UCBSO students and faculty traveled to Boston in the Fall of 2011 to participate in the 89th Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Optometry. Approximately 13 UCBSO students attended. (From left to right) Stephanie Chen (II), Jennifer Luu (III), Dr. Dister, Chelsia Leong (IV), Jill Yuzuriha (II), and Linda Ly (II) enjoy a reception at the meeting.

From West Coast to East Coast

By Jing Zeng (II)

2011’s Academy Meeting in Boston marked the American Academy of Optometry’s 2nd largest meeting in history (behind the 2010 meeting in San Francisco). With over 1,100 students, 3,300 optometrists, and a sold out exhibit hall with a waiting list longer than the lines to sign up for pre-clinic practice shifts, the Hynes Veterans Memorial Convention Center was swarmed with name tag-wearing spectacle enthusiasts.

One of the reasons for this year’s high student turnout can be attributed to the launch of the Student Fellowship Program. In this program, interested optometry students at the Academy chose from the many seminars and symposiums offered to gain a full spectrum Academy experience to become the first group as student fellows. Rushing around to fulfill our continuing education requirements was like going on a scavenger hunt; and for the first time, we students actually used those barcode stickers! Everyone at the meeting was impressed by the new enthusiasm at the meeting generated by the Student Fellowship program. Frequently popular lectures were filled to capacity and left standing room only, in a large part because of the

[continued on page 2]
new competition for chairs by students.

As always, UCBSO students had much to be proud of in our student and faculty presenters. Among the many highlights at the meeting was hearing Dean Dennis Levi’s talk on new approaches in amblyopia treatment as he received the distinguished Charles F. Prentice Award, which acknowledged his contributions to Visual Science. All of us enjoyed seeing our UCBSO doctors presenting their work, but sitting in the audience among accomplished optometrists really lent new perspective and appreciation for our regular classes.

Who could make the trip across country without spending some time seeing Boston? The Hynes Convention Center is located in a convenient sightseeing part of the city, a few blocks from New England College of Optometry and the Charles River. The funniest sight to see were people toting Academy bags all around Boston; at any given time or place you could spot an Academy bag and know its owner was an optometrist. Having a midterm immediately after my return to Berkeley, I took my notes across the river to the Harvard campus and spent some time earning the right to say I studied at Harvard. Lo and behold, even the Starbucks I visited there was buzzing with optometry talk!

Next year, the Academy meeting will be held much closer to home in Phoenix, Arizona. I know that the travel requirements for this past year’s meeting discouraged a lot of us from attending the meeting, but those of us who made it out to the east coast were glad that we did. This was the first year many of us who attended took such an intensive approach to attending the meeting, but had such a rewarding experience; I’m sure we’d be glad to do it again. In any case, as Student Fellows, we’ll do it next time for free!

---

Spotlight on the New AAO Student Fellows

Compiled by Annie Vu (II)

Linda Ly (II)

**Hobbies:** yoga, cooking and eating, watching documentaries

**Why you chose to apply for the Fellowship Program:** I wanted have a better understanding of the Academy. The fellowship program's requirements gave a comprehensive guide of the different areas of research in optometry as well as the various modes of lectures and discussions. It was also nice to compare my comprehension of this Academy's meeting to last year's meeting in San Francisco. It made me realize how much I had learned during first year as well as how much more there is to learn in this ever changing and exciting profession. It was a great experience and I also got to explore Boston along the way!

Jill Yuzuriha (II)

**Hobbies:** crocheting, trying new restaurants and recipes, spending time with family and friends

**Why you choose to apply for the Fellowship Program:** I wanted a way to guide my time at this year's Academy meeting. It was nice to become aware of all the different things the Academy has to offer by attending a wide variety of sessions that I might not ordinarily have attended as a student, from research symposia and lectures to poster sessions and a business meeting. I felt like I learned a lot and was truly immersed in the AAO in just a couple of days at the meeting.

Jing Zeng (II)

**Hobbies:** eating, reading

**Why you choose to apply for the Fellowship Program:** The first time I went to an Academy meeting I was completely overwhelmed by all the different kinds of lectures available, and had no idea how to budget my time and interests. I wanted to follow the guidelines that the Fellowship Program outlined so this time around I could pick and choose a little bit of everything from seminars, scientific talks, etc., and make the most of my trip!
Greetings!

This has been an amazing year for the SAAO, and I would like to thank all the student members of the SAAO for sharing in our commitment to promote the art and science of vision care through lifelong learning and helping to make this year a success. I would also like to recognize and give a special, warm thank you to all the SAAO Board Members for their hard work and contributions this year, which have made it possible for the SAAO to provide educational events and opportunities for all student members. It has been a real honor and pleasure for me to work with such great people.

