We do love 'em.
And they heard it.

On a dark and stormy night more than 600 people, found their way to historic Puritan Mill to honor Drs. Tom Aaberg and Geoff Broocker, two longtime Emory Eye Center leaders who, in shaping our past, forged our future—and won our hearts forever.

Featured content

From Zach...
It's been great to serve you as president of the Emory Eye Alumni Association for the last five years. I’m pleased to report that, during that time:
- The Eye Alumni directory has been completely...

...to Jack
Greetings to you from the Emory Eye Alumni! I am pleased to be taking over from Zack Bridges as president of our alumni...

From the director
This past year of transition and building has been invigorating for Emory Eye Center. We are fortunate to have experienced leaders in every section to serve as mentors for our talented...

You’re Invited:
AAO – Emory Eye Center Alumni Reception
Sunday October 25, 2009
5:30 pm - 7:30pm
RSVP: Doug Lothes, 404.778.4118, dlothes@emory.edu

Tropisueno Restaurant
75 Yerba Buena Lane
San Francisco, CA 94103
415.243.0299

Yerba Buena Lane is between (and parallel to) 3rd and 4th streets. It is also between Mission and Market streets. YBL is a walking lane that is accessible from Mission or Market streets.

Save the date — an Ophthalmologic GEM is coming!
As many of you know, Emory Eye Center offers a post-grad course every December for CME credit. This year, we will collaborate with two
of our “neighbors” to bring a new, revitalized course to our fellow ophthalmologists in February. This Ophthalmologic GEM will be sponsored by the Georgia Society of Ophthalmologists (GSO), the Emory Eye Center, and the Medical College of Georgia (MCG)

**When:** February 19 and 20, 2010

**Where:** The St. Regis Hotel, Atlanta (Buckhead)

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**Save the date!**

Our **Southeastern Vitreoretinal Conference** will take place **March 5 and 6, 2010**, in our newly renovated Learning Resources Center. Details will follow in coming weeks.
News

Outreach to the Dominican Republic – ORBIS 2009

The ORBIS Flying Eye Hospital circles the globe to train eye care professionals and treat underserved patients in developing countries. Three of our alumni, Hunter Cherwek (res. ’02-05), Rosalind Stevens (retina fellow ‘84-85) and Grace Prakalapakorn (res. ’06-09), participated recently in a trip to the Dominican Republic.

Most medical outreach missions set out to perform lots of surgeries and help the most acutely ill, but the ORBIS mission for Santo Domingo was to teach its doctors how to do a number of sight-saving surgeries so that the work of the team will go on long after ORBIS has left. Further, those ORBIS-trained physicians can also teach other physicians those same skills. Grace Prakalapakorn (res. ’06-09) journeyed to Santo Domingo this winter to assist Hunter Cherwek (res. ’02-05), medical director for ORBIS. The exchange of knowledge was paramount, says Prakalapakorn, who will join ORBIS upon completion of her residency.

Flying Eye Hospital destinations in 2009 include Laos, Peru, Syria, Kenya, and India, among others.

Read more about Grace Prakalapakorn’s ORBIS trip:

February 22, 2009:

“Esprit de Corps”

Against the tropical backdrop of palm trees and blue waters, the ORBIS DC-10 Flying Eye Hospital made a perfect landing in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic. On the ground, both crew and FedEx members eagerly awaited to welcome the plane. As soon as it arrived, a bustle of activity ensued on board as both crew members and volunteers worked side-by-side to unpack the plane and prepare it for the weeks ahead.

For the remainder of its stay, the ORBIS team along with partnership from the local Ophthalmology Society, six local hospitals and FedEx worked tirelessly to complete a program that focused on building local capacity and public advocacy. Through screening days, surgical cases, symposiums and a public advocacy campaign involving mobile screening units, ORBIS was able to fulfill its goals.

Throughout the trip, there was continuous exchange of knowledge, ideas and skills. While the most overt example of this was through the direct transfer of knowledge and skills from the visiting faculty and nurses to their trainees, it also occurred in the reverse direction from the trainees to the visiting faculty and nurses through sharing of experiences and between the individual team members at all levels. What impressed me the most was how the ORBIS team members came together to work as a unit. The team
members themselves were a diverse group that came from all over the world (including Canada, China, India, South Africa, the United Kingdom and the United States to name a few) and each member brought a unique skill set to the team via their different backgrounds in training (pilots, mechanics, engineers, nurses, doctors, etc...) and life experiences.

Overall, I enjoyed the opportunity to work with such a great and unique organization. Through its endeavors at capacity building, increasing local awareness about eye care and forming partnerships with local organizations and individuals, ORBIS Flying Eye Hospital’s impact on the community will extend well beyond its two-week tenure in Santo Domingo.

S. Grace Prakalapakorn, MD, MPH

Class Notes 2009

Maria Aaron (res. ’96-99) is vice-chair of the Residency Review Committee for Ophthalmology, 2009, and received the AAO Achievement Award in 2008.

Nicole Anderson-Weiss (96M; res. ’98-01) had twins Luke & Sydney, a boy and a girl, born April 28, 2008, to add to big brother Alex, who is 3. The family is moving to Wisconsin in July 2009.

