Award for the highest overall score on the AOC written and oral board examination. Nina was unable to attend for the presentation but her program director Judy Petrunak was happy to accept the plaque for the role of the Children’s Eye Care Orthoptic Program in Dearborn, Mich. Read more about Nina on page 11.

Nina Palomba’s program director Judy Petrunak receives recognition from the Scobee Committee Chair Katherine Fray.

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www.orthoptics.org

Newsletter of the American Association of Certified Orthoptists
The AACO is halfway through its 75th year. The AACO President’s Reception in Las Vegas last November was terrific! The 75th anniversary committee chaired by Rachael Jenkins worked hard to create a celebration to be remembered. The event was well attended by both current and life AACO members. There was strong pediatric ophthalmologist attendance at the 75th anniversary event as well.

Photos of the reception have been posted on Shutterfly. If you have not received an invitation to the Shutterfly site contact Marlo Galli at marlogalli@sbcglobal.net.

The 75th Anniversary committee went above and beyond to make the occasion remarkable. Kyle Arnoldi, with the assistance of AACO historian Barbara Schneekloth, published a booklet outlining AACO milestones. The historic timeline was distributed to members during the Las Vegas national meeting at no extra charge. It made for fascinating reading. The booklet provides a historic perspective on how much the profession of Orthoptics has grown over the last 75 years.

Gill Roper-Hall and her committee, with skilled help from GeneDel Printing, put together an amazing commemorative booklet full of tributes to orthoptists past and present. The combination of photos and accolades was remarkable. It was difficult to stop reading once you started! The commemorative booklet also was a successful fundraiser with over $16,000 pouring into AACO’s accounts due to donations to the booklet!

On the scientific meeting side of the 75th anniversary celebration there were several presentations including a mini-symposium that delved into AACO history, early concepts and treatment methods. The AAO/AOC/AACO Sunday Symposium explored Treatment of Intermittent Exotropia – Past and Present. This topic was well received by the audience, the symposium receiving an audience score of 3.65 out of a possible 4.

Reminder to members, the IOA Congress is June 27-30, 2016. The host city is Rotterdam, the Netherlands. Kyle Arnoldi is chair of the IOA Congress Scientific Program Committee and has been working hard with her committee to put together a substantive program. IOA congresses not only provide an excellent educational opportunity but are also a great way to network with orthoptists across the globe. Please consider attending.

If you are attending the AAPOS meeting in Vancouver in April and have questions or want to chat about AACO, please feel free to ask! I will be attending.

Call for Papers and Courses!

Program Chair Jennifer Lambert and Vice President Emily Miyazaki need volunteers for both instruction courses and papers for the annual meeting in Chicago this November!

Presenting papers is a great way to start discussions, hear your colleagues, learn something new as well as being very much appreciated by all of those attending our meeting. Please consider being an active part of the AACO this year and let your voice and knowledge be heard!

Please contact them if you would like to participate and help to make our national meeting a great success.

eamiyazaki@aol.com
jennifer.lambert@bmc.org
Message from the Vice President

It is a new year, with good news about recouping some of our financial losses and we are all looking forward to moving forward and continuing to strengthen and encourage our great organization. We have made some significant changes in the financial structure and checks and balances are now in place to help ensure that we stay on solid ground. However, we also must continue to be fiscally responsible and therefore, we have made some significant changes in the structure of our national meeting.

These changes are not set in stone. However, it is an experiment in both minimizing our personal expenses and decreasing time away from both home and work while still obtaining all our needed CE credits and still having a great and enjoyable time with our colleagues. It is my opinion that these factors will increase the attendance to the national meeting. The proposed changes are as follows:

Saturday: There will be 6 instruction courses on Saturday, not 12, to cut back on both room rental and AV expenses.

The Presidential Reception from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. will be a shorter, simpler, but affordable classy cocktail and hors d’oeuvres event.

