Letter From The President

This is my last column as President of the OPS. Elsewhere in this issue are the results of our recent election. I look forward to working with the new board the next two years in my position as past-president. Looking back, I can't believe it has been four years since I became President. The Society has gone through so many changes, at times it is hard to believe we are the same organization. Then again, when you really look at what we are doing, nothing has changed since the OPS was founded in 1969. Ophthalmic photographers who are giving of themselves and working together to help educate and promote the profession.

When I decided to run for the office of President, one of my main motivations was to give back something to the organization that did so much to help me, both professionally and personally. I have found everyone I have worked with in the OPS has gotten involved for the same reason. The question I have been asked most often over the last four years by members is how much I am paid in my position as President. It surprised me there were so many people that do not realize that every OPS member who accepts a position within the Society does it voluntarily. Through the support of our employers (who conveniently ignore the fact that we conduct OPS business on their time) and our families, who patiently sit home alone while we are away at weekend board meetings, certification tests or educational programs, these people volunteer to give up enormous amounts of their time to work on projects that benefit you. I want to make sure you realize what they have done for you and I want to thank them for all they have given of themselves. I also want to thank their employers for providing them the latitude in their jobs to work on our projects, their fellow employees who either get stuck helping on these projects or end up doing more of the "real" work in the office, and finally their families, who put up with their time away and take over their responsibilities around the house when they are gone.

Finally, I want to thank you for the privilege of being your President the past four years. I had no idea that a position I looked upon solely as service to the Society, would allow me to learn and grow as an individual. As an organization, we have accomplished many things during this time. Like everyone else accepting a position in the OPS, I hoped I could play some part in building on all the hard work of those individuals who came before me. Looking back there is always more you want to get done than you actually do. I guess it is human nature to never be satisfied. The next Board will take up where we left off and they will come up with new and better ways of doing things, and that is the way it should be. Give them your ideas, suggestions, and complaints, but always remember to balance it with your support and patience, because you are the reason they are doing it.

Mark Maio, FOPS

'See y'all in Dallas!

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New Editors Named For
Journal of Ophthalmic
Photography

The OPS Board of Directors is pleased to announce the appointment of two editors to manage production of the *Journal of Ophthalmic Photography*. Richard Hackel, CRA, will be in charge of manuscript solicitation and review. Donna Rae Sutherland will be responsible for layout and production.

Both Donna and Richard will be meeting with President Maio and Joe Ogrodnick (who agreed to produce our latest Journal issue), at the end of August in Rochester, NY to discuss job responsibilities and the production process.

Any Questions or articles should be directed to:

Richard Hackel, CRA
Bowman Gray School of Medicine
Department of Ophthalmology
300 South Hawthorne Street
Winston-Salem, NC 27103
(919) 748-2926

For advertising and production questions:

Donna Rae Sutherland
25 Whitney Place
Buffalo, NY 14201
(716) 852-6008

Researchers Wanted

As chairperson of the OPS' R & D Committee (under the board of directors), I am soliciting active participation by any member of the OPS who would like to become involved in testing new film, equipment, or other development ideas for furthering ophthalmic photography.

We are currently involved with an instant film manufacturer in testing a new prototype film. This project provides the opportunity for OPS members to influence the design characteristics of new film types with which we all may benefit in the future.

Again, if you are interested in participating in future research studies or have other ideas, please write or give me a call.

Marshall E. Tyler, CRA
Ophthalmic Photographer

Educational Grants Available Through BPA

Grants to further education in biomedical communications are available through the Endowment Fund for Education of the Biological Photographic Association (BPA). Awards are made twice yearly. Applications are being accepted through December 31, 1992 for awards to be given in April, 1993.

Both individuals and institutions are eligible for grants, and BPA membership is not required. The Fund makes awards on the basis of merit.

The Fund has previously supported projects which include a workshop attendance, an educational photographic exhibit, development of a new microscopical technique, and preparation for the BPA's board certification program. The Endowment Fund for Education is supported by gifts from Association members and an annual auction.

For application information, contact BPA, 115 Stoneridge Drive, Chapel Hill, NC 27514, (919) 967-8247, FAX (919) 967-8246.

