Ronald J. Biernacki was the 2013 recipient of the prestigious Lancaster Award. It was presented by Lancaster Committee Chair Katherine Fray at the Sunday Symposium at the national AACO meeting in New Orleans on November. See more on page 3.

Dr. James D. Reynolds was the forty-fourth Richard G. Scobee lecturer. He was introduced by Scobee Committee Chair Carole Panton who presented him with a plaque. He spoke on retinopathy of prematurity.

Again this year there were two winners of the Richard G. Scobee Award for excellence. Cheyanne Lester received her training at the University of Iowa with program director Tara Bragg. Nick Patton was trained at the University of Michigan with program directors Bruce Furr and Ida Iacobucci. See articles about them on pages 8 and 12. Congratulations to all of them!

Celebrate World Orthoptic Day this year on Monday June 2, 2014!

2013 Scobee Lecturer
James D. Reynolds, MD

The forty-fourth Richard G. Scobee Memorial Lecture was given by Dr. James D. Reynolds in New Orleans on November 18, 2013. He was introduced by Scobee Committee Chair Carole Panton. The topic of his lecture was “Insights in ROP”.

Dr. Reynolds is a prominent pediatric ophthalmologist and a recognized international expert on retinopathy of prematurity. He received his medical degree from the State University of New York at Buffalo and ophthalmology residency at the Erie County Medical Center. He joined Drs. David Hiles and Al Biglan at the University of Pittsburgh for pediatric ophthalmology fellowship.

He has published many peer-reviewed articles and given numerous lectures. He is dedicated to teaching and is enjoyed by his ophthalmology residents, fellows and orthoptists, who love his teaching style, and is well respected by his peers.

He is a well known figure in the world of Orthoptics for his support of the profession. From the beginning of his career he worked closely with orthoptists, including internationally recognized colleagues such as Mary Wackerhagen and Kyle Arnoldi. He has been active on the American Orthoptic Council and is the current Editor-in-Chief of the American Orthoptic Journal.

Dr. Reynolds is currently the medical director of the orthoptic training program and the residency program director in Buffalo, New York, where he is the Professor and Chair of Ophthalmology, and Professor of Physiology and Biophysics at the University of Buffalo.
From the President - “Moving forward in the Profession…”

Moving forward in the Profession…a continuation of my last letter to you.

In that letter I spoke about the growth of the AACO and our profession in general. I am particularly impressed by our young orthoptists, whose sheer numbers are growing as the AOC certifies more orthoptic teaching programs. Consequently, more students are becoming practicing orthoptists.

Today, the young graduates are teaching in AOC-accredited orthoptic training programs, accepting committee appointments, and participating in continuing education forums throughout the world, as well as in our own national and regional meetings.

I have just returned from Sydney, Australia, where I was honored to attend and present at the 2014 Australian and New Zealand Strabismus Society, annual Squint Club meeting. We enjoyed an excellent scientific program, led by Dr. David Granet. There were enchanting social gatherings and the vibrant Sydney culture, including the amazing and breathtaking Sydney Opera House.

But there was an undercurrent of quiet concern for the future of orthoptics in Australia as the Masters course at Sydney University is closing at the end of this year. However, I am delighted to have just been informed that the orthoptic course has found a home in New South Wales. The University of Technology Sydney (UTS) has decided to offer a Master of Orthoptics degree in the Graduate School of Health. This announcement is outstanding for our profession!

One of my newest friendships to develop from the AAPOS and SNEC Joint Meeting in Singapore last summer, is with orthoptist Connie Koklanis, one of those working tirelessly behind the scenes to ensure a new home for orthoptics. Jane Schuller and Kim Marchant, Australian orthoptists from Melbourne and Sydney respectfully, are fabulous ambassadors for their country and our profession.

So, as a new chapter begins in the history of orthoptics in Australia, I am confident that the future of orthoptics is strong and safe, as it is in the AACO, in the open arms of our young orthoptists, and as it always has been in the very capable hands of our seasoned orthoptists.

Cheryl McCarus, CO, COMT, OSA
AACO President
e: cmccarus@gbmc.org

“Leadership defines what the future should look like, aligns people with that vision and inspires them to make it happen, despite the obstacles.”
(John P. Kotter).
Congratulations to Ron Biernacki for receiving our most prestigious award!

The American Association of Certified Orthoptists presents the Lancaster Award to an orthoptist for “meritorious contributions to orthoptic excellence” and it is the most esteemed honor from the AACO. Lancaster Chair Katherine Fray presented the award at the start of the Sunday Symposium in New Orleans on November 17, 2013.

Ron was born and raised in Wilkes Barre, Penn., the youngest of four children. After graduating from Penn State, he went to the New York Eye and Ear Infirmary to receive his orthoptic training from Sara Shippman and Dr. Alan Welsey. Having worked in New York and in Pennsylvania in his early career, he moved to Nashville in 2000 to work with Drs. Paul Sternberg and Sean Donahue (and later Dr. David Morrison) at Vanderbilt University. In 2009, he received a faculty appointment as an Associate in Ophthalmology.

Moving to Nashville was not only good for his professional career, but also for his personal life. It was in Nashville that this bachelor (who loves college football and motorcycles) met the love of his life and finally settled down, becoming a husband, father and grandfather all in one day.

During his 26 year career, Ron has worked tirelessly for the AACO and the AOC. He has chaired multiple committees, including the Sunday Symposium from 2006-2008 during his term as President of the AACO. He has helped to organize four regional orthoptic meetings and is an orthoptic program director helping to educate the next generation of orthoptists.