At the national Academy Meeting in Boston, the AAO launched the exciting new Student Fellowship program to encourage students to experience the entire meeting and learn about the most current knowledge and technology in vision care through attending lectures, workshops, posters, and much more! The goal of the Student Fellow program is to enhance integration of all the opportunities the meeting has to offer, encourage future involvement in the AAO, and encourage students to become Fellows upon graduation. Upon completion of the fellowship, students will receive a Student Fellow lapel pin, Candidacy for Fellowship application dues waived during the year of graduation, and free student registration to the next Academy meeting. In its inaugural year, a total of 229 students completed the Student Fellowship program! Of these new Student Fellows, 9

The SAAO would like to congratulate the following Optometry Students who were initiated into the inaugural class of Student Fellows of the SAAO:

- Melanie Akau (IV)
- Tina Ansari (II)
- Chelsia Leong (IV)
- Jennifer Luu (III)
- Linda Ly (II)
- Charlie Ngo (IV)
- Yasmine Pilz (II)
- Jill Yuzuriha (II)
- Jing Zeng (II)

Candidacy for Fellowship application dues waived during the year of graduation, and free student registration to the next Academy meeting. In its inaugural year, a total of 229 students completed the Student Fellowship program! Of these new Student Fellows, 9

Photos from the Cow Eye Dissection and Treasure Hunt
Captured by Kevin Tam (I)
By Chelsia Leong (IV)

I faced my last clinical rotation at the Castle Clinic in Atwater, CA with apprehension and nervousness. This would be my final experience working with an attending doctor before being unleashed into the real world. I did not know much about Dr. Randall McPherran, Chief of the UC Berkeley Eye Center at Castle Family Health Center, except for his love of rock metal music and his uncanny ability to recall and describe movie scenes. However, his passion for optometry and his desire for his students to become independent thinkers soon became apparent. He is a great teacher and mentor, with an unprecedented talent for storytelling and a great ability to recapture vivid descriptions from past patients and their cases. What is most interesting is how he had found his way to his current profession.

Prior to finding his way to optometry, he served as a meat cutter in the formerly called “Dairy Valley” area in Chino, California. He was a “breaker” for livestock such as pigs, sheep, and cows in the packing and processing plants. Although the job was dangerous, dealing with blood, guts, “trees” of meat hooks, and cows moving rapidly up shoots, it was one of the “best jobs [he] had ever had.” He had trained and worked under former World War II veterans - “a generation of hardworking men who saved the world.” He admired their values, worth ethic, and storytelling abilities, which had doubly served as priceless history lessons of their experiences in combat.

While balancing working at the packing houses, he went to trade school, learning about refrigeration, welding, and electronic control systems. When he was about 22 years old, a fateful accident derailed his plans to work in the commercial cooling systems industry, changing his future career path. He suffered a traumatic injury to his eye from a racquetball that sparked his interest in optometry. He had neglected wearing safety sports eyewear, and as a result, lost significant vision in his eye for several weeks to commotio retinae and diffuse retinal hemorrhaging. Fortunately, his vision spontaneously resolved to 20/25, although it was thought at the time to not be recoverable. He later worked part time at the Camera Department in Loma Linda where he processed film for the ophthalmology department. His passion for the field continued to blossom while running fluorescein angiograms and Goldmann visual fields at Kaiser Hospital with ophthalmologists who acted as his mentors.

He later attended the Pennsylvania College of Optometry (PCO), and received the four-year Board of Trustees Academic Scholarship. The AIDS epidemic in Philadelphia was full blown while he was a student there, and he recounts observing numerous cases of retinal pathology in addition to encountering challenging cases that came from the city’s urban and disadvantaged population. As a student, he demonstrated his enthusiasm for clinic and working with his peers by voluntarily working additional clinic days to gain further experience. After graduation, he completed a pediatrics residency at PCO. He believed that this was an area that would provide the greatest challenge to himself, and could not pass up an opportunity to work with Dr. Mitchell Scheiman and the other excellent clinical faculty in that pediatric and binocular vision setting. It was there that he did indeed encounter many of his most challenging patients, including multiply...

“[He suffered a traumatic injury to his eye from a racquetball ... and as a result, lost significant vision in his eye for several weeks....]”

Faculty Spotlight: The Magnanimous Dr. McPherran

Photo courtesy of Chelsia Leong

Fourth-years (from left to right) Chelsia Leong, Huma Siddiqui, Kathleen Yang, and Katrina Chang spent the last session of their optometry student careers at the Castle Eye Center in Atwater, CA with Chief Dr. Randall McPherran (on the rightmost).
MCPherran | continued from page 4

impaired infants and toddlers. In addition, he contributed to the development of the Mr. Smiley Cards and to the first portable Operand Preferential Looking (OPL) device to assess stereopsis and visual acuity in young children. Although he recounts many memorable stories from his time as a student, what he enjoyed most about school was meeting fellow classmate Ann Klemens, his wife of nearly 25 years. He warmly recalls that he "would have gone to the desert to meet her" and she made "moving across the country to go to PCO totally worthwhile."