Sunday: The Business Meeting will begin early at 7:30 a.m. and end at 10:30 a.m. There will be a new Scientific Session from 11:00-12:00 noon with a break for lunch, resuming at 1:00 p.m. and ending at 2:45 p.m. in time to take the bus to the Convention Center for the Sunday Symposium.

Monday: AAPOS Symposium from 8:00 to 10:30 a.m. A Scientific Session continues from 10:45 to noon. The Scobee Lecture will be held from 1:00-2:00 p.m. with another Scientific Session until 3:00 p.m. when the meeting adjourns.

Registration is now open for the 2016 AACO Eastern Regional meeting in Providence, RI. Please visit the website www.aacoprovilence.com for the most up-to-date information.

Emily Miyazaki, CO
AACO Vice-President

AOJ Update

We are now nearly halfway through our AACO 75th Anniversary year. Issue 65 of the AOJ heralded the start of the festivities, and Issue 66 to be released this fall, will mark the end of this celebratory year. The upcoming Issue will feature special cover art, and include new historical pieces honoring the contributions of orthoptists in America over the last 75 years.

The AOJ has been a testament to orthoptic scholarship since 1951. What better instrument to commemorate our profession on this auspicious occasion?

Go to www.aoj.uwpress.org to read the 2015 commemorative issue and reserve your copy of the 2016 AOJ.

Kyle Arnoldi
AOJ Associate Editor

2016 AACO Eastern Region Meeting – Providence – April 28-30

This year we proudly host the 2016 AACO Eastern Region meeting in Providence, Rhode Island April 28-30 at the Providence Marriott Downtown. Speakers from around New England and New York will lecture on adult and childhood strabismus, clinical techniques, and new research. Join us and take advantage of this beautiful city.

Samantha Pape
AACO Eastern Region Meeting Host
www.aacoprovilence.com
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From the Editor

In this issue we recognize our 2015 Lancaster Award winner Carole Panton (pages 1 and 5), our Scobee Lecturer Steven Archer, MD (pages 1 and 10) and the winner of the Scobee Award Nina Palomba (pages 1 and 11.)

We also say farewell to two long time orthoptists who served our profession well; Nina Pick (page 8) and Evelyn Tomlinson (page 9.)

On page 8, read about FOREA – a new foundation recently set up to fund orthoptic education and research. This is an exciting new venture that will benefit everyone.

Cindy Cline wrote about our annual meeting on page 7 which was also the send-off for our 75th anniversary year. See Rachael Jenkins’ summary of the anniversary events on page 4.

We also have reports from two inaugural meetings involving orthoptists and ophthalmologists. These are now known as NAFS (page 6) and MPOS (page 10.)

Please look at the advertisements from sponsoring companies in this issue and if you are attending AAPOS, please take time to visit their booths and thank them for their support.

Gill Roper-Hall, DBOT, CO, COMT
What do Alex Christoff, Kathleen Curtin, Angela Dillon, Sandra Holgado, Jorie Jackson, Ginny Karlsson, Jennifer Lambert, Sarah MacKinnon, Gill Roper-Hall, and Sarah Whitecross all have in common? They are all AACO orthoptists on the Program at the XIII International Orthoptic Congress in Rotterdam, Netherlands, June 27 – 30, 2016!

Also participating on the Program are our ophthalmologist colleagues, Joseph Demer, Monte Del Monte, Jonathan Holmes, and Aaron Miller.

Early registration has now closed, but you can still join and support our colleagues at a reduced rate by registering now to attend at www.ioacongress2016.org. Housing and travel information, as well as the social event calendar can also be found at this web address.

Of special note, this Congress will feature several “firsts”. The Congress Scientific Program Committee has adopted a new format which blends oral and poster presentations of like theme into one section to enhance continuity and discussion. The Program will feature several “trending” themes including High Myopia and Its Complications, Cortical Visual Impairment, and New Technology in Eye Care.

