The Ohio State University Eye & Ear Institute (OEEI) Grand Opening Celebration took place August 7th and 8th. Two months after opening the doors to its first patients, OEEI celebrated by inviting the community—and everyone’s favorite mascot, Brutus Buckeye—to a Saturday open house to witness the grand opening of the building and ribbon cutting ceremony. The Eye and Ear Institute is home to Ophthalmology, Otolaryngology, Plastic Surgery, Hand Surgery, and Women’s Health. The weekend celebration began with an alumni, benefactors, and community faculty reception. The Friday evening was a huge success, with over 200 visitors reuniting with colleagues and reminiscing about how the department has changed over the years. Guests enjoyed good food, live music, and a tour of the Department's new home.

The following morning, an official ribbon cutting ceremony launched the Community Day festivities. The ribbon was cut by Steven Gabbe, MD, Medical Center CEO; Thomas Mauger, MD, Ophthalmology Chairman; and Brad Welling, MD, Otolaryngology Chairman; along with Medical Center Administration and faculty for the entire building.

Once the ribbon was cut, all in attendance were invited to socialize, take photos with Brutus, and enjoy light refreshments. There were face painters for the children and everyone was treated to tours of the building.

The open house tour ended on the fifth floor, where attendees were able to fully admire the spectacular 360-degree view from the building, overlooking Grandview to the west and the Columbus skyline to the southeast. The grand opening was a wonderful conclusion to the weekend’s events, and allowed the community to explore our fantastic new location. With such an amazing facility at our fingertips, our vision of continued excellence in patient care, education, and research is well within reach.
Ghana & Nicaragua Missions

Saving sight in developing countries

With the recent news fixation on nationalizing healthcare, it is easy to forget that such a debate is only possible because of the level of healthcare already available in the United States. Developing nations are constantly struggling with a severe shortage of physicians, trained staff, and basic medical supplies. Recognizing that need, faculty and alumni from the Havener Eye Institute have volunteered their time and skills in Nicaragua and Ghana, two of the poorest countries in the world.

Nicaragua

Despite being the largest country in Central America, Nicaragua is the second poorest country in the Western Hemisphere. At least partially due to these factors, medical care for the almost six million citizens of Nicaragua is limited, and can be far more expensive than many Nicaraguans can afford.

To help alleviate the difficulties facing Nicaragua’s healthcare system, volunteer physicians and staff operate a free clinic called Centro Nacional de Oftalmología (the National Ophthalmology Hospital) in Managua, Nicaragua. Among these volunteers are some of our own faculty. Dr. Thomas Mauger, department chairman, and Dr. Rebecca Kuennen, one of our newest faculty members. In July 2009, they traveled to Nicaragua to volunteer their time and abilities, and were also able to take ten donated corneas supplied by the Tissue Bank International. Because Nicaragua does not have a tissue bank, these donated corneas were a particular blessing to those requiring extensive surgery.

“There was one girl,” said Dr. Kuennen, “about twelve or thirteen, who needed a cornea transplant. She was a beautiful girl, but her cornea had been badly scarred. After the surgery she was crying, she was so happy she could see again.”

Drs. Mauger and Kuennen treated about fifty patients, ranging in age from two to eighty. They performed corneal transplants and other necessary surgeries, while the local physicians, residents, and staff at the hospital watched and learned.

In a letter, one grateful nurse shared her appreciation: “Thanks to our dear friends Dr. Tom Mauger and Dr. Rebecca Kuennen . . . Nicaragua is a needy nation . . . the patients, hospital and doctors here [are] very grateful.”

Ghana

Ghana is another nation struggling to provide even basic eye care. In addition to having too few ophthalmologists for a population of 23 million, almost 30% of Ghanaians are unable to afford healthcare, as they live below the international poverty line of $1.25 per day. Dr. Mauger and Dr. David Adam, a community faculty member of the Havener Eye Institute, have both conducted trips to the impoverished nation. April 2009 was Dr. Mauger’s second trip to the St. Theresa Eye Center in Akim Akroso, Ghana. In 2005 and again in 2009, Dr. Adam traveled to Ghana to volunteer at the Bishop Ackon Christian Eye Center in Cape Coast, where he performed surgeries and trained Ghanaian physicians and residents. He even provided instruction in phacoemulsification (a modern cataract surgical technique) to some of the local ophthalmologists in Tema, Ghana.

