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Ketchum Magazine is published twice a year and is sent to University alumni, faculty, staff and friends of Ketchum University. Published by the Office of Marketing & Communications.

PUBLISHED BY MARSHALL B. KETCHUM UNIVERSITY
Kevin L. Alexander, OD, PhD, President
Julie A. Schornack, OD, MEd, Senior Vice President & Chief of Staff

EDITOR
Katie Santos-Coy, Director of Marketing and Communications

COPY EDITORS
Erin Hales, MBA, Assistant Director of Marketing and Communications
Patty Reyes, Copy Editor

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS
Kevin L. Alexander, OD, PhD
Mark Bullimore, MCOptom, PhD
Mary Castillo
Cathi Douglas
Edward Fisher, PhD, RPh
Pamela Martineau
Scott Johnson, MLIS
Abigail Moore
Judy Ortiz, PhD, PA-C
Katie Santos-Coy
Rene Scheys

DISTRIBUTION MANAGEMENT
Abigail Moore, Assistant Director of Alumni and Donor Relations

DESIGN
Edna Alfaro, Graphic Designer
Tawny Marcus, Graphic Designer

PHOTOGRAPHY
Matt Breneman, Director of Multimedia Services
Andre Niesing, Photographer

PRINTING
Weber Printing

CONTACT
Send comments, questions and address changes to:
Marshall B. Ketchum University
Marketing & Communications
Attn: Katie Santos-Coy
2575 Yorba Linda Blvd., Fullerton, CA 92831-1615
marketing@ketchum.edu

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OUR VISION
We seek to reimagine the future of health care education.

OUR MISSION
The mission of Marshall B. Ketchum University is to educate caring, inspired health care professionals who are prepared to deliver collaborative, patient-centric health care in an interprofessional environment.

OUR CORE VALUES
Marshall B. Ketchum University is guided by the values of:

Accountability: We are committed to honesty, fairness and responsibility for our words and actions.

Caring: We strive to address the needs of our University community and others by nurturing a spirit of compassion.

Excellence: Consistent with our legacy, we are committed to achieving outcomes of the highest quality.

Innovation: We have the courage to dream and experiment with creative and unique ideas.

Respect: We value the unique talents and diversity of people, strive to work collaboratively and honor the open exchange of ideas.

Marshall B. Ketchum University and Ketchum Health is a 501(C)(3) nonprofit institution.
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In 1972, SCCO student Donald Barniske participated in assisting with the East Los Angeles Health Fiesta, held Aug. 6, 1972, at Lincoln Park in Los Angeles. He was honored by Mayor Sam Yorty who served the city of Los Angeles from 1961-1973. Mr. Barniske was recognized for his community service with a Mayor’s Certificate of Appreciation.

EDITOR’S NOTE: We were excited to hear from Donald Barniske, OD, ’74, owner of Visionary Center Optometry in Brawley, Calif., about a submission he had for Ketchum Magazine’s Throwback section. To share your throwback photos and stories, contact us at marketing@ketchum.edu. Thanks, Dr. Barniske for sharing your photos with us.
Dear Alumni and Friends,

Spring is always an exciting time at colleges and universities nationwide. Commencement ceremonies typically take place this time of year, and students are excited about their summer plans while also looking forward to advancing in their programs as their terms come to an end. At MBKU, we are looking forward to the 114th annual commencement ceremony of the Southern California College of Optometry on May 23, 2018. We will welcome 100 new graduates into the profession of optometry and two graduates will each receive a master’s degree in Vision Science. I’m also pleased to share that 24 students from the Class of 2018 and 2 graduates from the Class of 2017 will advance on to residency programs.

The spring edition of Ketchum Magazine features SCCO’s residency programs (pages 10-15). Our institution boasts a notable network of residency sites, but it’s not just the sheer number of sites that is impressive, it’s the depth and breadth of these programs that truly sets them apart. This doesn’t happen by accident. The commitment of our faculty, staff and alumni have propelled SCCO to become among the leading schools in the nation in the size of its residency program. In fact, MBKU’s alumni network is enhancing not only our residency program for SCCO, but our preceptor affiliations across all of our programs. It is with the deep commitment of our alums in identifying rich and diverse clinical settings that our outreach and residency programs have grown and matured over the years.

With two classes of PA students practicing now, we have come to value and appreciate how critical these alums are to the recruitment of new preceptors for the School of Physician Assistant Studies. There is a great need for high-quality preceptors and when our alums can take part in facilitating connections with these health care providers, it continues to enhance the already strong PA program we have here at MBKU. And while we don’t have any alums yet in our College of Pharmacy, I predict we will find success among our pharmacy alums assisting their alma mater in the recruitment of preceptors as well.