The theme of this Congress is Bridging Worlds, and as such there will be special emphasis on the expanding role of the orthoptist. You may be surprised at how some of your orthoptist colleagues around the world are practicing!

The popular Education Forum has been extended to include a plenary session in addition to the invited presentations. This year the Forum will feature presentations on Blended Learning. The first Orthoptic Leadership Forum will take place at this Congress.

And finally, the first IOA Stephenson Fellowship Award will be bestowed on the IOA member who has made an outstanding, life-long contribution to global volunteer work, education, organization, and scholarship in Orthoptics! Of the 10 international nominees, four were long time members chosen by our members and Board of Directors to represent the AACO. The Fellowship Award will be announced on Friday, June 30 during the Congress.

World Orthoptic Day will be celebrated this year on Monday, June 6, 2016. As a tie-in to the Congress, which takes place just three weeks later, the theme for WOD this year will be Bridges.

Kyle Arnoldi, CO
Chairperson, IOA 2016 Congress Scientific Program Committee
AACO Representative to the IOA

AACO 75th Anniversary Wrap Up

The 75th anniversary celebration of the AACO held at the annual meeting in Las Vegas in November was a wonderful success. Members received attractive laptop bags at the registration desk emblazoned with the AACO’s 75th logo, designed by Kyle Arnoldi for the occasion. The bags were organized by Shelley Klein, Cheryl McCarus and Chantel Devould and donated by Eye Care and Cure.

Also given out to arriving attendees was an informative booklet written by Kyle Arnoldi with a timeline of AACO history (thank you Kyle!) and a 75th anniversary commemorative booklet with tributes to honor orthoptists past and present. Thank you to Gill Roper-Hall for putting the booklet together and Chantel Devould for receiving and recording all those generous donations. It took hours of work and Gill’s fundraising skills to bring in those donations for the AACO which totaled almost $17,000.

Thank you to everyone who made a donation and for all the lovely words written to honor orthoptists and the photos from the past and present. Dr. Ken Nischal even wrote us a poem!! We also received letters from all the organizations that the AACO works so closely with and a letter from the White House signed by President Obama. (Thank you, Jennifer Lambert for your insider connections!)

The scientific sessions included a mini-symposium on the scientific contributions of the AACO over the past 75 years. On the last night there was a very well attended 75th anniversary gala. Thank you to Claire Hennessey for overseeing the lovely decorations and to Emily Miyazaki for organizing the food and entertainment. Dr. Jim Reynolds made a heartfelt speech honoring our association.

Thank you to my committee members for all your hard work and advice and support. It was so fun to work with you all over the past year.

Rachael Jenkins, DBO, CO
75th Anniversary Chair
Carole Panton, DBOD, CO, OC(C) - 2015 Lancaster Award Recipient

Carole Panton was recognized by her colleagues last year at the national AACO meeting in Las Vegas when she received the Lancaster Award, the highest honor that the AACO can bestow upon one of its members.

Carole trained at Moorfields Eye Hospital in London and moved to Canada to accept a position at the Toronto Hospital for Sick Children providing orthoptic care to many children and teaching orthoptic students in that hospital’s well-renowned training program.

She became an AOC-board certified orthoptist the year she came to North America and has continued to be an active member of the AACO since then.

She has served on many committees in both the AACO and The Canadian Orthoptic Society including as TCOS President. She served on the Canadian Orthoptic Council for 10 years and was the first COC representative to the American Orthoptic Council.

She developed an interest in the vision problems of very young children at a time when expertise in examining infants was sought after and she joined the Visual Electrophysiology Unit working with Barry Skarf, MD and Carol Westall, PhD. During her many years evaluating infant vision, she taught numerous orthoptic students, ophthalmology residents, fellows and graduate students, conducting, presenting and publishing their collaborative research. She was the first orthoptist in North America to specialize in the field of visual electrophysiology and was instrumental in bringing this knowledge into the clinical repertoire for her orthoptic colleagues, both in Canada and the USA. She was invited to give the Richard G. Scobee Lecture in 2008 and spoke on the topic of electrophysiological aspects of amblyopia.

