

LIONS



VISION

NEWSLETTER FOR MEMBERS OF THE MULTIPLE DISTRICT 22 LIONS, LIONESSE, AND LEO CLUBS

Fall 2009

Chairman's Message

Robert Muchow, PDG, Chairman
LIONS VISION RESEARCH FOUNDATION

The LVRF Executive Committee and the professionals at the Lions Low Vision Center are continuing to plan for providing low vision services around Multiple District 22. To support the funding for this, we plan to apply for a Sight First grant from LCIF.

We cannot apply for a Sight First grant for a low vision project until we complete our Core 4 grant for the Lions Blindness and Low Vision Project. We have \$50,000 remaining at LCIF for this grant. We have identified four tasks to be accomplished with these remaining funds: (1) developing and maintaining a web site for our low vision projects, (2) implementing an education program for Lions who interact with low vision patients, (3) updating the current DVD for the Lions Blindness and Low Vision Project, and (4) producing Lions Low Vision folders and inserts for promotion and information.

We intend to complete these tasks as soon as possible so that we can close out our existing Core 4 grant.

Your support of the Lions Vision Research Foundation is greatly appreciated.

Going Where No One Has Gone Before

By John Shwed, Captain, Starship W550

Every time I look up at the stars on clear, crisp night, I can't help but be amazed at the vast unknown that lies before us. I often wonder about life's purpose and the role we humans play in this celestial drama. I guess my inquisitiveness is no different than that of early humans who gazed upward in wonder. Over time man discovered the North Star to guide him, constellations which gave rise to the understanding of the changing seasons and development of calendars.

Our latest space probes and the Hubble Telescope are giving us exciting new insight into our universe. Science now estimates that there are over 100 billion galaxies and each of those galleries may have more than 100 billion stars. That's a number far more staggering than our estimated national debt! Science tells us also

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Alexis G. Malkin, O.D.

An Interview with Dr. Alexis Malkin, LVRF Low Vision Fellow

Dr. Alexis Malkin is the recipient of the 2009-2010 Lions Vision Research Foundation Fellowship Award. Dr. Malkin, known as "Lexi" to the LVC staff, is a graduate of the New England College of Optometry in Boston, Massachusetts, where she was second in her class and winner of the Ned Witkin Excellence in Low Vision Award. She also proudly reports she won the Albert Schweitzer Fellowship, which is awarded to student leaders who are dedicated and skilled in helping underserved communities, and who influence and inspire others by example. So, let's get to know Lexi Malkin.

What influenced or inspired you to choose low vision rehabilitation as your specialty?

Lexi: "During optometry school I was involved in outreach with elders living in Boston public housing. As part of the project, I worked with an occupational therapist to evaluate environmental conditions in public housing and educate seniors about lighting, contrast, and visual health. It was then I became aware of the major lack of low vision care available for elders living with mild to moderate vision loss. This lack of care was very isolating for these patients and was impacting their health and well being. I became very interested in the role that low vision care can play in improving the quality of life of elders and others with visual impairment."

How does your fellowship at the Lions Vision Center fit into your career goals? What makes the Center a perfect fit?

Lexi: "The Lions Vision Center is providing me the

opportunity to gain valuable low vision experience in a unique setting. We have a multidisciplinary approach that includes occupational therapy/vision rehabilitation with the low vision exam. This approach allows the patients to have the best possible outcomes and also allows me to grow as a clinician by learning from experts in other disciplines. We see a diverse patient population and I am working with experienced clinicians who are mentoring me through challenging cases."

Have you ever worked on any projects with the Lions Club, or are you aware of Lions activities in your own community?

Lexi: "During optometry school, the Lions Club was very supportive of our student Volunteer Optometric Services to Humanity (VOSH) group. I assisted with many vision screenings and the Lions donated thousands of pairs of glasses to our group and assisted with fundraising. Our group of third year optometry students and faculty was then able to go to the Dominican Republic and perform nearly 1000 eye exams in one week. We dispensed many pairs of glasses and initiated ocular disease management in many patients. This was one of the most meaningful experiences that I had during optometry school."

The Lions Low Vision Center and Lexi are "a good fit", indeed. The Center is grateful to the Lions Club Multiple District 22 for supporting training opportunities for talented low vision professionals. Though Lexi is a participant in an educational fellowship program, she is an experienced, licensed optometrist who works with Dr. Judy Goldstein and her staff to evaluate and rehabilitate low vision patients referred to the clinic. "Lexi's addition to our staff has significantly reduced the wait time for patient appointments" says Dr. Goldstein, "and this makes our patients very happy."

Going Where No One Has Gone Before *continued from page 1*

that the stars we see on any given night number about 3000. So there is lot out there to be discovered. If offered the opportunity, would you "go where no one has gone before?"