Thank you, Ron, for all of your contributions to the AACO and to the profession of orthoptics!

Katherine J. Fray, C.O.
Lancaster Committee Chair

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**AACO Social Media Update**

Do you have a question about a patient? Are you looking for links to helpful or interesting eye-related articles or would like to share references? Would you like links to published articles or interviews about orthoptics in a local paper or on TV? Do you need to know about upcoming CME opportunities?

Then please follow the AACO on social media! You can find us on Facebook, Twitter & LinkedIn.

Contact Noelle Matta or Marlo Galli
AACO PR Committee Chairs

e: galli@vision.wustl.edu
e: noellematta@gmail.com

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**From the Editor**

Here is another 16-pager!

**President Cheryl McCarus** represented us at the Squint Club in Sydney - see her report on page 2.

Last year’s national meeting in New Orleans was a great success. (pp. 6-7.) The Lancaster Award recipient was **Ron Biernacki** - well deserved! Read more about Ron on this page.

The Richard G. Scobee Lecture was given by Dr. Jim Reynolds on ROP. (See p. 1.) Carole Panton introduced him and also announced two Scobee Award winners. Congratulations to Cheyanne Lester and Nick Patton and their proud programs. See pages 8 and 12.

Lindsay Horan received an Honor Certificate - way to go Lindsay! (p.13.)

Dr. Jeff Lynch presented his ReSpectacle project for recycling glasses to the underserved. See more on page 10.

Kyle Arnoldi has provided detailed updates on the IOA, AAP and AOI. (See pages 4, 5 and 11.)

Please acknowledge the long-time exhibitors who support us, both at our meetings and as advertisers in the **PRISM.** Look for them at AAPOS, and the regional and national meetings and thank them for their support of our profession.

Gill Roper-Hall, DBOT, CO, COMT
PRISM Editor
News from the International Orthoptic Association

The first World Orthoptic Day (WOD) was an international success, celebrating and increasing awareness of our profession the world over! This year’s WOD promises to be even bigger.

The theme is “Orthoptists promoting visual health globally” and it is being commemorated with the first IOA Photography Contest. The winning submission will be awarded a monetary prize, and will be used in all promotional materials for our Day.

To be effective, WOD must be celebrated globally and locally! Suggestions to help promote WOD in the United States should be forwarded to Public Relations Committee co-chairs, Noelle Matta and Marlo Galli, or IOA Representative, Kyle Arnoldi.

In addition to Facebook and LinkedIn, the IOA will soon be launching a Twitter account, to further expand its presence on social media and inspire a global dialog on orthoptic interests and work. The IOA will be recruiting Social Media Reporters, IOA members from every continent charged with making a minimum of three postings per year. Posts will include announcements of orthoptic-related events, meetings, or publications.

Jorie Jackson and Kyle Arnoldi, co-chairs for the 2020 Congress Organizing Committee, are hard at work preparing a bid to bring the International Orthoptic Congress back to the United States! The Committee (including Kathy Fray, Cindy Pritchard, Alexandra Dietz, and Tim Losch of AMS) has decided on the city of San Francisco, with the three-and-a-half day meeting to be held in late March or early April.

AAPOS has been in communication with the Committee, and has expressed interest in holding their Annual Meeting immediately following the IOA Congress in San Francisco. The official bid will be presented at the next IOA Council of Management meeting in Kyoto, December 2013.

Kyle Arnoldi, CO
AACO Representative to the IOA

Important Update on JCAHPO CE Credits

Attention all meeting organizers, planners, prospective speakers, and lecturers: It has recently come to my attention that a number of presentations and talks planned for our regional or national meetings have been declined CE credit by the Joint Commission on Allied Health Care in Ophthalmology (JCAHPO).

Please familiarize yourself with the criteria for obtaining type A CE credit from JCAHPO by visiting their website at http://www.jcahpo.org/education/. Remember that as of August 1, 2011 all ophthalmology (eye-care) related topics, regardless of whether they are related to examination content areas, are awarded Group A JCAHPO credit for classroom (lecture), workshops & e-learning courses. Courses and seminars still need to be submitted to and pre-approved by JCAHPO’s Education Department to qualify for CE credit.

Examples of topics that are NOT eligible for JCAHPO CE credit include:

- Completion of Evaluations
- Conflict Resolution
- Effective Communications
- Listening Skills
- Marketing
- Merits of Certification
- Personality Traits
- Principles of Supervision
- Product Training
- Team Building
- Work-Life Balance
- Topics not unique to eye-care

Alex Christoff, CO
AACO Representative to JCAHPO
The AACO and the AAP: 
Past, Present, and Future Collaboration

In 2000, I was invited by George Ellis and Gary Denslow of the American Academy of Pediatrics Section on Ophthalmology to attend their Executive Committee meeting as a guest representing the AACO. I was AACO President at the time. By the conclusion of that meeting, it was agreed that the AACO and the AAP shared interests and goals, and collaborating would be beneficial to both groups. Over the next three years, I worked with the committee to create a Liaison position, and an Associate Membership category for orthoptists. Since that time, we have accomplished much, and the 60,000+ membership of the AAP has taken notice! Perhaps our biggest accomplishment was the promotion of our profession with a large and politically influential group of physicians, who also happen to comprise our primary referral base.