Christopher Banning (res. ’02-05; cornea fellow ’05) announces the birth of son Rowan Christopher Banning, born June 5, 2008.

Douglas Blackmon (res. ’01-03) has a new son, Colin Blackmon, born January 2, 2009.

Carol Boerner (res. ’78-81) was elected president of the medical staff at Valley Regional Hospital, New Hampshire’s Small Hospital of the Year in 2008.

Carol Joan Brown (MMSc, ’96A) received the 10-year faculty award from JCHAPO (1998-2008) and has completed 15 years of service with the Emory Eye Center (1993-2008). Additionally, she is the weekend dispensing optician at Sam’s Club-Tucker, Ga.

Alessandro A. Castellarin (retina fellow ’03-04) has published 30 articles over the past 12 years. He currently practices at California Retina Consultants in Santa Barbara, Calif.

Carlos E. Diaz (ophthalmic pathology fellow ’97-98) has been appointed assistant professor in the department of ophthalmology, University of Texas Health Sciences Center in San Antonio.

Terence Doherty (cornea fellow ’06-07) attained his board certification by the American Board of Ophthalmology in June 2008.

R. Malcolm Edwards (res. ’85-88) is completing his second year as president of the South Carolina Society of Ophthalmology. A grandson, Parker Ligon White, was born October 6, 2008.

Randy Epstein (cornea fellow ’84-86) shares that daughter, Rachel, has been accepted to medical school. In September 2008, he married Dr. Linda Katz, an obstetrician at Northwestern.

John C. Hagan III (res. ’72-75) is president elect of the Kansas City Metropolitan Medical Association. He received a “Best Written Article” in the state – 2008 Missouri Medicine by the Missouri Association of Publications. He also received the AAO’s Secretariat Award.

David J. Harris, Jr. (cornea fellow ’86-87) reports that his daughter Lauren Harris will begin an ophthalmology residency at the University of Tennessee in July 2010.

Suzanne Hewitt (res. ’00-03; cornea fellow ’04) has a new son, Ryan Thomas Hewitt, born Sept. 22, 2008. He was 8 lbs. 4 oz. and 21 inches long.


Arthur C. Perry (*73M; res. ’74-77) received the AAO Senior Achievement Award. He also proudly reports that he has two new grandchildren: Gavin Corpening Pennock, born Oct. 3, 2007 and Greta McRae Pennock, born April 5, 2009. His youngest son, Blake, age 27, is a third-year medical student at George Washington University (DC) and on Aug. 8, 2008, he married Shawmonee Holmes from Annicortis, Wash., where the wedding was held.

Charla Hagman Peterson (MMSc ’02A) was married to Ed Peterson, a pediatric ophthalmologist. Their daughter Ella was born
Jan. 13, 2006; a son, Nate, was born Jan. 25, 2008.

John Pope, Jr. (retina fellow ’86-88) has retired.

John C. Reiser (’60C; ’64M; res. ’67-70; faculty ’71-77) reports that he’s still retired and loving it!

John A. Wells (’86 M; res. ’88-91) says that daughter, Elizabeth Whaley Wells, married Lieutenant Barnes Connell, West Point 2007, on December 22, 2007. They live in Kaiserslautern, Germany. His oldest son John is a rising sophomore at Washington and Lee University. Christopher, 16, and Richard, 12, are still at home trying to give him gray hair, he adds!

Matthew Walls Wilson (res. ’91-94; pathology fellow ’94-95) received the AAO Senior Achievement Award.

Emory Eye Center ranks in top ten in all categories of Ophthalmology Times annual survey

Emory Eye Center ranked in all four of the Top Ten categories with other distinguished U.S. academic eye institutions in the annual survey of ophthalmology programs conducted by Ophthalmology Times.

In the October 15 issue, the Emory Eye Center placed in all four of the ranking designations, the first time Emory has ranked in every surveyed category

The categories and the Emory Eye Center’s 2008 placements include:

- Best Overall Program (tied at 8th with University of Iowa)
- Best Research Program (9th)
- Best Residency Program (10th)
- Best Clinical (Patient Care) Program (6th).

“We are so pleased that our programs are recognized favorably by our peers,” says Chair Tim Olsen. “Emory is a unique place. Patient care, innovative research and quality physician training are the heart of what we do. It is certainly gratifying that these efforts are recognized on a national level. We have an extraordinary team of talented and dedicated faculty who make a difference in the lives of many people every day.”

Clinical trial aims to help those with macular degeneration

The brain’s remarkable ability to reorganize itself to compensate for vision loss, the ability called plasticity, may be the key in helping those with age-related macular degeneration (AMD) see better. This theory is the impetus behind a study between the Emory Eye Center and the Georgia Institute of Technology (Psychology). Patients who have retinal damage because of AMD sometimes begin to see by using other parts of the intact retina. By “training” these patients to focus on using those good retinal cells, they may experience increased visual acuity.

Susan Primo, OD, MPH, says the Phase II portion of the clinical trial “Age-Related Macular Degeneration and Cortical Reorganization” will help bridge the knowledge gap between cortical plasticity and visual function.