This past April marks the fifth anniversary of Marshall B. Ketchum University and as President, I can’t help but be proud of the progress we’ve made while also looking forward and becoming excited about our future. The spring of 2020 will represent the first time MBKU will graduate students from all three of our professional programs. I am so grateful to all the faculty, staff, students, alumni and friends affiliated with MBKU. These people represent the hidden heroes of our University and I hope that you will enjoy reading about them in Ketchum Magazine.

Warm Regards,

Kevin L. Alexander, OD, PhD
President

Dr. Kevin L. Alexander was named the founding President of Marshall B. Ketchum University in 2013, and has overseen the transition to an interprofessional health care University with the addition of the School of PA Studies and College of Pharmacy.
{ By the numbers }

100% pass rate on national licensing exam for the Class of 2017 in the School of PA Studies.

14 physical exam rooms in the new Health Professions Building to be used by all three professions.

100+ guests joined the Ketchum University community for the dedication ceremony of the Health Professions Building.

sharing the love

Facebook

Instagram

Twitter

KidWorks preschoolers are looking good thanks to the free vision screenings provided by Marshall B. Ketchum University!

@DONN4VW Finished our last day of PA school!!! Hats off for tomorrow’s GRADUATION!!! Love my PA besties! Congratulations to all of our MBKU students c/o 2017!!! We did it! #mbku #pastudent PC: @RIVASFILM

@HOLMEST8 Special seminar on Networking for MBKU students presented by Dr. Carol Alexander. What a great session/topic! #ProfessionalDevelopment #StudentAffairs #CareerServices #Skills #OD #PA #PharmD @MBKETCHUMU

@PAANDCABERNET Being that it is February and American Heart Month, I love that we are in the middle of our Cardiology module. Tackling Valvular Heart Disease today.

@ACCESSCAL Students from @MBKETCHUMU visited @AccessCal and enlightened our students on Dental Hygiene! #EnrichLives #PreserveDignity

STAY CONNECTED, follow us on social media, @MBKETCHUMUNIVERSITY and @KETCHUMHEALTH on Facebook, @MBKETCHUMU on Twitter and Instagram, @MBKU on Vimeo, MARSHALL B. KETCHUM UNIVERSITY on LinkedIn.
In their words

“John Nishimoto, OD, MBA,
Senior Associate Dean for Professional Affairs, has been elected as a Distinguished Fellow of the National Academies of Practice in Optometry. A Distinguished Fellow within NAP is a very high honor that acknowledges Dr. Nishimoto’s outstanding professional achievements.”

- Mark Bullimore, MCOptom, PhD
Dean, Southern California College of Optometry

“Every patient you see has unique needs. When the students understand the unique needs and challenges of a population, it helps make them better providers ... more compassionate.”

- Allison Mollet, MMS, PA-C
Associate Director and Assistant Professor of the School of PA Studies

A Ketchum Proposal

ON JAN. 27, 2018, SCCO STUDENT GRIGOR HAROUTUNYAN, CLASS OF 2020, asked his girlfriend, Anna Isagulyan, to be his patient for his final proficiency. She was hesitant to drive from Los Angeles to Anaheim Hills on her birthday, but after some pleading she agreed. Little did she know that Grigor had solicited the assistance of his fellow classmate, Elena Karapetian, SCCO Class of 2020, to surprise Anna with an exam she will never forget.

With assistance from his professors, Ketchum Health employees and classmates, Grigor proposed to his girlfriend during her examination. Classmate Elena Karapetian scribed during the exam and helped Grigor through the entire proposal.

If this isn’t sharing the love, we don’t know what is!

On behalf of the entire Marshall B. Ketchum University family, congratulations to Grigor and Anna. We were so proud you chose the University Eye Center at Ketchum Health to be the location of one of the most significant events in your lives. We wish you both the very best now and into the future.
The PA Class of 2017 Achieved a 100% Pass Rate on National Licensing Exam

All 32 members of the class passed the Physician Assistant National Certifying Examination.

On Nov. 11, 2017, 32 students in the PA Class of 2017 graduated from Marshall B. Ketchum University with their master of medical science degrees and PA certificates. These students represent the second PA class to successfully complete Ketchum’s 27-month, post-baccalaureate program.