We have co-written and co-sponsored many politically and medically powerful policy statements and reports such as those on vision screening, learning disabilities, ROP screening, non-accidental trauma, referral guidelines and managed care.

The AAP Executive Committee helped the AOJ earn Medline status, and has promoted the Journal to its membership.

We have learned much about coding and reimbursement for services that I have been able to share with the AACO Practice Management Committee.

We worked to reduce Section Membership dues and began a joint membership program option this past year.

And we co-sponsored the first AAP/AACO Scientific Symposium, held at our National Meeting this past year in New Orleans. The Symposium was decidedly successful, with a combined orthoptist/ophthalmologist attendance of over 120 people! Many ophthalmologists commented that this symposium contained the most useful and interesting content provided at the AAO meeting this year!

My hope is that this symposium will not only continue, but expand and draw ever greater numbers of physicians to our scientific sessions.

Truly, of all the roles I have played in the AACO these many years, AAP Liaison has been the most rewarding. It is also the role that is most likely to make a lasting positive impact on our future.

Though work on my current projects is not yet complete, our AACO leadership has determined that now is time to give this wonderful opportunity to a successor. The AAP Executive Committee has wisely chosen Noelle Matta to be your next AAP Liaison, effective January 2014. It has been an honor to represent my colleagues in orthoptics and to work alongside the dynamic and visionary leaders of the AAP Section on Ophthalmology!

I encourage all of you to join the AAP Section on Ophthalmology and support Noelle in her new position.

With Respect and Gratitude,
Kyle Arnoldi, CO
Immediate Past Liaison to the AAP Section on Ophthalmology

Retired Member Outreach Committee

Members of this committee continue to contact retired AACO members who are no longer active in the organization. Its purpose is to collect not only their biographies, but also memories of their peers and mentors from the early days of our profession. They love receiving the PRISM.

If you know how to contact any retired orthoptists, please forward their names to the committee.

Gill Roper-Hall, DBOT, CO, COMT

2014 Annual Meeting Information

Greetings! I hope that all those who have been freezing through the cold winter are starting to feel some spring weather! Those attending AAPOS from the colder climates will suffer some shock arriving in Palm Springs as the weather is supposed to be in the upper 80’s.

Exciting news - we have received our hotel assignment from the AAO and AMS and it will be The Westin Hotel Michigan Avenue Chicago (www.thewestinmichiganavenue.org). We are working closely with AMS to make registration as simple and convenient as possible for Blair Spencer, our hard-working Registration Chair. Registration is tentatively set to open for pre-registration on July 8, 2014 and will close on September 30, 2014.

Speakers and workshop instructors are still needed for the meeting, so if you are planning on attending the meeting and would like to participate, please contact either our Program Chair Jennifer Lambert, or me.

Remember, our meeting is only as good as you, the membership, can make it!

Emily Miyazaki, CO
AACO Vice President
e: emily.miyazaki@aol.com

Get involved in the AACO!

If you are interested in working on a particular committee, please contact President Cheryl McCarus, or the chair of that committee.

To find out what each committee does, refer to the bylaws or ask a seasoned orthoptist!

All members are encouraged to become involved.
The 2013 National AACO meeting was held November 16-19 at the Westin New Orleans Canal Place. Most of the orthoptic sessions were held in the hotel but it was only a short walk to the convention center for other activities.

Instruction courses began on Saturday and included topics such as convergence insufficiency, the participation by orthoptists in genetic disorders, pediatric oculoplastics and surgical planning. Courses were given emphasizing the interdependence of sensory and motor factors, the Amblyoscope, and optimal vision in albinism.

A panel of seven experts described their personal experiences with amblyopia, asthenopia, disorders of binocular vision and strabismus and offered advice on how to understand what patients are saying when they try to describe their visual experiences. A course was presented that discussed new treatment options for old diseases (interspersed with recipes from famous New Orleans restaurants!) and another was given on the ocular findings in neurodegenerative disorders such as Parkinson and Alzheimer disease and PSP.

The annual AACO business meeting was held on Sunday morning and was well attended with important issues discussed. After a short break, everyone headed over to the Morial Convention Center for the AAO/AOC/AACO Sunday Symposium. The topic was “Mythbusters: Examining the Orthoptic and Surgical Management of the Most Puzzling Childhood Syndromes.” The session was chaired by AOC President Melinda Rainey and AACO President Cheryl McCarus.

The program is planned to appeal to general ophthalmologists and the topics were suitably selected. Included were orthoptic findings in Down syndrome (Emily Miyazaki), indications for surgery in cerebral palsy (Mary Louise Collins), orthoptic findings and indications for surgery in craniofacial syndromes (Bonita Schweinler, Ken Nischal), orthoptic and surgical treatment of high AC/A ratio (Marla Shainberg, Burt Kushner), and an update by neuroophthalmologist Neil Miller on optic nerve hypoplasia.

Monday morning began with a special inaugural symposium sponsored by the AAP Section on Ophthalmology and the AACO. Kyle Arnoldi, our AACO liaison to the AAP was responsible for organizing this collaborative session and it was excellent! The topic was the team approach to the diagnosis and management of craniofacial disorders. Kyle introduced the speakers and explained the role the AACO now has with the AAP. There are now three AAP representatives to the AOC; Dr. George Ellis, Dr. Aaron Miller and Karl Henson.