“Results from these studies will begin to provide answers for how behavioral improvements in AMD patients can lead to changes in underlying brain activity and, most importantly, how we can influence those changes to maximize use of remaining vision,” Primo says. “Once this link is made, clinicians and healthcare engineers can use the information to design and implement rehabilitation therapies and technologies that will expedite efficient use of fixation strategies ultimately fostering cortical reorganization.”
Promising new treatment for retinopathy of prematurity

Emory Eye Center along with 10 other sites across the country is participating in a Phase I research study to establish a safety profile for an anti-VEGF (vascular endothelial growth factor) drug, Avastin® (Bevacizumab), for babies with retinopathy of prematurity (ROP).

The study is enrolling babies with aggressive posterior ROP who have failed appropriate laser treatment and develop recurrent vascular activity. The babies must be at least 30 weeks post-menstrual age (PMA) and no greater than 36 weeks PMA. One eye will be randomly selected for anti-VEGF treatment and the fellow eye will serve as the control eye. The anti-VEGF drug Avastin will be given as a one-time intravitreal injection. The target enrollment is 22 infants from 11 sites with no more than three infants from any one site.

Baker Hubbard will serve as Emory’s physician investigator for the PAN-VEGF BLOCKADE FOR THE TREATMENT OF ROP (BLOCK-ROP).

"Bevacizumab is an exciting new drug that may benefit infants with ROP, and we are pleased to be able to systematically study the drug with other clinical investigators around the country," says Hubbard. “Safety is our number one concern, however, because we already have an effective treatment for most cases of ROP in laser photocoagulation. That is why, in this first phase of the study, we are investigating the effects of the drug only in the most severe cases that have already failed laser.”

Men with intracranial hypertension experience vision loss more often than women

Men who suffer from idiopathic intracranial hypertension (IIH), a cause of increased pressure around the brain, are more likely to have vision loss than women with the same disease, says Beau Bruce (neuro-ophthalmology fellow ’08), assistant professor.

The cause of IIH is not known. Symptoms include headache, ringing in the ears, and vision problems (due to swelling of the optic nerves) such as blurriness and double vision. It is most common in young, obese women. If untreated, vision loss is possible.

According to research published in the October 15, 2008, issue of Neurology®, the medical journal of the American Academy of Neurology, Bruce and his colleagues here and at the University of Mississippi and Wayne State University retrospectively reviewed the medical records of more than 700 people with the disease. Nine percent of the group was male. The participants had visual acuity exams, visual field exams, and brain scans as part of their evaluations. At both initial and final evaluations, men’s vision was worse than the women’s.

The study found that men with IIH were more likely to present with visual loss, while women presented with headache more frequently. It was also noted that men had a diagnosis of sleep apnea more frequently (24% vs. 4% for the women). It is not known how much that condition contributed to the vision problems.

“This study highlights the importance of following men with IIH carefully because they may not have the typical symptoms of raised intracranial pressure to alert the physician to be more aggressive,” says Bruce. “In addition, it emphasizes the importance of screening patients with IIH for sleep apnea when appropriate.”

Nasolacrimal duct obstruction study for infants

The third phase of a National Eye Institute sponsored multicenter clinical trial, the Nasolacrimal Duct Obstruction (NLDO) Study has begun at the Emory Eye Center. The trial will evaluate which of two approaches is optimal in treating young infants with blocked tear duct: probing the obstruction immediately or waiting to see if the condition goes away on its own after six months, as is often the case.

Co-investigators Amy Hutchinson and Scott Lambert are enrolling its first patients. Infants must be between six and 10 months old.
Half the group of children eligible for enrollment in the study will undergo immediate probing. The other half will wait six months for probing. The later group may receive eye massage at home, which in itself can be helpful. An antibiotic eye drop may also be prescribed if necessary. At six months, if the obstruction persists, probing will be done within a month. Assignment to either of the two groups is randomly picked via computer.

“This trial will give important information that will help physicians provide the best, safest and most cost effective treatment to children with this very common disorder,” says Hutchinson.

“Doctors are trying to find the most cost-effective ways to treat diseases,” says Lambert. “This study should help us better understand where it is more cost-effective to treat blocked tear ducts during infancy or to wait until children are older.”

Nationwide study shows older corneas suitable for transplantation

Corneal transplants using tissue from older donors have similar rates of survival to those using tissue from younger donors reported a nationwide study concluded at the Emory Eye Center and 79 other sites.

The five-year transplant success rate for recipients was the same—86 percent—for transplants performed across the nation with corneas from donors ages 12 to 65 years and from donors ages 66 to 75. Because of this new finding, the donor age pool—currently limited to donors 65 and younger—should be expanded to include donors up to 75 years of age. These are the conclusions of a study funded by the National Eye Institute (NEI) of the NIH.

“This pivotal study indicates that corneas from older individuals are just as successful when used for transplants as those from younger donors,” said R. Doyle Stulting, director of the Emory Eye Center’s cornea section. “These study results will expand the donor cornea pool and make the scheduling of transplant procedures easier for both surgeons and patients.”