The School of PA Studies’ mission is to educate individuals to become compassionate PAs who can provide the highest quality health care and are dedicated to their communities while advancing the PA profession.

“Under the mentorship of the School’s committed faculty, the Class of 2017 has embodied our mission and we are proud to witness these students enter our community as Ketchum University alumni,” said Dean of the College of Health Sciences and Director of the School of PA Studies Judy Ortiz, PhD, PA-C.

One month after the Commencement Ceremony, on Dec. 11, 2017, the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants announced that every member of Ketchum University’s School of PA Studies’ Class of 2017 successfully passed the PA National Certifying Examination.

“This is the second year in a row our students have achieved 100 percent pass rate on their licensing exams,” said Dr. Ortiz. “Led by our esteemed faculty, the Class of 2017 was equipped with the knowledge and resources they needed to achieve this significant milestone.”

The NCCPA is the only certifying organization for PAs in the United States. Established as a not-for-profit organization in 1974, NCCPA is dedicated to assuring the public that certified PAs meet established standards of clinical knowledge and cognitive skills upon entry into practice and throughout their careers. Each state in the U.S., its territories and the District of Columbia rely on NCCPA certification as one of the criteria for licensure or regulation of PAs.

“We are incredibly proud of the members of the Class of 2017 for this admirable achievement,” said
University President Kevin Alexander, OD, PhD. “This is an outstanding accomplishment and a reflection of the fine effort and preparation by our students. Supporting their preparation and training, faculty and staff are proud to have played a part in their success.”

To attain the PA-C designation, graduates of ARC-PA accredited PA programs must take and pass the Physician Assistant National Certifying Examination. The examination is a computerized, multiple-choice exam comprised of 360 questions that assess basic medical and surgical knowledge. It is administered by the National Commission on Certification of the Physician Assistant.

The information tested in the PANCE are: cardiovascular, pulmonary, endocrine, EENT, gastrointestinal, genitourinary, reproductive, musculoskeletal, neurological, psychiatric, dermatologic, hematologic and infectious diseases. The skills and abilities tested are: history taking, lab diagnostic, formation of a diagnosis, health maintenance, clinical intervention, clinical therapeutics and the application of concepts.

“We hope to build on this success and continue to see high pass rates on the national licensing exams of all MBKU PA students,” stated Dr. Ortiz. “We’re a new program, and our results are already speaking for themselves. We are excited for the future of our program here at Marshall B. Ketchum University,” concluded Dr. Ortiz.
Renowned Academic and Industry Leader Reflects On New Position as SCCO Dean

By Cathi Douglas

Late last year, Mark Bullimore, MCOptom, PhD, joined Marshall B. Ketchum University as its new Dean for the Southern California College of Optometry. We spoke with Dean Bullimore about what attracted him to the position, his observations thus far and his priorities for the College over the next few years.

Q When did you know you wanted to be an optometrist?

A Prior to university [Aston University in the UK], I thought I would join a practice or open a practice of my own. But my high school physics teacher knew better. Before I had even started in optometry, he asked if I’d considered research and academia. I replied “no.” It’s a nice story of someone who saw something inside of me, that I had yet to discover.

What attracted you to the position of SCCO Dean?

SCCO is in a nice part of the country, the College has been in existence for more than 100 years and has a strong alumni network, and it boasts a talented student body. When I described the position to my girlfriend, she said, ‘Ah, you are the culture keeper.’ That is a good summary of this job in terms of setting the tone to achieve the College’s goals and by doing so, move the University forward.

How has your background prepared you for this position?

I come from major state institutions having held positions at UC Berkeley, The Ohio State University and the University of Houston where tenure is sacrosanct and faculty governance is important. I’m committed to openness in communications and welcome sharing the data that will drive our decisions. I want us to have informed discussions based on the data.
What do you think makes SCCO attractive to students?

For an urban/suburban campus, it has a very pleasant atmosphere. When I look more closely I’m incredibly impressed with the caliber of students we attract. In part it’s because of the California location and the state’s well-educated population. Most of the students who matriculate here come from California and two-thirds of them are graduates of the University of California system – that speaks volumes about who comes here.

What are some of the challenges of your job?

What’s exciting for me are new challenges. Some of our facilities need updating. We need new equipment. We must pay attention to the metrics by which we will measure success, such as the passage rate in national boards. I work with the faculty and the President, but I feel as if I work for the students. Their fees pay my salary, so they are the reason I have a job.

How will you manage faculty and students?