Dr. Hugo St. Hilaire, a pediatric craniofacial surgeon from New Orleans, gave an outstanding talk on the newest computer and surgical techniques to re-create improved cranial contours in severe craniofacial deformities. Kyle gave an innovative talk on the different orbital and facial configurations in these disorders and how to name and measure them.

Ken Nischal, a pediatric ophthalmologist with extensive experience in surgical correction of complex strabismus in these malformations spoke about the visual function in craniosynostoses, and Marlo Galli followed with practical suggestions for management of the refractive errors associated with various syndromes and discussed frame selection in these children with mid-face abnormalities.

Dr. Joe Demer gave a detailed talk on the orbital mechanics in craniosynostosis and emphasized the importance of obtaining information about the position and behavior of the extraocular muscles before planning strabismus surgery.

Dr George Ellis gave closing remarks and encouraged future co-sponsored symposia. It was a stimulating and informative session attended by as many ophthalmologists as orthoptists. Many ophthalmologists commented that this symposium contained the most useful and interesting content provided at the Academy meeting this year!

The second half of the morning included a sobering talk by Dr. Oscar Cruz on burnout in academic medicine and its personal and organizational consequences. He offered good suggestions on how to recognize and prevent it. Noelle Matta spoke on age, pupil size and anisocoria in children using the plusoptiX photoscreener.
Tag-teamers Jennifer Lambert and Dr. Steve Christiansen presented the orthoptic and physician management of sensory strabismus.

The afternoon session began with one of the annual meeting’s traditional highlights – the Richard G. Scobee Memorial Lecture. The forty-fourth lecture was given by Dr. James D. Reynolds and his topic, one on which he is an international expert, was retinopathy of prematurity. (See page 1.) Scobee Committee Chair Carole Panton introduced Dr. Reynolds with a PowerPoint presentation listing his education and many accomplishments. It included photographs of him with his family and also in a role of his enjoyed by many – dancing at the AACO President’s annual reception!

Dr. Jeffrey Lynch introduced the audience to “ReSpectacle”, a novel idea he created while he was in his ophthalmology residency at Saint Louis University. This is a non-profit organization that uses the Internet to facilitate distribution of high quality used glasses to underserved recipients in the U.S. and abroad. (www.respectacle.org) See article on page 10

Other afternoon talks included the role of an orthoptist in a multidisciplinary thyroid eye disease center (Terra Haller), highlights of the career and clinical tests and techniques of Walter B. Lancaster (Gill Roper-Hall), hyperopia associated with intermittent exotropia (Dr. Michael Struck), recovery of visual acuity in dark-reared kittens (Kate MacNeil), pediatric idiopathic intracranial hypertension (Sarah Whitecross), and results of their investigation of cyclotropia comparing longstanding versus acute fourth cranial nerve palsies by Megan Sheeley and Kyle Arnoldi.

Monday night was “Lundi Gras”, a twist on the President’s reception with a nod to its location in the French Quarter! Masks were encouraged and worn by many. The music was loud and compelling and, true to form, there were always more people dancing than watching!
2013 Scobee Winner - Michael Nicholas Patton, CO

Nick Patton was born in Bedford, Texas and raised in Brighton, Michigan and Portland, Oregon. He obtained a degree in biology with a minor in chemistry at Eastern Michigan University. Having grown up with a brother who had amblyopia, he had knowledge of pediatric ophthalmology. He was also familiar with the University of Michigan Orthoptic Training Program having worked at the Kellogg Eye Center.

When asked about his career choice he said, “I realized Orthoptics is the perfect field for me. I’m excited to join and contribute to the orthoptic team, but I am most thrilled to help people.”

He trained under the tutelage of Dr. Bruce Furr, orthoptic program director at the University of Michigan. Nick now works at the Helen DeVos Children’s Hospital in Grand Rapids. He loves his job and is extremely grateful to work with Dr. Brooke Geddie, whom he says is a very knowledgeable, kind and excellent surgeon. A new physician will join their team this summer.

Nick is enjoying the West Michigan area and just bought a house in Laketown where he and his fiancée Emily will reside after their January 2015 wedding.

His hobbies include pretty much all water sports including diving, sailing, kayaking and fishing! He also enjoys baseball as well as cooking, gardening and reading.

Nick gives lectures to the residents on orthoptics and their team is interested in working with PEDIG. He would like to become active in the AACO and is interested in the IOA. He looks forward to volunteering around the world and eventually teaching internationally. He will attend the Midwest Regional meeting in Cleveland in May, 2014 and the National Meeting in Chicago in October.

Congratulations Nick!

Future Meeting Dates

AAPOS Meeting
Apr 2-6, 2014
Westin Mission Hills Resort & Spa
Rancho Mirage, California
Contact: http://www.aapos.org

ARVO
May 4-8, 2014
Orlando, Fla.
Contact: www.arvo.org

AACO Eastern Regional Meeting
May 15-17, 2014
Boston, Mass
Contact: Jennifer Lambert, CO
e: Jennifer.Lambert@bmc.org

AACO Midwestern Regional Meeting
May 22-24, 2014
Cleveland, Ohio
Contact: Alicia Baird, CO
e: alicia.baird@uhhospitals.org

TCOS Annual Meeting
June 4-7, 2014
World Trade and Convention Centre
Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada
Contact: www.eyesite.ca
e: Kirkeby.Laura@scrippshealth.org
e: VMehta@cw.bc.ca

AACO National Meeting
Oct 18-21, 2014
Chicago, Ill
Contact: Cheryl McCarus, CO,
COMT, OSA
e: cmccarus@gbmc.org

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XIIIth IOA Congress
June 27-30, 2016
Rotterdam, The Netherlands
www.ioacongress2016.org
Dr. Monte Del Monte, an American Association of Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus (AACO) Honors Two Pediatric Ophthalmologists

Honorary membership in the AACO for an ophthalmologist is not achieved often, or given lightly. At the annual business meeting in November in New Orleans, the membership voted to bestow this honor on Drs. Rich Freeman and Monte Del Monte. Both are longtime supporters of Orthoptics, orthoptists and the AACO, and have served in many roles on the American Orthoptic Council, including as president. In 2013, their terms of office were completed and this was the perfect time to acknowledge their commitment.