The availability of donor corneas has been adequate for the past 10 years in the United States, where more than 33,000 corneal transplants are performed each year. Recent FDA changes that make screening more strenuous may pose future limitations on transplants.
Faculty news

Michael Iuvone joins us as director of research

P. Michael Iuvone, a professor in Emory's department of pharmacology will move to the department of ophthalmology and serve as director of research at the Emory Eye Center, effective Sept. 1, 2009. Iuvone will take the lead role in vision research at the Emory Eye Center and continue the national reputation of scientific excellence that Henry F. Edelhauser, PhD, has cultivated over the past two decades.

Iuvone, originally from New York, received his BS in psychology at the University of Florida. He completed his graduate work there, earning his doctorate in Neurosciences. His post-doctoral experience was conducted at the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH). He came to Emory in 1978, serving in the Pharmacology Department and was promoted to full professor in 1990. Iuvone has held a joint appointment in ophthalmology since 1980.

"Dr. Iuvone has an outstanding academic record in vision research," says Tim Olsen. "He is a thought leader in retina and cell biology and is world-renowned for his work in circadian rhythms, with an emphasis at the basic level on neuromodulation and cell signaling in the neurosensory retina.

"Dr. Iuvone clearly has the respect and admiration of our basic scientists as well as our clinicians," he continues. "We are thrilled he is joining us. We anticipate that he will lead the Emory Eye Center’s research efforts to new heights."

Iuvone served as scientific program planner at the Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology (ARVO) for many years and currently is on the program planning committee for the biannual meeting of the International Society of Eye Research. He also served on an NIH grant review study section for six years, as ad hoc reviewer for seven years, and as an editorial board member of five distinguished journals, including the Journal of Neurochemistry, Experimental Eye Research and Molecular Vision. He was named a Fellow of ARVO at the society’s 2009 annual meeting, along with three other Emory Eye Center faculty members, Henry Edelhauser, John Nickerson and Hans Grossniklaus.

Iuvone currently serves as principal investigator on a NIH grant that deals with retinal function, which provides basic science information relevant to eye diseases such as age-related macular degeneration and diabetic retinopathy. He is a co-investigator on several other NIH grants dealing with myopia, ocular melanoma, and circadian rhythms in health and disease. His publications include more than 140 articles published in peer-reviewed literature. He also holds two U.S. patents that deal with the pharmacological treatment of ocular development. At Emory, he has served on 13 separate university committees. His teaching service at Emory includes mentoring seven graduate students and 11 postdoctoral fellows and directing several graduate courses.

He holds memberships in the American Society for Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and the Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology, among others. He is a sought-after speaker on retinal function.

Promotions

Promotions
Honors

• Four Emory Eye Center Scientists named ARVO 2009 Fellows

During the recent ARVO meeting, this year’s inaugural class of distinguished Fellows was announced. At the Emory Eye Center three scientists were honored at this year’s annual meeting. ARVO awards two levels of Fellows: Gold and Silver, each determined by a rigorous point systems. The three are among the group of members recognized for their accomplishments, leadership and contributions to ARVO.

• Henry F. Edelhauser was awarded the highest distinction, Gold Fellow.
• Hans E. Grossniklaus, John M. Nickerson were each awarded Silver Fellow distinctions, as was Michael Iuvone, incoming Director of Research.

By accepting this honor, ARVO anticipates that Fellows will continue to serve as role models and mentors for individuals pursuing careers in vision and ophthalmology research and to further ARVO’s vision “… to facilitate the advancement of vision research and the prevention and cure of disorders of the visual system worldwide.” This includes advancing basic and clinical knowledge and serving as the leading international forum for vision research and the primary advocate for vision science worldwide.

“We are grateful that ARVO has recognized and honored the distinguished research and careers of these three members of Emory Eye Center,” says Tim Olsen. “These three individuals represent the backbone of the basic vision research at Emory for the past two decades. Collectively, they have engaged in more than 90 research-years and have firmly influenced each of their respective fields of study. We congratulate Drs. Edelhauser, Grossniklaus, and Nickerson for their continued dedication to careful science and remarkable progress.”

“We are very excited to offer this new prestige to our membership. We know that it will galvanize current members and inspire future ones,” said ARVO President Todd P. Margolis MD, PhD.

Edelhauser is the Sylvia Montag Ferst and Frank W. Ferst Professor of Ophthalmology and director of Research, Emory Eye Center. He received his undergraduate education at Paterson State College with honors. He completed graduate school with a master’s degree in physiology from Michigan State University, where he also earned his postdoctoral degree.

Edelhauser served on the faculty at the Medical College of Wisconsin prior to joining Emory in 1989. He has served as president of ARVO and received the honor and senior achievement awards from the American Academy of Ophthalmology. In 1999, he was awarded the Castroviejo Medal and the Alcon Research Award. In 2005, he received the prestigious Proctor Medal Award, ARVO highest honor in Ophthalmic Research.

He co-chaired the 2006-2007 Toxic Anterior Segment Syndrome (TASS) task force to establish guideline for “Recommended Practices for Cleaning and Sterilizing Intraocular Surgical Instruments.” Most recently, he received the R. Townley Paton M.D. award (2007) from the Eye Bank Association of America for his research contributions to national and international eye banking.