Carole’s dedication and passionate efforts on behalf of the orthoptic profession in Canada and the United States are well known. She has shown her continued commitment by serving on the IOA Congress Scientific Program Committee for the 2012 IOA Congress in Toronto and the upcoming one in Rotterdam. She is the current Canadian representative to the IOA.

Congratulations on this well-deserved honor!

Rachael Jenkins, DBO, CO
Lancaster Committee Chair
Houston Hosts First North American Fusion Society Meeting - March 5, 2016

The inaugural North American Fusion Society (NAFS) held its first meeting on Saturday March 5 at the Houston Methodist Hospital. The meeting was hosted by Aaron Miller, MD and Jorie Jackson.

Its purpose is to offer a forum where research projects or difficult case reports can be openly discussed in a small-group informal setting, much like various other eye study groups around the world.

It will also be the future platform for the presentation of new research that has been sponsored by FOREA – a new and exciting foundation established to support excellence in education and research in Orthoptics. (See page 8)

This one-day meeting began with an excellent presentation by invited speaker Andrew Lee, MD, chairman of the Department of Ophthalmology, Blanton Eye Institute at Houston Methodist Hospital and professor of ophthalmology, neurology and neurosurgery at Weill Cornell Medical College. His talk was “Strabismus: Who you gonna call – neuro-opth or peds/adult strab?” His take home message was the presence of any of Lee’s ‘P’s – six warning signs: Ptosis, Pain, Parathesias, Pupillary involvement, Propotisis and Perception (vision) loss, giving examples of each case scenario.

Another invited guest lecture was by Kyle Arnoldi on “The Vergence System: Where Sensory and Motor Meet.” Kyle’s detailed and thought-provoking presentation generated many questions and comments.

Case presentations followed given by orthoptists and ophthalmologists with excellent discussion in the small group setting. Topics included “weak knees and seeing double”, “hyper-eyes”, an acquired isolated abduction deficit, fusion in consecutive esotropia, progressive convergence paralysis, torsion after traumatic third nerve palsy, aniseikonia as an obstacle to fusion, a case of atypical chin elevation, the role of neuroimaging in congenital exotropia, multidisciplinary approach to management of traumatic brain injury, nystagmus in a child with small angle strabismus and torticollis, the “epidemic” of divergence insufficiency, challenging fusion problems in adults especially diplopia from epiretinal membranes, and differentiation of fourth cranial nerve palsies from vertical misalignments due to extraocular damage following severe orbital trauma.

There was a slightly unusual bonus at this meeting (the first for some of us) – an evening at the Houston Rodeo! This is supposedly the biggest (well – it is Texas!) rodeo in the world. This was quite an experience even for those familiar with the event. If you haven’t seen “mutton-busting” you should check it out on YouTube!

There were at least 65,000 thousand people inside the stadium for the rodeo and concert and this was only one of 20 consecutive nights the show would be in town. Overall attendance is close to 2.5 million people. Dr Miller says that what makes this rodeo unique is that it is organized and run by over 30,000 volunteers.

The meeting offered 5 core AOC continuing education credits. The plan is to hold an annual NAFS meeting to be hosted in different parts of the country each year. One criterion is that to attend, you must present.

Next year’s plans are underway. Look for future postings about this exciting new concept.

Gill Roper-Hall, DBOT, CO, COMT
The Flamingo Hotel and Casino was the host venue for our national AACO meeting November 14-17 just steps away from the High Roller Ferris Wheel on the Las Vegas strip. The meeting was made even more memorable as it was our 75th anniversary celebration.