Dr. Monte Del Monte received his undergraduate and medical degrees from John’s Hopkins University. He completed residencies in pediatrics at the Harvard Boston Children’s Hospital Medical Center and in ophthalmology at the Johns Hopkins Wilmer Eye Institute where he served as chief resident and assistant chief of service. This was followed by a postdoctoral fellowship in ocular biochemistry and genetics at the Wilmer Institute and in pediatric ophthalmology and strabismus at the National Children’s Hospital Medical Center in Washington D.C.

He is a past member of the Board of Directors of the American Association of Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus and has served as committee chair of numerous committees for AAPOS, the American Academy of Ophthalmology, the AOC, JCAHPO and the American Board of Ophthalmology. He has participated in medical missions throughout the world with ORBIS and other organizations and has presented many keynote and named lectures.

He has been director of the pediatric ophthalmology fellowship program at the University of Michigan for the past 26 years. He is medical director of the AOC-accredited Orthoptic Training Program at the University of Michigan with program directors Ida Iacobucci and Bruce Furr.

He is an international expert on pediatric cataracts as well as pediatric and adult strabismus and has been involved in developing new treatment protocols and surgical techniques, especially for the treatment of cranial nerve palsies, complex strabismus, lost or damaged extraocular muscles and thyroid eye disease.

He is currently Director of Pediatric Ophthalmology and Adult Strabismus, Skillman Professor of Pediatric Ophthalmology and Professor of Pediatrics and Communicable Diseases at the University of Michigan, and Director of Pediatric Ophthalmology at the Mott Children’s Hospital.

Dr. Del Monte said that receiving this unexpected honorary membership in the AACO last year was one of the most exciting moments of his career. (See more comments on page 14.)

Dr. Rich Freeman grew up in St. Paul, Minn., and received his undergraduate degree in neurobiology from Cornell University followed by his medical degree from the University of Minnesota Medical School.

After an internship in Portland, Ore., he traveled around the world with his wife, Linda, before completing his ophthalmology residency at Emory University and fellowship in ocular genetics, pediatric ophthalmology, and advanced strabismus at the Jules Stein Eye Institute at UCLA.

He is known for his comic antics, and vast assortment of colorful, cartoon-inspired ties. He believes that engaging children as valued individuals and fully educating parents are the keys to successful practice and treatment outcomes. He clearly enjoys his work, and based on the sounds of laughter that surround him constantly at work, his patients enjoy him as well.

In his spare time, Dr. Freeman enjoys spending time with his wife, Linda and their two grown sons who are pursuing careers in law and medicine. He is a lifelong Twins, Vikings, and Timberwolves fan. He enjoys traveling with his family, and has participated in a variety of medical missions in Central America, South America, Europe, Asia, and Africa. He currently serves as clinical associate professor of ophthalmology at the University of Minnesota and as medical director of two training programs at St. Catherine’s University.

Although Dr. Freeman has enjoyed many awards from many countries, he says that his most prized accomplishment came recently when he received Honorary Membership from the AACO. He stated “I have worked tirelessly and continually for the betterment and advancement of this noble profession, and was truly humbled by their honor.” He added that he has not only been blessed with a career working with fabulous orthoptists, including two Lancaster Award winners, but has also been doubly blessed by sharing patients, meals, and dance floors with many more. He is also grateful for the constant support of his partners and administrators to allow him to practice for 25 years with the wonderful help the orthoptic profession provides.

Both ophthalmologists are board-certified by the American Board of Ophthalmology and honored members of many medical professional societies including AAPOS and the American Academy of Ophthalmology. We are delighted that they have joined our ranks as honorary members!

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

[See page 13 for the complete list of recipients.]
ReSpectacle - a novel concept

On Monday afternoon during the scientific sessions, Jeffrey T. Lynch, MD, MPH, introduced the audience to his brainchild. Dr. Lynch is a pediatric ophthalmologist practicing in St. Paul, Minn., and the CEO and Founder of ReSpectacle.

ReSpectacle is a novel non-profit program that combines a growing band of volunteers who collect and match donated quality used spectacles with underserved recipients in communities often half a world away, and harnesses the power of the Internet to facilitate distribution.

As a medical student in 2006, Dr. Lynch had traveled to Peru on a mission to help perform eye surgeries. He noted that most of the patients who came to the clinic needed glasses, not surgery. Knowing that there was a large surplus of high quality used glasses in affluent countries collecting dust in drawers, his challenge was to find a way to connect this valuable resource to those who could benefit most.

Dr. Lynch created this program in May 2011 during his ophthalmology residency at Saint Louis University. He enlisted the help of his fellow residents and medical students to match donated glasses with the prescriptions of those who couldn’t afford them. Volunteers collect and clean the glasses, then categorize and load each prescription into the online database.