His research interest includes corneal endothelial physiology, surgical pharmacology, ocular drug delivery and toxicology. He has been involved in developing intracocular irrigating solutions for phacoemulsification and vitrectomy, and his research has bridged the gap in many areas between the laboratory and the clinic.

Grossniklaus, the F. Phinizy Calhoun Jr. Professor of Ophthalmology and director, L.F. Montgomery Pathology Laboratory at the Emory Eye Center, graduated from Medical School at Ohio State University and completed an internship at Riverside Methodist Hospital, in Columbus, Ohio. He finished his residency at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland where he also completed a residency in pathology, followed by a fellowship at the Wilmer Institute, Johns Hopkins University. He attended the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology, in Washington, D.C., and completed a preceptorship at the Emory Eye Center (under Thomas. M. Aaberg Sr., MD). Serving as director of the L.F. Montgomery Laboratory and Clinical Eye Pathology Service, Grossniklaus has expertise in diagnostic ophthalmic pathology, ocular oncology, age-related macular degeneration and ophthalmic pathology research, including drug delivery. He is director of the Eye Center’s Ocular Oncology Service.
Nickerson, professor in the Research section of the Emory Eye Center, graduated from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, did graduate study at the University of Texas Medical Branch, and a postdoctoral fellowship at the National Institutes of Health, where he was a Senior Fellow and a tenured biologist. He is an editor-in-chief of Molecular Vision, a peer-reviewed journal, based at the Emory Eye Center. The award-winning online publication is dedicated to the dissemination of research results in molecular biology, cell biology, and the genetics of the visual system (ocular and cortical). Nickerson’s interests are in retinal proteins and their expression in normal animals and in animal models exhibiting characteristics of human eye diseases.

Eve Higginbotham tapped as fellow of American Academy of Arts & Sciences

Eve Higginbotham, who serves in our Glaucoma Section and as Dean of the School of Medicine at Morehouse College, has been elected as a fellow of the American Academy of Arts & Sciences. The Academy, one of the nation’s most prestigious honorary societies and a center for independent policy research, announced its selection April 20. She is among the 210 new fellows and 19 Foreign Honorary Members representing leaders in the sciences, the humanities and the arts, business, public affairs and the nonprofit sector.

Emory University President James W. Wagner and Emory Professor of Neurology Mahlon DeLong were also named fellows this year.

Higginbotham’s clinical focus is on the evaluation of the glaucoma suspect and consultation and management of difficult glaucoma. Her research interests include: Phase II & Phase III trials in glaucoma; epidemiology of glaucoma; clinical trials in glaucoma; neuroprotection; and physiology of the conjunctiva and trabecular meshwork.

“We are thrilled for Dr. Higginbotham, ” says Tim Olsen. “She is certainly well deserving of this highly prestigious award. Such recognition reflects her consummate skills as a physician-scientist as well as her talents in teaching and leadership. We commend her for this outstanding academic accomplishment. It is an honor to have such a prestigious individual as a part of our faculty.”

Web's up!

Surf away! A handsome new website will greet you as you go to the Emory Eye Center’s URL: www.eyecenter.emory.edu. Following the new Emory University template as much as possible, our new site is not only much more vibrant, streamlined and informative, it is accessible for those who are visually impaired, a good thing for the many audiences we serve.

Go on site and let us know how you like it. If you have suggestions, please click on the contact link to send us a message. Also, don’t forget that the Alumni section, accessed through the “Education” tool bar title, is there to serve you, our alumni.

Or you may go directly to: www.eyecenter.emory.edu/education/alumni.htm. Access to the alumni directory requires your alumni login and password.

Additionally, a newly updated Alumni Directory is now online. Be sure and send us any changes, and your updated e-mail address. Send them to Doug Lothes at dlothes@emory.edu.

SEVR 2009

The Southeastern Vitreoretinal Conference was held Friday, March
27 and Saturday, March 28. New Retina Service leader Baker Hubbard was chairperson of the well-attended event. The Paul Sternberg Jr. Guest Lecturers were Gary C. Brown and Melissa M. Brown of Wills Eye Institute. Their topic was "Value Based Medicine."

Current clinical trials at Emory Eye Center
Our new website has a link from the homepage to our clinical trials. This may be helpful to you, as our alumni, in referring appropriate patients to Emory. Feel free to provide feedback to this part of our site. Send thoughts to: jbell@emory.edu

GSO leadership
The Georgia Society of Ophthalmology (GSO) is the only statewide organization representing Georgia ophthalmologists and their patients. The GSO’s activities include legislative advocacy, continuing medical education for ophthalmologists, and public education about important eye health care concerns.

Members of The Georgia Society of Ophthalmology are board-certified ophthalmologists in various practice settings throughout Georgia. Member physicians are wholly dedicated to lifelong learning and professional integrity in order to provide the best possible patient care.

So states the mission of the GSO. Appropriately, Emory Eye Center physicians have assumed leadership of this vital organization in the past years. Baker Hubbard (res. ’95-98) was president in 2007-2008, and Tassos Costarides (res. ’94-97) will take over in 2009-2010.