Attention

Audio Cassettes from the Annual Meeting will be available on-site or by mail order. Contact:

AVW Audio Visual, Inc.
Attn: Taping Services
2233 Irving Blvd.
Dallas, TX 75207
Phone: (214) 638-0024
FAX: (214) 631-5238

*Please allow two to three weeks for delivery.*
Greetings from your new editor of the Journal of Ophthalmic Photography!

I am looking forward to this new challenge, and will seek to continue the excellent work established by former Managing Editor, Marlene Fishman. I plan on producing a Journal with high editorial standards that serves as an excellent and reliable source of information for the Ophthalmic Photographic community.

I will be working with our new Production and Design Editor, Donna Rae Sutherland, who will coordinate all aspects of layout and design, and other pre-press functions. She also will handle the advertising.

Beginning in 1993, we will produce two issues a year, one in April, and one in October. Deadlines for articles will be January 15 for the April issue and August 15 for the October issue.

I wish to greatly expand our letters column, and provide a lively forum that is open to debate and discussion. Members are encouraged to ask questions about our profession, equipment we use, OPS, as well as other organizations that affect us. If you do not agree with an issue or a method, or have a gripe about the System, let your thoughts be known in the letters column! I promise to publish anything that merits attention, as space permits.

We will continue the technical tips section and publish your new insights on how things can work better. We will also continue the Question and Answer column where experts will answer those nagging questions we all seem to have.

We will also highlight the fruits of our labor by featuring a monthly center-page photography section. If you have a great fundus photo that looks like it came from Mars, or an interesting transit phase to nowhere, let the world see it too!

Of course we will continue the in-depth articles on current topics and welcome your research reports and thorough investigations. Please feel free to contact me if you need help in developing a topic or have any questions about submitting work to the Journal. For now, please direct all letters, inquiries and correspondence, other than advertising, to me. Advertising should be directed to Donna. Guidelines for authors are still the same as published in previous Journals, however, letters need only be sent as one copy.

I will be at the Academy this November and look forward to meeting many of you who have ideas for articles or suggestions for the Journal. I will be staying at the Loews Anatole. If you are giving a talk at the Scientific Sessions, think about developing your work into a paper, and if you are sitting in the audience and dream up a good idea, write it down and submit your brainstorming to the Journal!

Richard Hackel

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Cruise Director of the Year Award goes to Martin Chrobak for his flair and creativity in the following categories during the Santa Barbara meeting: Flashiest transportation, best musical score in a motor vehicle, most unique beach picnic on a life-guard station, most efficient crowd control in a Thai restaurant, most sophisticated beverage and wardrobe selection for a non-resident and best stunt driving.

The last time the Annual Meeting was held in Dallas, Bill Nyberg was seen wandering the streets of Dallas in search of the ultimate cowboy boot. We have heard that Bill already has a spit shine on his “Lucchese” boots in anticipation of doing some more shopping for western wear. What’s it going to be this year Bill—chaps, spurs or perhaps a “ten gallon hat”? Yippee-i-oh-kay!

From the “sheep in wolves’ clothing” department: Members of the Board of Certification, along with examination site host Ditte Hess were observed in a Miami restaurant throwing a birthday party for fellow BOC member Sandi Anderson’s young son Alex. They had better be careful. They wouldn’t want the examinees to find out that they really are “nice guys”.

Four paintings by Honorary Life Member Lee Allen, FOPS were included in the exhibit “Grant Wood - His Regionalist Vision Realized”. Lee painted murals with Grant (American Gothic) Wood in the thirties. The show is organized by and exhibited at the Dubuque Museum of Art. The show ran July 31 to Sept. 27.

On July 11, Lisa Nicole became a new member of Craig Bridges’ family. We congratulate Craig and his wife Lynn on their new daughter.
Professional Opportunities


Position Desired: RIT graduate seeking immediate employment in ophthalmic photography. Skills include Fundus, FA, SL, Speculars, Clinical and OR photography and use of the OIS system. Experience includes ophthalmic course work and two internships at Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit, MI. Don Kuitula, CPU #767, 25 Andrews Memorial Drive, Rochester, NY 14623. (716) 475-1392.