Thank God, that humanity has been blessed with adventurers who risked sailing off a flat world to find the new world and others who were willing to risk their lives atop a Saturn rocket to walk on the moon. Like these adventurers, we Lions are now poised on the launch pad for a journey of discovery into the Next Generation. Can you feel the rumble of the thrusters beneath your seat as we are about to blast off? Ours is a mission of discovery - one that will continue to build on the legacy of past accomplishments.

We will do that that in partnership with our world-class research team at the Lions Vision Center and its parent organization, the Wilmer Eye Institute. Instead of the cosmos, our research partners will be probing the miniscule world of molecules and cells. They will develop cutting edge technology in state of the art laboratories. They will dedicate their skill and intellects to finding a cure for preventable blindness. They will do this with we Lions as proud partners and sponsors. Is this not an inspirational journey worth taking?

So get aboard **Starship W550** and venture to the unknown beginning with Lions Day at the Lions Vision Research Foundation on Saturday, November 21, 2009. You will hear highlights of the latest eye research activities and have an opportunity to see the new Wilmer Eye Institute Building. You will be amazed at the beautiful architecture of this magnificent facility.

One final thought - in my eyes, all Lions, Lionesses, and Leos are stars in your own right. A star being one who does something to gain international recognition. The world has taken notice of what Lion generations have done since 1917. For Multiple District 22, the Next Generation begins on November 21st. Beam yourselves up to Baltimore! I look forward to welcoming you aboard.

Building Dedication

By *Lion Ted Ladd, PDG*

I attended the dedication of the new Wilmer Eye Institute building on October 16, 80 years after the dedication of the first Wilmer building. The building is known as the Robert H & Clarice Smith Building. Along with hundreds of other guests, I had the privilege of touring portions of the building prior to the dedication ceremonies.

My impressions are hard to put into words. The building itself is a work of beauty. Using their great talents, the architects planned it and some 880 workmen assembled glass, brick and concrete into an inspired work combining function and beauty.

These are the “gee whiz” statistics. The 5-story building contains 34,284 square feet of glass. That’s more than $\frac{3}{4}$ of an acre. There are 258,000 bricks in the building, and if one were to line up all the laboratory benches, they would stretch for 2,165 feet, or .41 miles.

The dedication was held in a huge tent erected next to building 550. Everyone was seated at about 4:00 p.m., when Director of the Wilmer Eye Institute, Dr. Peter J. McDonnell, M.D., kicked off the dedication.

Among the speakers was Dr. Walter J. Stark, M.D., Director of the Stark-Mosher Center for Cataract and Corneal Diseases. Dr. Stark said he had performed some 25,000 operations so far in his career. He said that this building would increase by 50% the capability of the Wilmer Eye Clinic to perform such operations. He commented, “The best is yet to come.”

Dr. Morton F. Goldberg, M.D., former Director of the Wilmer Eye Institute, noted that he started at the Wilmer in 1963 PAC. The abbreviation stands for “Pre-Air-Conditioning.” He said that recovering cataract patients at that time were provided a sand bag on each side of their head, and were advised not to move. Dr. Goldberg observed that things have improved tremendously over the years since 1963, and referred to the new building as, “A cathedral of hope.”

Sandy & Richard Forsythe are Co-Chairs of the Wilmer Advisory Council. Mr. Forsythe said that eight years ago he was informed that he had macular degeneration. The doctors told him that he would soon not be able to drive, play golf, read the paper, or play cards, among his favorite things. But a friend suggested that he go and see Dr. Goldberg at the Wilmer Eye Clinic, “the best in the world.” Forsythe related how he made the trip to see Dr. Goldberg, who gave him a thorough six-hour examination, prescribed some medication and gave

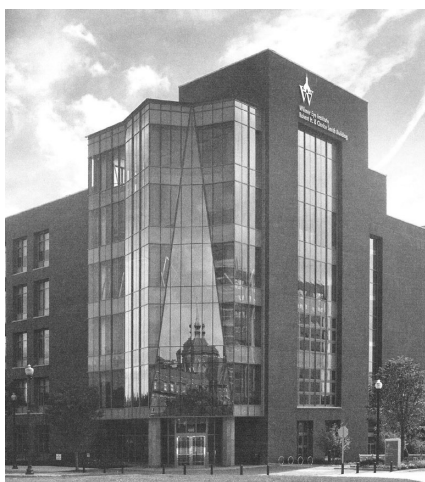
him a shot with a specialized needle he had invented. There were a number of follow up visits. Forsythe said, “Today, eight years later, I drive to the golf course, play golf, read the daily paper, and play cards.” The audience applauded.

Robert H. Smith said, “I think you will all agree, it doesn’t get better than this,” and launched into a very inspiring and uplifting talk. One of the comments that sticks in my mind is this, “If you’re feeling down because your ship hasn’t come in, swim out to it.”

Dr. McDonnell then invited representatives of the Wilmer Eye Clinic to join him on the stage, each one representing a part of the medical staff. He then mentioned the contributions of Dr. Arnall Patz, who stood and waved to the audience. Dr. McDonnell cited the research Dr. Patz conducted showing that high levels of oxygen given to premature babies caused blindness, and he added that Dr. Patz introduced the use of lasers to treat certain diseases of the eye. On stage was a copy of the laser that Dr. Patz had introduced.