After his residency, he worked briefly for Pearle Vision and later Eyexam2000 where he served as Managing Optometrist and was recognized nationally for providing the "Highest Quality of Care." He participated in several Gift of Sight and VOSH Missions to Tijuana, Mexico, the Cherokee Nation, Oklahoma, Tunisia, Peru, Bangladesh, Albania, among many others, and was recognized as “Citizen of the Year” for service to the visually underserved by the International Lions Club. In addition to serving as the Chief of Eye Services at Castle Clinic, he currently serves as a Clinical Mentor for both the UC Berkeley Glaucome Grand Rounds Course and for residents at the UC Davis School of Medicine. He is a journal reviewer for several publications such as Optometry and Vision Science and California Optometry Magazine, while serving as a contributing writer to the Contact Lens and Cornea Section Newsletter. He also served as Expert and Chief Examiner for the National Board of Examiners in Optometry and has been extensively involved with the American Academy of Optometry, delivering numerous lectures on a wide range of topics such as thyroid associated orbitopathy, glaucoma, and corneal wound healing and refractive surgery.

He credits the enriching environment created by the patient population, wealth of equipment at the Castle Family Health Center, and his passion for teaching as the main reasons he continues to practice in this rural area. His goals for students is to have them “exposed to as many different entities as they can,” facilitating an open exchange with weekly case presentations and encouragement to use the anterior segment cameras, the B Scan Ultrasonographer, and the Cirrus OCT. He designed the rotation to be run similarly to a residency program with instructor presented clinical PowerPoint lectures and students guiding weekly journal club and case presentations. He encourages students to practice with a level of autonomy so that they “can become more comfortable in their decision making” and “have enough knowledge base to pursue different avenues and not act as someone’s ‘super tech’” in a multidisciplinary setting.

My experience at Castle Clinic has been especially rewarding. The rotation has given me the opportunity to manage patients with local ophthalmologists, learn about billing issues, observe the difficulties of managing a community health practice, and see the diverse pathology presenting in a wide range of ages. Most of all, it has given me the chance to work with Dr. McPherran, whose guidance was invaluable and whose passion for his work was inspirational. As I and my fellow colleagues approach graduation, there is still an air of uneasiness to our transition to becoming doctors. However, Dr. McPherran’s reassuring words, “May the force be with you,” ring out as we enter our early careers.

LIASON | continued from page 3

students are from our own UC Berkeley School of Optometry. Congratulations to all our new Student Fellows!

This year’s Academy Meeting was also exceptional in that our very own Dean Levi was awarded the prestigious Charles F. Prentice Award, in recognition of his significant contributions to the advancement and knowledge of the visual sciences! The 2012 Academy Meeting will be in Phoenix, Arizona. I hope to see you all there!

Later in the spring semester, the SAAO held the annual Treasure Hunt allowing students to practice and hone their clinical examination skills as they hunted for interesting ocular findings in fellow classmates with the assistance of BSK. I hope everyone will take the opportunity to become involved in the SAAO and take advantage of our annual events. And I encourage all of you to become more involved in the SAAO through leadership positions as part of the SAAO Board. This is a great way to share in the commitment to maintain and enhance optometric care and to become more involved in the Academy.

Thank you, and Go Bears! ■

SAAO Board 2011-2012

Student Liaison: Jennifer Liu (III)
Education Directors: Hitomi Ezumi (III) and Jill Yuzuritha (II)
Membership Coordinator: Michaela Chavez (III)
Treasurer: Cecilia Tong (III)
Fundraising Committee Chair: Jen Lim (II)
Fundraising Coordinator: Michelle Man (I)
In-Perspective Editors: Monica Liou (II) and Theresa Vo (III)
4th Year Class Rep: Charlie Ngo (IV)
3rd Year Class Rep: Melissa Au-Yeung (III)
2nd Year Class Rep: Linda Ly (II)
1st Year Class Rep: Gloria Lin (I)
Faculty Liaison: Robert Dister, O.D., FAAO

Questions or comments? Email saao.inperspective@gmail.com.

A Special Thanks to our Sponsors:

The SAAO would like thank the following photographers and contributors, for whom this newsletter would not have been possible:
Chelsia Leong, Charlie Ngo, Kevin Tam, Jing Zeng

-5-
Across
4. Asymptomatic finding of the cornea that can be associated with elevated cholesterol levels
9. Munson’s sign
10. Clinical measurement that should not exceed +2.50D
13. Mechanical removal of the eyelash(es)
14. Distortion induced by a minus lens
16. Location of the 2012 Academy Meeting
17. The temporary and irregular effect of fading of a small object in the visual field during the steady fixation of another object
18. (Abbrev.) Also known as Marcus Gunn Pupil

Down
1. 5 dots on the Worth Dot Test
2. Nerve that is affected in Bell’s Palsy
3. Nerve that innervates the lateral rectus muscle
5. The displacement of the eye’s pupil from its normal, central position
6. The only sympathomimetic drug optometrists use during routine dilated eye exams
7. Clinical measurement recorded as blur/break/recovery
8. Color system characterized by hue, value, and chroma
11. Anatomical junction of the cornea and sclera
12. The locus of points in space for which binocular disparity is zero
15. The congenital bilateral absence of the iris

http://puzzlemaker.discoveryeducation.com

Thanks for reading!
Now here’s a puzzle for you to see how big of an opto nerd you really are...