Additionally, among the Councilors currently serving are Brad Bertram (res. ’86-89; cornea fellow ’89); James Dew (res. ’71-74); John Dixon (res. ’71-74); Emily Graubart (res. ’05-08); Laura King (res. ’83-86); Brad Randleman (res. ’99-02; cornea fellow ’03-04); and Leiv Takle Jr. (res. ’03-06; oculoplastics fellow ’07).

GSO members participate with much success in DC
Baker Hubbard reports that on a sunny day in April, a GSO Delegation participated in AAO Advocacy Day in Washington, DC.

The delegation discussed key healthcare issues identified by AAO as impacting ophthalmologists and their patients. Issues included supporting The Vision Care for Kids Act of 2009 and funding the National Eye Institute and Vision Center of Excellence. Also opposing Medicare physician pay cuts and the Optometric Equity in Medicaid Act, which would include the word “surgery” in Medicaid’s description of OD services.

The group met with the following Members of Congress or their Chief-of-Staff or Health-Aide as indicated.

- U.S. Senator Saxby Chambliss
- U.S. Senator Johnny Isakson
- Rep. Phil Gingrey, MD
Night of Spectacles a great success — brings in funding for Georgia Lighthouse

The evening of April 30 saw a dazzling array of beautifully attired folks from around the metro area—and some attired in recycled eyeglasses! All for a good cause, as this event helps fund the Georgia Lions Lighthouse. Its mission is to provide vision and hearing services through education, detection, prevention and treatment.

Through collaborative partnerships, such as that with the Emory Eye Center, it enables greater independence and increased quality of life for Georgians in financial need.

According to Co-host Baker Hubbard, "The Lighthouse is a wonderful organization that helps fund eye surgery for patients in Georgia who cannot pay. We at Emory partner with this organization on a weekly basis to perform vision saving eye operations." Retina Services was a sponsor for this worthy event that raised $85,000, a significant increase over last year’s event which raised $53,000. All proceeds will go toward providing eye surgeries, glasses, eye exams, and laser treatments for diabetic patients.

Rep. Tom Price, MD
Rep. Lynn Westmoreland
Rep. Paul Broun, MD
Rep. Jack Kingston
Rep. David Scott
Rep. Sanford Bishop’s staff
Rep. John Linder’s staff
Rep. Jim Marshall’s staff
Rep. John Lewis’ staff

“As you can see, we maximized every minute and covered a lot of ground in a day on the hill,” says Baker. “A big thank you to those who took time to travel with us!”

Those included in the group on April 23 included these “Emory” folks, plus three Medical College of Georgia residents:

- Baker Hubbard, GSO Immediate Past President
- Tassos Costarides, GSO President Elect
- Brad Randleman
- William Clark III
- Emory residents
  - Purnima Patel
  - Bonnie Germain

Tom Aaberg and unidentified woman looking like a real-life Tinkerbell! The dress she’s wearing is made of recycled eyeglasses (one of many) and this one was chosen as “fan favorite” in the design competition.
Glaucoma was well represented. Annette Giangiacomo and Tassos (res. ’94-97) and Anna Costarides.

Rachel and Sunil Srivastava (res. ’99-02) and Sarah Epting (R) of Georgia Lions Lighthouse Foundation.

Andrew Feinberg (res. ’96-99), Maria (res. ’96-99) and Wayne Aaron and Baker Hubbard (res. ’95-98) enjoying the evening.

Night of Spectacles co-hosts Baker and Karen Hubbard.
We do love ’em. And they heard it.

It was a dark and stormy night.

Nevertheless, on November 7 more than 600 people, squinting through windshield wipers at unfamiliar street signs, found their way to historic Puritan Mill to honor Drs. Tom Aaberg and Geoff Broocker, two longtime Emory Eye Center leaders who, in shaping our past, forged our future—and won our hearts forever.

Held during the AAO meeting in Atlanta, the 20/20: looking back, looking ahead celebration attracted many alums as well as current Emory Eye Center faculty, staff, students, and friends. Retrospective remarks by Aaberg and Broocker stirred two decades’ worth of nostalgia and pride, along with plenty of laughter, and Director Tim Olsen outlined our trajectory for the next 20 years.

Emory’s President Jim Wagner, School of Medicine Dean Tom Lawley, and Woodruff Health Sciences CEO Fred Sanfilippo also endorsed the Emory Eye Center for its training programs and commended the work of its people.

While large-screen monitors displayed a continuous slide show of Emory Eye Center, past and present—key events, unforgettable antics, faces known and loved (some 30 folks have more than 20 years with us)—music from the Kayla Taylor jazz band (with a little help from Geoff Broocker and friends) extended the party well past dessert.

To all of you who attended: It was great to see you again. If you missed this heartwarming get-together, browse through the collage below. We’d love to hear which of your favorite memories it sparks.