The meeting started out with a light breakfast followed by the instruction courses. First we learned tips and tricks from orthoptists at different stages of their career presented by Kali Loberger, Rebecca Parrish and Jacque Shimko. Meanwhile Dr. Donny Suh spoke about immune disease by Kyle Arnoldi about the immune system and autoimmune disease by Kyle Arnoldi. After lunch, Gill Roper-Hall discussed the influence of small uncorrected deviations on binocular function. This course was held at the same time as a neuroimaging talk with correlation to pediatric and adult ophthalmology. We learned about surgical procedures and aberrant regeneration and ended a busy Saturday with talks about pediatric headaches, CVI in the visually impaired child.

The annual business meeting took place on Sunday morning led by President Laurie Hahn-Parrott and VP Emily Miyazaki. It was well attended and ran smoothly with Emily answering many questions regarding our current budgeting concerns and recent events.

The annual AAO/AOC/AACO Sunday night Symposium was held at the nearby Sands Convention Center with the topic of Seventy-five Years of Intermittent Exotropia Management: The Old -The New. Symposium chairs Natalie Kerr, MD and Laurie Hahn-Parrott led the afternoon session. The large room was packed with comprehensive and pediatric ophthalmologists as well as orthoptists. Speakers included Lisa Rovick, Brian Mohney, MD, Pattye Jenkins, Natalie Kerr, MD, Laura Lepor, Jonathan Holmes
dath Holmes, MD and Mike Repka, MD. The 2015 Lancaster Award was presented to the very talented orthoptist, Carole Panton.

Monday morning brought the AAP/AACO joint symposium which focused on Traumatic Brain Injury in Children: The Team Approach which was moderated by David Granet, MD. Several speakers explained the importance of using multiple discipline areas to help children with traumatic brain injury.

The AACO scientific session finished Monday with talks on visual fields in children with optic pathway gliomas, the association between 4th cranial nerve palsy and convergence insufficiency, Russell diencephalic syndrome, acetylcholine receptor antibody testing in ocular myasthenia gravis. Dr. Brodsky spoke about infantile nystagmus followed by how binocular potential is affected by ocular torsion and last before lunch was a talk on spinocerebellar ataxia 3, and a case presentation on vergence disorders.

After a break for lunch the Richard G. Scobee Memorial Lecture was presented by Steven Archer, MD who spoke about the Necessity of Amblyopia. The scientific session continued Monday afternoon with a talk about filming strabismus surgery then the role of VEP in amblyopia treatment.

The Scobee Award was presented by Katherine Fray. The student with the highest score on the AOC written and practical board examinations this year was Nina Palomba, trained at Children’s Eye Care in Michigan.

The afternoon continued with a talk about the barriers to fusion in adults with strabismus and the effect of cycloplegic drops applied to closed lids versus open lids. After a short break Kyle Arnoldi, Gill Roper-Hall, Cindy Pritchard and Kathy Fray reviewed the many scientific contributions of orthoptists over the last 75 years. This wonderful presentation included pictures and notable events from each of the International Orthoptic Association congresses from inception. It also reminded us of the pioneers in our field.

The President’s reception was held on Monday evening and the 75th anniversary was celebrated with music, food and dancing!

Tuesday morning the AACO Practice Management Committee presented guest speaker Gail Schmidt, director of Ophthalmic Society Relations at the American Academy of Ophthalmology. She described the development of the Academy’s Leadership Development Program and the impact it is creating in the ophthalmology world.

A good time was had by all who attended the 75th anniversary AACO annual meeting in Las Vegas. Our thanks go out to the orthoptists who put so much work into creating and putting on such a grand event.

Cindy Cline, CO
**In Memoriam - Nina Pick, CO**

Nina Dorothy Pick of Indianapolis, Indiana, died on November 2, 2015 at the age of 95. She was born in 1920 in Dresden, Germany and later became a citizen of the Republic of Czechoslovakia. With some prescience, she moved to Santiago, Chile in 1939 where she was joined by her mother and grandmother. She lived there during World War II and was employed by the Institute of Pathology at the University of Concepcion.