Dr. Aaron Grant, a pediatric ophthalmology fellow at SLU and a former resident collaborated with Dr. Lynch to write an algorithm that would find and rank the best matches between a person’s prescription and the existing stock of donated glasses. Ford Parsons, a SLU medical student designed and built the website.

Almost four years after its creation, ReSpectacle now has a stock of over 5,000 glasses in its database and is regularly filling requests and shipping glasses to those who need them. So far they have distributed glasses to 19 states in the U.S. and 10 countries internationally. With more than 170 active volunteers and several grants to support packaging and mailing, the program has been thriving.

As SLU’s residents and fellows travel to new cities to continue their training or start practice, they have taken ReSpectacle with them and set up sites in their new locations. When Dr. Lynch left SLU for his fellowship, he handed the reins to Dr. Anusha Vasamsetti. Her pediatric ophthalmology fellowship is in Chicago, and Dr. Grant is now in practice in the U.S. Air Force in San Antonio. The original site is still in St. Louis, with SLU residents Drs. Tonya Alberelli and David Dodds as site directors, and there are now 11 chapters around the country.

ReSpectacle has set a goal to collect 10,000 pairs of glasses by 12/3/14. If you would like to set up a collection bin, you will receive logos to print off for the bin and directions on mailing the glasses to a processing site when full.

If you are interested in setting up a processing site, you will need 3-5 committed individuals and 7-10 available on processing nights. Contact Dr. Lynch to become involved in this worthwhile project.

To learn more or donate, go to http://www.respectacle.org or contact Dr Lynch at lynchmd@respectacle.org

Gill Roper-Hall, DBOT, CO COMT

Retired Member Outreach

Long time friends and colleagues get together. Rachel Petrini Klein with Nancy Capobianco.

Rachel and Nancy go back a long way - in fact to the Lancaster summer course when they were students in the early 1950s. They knew Drs. Burian, Lancaster and Scobee really well. Rachel’s AOC certificate is signed by all three! Dr. Lancaster (who has amazing blue eyes, per Rachel) operated on her strabismus as an adult. Nancy became Dr. Burian’s orthoptist and went on to become a Professor in Physiologic Optics. Rachel made eradication of amblyopia her lifelong goal - at 93 she is still fundraising and supporting vision screening in Naples, Fla.
Survival is dependent upon an ability to successfully adapt and evolve, whether one is talking about a living organism, or a scientific publication. The American Orthoptic Journal is no exception, and has proven itself to be quite resilient to threat and responsive to a changing environment over more than six decades!

In 1940, the American Academy of Ophthalmology and Otalaryngology (as it was known at that time) held its annual meeting in Cleveland, Ohio. This particular meeting of the Academy was notable for the first orthoptic symposium, held on October 1st.

Due to its success, the Academy made the orthoptic symposium a regular feature, and this session grew rapidly into what we now affectionately call “The Sunday Symposium”! The presentations given at these early symposia were published as a yearly supplement to the AAOO’s journal. But as interest in orthoptics grew, the American Orthoptic Council recognized the demand for an official journal.

With the support of the American Association of Orthoptic Technicians (AAOT), the supplement, Orthoptic Reprints, expanded to become the American Orthoptic Journal in 1950. The AOJ continued to be published as an annual supplement to the AAOO’s journal, until the American Academy of Ophthalmology broke from Otalaryngology, and a new journal, Ophthalmology, was created. The new editorial staff for Ophthalmology decided to discontinue the AOJ supplement with the 1980 issue.

The second generation AOJ began in 1979, with a struggle to find a cost-effective publisher, the University of Wisconsin Press, offered to publish the AOJ at a loss until the Journal established itself as a viable publication from a scholarly and fiscal point of view. The AOJ expanded, increased readership, finally culminating in Medline recognition in 2010.

Though the AOJ had met the challenges of the early 1980s, its trials were far from over! The new century brought with it unexpected financial concerns that affected the AOJ, the AACO, and AAPOS. In 2008, the AOJ was discontinued as a benefit to membership in AAPOS, and in 2010, the AOJ had to quickly incorporate before the end of the federal tax year.

But without adversity, there can be no growth! Once again the AOJ is adapting and improving, not just to endure, but to flourish. And so AOJ 3G is now being realized! This latest version is once again seeking a cost-effective publisher. AOJ, Inc. is in the process of forming its Board of Directors, to consist of representatives from the AACO, the AOC, and the scholarly side of the Journal.

Negotiations to reinstate the AOJ as a member benefit for AAPOS will eventually resume. And who knows? Perhaps one day, the AOJ will even see its first orthoptist editor! The American Orthoptic Journal is a testament to our determination, ingenuity, and solidarity, of which the AACO and AOC can be proud.

Kyle Arnoldi
AOJ Associate Editor

Under the unlikely title of “Rock & Rollin’ Eyes! A Fusion of Music and Vision Science”, the AACO Midwest Regional Meeting will take place in Cleveland, Ohio from May 22-24, 2014. The idea behind this innovative program is because Cleveland hosts the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame!

Kyle Arnoldi and Alicia Baird have put together a strong scientific program with topics divided into sections such as Classic Rock, New Wave, Rhythm and Blues and more. Dr. Ed Buckley is the keynote speaker. Dr. Lou Dell’Osso and Gill Roper-Hall are invited featured speakers.