20/20 photos
Dear Fellow Alum:

This past year of transition and building has been invigorating for the Emory Eye Center. We are fortunate to have experienced leaders in every section to serve as mentors for our talented young faculty members. We added seven new faculty in 2008. By fall, we will have added another nine. Top-level experience and leadership within the department creates the ideal setting to develop our junior faculty. As chairman, I place my trust in our service directors to define and develop their respective service. At the Emory Eye Center, it’s all about our people.

While we, as a unified department, develop a more efficient organizational structure to deliver competitive healthcare along with improved support of our research and educational efforts, these changes will dramatically improve our ability to deliver healthcare more effectively. With the support of our central administrations at Emory University and Emory Healthcare, we are marking much-needed changes to our physical plant.

Additionally, we are ‘going digital’ on many fronts. We reviewed our residency-training program applicants on electronic files, instead of massive stacks of paper. Several of our services have completed the transition to electronic medical records, and we anticipate that all services will soon be fully electronic. Our grant applications to the NIH are now entirely in an electronic format. Our new web presence is robust, thanks to the excellent work of Joy Bell and expertise of Donna Price, our web designer. Please visit us at www.eyecenter.emory.edu to catch up on current events and even enjoy our weekly grand rounds.

I am also very pleased to announce some key appointments. In October 2008, Baker Hubbard was named as the director of our retina service, and in March 2009, he was approved by the board of trustees to hold the prestigious Thomas M. Aaberg Chair in Ophthalmology. I have confidence that Baker will lead our retina service to new heights.

There will be an important transition of our alumni president... Zack to Jack. We wish to thank Zack Bridges for his years of service in this role and also to share our thanks and appreciation to John (Jack) Wells III as he takes over this important role. I encourage you to reach out to Jack for alumni-related issues and help to support him in this endeavor.

As I fondly remember the events of this past year’s AAO meeting in Atlanta, I want thank all who joined us for 20/20: looking back, looking ahead. The memories, the camaraderie and the many special people made for a truly heartwarming evening. I received hundreds of positive and supportive comments from our alumni who enjoyed seeing all their Emory friends and colleagues. Honoring us with their attendance were Emory University President Jim Wagner, Woodruff Health Sciences Executive VP Fred Sanfilippo, and School of Medicine Dean Tom Lawley who each publicly commended our program. Most important, we were heartened that so many of you—some 600+—joined us in this once-in-a-lifetime celebratory tribute.

Please enjoy this issue of our alumni news, and stop by to see how we’re doing. We greatly appreciate your support of “our” program.

Tim

From Zach...

Dear alumnus/a:

It’s been great to serve you as president of the Emory Eye Alumni Association for the last five years. I’m pleased to report that, during that time:

- The Eye Alumni directory has been completely updated.
- The Eye Alumni newsletter was upgraded to color.
- As you know by reading this, both of these publications are now electronic.
The alumni were involved in the chair search for the Eye Center. We couldn’t be happier with the result: Tim Olsen – one of our own!

There has been an increase in donor activity. Most notably, John Hagan, ’75, has made a wonderful bequest to endow a chair at the Eye Center.

Leiv Takle, ’73, is not only a great annual supporter of the Eye Center, but he continues to put on a terrific residents event each fall at his farm.

Speaking of great events, they don’t come much better than the 20/20 party held in Atlanta during AAO last November. It was truly a stunning tribute to Tom, Geoff, and everyone who has enriched the residents experience over the years.

It is my pleasure now to turn over the mantle to Jack Wells. I urge you to lend him your support as we work together to support the best eye residency program around.

Zack Bridges

---

...to Jack

Dear alumnus/a:

Greetings to you from the Emory Eye Alumni! I am pleased to be taking over from Zack Bridges as president of our alumni association. I know we all thank him for his years of service and for a job well done. I will do my best to carry on his good work, and I look forward to meeting with you at future Emory alumni events.

Last November during the AAO meeting in Atlanta, the largest and most exciting alumni event in our program’s history took place to honor Tom Aaberg and Geoff Broocker. They were celebrated for the extraordinary contributions they have made to the Emory Eye Center, elevating the Center and its training program to national and worldwide recognition as a top ten academic eye center. I hope you were able to join us. The evening’s highlights included speeches from both honorees, Tom in his typical understated yet witty style, contrasted with Geoff’s usual—well you know how Geoff is! It was great fun for us all! I especially enjoyed the chance to reacquaint with so many former residents, fellows, faculty members, and staff.

I hope you will join me in supporting the alumni association and the Emory Eye Center. The ophthalmology program has been an important part of my family’s lives, my father John (’69R) and I (’91R) having both completed our training there. We all owe the program a great deal for the privilege of becoming members of the ophthalmology profession, which I so often heard the late and great Dr. Bill Clark, Sr., so rightly call the “queen of medical specialties.”

Again, I look forward to meeting with as many of you as possible at either our annual Academy gathering or future Emory Eye Center events. I also ask for and welcome any comments or suggestions on ways to improve our communications with you in the future. It is a privilege to serve you as alumni president.