My campus office is off the beaten path, so I get out and visit with faculty, drop in on students working in the lab, or just walk around in the fresh air. I know if I wander around for five minutes before the hour, students will be out there. More student-friendly communications are in order. During our recent town hall meetings, there were some frank discussions. Even though I’m new I said, ‘I agree. You have a right to expect better.’ I mean those words. I had an opportunity to tell the students, ‘I hear you,’ and show them I will do my best to change things.

What do you see as your top goals?

The University President is developing an initiative called the Student-Centered University, which focuses on providing a higher level of customer service and accountability to our stakeholders. By the time a student graduates from SCCO, they will have paid a great deal in tuition. They have a set of expectations and they won’t be happy if they are not met. I will be identifying areas we can up our game, such as increasing the numbers of research grants and contracts, providing a better-quality education, looking at the curriculum and asking tough questions, and benchmarking us against other institutions.

Have there been any surprises, pleasant or otherwise, since your arrival?

As culture keeper, I’m trying to change the tone of the College. Students are pleased I’m here. They are looking for something to be optimistic about. Among the faculty, it’s evident that they want someone to lead them and harness their energies; they need a voice and they want to be upbeat. The caliber of some of our faculty has exceeded my expectations.

What do you see in SCCO’s future?

We have good leadership and great people all around, including the President and the people in Student Affairs and University Advancement. They are people who help me do my job better. I want to recruit and retain faculty. I want to help the younger faculty blossom and be a good mentor to them. Our College is primed for fresh insights and energies, a new perspective on how things could be done. I respect tradition because the way things are done culturally are important – but that shouldn’t be an excuse for not looking for better ways to do things.

What do you like to do in your spare time?

I go home in the evenings and open my computer and try to clear out my email. It’s good to get into some shorts and walk to the beach and throw my Frisbee around with my 50-pound cattle dog named Calvin. My girlfriend Beverly and I like being outside and enjoy hiking. We spent last weekend in Vegas and the weekend before that in Joshua Tree.

"I’m committed to openness in communications and welcome sharing the data that will drive our decisions. I want us to have informed discussions based on the data."
SCCO’S RESIDENCY PROGRAMS:
ENHANCING OPTOMETRY CAREERS NATIONWIDE

By Pamela Martineau

Marshall B. Ketchum University’s Southern California College of Optometry boasts an impressive network of residency sites. The depth and breadth of its program, which focuses on exceptional resident training, is highly regarded throughout the country.

The size, depth and breadth of SCCO’s residencies is only a small part of what makes it remarkable. The individual residency programs themselves are unique in that they are designed to train residents in the latest evidence-based theories and advanced clinical procedures embraced by SCCO and American Optometric Association’s guidelines while focusing on training in interprofessional education and collaborative teamwork. Program settings range from Indian reservations to private practices to the Department of Veterans Affairs.

The majority of programs are offered in California, but there are affiliated programs in Washington, Arizona, Nevada, New Mexico and Utah as well.

Supervisors at four of the residency programs offered by SCCO spoke to Ketchum Magazine about what makes their programs unique. See firsthand why these programs are so imperative.
Amid the red rock of the Colorado Plateau, the Chinle Service Unit Optometry Residency Program offers residents training in primary eye care and ocular disease management in a hospital facility serving approximately 35,000 Navajo Indians. Residents practice in a multidisciplinary environment where they are fully integrated with practitioners in various medical disciplines ranging from emergency medicine to pediatrics, internal medicine and rheumatology.

“Over the course of the year, (the residents) really gain a lot of confidence in communicating and co-managing patients with other medical disciplines,” says Residency Coordinator Dr. Brandon Runyon, OD, FAAO.

Dr. Runyon says residents gain experience in managing complicated optometric cases including eye trauma, uveitis, glaucoma, diabetic retinopathy and ocular complications of systemic disease. Residents in this program will care for Native American patients of all ages, from neonates to elderly patients. “The youngest patient I’ve cared for at this facility is a 3-day-old neonate, and the oldest is 105 years old,” says Dr. Runyon.

Dr. Runyon adds that uveitis—an inflammatory complication of autoimmune diseases—is encountered with more frequency at this clinic than most other primary eye care clinics in the nation. Native American populations have a higher frequency of autoimmune diseases.

In addition to focusing on the integration and multidisciplinary care, the residency program seeks to provide an added cultural experience as medical care at Chinle Hospital commonly integrates Navajo cultural beliefs with Western medicine and treatments. Three native healers work at the hospital, and residents have an opportunity to spend time observing with the healers to further understand traditional cultural beliefs and healing methods.