Faculty Position: Biomedical Photographic Communications Dept. in the School of Photographic Arts and Sciences at RIT seeks full time faculty member for tenure-track position to teach Biomed. Photograpy I, Computer Graphics and Preparation of Medical Visuals. This person will create and implement a forward looking curriculum inclusive of graphics, desk top publishing and electronic photography. Prior teaching experience preferred. Masters degree required for appointment to tenure. Strong interpersonal skills, command of technical or biomed. photography, excellent design and graphics abilities, experience in computer graphics and electronic imaging desirable along with a history of professional activity and growth. Will work with some students from RIT’s deaf community and must exhibit a sensitivity to the deaf culture. Must have ability to contribute in meaningful ways to RIT’s commitment to cultural diversity and individual difference. Send application or resume with 5 slide examples to: Michael Peres MSc, RBP, Chair, Biomedical Photographic Communications, RIT, School of Photographic Arts and Sciences, P.O. Box 9887, Rochester, NY 14623-0887. Apply by Nov. 31, 1992.

Address Changes

Ron Harper, CRA, FOPS
Ophthalmic Photographic Services
46646 Earl Brown Dr., P.O. Box 292
Garrison, MN 56450
(612) 692-4389

Denise Barness, CRA, COT
1 Wood Street, #7
San Francisco, CA 94118
H (415) 687-9880 W (415) 923-9800

Rosario Bate, CRA, COT
University of Ottawa Eye Institute
510 Smyth, Room 3701
Ottawa, Ontario K1H 8L6
(613) 737-8819 FAX (613) 737-8836

Bruce W. Morris
Associate Product Manager-Imaging
Humphrey Instruments Inc.
2992 Alvarado St.
San Leandro, CA 94577-0700
(510) 297-4358

Deadline for next newsletter: DECEMBER 1, 1992
Bachelor Degree continued from page 4

Until now, anyone interested in ophthalmic photography had only one option to enter the field. Through an informal and unaccredited approach, one would gain photographic and/or ophthalmic experience, learn that ophthalmic photography existed as a professional occupation, and then would find an entry level position to learn on-the-job. Over the years in my position as director of several ophthalmic photography departments, I noticed that I was providing essentially the same type of training to photographers as the ophthalmology residents and fellows were getting in their programs. The major difference being residents/fellows training programs were formalized. They received official recognition from the university for the level of training they obtained, while the photographers who had reached similar levels of expertise in ophthalmic photography, had nothing official to recognize their educational achievements.

After being asked for the hundredth time where I went to school to learn ophthalmic photography, I decided to find some way to incorporate ophthalmic photography into established photographic programs at colleges. This approach proved fruitless. Most traditional college programs that teach medical photography do not appreciate the critical need to combine classroom instruction with continuous hands-on patient interaction. I concluded that if doctors, nurses, technicians, etc. were required to spend major periods of their education learning clinically, why should ophthalmic photographers be any different? Working with real patients over an extended period of time is the only way a student can truly become proficient in ophthalmic photography.

Still determined, I contacted the Special Majors Program at the State University of New York at Buffalo, and they were more than happy to assist me in developing a Bachelor of Science degree in Ophthalmic Photography. Their basic requirement is that students work one-on-one with a faculty member to assemble an individualized degree plan, and that at least 35 out of their 128 credits needed for graduation be in their special major of study. This approach is unusual because each student, with my help, creates a program reflecting their special interests and background.

In addition to the courses you would expect to be offered in an ophthalmic degree program, students can also take classes in general surgical photography, photomicroscopy, video production, and computer graphics, to name a few. This is being accomplished by incorporating different kinds of photographers, including the biomedical photographers at area hospital affiliated with the University of Buffalo Medical School, as instructors in the Ophthalmic Photography degree program. Students can even earn credit for attending seminars such as the educational program offered during the OPS Annual Meeting. Most prior college credit is easily transferred, and through a formal review process, students can request credit for work experience in which they acquired skills that they can prove are equal to the courses offered in the program. Students who have already earned a bachelor’s or associate’s degree can come into the program and take classes related to ophthalmic photography. Tuition is reasonable, with in-state residents taking 12 or more credits paying $1,467 a semester and out-of-state residents being charged $3,417 a semester.

I am excited about the program and I look forward to the challenge of helping educate the next generation of ophthalmic photographers. I encourage you to contact me with any suggestions for educational material to be included in the curriculum or if you have questions about the program. I can be reached at (716) 898-3940.