“I admire the many people in ophthalmology at Ohio State who have done multiple mission trips over the years” said Dr. Adam. “Pat Carroll, MD from Dayton made several trips to Ghana with Ohio State residents, and that helped inspire me to go also. Restoring sight to people who otherwise would not have access to care at any price helps me to get back to the best reasons we all went into ophthalmology.”

The Havener Eye Institute is proud of the faculty and alumni who have volunteered to help out in these developing countries. Their generosity inspires us all to greater levels of giving.
Colleen Cebulla, MD, PhD

Dr. Cebulla joins the Havener Eye Institute as an Assistant Professor of Ophthalmology specializing in vitreoretinal diseases and ocular oncology. This is not her first time living in Columbus—after graduating Summa Cum Laude and Phi Beta Kappa from Macalester College in St. Paul, MN, Dr. Cebulla completed the Medical Scientist Program at The Ohio State University, earning both an MD and a PhD in Pathology. She was awarded ASP (American Society of Investigative Pathology) two years in a row based for her research during graduate school. Upon completing her MD and PhD, Dr. Cebulla spent one more year in Columbus as a transitional-year intern at the Riverside Methodist Hospital before moving to Miami, Florida for her Ophthalmology residency at the Bascom Palmer Eye Institute. Dr. Cebulla then furthered her education by completing a research fellowship in Ocular Oncology, followed by a two-year Vitreoretinal fellowship, both at the Bascom Palmer Eye Institute. Dr. Cebulla is actively involved in research. Her primary research interests are retinal detachment, proliferative vitreoretinopathy, uveal melanoma, retinoblastoma, hyoxia, and vascular biology. She has continued the research interests that she developed in graduate school at OSU and applied them to the eye in an effort to reduce the morbidity and mortality of retinal diseases and eye cancer. She is a member of the Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology and has published over 20 peer reviewed publications.

Educating Our Residents

Volunteer Physicians at Dayton VA Clinic

The Dayton Veteran Affairs (VA) Medical Center serves veterans from a 16-county area in southwestern Ohio and Richmond, Indiana. The VA ophthalmology clinic is almost entirely staffed by volunteers. Dr. Pat Carroll, a former OSU ophthalmology resident, has been volunteering at the VA clinic as chief for the last 28 years, and has been assisted for the last 12 by Andrea Inderrieden, ophthalmology clinic manager. “The volunteer faculty are pleased that OSU residents consistently rate their Dayton VA experience so highly,” said Dr. Carroll. “The residents do a great job taking care of the veterans. Interacting with the young doctors has enhanced all of our professional lives over many years.”

The volunteer physicians assist OSU residents with patients and surgeries. They also perform minor surgical and laser procedures in the clinic. The subspecialty clinics are covered on specific days by alternating volunteers. Mondays and Wednesdays, patients with corneal conditions can be seen by Drs. Michael Besson and Carrie Lembach. Glaucoma patients can also be seen on Mondays, and also on Fridays, by Drs. Fareed Hassan, Amy Kopp, and Steve Schumann. Tuesdays are reserved for patients with retinal problems, who are seen by Drs. Pat Carroll, Warren Sobol, Marie Martinek, and Bruce Buerk. The comprehensive division, staffed by Drs. Paul Moyer, David Adam, Walter Hartel, and Richard Liston, sees patients on Thursdays and Fridays. Finally, patients with neuro-ophthalmic or oculo-plastic conditions are treated on Fridays by Drs. Walter Hartel, and John Kunesh. In addition, a monthly Grand Rounds is coordinated by Dr. Liston. It takes a lot of volunteers to ensure the smooth operation of the Dayton VA Ophthalmology Clinic. We want to thank everyone who contributes to the education of our residents and to the excellent care of U.S. veterans. As it says in the VA manifesto, “Our nation’s veterans deserve no less.”