Dr. Runyon said the healers once invited him to their “hogan” – the traditional Navajo home (now more commonly used for ceremonies) – which is located at the hospital. They were interested in learning how diabetes impacts the eyes for the purpose of educating their patients about the disease using a culturally sensitive approach. However, not all patients seek the help of the native healers. “Every patient is different in how traditional their beliefs are,” he says.

One more unique aspect of the residency training program is the optometry minor procedures clinic that provides the residents with experience in advanced optometric procedures such as eyelid lump and bump removal, chalazion incision and curettage, entropion repair by suture and others. The program includes a minor procedures education series and hands-on learning lab that provides dedicated time for education and practice performing these procedures. These additional services have been provided locally for several years now, which has significantly decreased the patients’ burden of travel given the isolated location.

“That’s something that’s not available at many other sites across the country,” says Dr. Runyon, when asked about the advanced procedures training.

Because the facility is located on an Indian reservation, those who are not members of the tribe are unable to own land in the local area. As a result, all medical providers and some hospital staff live in federally owned housing in a small community adjacent to the hospital.

“We work together and we play together,” says Dr. Runyon, adding that the medical staff and residents frequently hold yoga classes, movie nights and other recreational activities such as ultimate Frisbee to foster a stronger personal and working relationship amongst the providers.

The nearest airport is three-and-a-half hours away by car and the nearest super store is 95 miles away. The remoteness of the location and immersion in the culture of the patients attracts a special kind of resident, says Dr. Runyon. When asked about the remoteness of Chinle, “I like to say – ‘It’s not the middle of nowhere. It is the center of everything,’” he adds.

“(Our program attracts) people who come in knowing hard work is in front of them and that it’s not going to be easy, but they are interested in growing both professionally and culturally,” he says. Ultimately, after a rewarding year of cultural immersion and significant professional growth, a good portion of the residents end up working for the Indian Health Service or at a tribal facility following completion of the program.
The Kaiser Permanente campuses in Seattle and Tacoma serve a diverse group of patients from multiple ethnicities and socioeconomic strata. This diversity makes for a rich residency experience, says Residency Coordinator Dr. Stuart Frank, OD.

Residents at both the Seattle and Tacoma facilities work with each of the full-time staff optometrists. The residents rotate each day among the doctors. Most of our staff doctors spend their day managing ocular disease cases and doing primary eye care, while a few specialize in seeing contact lens cases.

Our residents have a mixed schedule that includes urgent care and ocular disease cases, contact lenses, low vision and primary eye care. The residents initially see about eight patients a day, but may build up to 14 to 16 patients a day by the end of the year.

“Each patient encounter has the opportunity to teach the resident something,” says Dr. Frank. “We want our residents to appreciate each patient and each patient encounter. Our hope is that the residents will have an enjoyable educational experience that they can reflect back upon and say – ‘Yes, I got something unique out of this program overall.’”

Each doctor has special interests – such as retina, glaucoma, anterior segment disorders and neuro-ophthalmic disease – which they enjoy sharing with the residents. Dr. Frank emphasizes that working with five different doctors allows residents to view different styles and ways of interacting with patients and colleagues.

“They really have the opportunity to dig into each of our practices and see how our styles are different,” says Dr. Frank. “Eventually they can adopt a style of their own.”

“We have five doctors who, combined, have more than 100 years of experience,” adds Dr. Frank. “The residents can look to any one of us at any time with questions.”

In addition to the diversity of patients seen, Dr. Frank says the medical collegiality among doctors at Kaiser is extraordinary and truly collaborative. “The residents who come to our program will be part of the patient’s medical team. We take a cooperative approach where the patient, the resident and other care providers are all involved in shared decision-making with regard to the patient’s care.”

Dr. Frank says the optometrists at Kaiser make and receive multiple referrals and are required to work with various specialties including doctors in family practice, internal medicine, neurology, ophthalmology, rheumatology and other areas of medicine. This approach is consistent with the interprofessional education – or IPE – approach embraced at SCCO and endorsed nationally by several medical associations. The idea is that training residents to work as part of a clinical team makes for better doctors and optimal health outcomes for patients.

“You really feel like you are part of a medical team and your responsibility is to add to that team – to offer your expertise,” says Dr. Frank.