In 1945 she had the opportunity to study in the United States. She graduated from Milliken University in Decatur, Illinois, in 1949. After graduation, she moved to Indianapolis where she was employed by St. Vincent’s Hospital as a lab technician. She was later recruited as an orthoptic student under Frances Franklin in the Indiana University Ophthalmology Department.

She worked closely with Dr. Gene Helveston who recalls that she was “the fastest gun in the west” referring to her rapid workups. He says they measured numerous fusional amplitudes in those days. She had a kind heart and was always positive even in dire situations. He never heard her say a bad word about anybody and for her the glass was almost always half full. As she approached retirement, he offered her the position of department librarian which she enjoyed for many years.

Nina gained her US citizenship in 1955. She was a close friend of Romanian Antonia Rasicovici who lived in nearby St Louis. Both women had left Europe to avoid unsavory regimes and had much in common – including speaking seven languages! Nina volunteered as a translator for patients attending medical appointments and also translated medical literature for physicians throughout the medical school.

Lisa Keenan knew Nina well and kept in touch for many years including after her retirement in 1985. Nina lived in her own home until August, 2015 when ill-health required a move to a nursing home. Lisa last visited her there only a few months before died.

Lisa first met Nina when she was an orthoptic student with Nina serving in the role of clinical instructor. Lisa says, “She was quite a character! We both shared a love of animals.” (The dog in the photograph was her beloved dog, Bruno.)

Nina was also a world traveler with Chile being her favorite and frequent travel destination - she had also traveled to Antarctica and made an annual trip to attend the Christmas markets in Germany.

Lisa reports that Nina was very active as a volunteer while working and even more so in retirement. “She did vision screening for Prevent Blindness Indiana and received a prestigious award from them in 2005. She volunteered with the humane society and was known for taking in dogs whose owners had passed away.”

Nina served as a volunteer translator for all the local hospital ERs and many charity health clinics. She also transported people to medical appointments and helped them understand what was being said. Lisa says, “In addition to all of this, she was a volunteer usher at musical and theater productions. I think Nina was a remarkable woman!”

Nina was a fascinating woman who led an interesting and enriched life – and devoted much of that to her chosen profession.

*Gill Roper-Hall, DBOT, CO, COMT*

(Many thanks to Lisa Keenan for her memories of Nina.)

**FOREA – a New Foundation**

FOREA – the Foundation for Orthoptic Research and Education in America – is a new non-profit foundation that has been established to advance the orthoptic profession by fostering and supporting excellence in education and research. It will provide financial support in the form of grants to orthoptists and orthoptic students for scientific research and provide educational scholarships and grants, including travel grants, to students enrolled in accredited orthoptic programs.

After many months of planning, FOREA’s second formal board meeting was held in Houston on Friday March 4 and was attended by its new directors and officers. Most of these are seasoned orthoptists, but the board also includes an ophthalmologist and an independent financial officer, both with MBAs, and an attorney experienced in non-profit organizations.

The formation of this foundation can be likened to similar ones created outside AAPOS and JCAHPO – to support respective members in their training and research in the form of grants and scholarships. AACO members will be familiar with the Children’s Eye Foundation and the JCAHPO Education and Research Foundation, Inc. Some former and current orthoptic students will have benefited from grants from JCAHPO to help support their training – FOREA has similar goals.

This foundation will have the ability to benefit individual students or members. It will pursue donations from sources most likely to donate to a foundation or public charity and which will compliment our professional organization.

More information will be circulated to the AACO membership as the details are finalized. This is an exciting development for our profession!

*Gill Roper-Hall, DBOT, CO, COMT*
In Memoriam - Evelyn Tomlinson, CO

Our organization lost another of its “greats” on February 3, 2016. Evelyn Tomlinson was a well known name in our profession, serving in many offices including as president and as the AACO representative to the IOA.

Evelyn was one of a family of redheads with two older brothers and a younger sister. She grew up in rural Maryland and lived on the grounds of the psychiatric hospital where her father was the administrator.

