

What Was So Special?

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One may ask, “What was so special about John Streff?” I could never really put my finger on the answer to that question. All I know is that from our first encounter I really enjoyed the way he made me think, helped me understand vision, and was willing to take the time to teach. John was a kind, humble man who had great ideas. When you asked him a question about vision, you had his full attention. He never looked around for someone more important to talk to. He always had time to take a phone call and was available for study groups and annual presentations. He took hours to write papers and prepare presentations on them. Many optometrists attended to hear John present his latest paper and yet he never expected to receive payment for his time. He was dedicated to understanding vision so he could better serve his patients. Fortunately for us, he thoroughly enjoyed sharing his knowledge.

Twenty years ago a group of optometrists started the Ohio Study Group. Each year John would choose a topic, write a paper about it, and ask the attendees to bring cases, procedures or a paper related to that topic. We would then spend an intensive weekend discussing the topic. This successful study group grew into the Invitational Lens Symposium (ILS), which allowed optometrists from all over the country to learn and share ideas about vision. The ILS was created as an

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educational arena where new ideas and concepts about vision could be explored. Little did we realize at the time that this would be the best environment for John to develop his thoughts about vision. Because he was dedicated to helping us understand, John wrote papers each year on a wide variety of topics. In developing these papers, John continued to change his model and expand his ideas of vision. His papers and the videos of his presentations are huge gifts he left us so that we can continue to learn from his knowledge. The topics discussed included:

Visual Motor Leads Visual Sensory	Child Development
The Gesell Years	Understanding How to Use Prisms and Lenses
The Cheshire Study	Properties of Lenses and Prisms
Visual Perception	Bi-Nasal Occlusion
Visual Projection	Visual Skill Areas
Figure Ground	Visual Manipulation
Dynamic Retinoscopy	Prescribing a Performance Lens
Bi-nasal Occlusion	VO-Star
Understanding How to Use Prisms and Lenses	

John has given so much to optometrists, our patients and our profession. The Vision Leads Foundation is a non-profit organization created to honor the memory of individuals such as John Streff. Benefit seminars will be conducted to endow scholarships in the names of recognized optometrists. The first scholarship will be named for John Streff and will be awarded to an optometry student or resident interested in optometric vision therapy. John's first Benefit Seminar will be held at AOA's Optometry's Meeting in Utah June 2011, and will present some of the latest ideas John developed for the ILS. The speakers will be optometrists who worked hard to understand and share John's knowledge and concepts of vision.

Information about this seminar or the Foundation can be found at:

www.VisionLeadsFoundation.com or
Vision Leads Foundation
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