Dr. McDonnell said it was time for the dedication of the new building, turned to Robert Smith and said, “Bob, the honor is yours.” Smith pressed a button that set off a laser show, with multiple lasers of different colors repeatedly streaming over the audience as inspiring music filled the cavernous tent.

The dedication was completed, and guests moved to the open area in the rear, where soft drinks and hors d’oeuvres awaited.



Kat Cleveland Develops LVC Collaboration with Towson State's OT Program

Katherine Cleveland, lead occupational therapist at the Lions Low Vision Center, fully supports a major goal of the Center: to promote the education of occupational therapists in the area of low vision rehabilitation. Because of the growing population of senior citizens, low vision rehabilitation is a growing field for occupational therapists (OT); however, the curricula of OT programs at universities all around the country contain very little about low vision care. Kat recently grabbed an opportunity to expose OT students early in their training to the special needs of the low vision patients when she was asked to lecture at Towson University. To quote Kat, "It is important to provide exposure to students about low vision occupational therapy as much as possible when they are still in school exploring opportunities of occupational therapy and finding interests that they will decide to pursue as a career. I think my lecture to the gerontology class has the potential to stir up some excitement about low vision rehabilitation among the OT students at Towson."

Besides classroom lectures, Kat has also initiated the development of an occupational therapy student program with Towson University. The Lions Low Vision Clinic is now a field work site available for OTs to perform their 60-hour clinical elective, observing and learning about the field of low vision occupational therapy. As part of this collaboration with Towson, the Clinic will also be listed as a specialty field work site for those students interested in specializing in low vision rehabilitation. Not only Kat, but all the care providers at the Lions Low Vision clinic are excited about developing this new relationship with Towson University's OT program. They recognize the importance of specially trained OTs in the team approach to rehabilitating low vision patients who come to the clinic seeking help.

Dr. "Bob" Massof Receives 2009 Pisart Vision Award

Lighthouse International presented Dr. Robert Massof the highly acclaimed Pisart Vision Award at their 30th annual awards ceremony in Manhattan. Established in 1981 and named for longtime contributor Madame Georgette Pisart, the prestigious award honors an individual who has "distinguished himself or herself by invention or otherwise in the prevention, cure, treatment or care of blindness. Bob Massof's most notable contributions include development of the Low Vision Enhancement System (LVES) in collaboration with NASA, years of studying the progression of eye disease due to retinitis pigmentosa (RP) which culminated in a mathematical model for predicting visual field progression in RP, and, most recently, designing and conducting outcomes studies of low vision rehabilitation with a broader goal of health policy reform for third party coverage of low vision care. For these accomplishments and more, Dr. "Bob:" received a \$30,000 prize and a beautiful replica of the Pisart sculpture.

Lighthouse International was established in 1905 with a mission of helping people of all ages with vision loss. Since that time, they have honored four other Wilmer Eye Institute professors with the Pisart Award. Bob joins this elite group of Wilmer pioneers with Dr. Louise Sloan(1981), Dr. A. Edward Maumenee (1985), and Dr. Arnall Patz (2000). To learn more about Lighthouse International Pisart Vision Award, recipients of the award, and about the Lighthouse, itself, you may visit Lighthouse International's website at: <http://www.lighthouse.org/aboutus/lighthouse-events/the-pisart-award/>.



Among those attending the building dedication were (from left) Dr. Bob Massof & wife Patricia, Catherine Craven, Clinical Librarian at the Welch Medical Library, and Mike Piorunski, Head Librarian at the Friedenwald-Romano Library at the Wilmer Eye Clinic.



10th Annual LVRF “Swing for Sight” Golf Tournament Report

By PDG Ken Draper, Chairman

The LVRF Golf Tournament Committee submits the following report. The Tournament took place on a beautiful day, September 14, 2009. There were 65 golfers that played in our event. Everything took place without any problems and ended with an enjoyable social hour. While awaiting the return of the golfers and the scoring process, the silent auction was set in motion.

The winners were: 1st Place net; Greensboro Lions; Joe Wood, Sr., Joe Wood, Jr. Ken Draper, and Mark Browning. 2nd Place, net: Milford Lions Jack Simon, Rob Craig, Tom Mahl and John McGalagly. 1st Place gross: Jim Cocchiario, Joe Gaffigan, Kirker, and Scott Brumbaugh. 2nd Place Gross: Milt Draper Larry Gicker, Darryl Draper Ed Rohrbaugh. Closest to the pole and closest to the pin were won by the same individual and he was awarded several dozen golf balls.

Dinner was served and enjoyed by all those attending; the winners of the tournament were awarded their prizes followed by the silent auction. The economy, in the state that it is, did not help our tournament, giving us a low number of gifts, sponsors, and ads. With all considerations, we did well. We are looking at around \$4000.00 for LVRF.



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