With warmest regards,

Jack Wells
Meet our current residents

2010 Graduating Class

Alok Bansal, MD  
Undergraduate School: University of Akron  
Medical School: Northeastern Ohio University

Bonnie Germain, MD  
Undergraduate School: Emory University  
Medical School: Emory University

Carolyn Hebson, MD  
Undergraduate School: Auburn University  
Medical School: University of Alabama

David Paine, MD  
Undergraduate School: Vassar College  
Medical School: University of Buffalo

John Payne, MD  
Undergraduate School: Clemson University  
Medical School: Medical University of South Carolina

Krishna Sanka, MD  
Undergraduate School: Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
Medical School: Duke University

2011 Graduating Class

Jenny Bromley, MD
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Undergraduate School</th>
<th>Medical School</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Vishak John, MD</td>
<td>Undergraduate School: Wake Forest University</td>
<td>Medical School: Boston University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gene Kim, MD</td>
<td>Undergraduate School: University of California, San Diego</td>
<td>Medical School: University of Pittsburgh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Johnstone Kim, MD</td>
<td>Undergraduate School: University of Pennsylvania</td>
<td>Medical School: Tulane University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lyndon Lee, MD</td>
<td>Undergraduate School: Stanford University</td>
<td>Medical School: University of Alabama</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Priyanka Sood, MD</td>
<td>Undergraduate School: Northwestern University</td>
<td>Medical School: Northwestern University</td>
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**2012 Graduating Class**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Undergraduate School</th>
<th>Medical School</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jeremy Jones, MD</td>
<td>Undergraduate School: Berry College</td>
<td>Medical School: Emory University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cecilia Jung, MD</td>
<td>Undergraduate School: Emory University</td>
<td>Medical School: Emory University</td>
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<tr>
<td>Philip Laird, MD</td>
<td>Undergraduate School: University of Florida</td>
<td>Medical School: Mayo Medical School</td>
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Claudia Perez-Straziota, MD
Undergraduate School: Luis Razetti, Venezuela

Joshua Robinson, MD
Undergraduate School: Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Medical School: University of Medicine & Dentistry of New Jersey

Sumitra Subramanyam, MD
Undergraduate School: Washington University
Medical School: University of Texas, Houston
Meet our current fellows

2009-10 Fellows

The following physicians began their Fellowships on July 1, 2009:

**Cornea**

**Tyler Hall, MD**

Undergraduate School: Wright State University  
Medical School: Wright State University  
Ophthalmology Residency: University of Alabama, Birmingham

**Seema Patel, MD**

Undergraduate School: University of Pennsylvania  
Medical School and Internship: University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey  
Ophthalmology Residency: Temple University

**Glaucoma**

**Juan Carlos Maldonado, MD**

Undergraduate School: University of Puerto Rico  
Medical School: University of Puerto Rico  
Internship and Ophthalmology Residency: University of Puerto Rico, San Juan

**Neuro-Ophthalmology**

**Valerie Elmalem, MD**

Undergraduate School: SUNY Stony Brook  
Medical School: SUNY Downstate Medical  
Transitional Internship and Ophthalmology Residency: Emory University

**Matthew Thurtell, MD**

Undergraduate and Medical School: University of Sydney, Sydney, Australia  
Internship: John Hunter Hospital, Newcastle, Australia
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<tr>
<th>Department</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Undergraduate School</th>
<th>Graduate School</th>
<th>Medical School</th>
<th>Internship</th>
<th>Ophthalmology Residency</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Oculoplastics</td>
<td>Joseph Walrath, MD</td>
<td>Case Western Reserve University</td>
<td>MS, University of California, Berkeley</td>
<td>College of Physicians and Surgeons, Columbia University</td>
<td>Edward S. Harkness Eye Institute</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ophthalmic Pathology/Oncology</td>
<td>Jill Wells, MD</td>
<td>Medical College of Georgia</td>
<td>Carraway Methodist Medical Center, Birmingham, Alabama</td>
<td>University of Alabama-Birmingham</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pathology</td>
<td>Qing Zhang, MD</td>
<td>Xiangya School of Medicine, China</td>
<td>Xiangya School of Medicine, China</td>
<td>Xiangya Hospital Central South University, China</td>
<td>Dept. of Ophthalmology, Xiangya Hospital, China</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pediatric Ophthalmology</td>
<td>Fatema Esmail, MD</td>
<td>Eastern Illinois University</td>
<td>Mt. Sinai School of Medicine</td>
<td>Graduate Hospital in Philadelphia</td>
<td>Mt. Sinai School of Medicine</td>
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<td>Retina</td>
<td>David Baranano, MD</td>
<td>Yale University</td>
<td>PhD, Neuroscience, Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine</td>
<td>Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine</td>
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Leon Charkoudian, MD
Undergraduate School: Cornell University
Medical School: Johns Hopkins School of Medicine
Internship: Albert Einstein Medical Center
Ophthalmology Residency: Scheie Eye Institute, Philadelphia

Robin Ray, MD
Undergraduate School: University of Miami
Medical School: Duke University
Internship: University of Texas Health Science Center
Ophthalmology Residency: Baylor College of Medicine

Jorge Fortun, MD
Undergraduate School: Vanderbilt University
Medical School: University of Michigan Medical School
Internship: Baylor College of Medicine
Ophthalmology Residency: Baylor College of Medicine