She graduated from the University of Maryland with a BA in Education and taught ninth graders for a semester before realizing this was not her forte! She worked briefly as a manuscript typist at the Smithsonian before moving to Baltimore, becoming a case worker for the Department of Public Welfare.

Evelyn’s introduction to Orthoptics was unique! She was literally run over by a bus (a Greyhound, no less) and was hospitalized for several weeks with diplopia. Her ophthalmologist introduced her to Mary Argue, CO and, once she had recovered, she was accepted into the School of Orthoptics at Johns Hopkins University. She was certified in 1957.

Evelyn was an excellent teacher and shared her experience in several areas of the country where she established orthoptic training programs. Her first ten years were spent in Houston where she started her first program. She also taught at the Basic Science Course and regularly taught ophthalmology residents. In 1967 she moved to Port Jefferson, NY where she continued to teach orthoptic students.

After eight cold winters up north, she sought warmer climes and headed to the Medical University of South Carolina in Charleston. She later admitted that this was her favorite city. She started another orthoptic training program and also directed the ophthalmic technician training program. While in Charleston she completed a master’s degree in education.

Predictably, eight years later, Evelyn accepted a position at Louisiana State University School of Medicine in New Orleans where she started another orthoptic training program, and taught motility to ophthalmology residents and technicians. Her graduate students over the years include Kathleen Saathof, Jan Tullos, Laura Avinger, Laurie Hahn-Parrott, and Leonard Baham. She also hosted several regional meetings during her career.

She retired in 1994 – but not for long! The former LSU clinic manager, now working at Vanderbilt, asked if she would move to Nashville, Tenn., to cover for an orthoptist on maternity leave. She agreed, and continued to work part time there for many years. This is where she met Ron Biernacki who became a close colleague. He visited her often after retirement and she was thrilled when he was presented with the Lancaster Award (see photo.)

Evelyn was very active in her church, enjoyed traveling, needlepoint and crossword puzzles. Many of her travels were as the AACO representative to the IOA and as a member of the IOA scientific program committee for the 1995 IOA Congress in Japan. With the IOA, she traveled to Brazil, Germany, Austria and Japan.

She loved her work and interacting with patients, particularly children. She was a passionate teacher and influenced many in the profession. She is remembered fondly for her kindness, generosity and sense of humor.

Gill Roper-Hall, DBOT, CO, COMT
The inaugural meeting of the Midwest Pediatric Ophthalmology Symposium was held in Omaha on March 18, 2016 at the Stanley M. Truhlsen Eye Institute, University of Nebraska Medical Center.

A pre-symposium social gathering was hosted by Dr. Donny Suh at the Children's Hospital and Medical Center where the pediatric ophthalmology department proudly offered tours of their facilities while attendees enjoyed hors d’oeuvres and beverages.

Friday, after a delightful breakfast, Dr. Truhlsen gave opening remarks which included personal stories from the earlier days of pediatric ophthalmology. He noted the annual meeting in Chicago was held in a single hotel, the Palmer House, and many of the well known doctors met for dinner in the penthouse suite. Of interest, he trained under Dr. Richard G. Scobee and was the AAO’s second Scobee Lecturer.

The speakers included orthoptists Lisa Rovick and Dimitra Triantafilou, fellows, and seasoned pediatric ophthalmologists lecturing on a variety of topics from surgery, ergonomics, surgical contamination, genetics, surgical outcomes, difficult cases, accommodation, and orthoptic exercises.

The symposium director, Dr. Donny Suh, was grateful for the help of a robust committee that included Dr. Erik Bot hun, Dr. Alina Dumitrescu, Diane Frost, Dr. James Gigantelli, Dr. Scott Olitsky, and Emmy Thompson.

Dr. Suh said that a group of pediatric ophthalmologists from various academic institutions decided to establish the MPOS. This one-day meeting will rotate through various Midwest cities on a yearly basis. The second Midwest Pediatric Ophthalmology Symposium will be hosted by the University of Iowa on September 15, 2017.