Mark Maio, FOPS

Dear OPS Members:

Despite the fact that Hurricane Andrew left Miami looking like something out of a nuclear war movie, I want to assure all OPS members who submitted prints to me for the Print Division, that Bascom Palmer Eye Institute housed your photographs safe and sound. They were all wrapped securely in large heavy plastic bags and tucked away in a “safe room”.

Judging took place on Saturday, September 12, 1992, and our judges, Dr. Janet Davis (Retina), Dr. Andrew Huang (Cornea), Dennis Cain, CRA, Antonio Cubillas, CRA and Ross Jarrett, CRA, were very impressed and pleased with all the beautiful photographs you submitted. I have to admit to you that I was very afraid for your prints, I was truly thankful that Mother Nature spared all your hard work.

I would like to thank some very special people in the OPS, Ken Timby, Dennis Cain, Liz Smith, Don Enkerud, Paula Morris, Ross Jarrett, Sheila Smith-Brewer, Bruse Busse, Mark Maio, Mike Coppenger, and last but not least my two “oldest” friends Earl Choromakos and Johnny Justice, Jr. Your calls were rays of sunshine on those bleak and wet days. Your clothing and monetary donations were distributed among some very needy Bascom Palmer Eye Institute employees, many of whom lost everything they had including their homes.

Dr. John Clarkson, Chairman of the Department of Ophthalmology, joins me in thanking all of you from the bottom of our hearts. Your thoughts and concerns were very much appreciated.

We truly look forward to seeing you in Dallas.

Sincerely,

Ditte Jacobsen-Hess  Dr. John Clarkson
OPS Chapter News

Chicago Chapter
On September 14, 1992 the OPS Chicago Chapter joined SOMAC (The Society of Ophthalmic Medical Assistants in Chicago) at Mercy Hospital for a presentation by Maurice Rabb, MD.

Doctor Rabb presented a series of color fundus photographs and associated angiograms depicting the ocular manifestations of several diseases. First a "textbook" example was shown, then a series of clinically significant variations were shown in comparison. This gave an excellent insight into the angiographic documentations and diagnosis of diseases ranging from central serous choroidopathy and diabetic retinopathy to acquired immune disease and drug induced retinal damage.

The program was hosted by Elsa Dennis, COT, Vice president of the OPS Chicago Chapter, and coordinated by Jamie Putz, COT, Vice President of SOMAC. The program was accredited for 2.5 hours of OPS and JCAHO C.E. credit. Over 40 people were in attendance.

The Chicago Chapter wishes to thank Dr. Rabb, Elsa Dennis, and Jamie Putz for the excellent program.

Alan Frohlichstein, CRA
President, OPS Chicago Chapter

Long Island Chapter
Ophthalmic Photographers' Society, Long Island Chapter is up and flying! We have had 2 meetings, and the next meeting is planned for October 24, 1992. If you live on Long Island or in the Metropolitan New York area, please plan to join us for our next meeting. Contact:

Jon Wilder, President
(516) 362-2203

Chicago Is Calling You!

The planning committee for the CHICAGO '93 24th Annual Educational Meeting is looking for fresh ideas and new energy. Sound like you?

Education without representation is meaningless. Why not get involved this year to make next year's meeting unique.

Coordinators will be needed in many diverse categories:

- Workshops
- Patient Volunteers/Room monitor
- Educational Program
- Evening Session Programs
- Special Functions

A program of this magnitude takes dedication and hard work, of which too few give too much. Now is YOUR opportunity to speak up and join the team!

Assignments will be chosen following the Dallas meeting.

Contact:

Denice Barsness, CRA, COT
California Pacific Medical Center
Department of Ophthalmology
2340 Clay Street 5th Floor
San Francisco, CA 94115
(415) 923-3900

Bachelor of Science Degree Announced in Ophthalmic Photography

As Director of Ophthalmic Photography in the Ophthalmology Department of the State University of New York at Buffalo, I am pleased to announce the first academic program where an individual may obtain a Bachelor of Science Degree in Ophthalmic Photography. The first student in the program, Raul Lopez, started this past May, and a second student, Gregg Greanoff began the program this fall.