Contact the program organizers for more information regarding meeting venue, hotel, and registration or go to the meeting website (http://case.edu/med/ophthalmology/Seminars/2014AA-CO.html)

c: kylea@buffalo.edu
c: Alicia.baird@uhhospitals.org

Welcome to Boston! There is nothing better than Boston in the spring, and this year will be no exception. The meeting will be hosted at Boston Children’s Hospital.

We have gathered the best of the best, including Dr. Neil Miller from the Wilmer Eye Institute, Rick Guidotti, the award-winning photographer, and much more.

We are so excited to see you all in the Hub for what promises to be a great three days of scientific sessions and reconnecting with colleagues. As they say here in Beantown, it’s going to be” wicked awesome.”

For further information go to the meeting website (http://buea.net/aaca-meeting/aaca-meeting.html) or email Meeting Coordinator Jennifer Lambert.
c:jennifer.lambert@bmc.org

Instructions for Authors
Please type text using a 12-pt font of your choice. Include an appropriate title for your article, your name and title, and your committee, if relevant.

Submit to grh@slu.edu keeping any photographs separate (not embedded) and in jpeg format, if possible.

The editorial committee retains the right to refuse material deemed inappropriate for this organization.
This year’s Canadian Ophthalmology Society meeting will be held in Halifax, Nova Scotia. Halifax is a beautiful eastern coastal city, known for hiking, historic sites, lively music, and excellent dining.

The conference will be held at the World Trade & Convention Centre from June 4–7. The second annual TCOS scientific award will be presented to an orthoptist for the top paper. The TCOS scientific session will be on Saturday June 7.

Registration for the meeting is already open. Please see the COS website for more details:

Cheyanne Lester’s first exposure to the field of ophthalmology was when she was seven. After vision screening by the school nurse, she saw a pediatric ophthalmologist and was diagnosed with anisometropic amblyopia, given glasses and instructed to start patching her right eye. She says she doesn’t remember patching very much so it really couldn’t have been so bad, and her vision did recover to 20/20.

Cheyanne worked in an optical shop throughout high school. During her undergraduate studies at the University of Iowa she worked in the Ophthalmology Department at the hospital assisting in research and doing refractions on study patients.

In her junior year she found Orthoptics” She says “I was job shadowing in various areas in ophthalmology and came across our beloved profession. It was exactly what I was looking for and I loved it right away.” She applied to Iowa’s program the following year.

She says that she could not have asked for a better place to get her orthoptic training. “I can’t say enough for the orthoptists and doctors who taught me at Iowa. So much of the credit for winning the Scobee goes to them. It is a wonderful program and I am thankful to everyone who helped me during my time there, and continues to help me as I get started with my career.”

She is currently working at Medical Associates Clinic in Dubuque Iowa, the same place where she was treated for amblyopia as a child. “It is a great place to work and I am thoroughly enjoying starting my career as an orthoptist. I was recently engaged to Phillip, the love of my life, and we will be getting married in September 2014. I am so grateful to be part of this wonderful profession and I am looking forward to being involved in the AACO in the years to come.”

Director of the Orthoptic Program Tara Bragg stated “We couldn’t have asked for a better student than Cheyanne! She’s a passionate and talented orthoptist and we were lucky to have her. I am super proud of her accomplishments and expect great things from her in the future.”

Congratulations Cheyanne!

Previous AAPOS Award Winners

In the last issue of the PRISM, we erroneously stated that Kyle Arnoldi and Leslie France (2009) were the only other orthoptists before Gill Roper-Hall, to receive the Honor Award from the Board of Directors of AAPOS for distinguished service to the association. Gill received this in award April 2013.

Two other orthoptists preceded them: Sue Havertape in 2004 and Cindy Pritchard in 2005.

Our apologies for the oversight - and belated congratulations!
Lindsay Horan – 2013 Honor Certificate Recipient

Only one orthoptist was awarded an AACO Honor Certificate in 2013 – Lindsay Horan!

Lindsay grew up in Sacramento, Calif., and moved to Farmington Hills, Michigan when she was fifteen. After high school, she attended the University of Michigan and studied biopsychology and cognitive science. In between classes, she worked as a student administrative assistant at the Kellogg Eye Center.

Lindsay knew that she wanted to continue her education after college, but wasn’t quite sure what path to take. After graduation, she became an ophthalmic technician at Kellogg and rotated through various clinics. In the pediatric ophthalmology clinic, she met Lisa Keating, and after spending a day with Lisa, knew that Orthoptics was the career for her.

Lindsay completed her orthoptic training in Buffalo, New York with Kyle Arnoldi and Dr. Jim Reynolds and certified in 2008. After certification, she worked in San Diego, Albuquerque and Chicago, and recently moved back to Detroit. Lindsay says that she has really enjoyed living in these different cities, but that it is great to be back home.

Now working at Henry Ford Hospital with fellow orthoptist Melanie Gutkowski, and pediatric ophthalmologist Dr. Patrick Dennehy, MD, Lindsay says “I love being an orthoptist and find that it’s a great mix of academics, teaching, and getting paid to be silly.” She says that it is an honor to be serving in leadership positions with the AACO (Membership Chairman and Midwest Regional Representative) and as the AAPOS Membership Orthoptist Consultant. She looks forward to the years ahead and continuing to grow in our organization with so many friends and respected colleagues!

AACO HONORARY MEMBERS

Here is a list of the physicians, research professors, orthoptists and supporters who have been granted honorary membership previously by the AACO.