Michele Harn, CO

Richard G. Scobee Lecturer
Steven Archer, MD

Steven Archer delivered the Richard G. Scobee Lecture at the 2015 AAO annual meeting held in Las Vegas in November.

Dr. Archer is well known to the AAO audience and always finds intriguing topics to discuss and presents his findings as well as his wry sense of humor. He is a great supporter of our profession.

After receiving his BS in computer science at the University of Utah and his MD at the University of Chicago, Dr. Archer went on to complete a NIH post-doctoral fellowship in developmental neurobiology at the University of Colorado.

He did his ophthalmology residency at the University of Chicago and completed a 2-year pediatric ophthalmology fellowship at the University of Indiana. Since that time, he has been on the faculty in the department of ophthalmology at the University of Michigan, serving as co-director of the pediatric ophthalmology fellowship program and as program faculty of the orthoptic training program since 2005.

His topic, the Necessity of Amblyopia, included some of his neurobiology background. He used interesting color patterns to illustrate his theories. It will be most rewarding to read this in more detail when it is published in our journal!

Gill Roper-Hall, DBOT, CO, COMT
Scobee Award winner
Nina Palomba, CO

Nina attended Central Michigan University and earned a BA in child development. She says that finding Orthoptics was by pure fate! After a few years of teaching preschool, she realized she wanted to do something else with children. She applied for a position at Children’s Eye Care of Michigan where she was offered the opportunity to train as a COA. She loved pediatric ophthalmology and her timing was perfect as Children’s Eye Care was starting an orthoptic program.

Her co-instructors were Judy Petrunka and Mary DeYoung Smith with ophthalmologists Drs. Roarty, Rao, Bohra and Rotberg. Judy said that she enjoyed teaching Nina so much as a technician that it was very natural for her to move into the orthoptic program where she excelled and blossomed.

Nina said it was a marvelous program that combined daily lectures with her instructors and the ability to sit in on resident lectures from all of the pediatric ophthalmologists. Every day the students worked along side the residents, attending physicians and orthoptists seeing very complicated strabismus and pathology patients. This training prepared her well so she was very ready for both oral and written boards.

After graduating, Nina moved to Boston, where she is currently employed as a staff orthoptist at Boston Children’s Hospital, part of Harvard Medical Teaching Hospital. She is currently looking into starting a Masters Program and beginning research projects.

Nina says she is so happy and honored to be able to contribute to such a great profession.

Upcoming Meeting Notices

TCOS Meeting – Ottawa – June 17-20, 2016

All AACO Members are invited to attend the TCOS Annual Meeting at the Shaw Centre in Ottawa, Canada from June 17-20, 2016.

Registration is now open, and AACO members can take advantage of early-bird membership rates until April 22.

For more information please visit http://cos-sco.ca/ottawa2016/en/home/ or email sarah.whitecross@childrens.harvard.edu.

Looking forward to seeing you there!

Sarah Whitecross, OC(C) TCOS President

SAVE THE DATE!

Detroit will be the venue for the 2017 Joint Regional AACO meeting. Lindsay Horan is hosting the meeting which will be held May 4-6. The host hotel will be the Athenaeum hotel in Greektown.

If you are interested in speaking or want to know more, contact Lindsay at lindsay.horan@gmail.com

Orthoptic Meeting Credits

You can accumulate at least 15 CE credit hours by attending a regional or national orthoptic meeting.

Your regions need your support as participants and speakers.

Business conducted at regional meetings may impact national issues; by attending, members may influence national policy.

Job Opportunities Policy

Advertisements will be listed in PRISM and will be posted on the AACO web site.

e: egayeski@med.umich.edu

See AACO web site for continuous updates.

www.orthoptics.org

Please notify the AACO Secretary and Membership Committee of any name, address or email changes.
It is posted on the AACO website Orthoptists and is published twice a year.


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