Dr. Carla Ford receives Humanism Award

Ophthalmology resident recognized for outstanding care

Carla D. Ford, MD, a recently graduated ophthalmologist, has received the Robin D. Howson Humanism Award. The Humanism Award is given to recognize a housestaff member who is widely regarded as routinely exhibiting attributes of ethics, integrity, caring, and compassion for patients and patients’ family members; effective communication with patients, physicians, and other healthcare professionals; and excellent customer service. Of the nearly 670 OSUMC residents and fellows training, Dr. Ford was one of 5 recipients of this award. Dr. Ford is very deserving of this award. She routinely received thank you letters from patients while in training. Her nomination letter stated that, “Dr. Ford works selflessly and effectively. She is enthusiastic about ophthalmology and her enthusiasm is contagious. Dr. Ford truly makes our department better just by being in it. While we will certainly miss having her around next year, we will certainly be proud to call her a graduate of our program.”

Welcome New Residents

Adam R. Cloud, MD
Complete medical school at The Ohio State University College of Medicine and remained in Columbus to complete his internship at Riverside Methodist Hospital.

Leah K. Vaccarella, MD
After completing medical school at Penn State University, she relocated to Columbus to complete her internship at Riverside Methodist Hospital.

Dominic Buzzacco, MD
Attended medical school at Northeastern Ohio Universities College of Medicine and relocated to Columbus to complete his internship at Riverside Methodist Hospital.

Palak B. Wall, MD
Completed medical school at The Ohio State University College of Medicine and briefly left Columbus to complete her internship at Loyola University Medical Center.

Irene T. Tung, MD
Completed medical school at Baylor College of Medicine and completed two years of a pediatrics residency at Baylor prior to switching specialties to ophthalmology.

Bryan R. Costin, MD
Attended medical school at Case Western Reserve University and then moved to Columbus to complete his internship at Riverside Methodist Hospital.

2007 June Research Symposium Winners

We want to congratulate the winners of the 2009 June Research Symposium. Drs. Anupama Horne, Katie Bastion, and Andrea Sawchyn were each honored for their resident research presentations. Bongsu Kim was the recipient of the post-graduate award for his excellent presentation.

Winners were honored with certificates, plaques, and $100 gift certificates to the Academic Bookstore. Each winner delivered a presentation on their research projects.

Establishing a Tradition in Ophthalmology

Dr. Carla Ford receives Humanism Award at the 2009 June Research Symposium.

From left) Drs. Anupama Horne, Katie Bastion, and Andrea Sawchyn.
At the Havener Eye Institute, we actively seek out new diagnostic tools and treatments for eye diseases. Our researchers are pushing the boundaries of medicine with challenging new studies in every subspecialty in ophthalmology.

How can you help?
By checking the following list of studies to see if you are a potential candidate and talking with your doctor or calling Kathy McKinney or Jill Salerno at (614) 293-5287.

Do you have newly diagnosed wet Age-related Macular Degeneration (AMD)?
- AMD is leading cause of blindness in patients over 50
- Study compares Avastin® vs. Lucentis®; both treat AMD
- Study patients must have insurance

Are you a diabetic patient about to undergo cataract surgery?
- After cataract surgery, diabetics often develop Diabetic Macular Edema (DME)
- DME is swelling in the back of the eye that causes blurred vision
- Nevanac® may prevent DME
- Patients paid up to $280 over 3 months

Do you have untreated wet Age-related Macular Degeneration (AMD)?
- AMD is leading cause of blindness in patients over 50
- Lucentis® treats AMD
- Lucentis® and office visits free of charge
- Patients paid up to $2000 over 2 years

Call Kathy McKinney or Jill Salerno at 293-5287 for more information.
The Havener Eye Institute will host two free continuing education seminars. If you are an optometrist and would like to be added to our “20/20 Seminars” mailing list, contact us at (614) 293-0547 or eye@osu.edu.

“Ready, Aim, Refract!”
September 29, 2009
6435 Post Road

“Extra! Extra! Technology Stamps out Glaucoma”
November 4, 2009
915 Olentangy River Road

Join us for our Annual Havener Eye Institute AAO Alumni Reception
Saturday, October 24, 2009 at the Golden Gate Room in the Hotel Nikko, downtown San Francisco. All alumni, faculty, and friends are invited to attend. Hors d’oeuvres will be served and a cash bar will be available. Direct questions to eye@osu.edu or (614) 293-0547.