- Paul Boeder, PhD
- Frank D. Costenbader, MD
- George S. Ellis, Jr, MD
- Thomas D. France, MD
- Arthur Stickle, MD
- Gunter von Noorden, MD
- William Benidict, MD*
- Hermann M. Burian, MD*
- Mr and Mrs F. Phinizy Calhoun, Jr, MD*
- Webb Chamberlain, MD*
- Mary Frances Conner*
- Edmond L. Cooper, MD*
- Philip Knapp, MD*
- Marguerite Lundean*
- Marshall Parks, MD*
- Elizabeth Stark*

*deceased members
In October 2013, **Noelle Matta**, Drs. David Silbert and Deborah Lenahan led a medical mission to Ecuador. The mission was organized through FIBUS-PAM (www.clinicadulcerefugio.com) and Vision Health International (www.visionhealth.org). Dr. Lenahan made the trip despite having unexpected knee surgery just a few days before the trip.

The group was divided into two teams; a surgical team doing pediatric, oculoplastic and cataract surgeries and an outreach team doing exams on children in the community. In some communities children were brought in on big open air buses with standing room only! The team was based in Riobamba which has an active volcano. A local delicacy of the area is qui (guinea pig), tried by many of the more adventurous team members! The team performed hundreds of vision screenings and eye exams and dispensed many pairs of glasses to needy children. The team plans to return later this year for another medical mission.

**Noelle Matta, CO, CRC, COT**

**Reflections on Thirty-five Years with Orthoptists**

Dr. Monte Del Monte has been a strong supporter of orthoptics and orthoptists for over 35 years since his residency days at the Wilmer Eye Institute where he says orthoptists Jackie Morris and Pokey Brown and orthoptic student Pendra Burrows (née Thompson) played a major role with enthusiasm and style in the residents’ ocular motility and strabismus education.

He recalled that Jackie actually provided him with three carousels of slides when he joined the faculty at St Louis University, which formed the core of his basic extraocular muscle anatomy and physiology and sensory teaching sets for many years!

He says, “My 26 years on the American Orthoptic Council have been among the most rewarding of my career. Through this group I have interacted with some of the best minds in strabismus and orthoptics and remember examining some of the current greats in orthoptics when they were just finishing training!”

Dr. Del Monte has also enjoyed his academic and clinical association with his own orthoptists and orthoptic students over the years, especially Ida Iacobucci, Bruce Furr, Jorie Jackson, Lisa Keating, and the current additions to his orthoptic team with Elizabeth Gayeski, Manu Kadar, and Terra Haller.

He stated “Unexpectedly receiving honorary membership in the AACO last year was one of the most exciting moments of my long academic career in pediatric ophthalmology and strabismus.
New Ideas from Richmond Products
Patch Cat and Strabismouse Update

J Snow, an orthoptist at Hershey Medical Center, keeps getting that creative itch – the itch to create useful tools for his fellow orthoptists. Years ago he created a very clever Snellen stick. One side for the patient, the other side with Jaeger readings for the orthoptist.

But two years ago he saw the need for an educational tool for parents and children to help them understand amblyopia. He wrote the 50-page booklet now called The Adventures of Patch Cat and Strabismouse. It is a fun story of a detective duo out to uncover the mystery of Strabismus and Amblyopia.

Then J teamed up with the very imaginative illustrator, Sheena Hisiro, who found a whole wheelbarrow full of children’s animals to help: Patch Cat, Mr. Frog, Wise Ol’ Owl, and (oh, my heart be still) the beautiful Amblyopia. Sheena dressed each of the participants with some sort of eye patch. Patch Cat wears slip-over patches on his frames. Mr. Frog has a frosted lens on one side. The beautiful Amblyopia elegantly displays a traditional adhesive patch and her friend, Strabismouse, sports a pirate patch.

No sooner was the booklet off the presses than more gears started turning. Soon there was a Patch Cat inspired Flashy Blinking Frog, then silk scarf and tie, followed by a whole set of fixation sticks. Look out for a pediatric phthahmatologist heading into surgery with a Patch Cat surgical cap covered in cats, mice and frogs all wearing patches! What could be next?

Lloyd Powell
Richmond Products, Inc.

Employment Opportunities

Employment Opportunities
are currently available in the following locations.
Check the member’s section of the web site for additional information at www.orthoptics.org

Current Listings

GEORGIA, Atlanta
ILLINOIS, Chicago
NEW HAMPSHIRE, Concord
TENNESSEE, Nashville
WASHINGTON, Seattle
WISCONSIN, Madison

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

See the future meeting schedule on page 10.

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.

AACO Website Users
If you are an AACO member and still do not have your own username and password, contact Nikki Batra to learn how to get your own access set up.
e: nnagarwa@yahoo.com

Job Opportunities Policy
Advertisements will be listed in PRISM and will be posted on the AACO web site.
e: eamiyazaki@aol.com
See AACO web site for continuous updates.
www.orthoptics.org.

World Orthoptic Day meets Retired Orthoptic Outreach

Last year many of us across the country got together in our own cities to celebrate WOD. Several groups invited older retired orthoptists to join them. When you are planning your WOD event for this year, consider including the retired orthoptists in your area.

Please confirm their contact information including best phone number, mailing address and an email address, if they have one. Forward this information to grh@slu.edu for the Retired Orthoptist Outreach Committee.

Please contact Nikki Batra to learn how to get your own access set up.
e: nnagarwa@yahoo.com