Dr. Frank says he enjoys working with the residents whom he typically finds to be “very forward-thinking ... they are looking to make themselves better doctors for their patients.”
Residents at Dr. Derek Tong’s private practice – the Center for Vision Development Optometry in Pasadena, Calif. – receive advanced clinical training in the growing field of neuro-optometry. The field specializes in vision disorders caused by brain injuries such as stroke and concussion. The CDC estimated that there are about 800,000 new cases of stroke and 2 million new cases of traumatic brain injury each year. As awareness of these conditions grows, so does the need for optometrists with the training to diagnose and treat the vision disorders associated with these conditions.

“There are very few residency programs that provide training in neuro-optometry,” says Dr. Tong. Neuro-optometry treatment may involve prescribing therapeutics prism lenses and weekly vision therapy sessions where patients work on visual tracking, eye coordination, depth perception and many other issues. Residents in Dr. Tong’s practice become adept at performing these vision therapy techniques.

Dr. Tong also focuses on pediatric optometry, giving residents an opportunity to learn how to cater their examination to meet the needs of children of all ages, including those who are not able to read the letters on the standard eye chart. “Sometimes we need to make it like a game to get them involved,” he says of the young patients. Often, various eye charts with pictures will be used.

Dr. Tong also provides services to many children with autism who present with vision problems such as poor eye contact or eye-hand coordination. He says residents learn how to adapt the vision therapy sessions to meet the needs of the patients in terms of the communication style.

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Resident Director, Derek Tong, OD, ’98
Residency in Pediatric Optometry & Vision Therapy/Neuro-Optometry

Residents learn how to adapt ... to meet the needs of the patients in terms of communication style.”
— Derek Tong, OD, ’98

Dr. Tong has expanded his residency program beyond the development of clinical skills. He also trains his residents on practice management. He teaches them how to effectively operate a vision therapy clinic in a private practice setting and communicate with referral sources regarding their patients through written reports and electronic communications. The residents learn how to do outreach and marketing, including providing lectures and in-services so that educators and other professionals will become aware of how to identify vision problems in children.

Dr. Tong also encourages his residents to attend national and local optometric conferences and present case reports. Several of his residents’ papers have been published in peer-reviewed journals. His residency program currently provides the highest amount of travel reimbursement to help residents cover their costs of attending these conferences.

The physical proximity of this residency program to MBKU’s Southern California College of Optometry allows the residents to attend the monthly Vision Therapy Journal Club and interact with SCCO faculty.

All told, the residency program at the Center for Vision Development Optometry is an excellent fit for residents whose career goals include starting or joining a private practice that specializes in pediatric optometry, vision therapy or neuro-optometry.

“Our residency program provides a highly concentrated advanced training in 12½ months in a friendly and positive environment,” says Dr. Tong. “If the newly licensed optometrist were to try learning on their own without such residency training, it would probably take them as many as five years to reach the same level of clinical expertise.”
Launched in 1995, the optometry residency program at the Southern Arizona Veterans Affairs Health Care System embraces what Amy Grimes, OD, Chief of Optometry, calls the “full circle concept.”

“Since all urgent patients are seen by the optometry chief resident, our residents have the experience of triaging patient complaints and then examining the patient, which allows a full circle concept,” says Dr. Grimes.

“Our residents also get the opportunity to work alongside ophthalmology and hand off cases requiring surgical intervention such as retinal detachments, macular edema, macular holes, perforated corneas, and obviously, cataracts,” she adds.

The chief resident position is unique to this residency program. The four residents who participate in the program rotate in three-month blocks spending nine months in the eye clinic where they serve a three-month stint as chief resident and also spend three months in the multidisciplinary blind rehabilitation center examining end-stage disease incorporating low vision. As chief resident, they triage and examine urgent cases which “serves them well when they complete the program and are working independently,” says Dr. Grimes.

The majority of the veterans seen at the clinic are male, with the average age being 65. Dr. Grimes adds, however, that women veterans are the center’s fastest-growing population. The most common cases seen are glaucoma, macular degeneration and diabetic retinopathy. However, residents get their fair share of anterior segment including corneal diseases, dry eye, herpetic complications and uveitis. The location of the eye clinic on the VA campus allows residents the opportunity to co-manage patients with rheumatology, endocrinology and neurology.

Eye clinic residents examine roughly 12 to 18 patients a day, while those working in the blind rehabilitation center work at a slower pace immersed in low vision with a small component of vision rehabilitation associated with traumatic brain injury. These residents may see about 3 to 6 patients a day. Friday afternoons are reserved for didactic educational activities such as lectures, grand rounds, journal clubs, case presentations and chart review.

Fostering this collaboration among residents aligns with the educational approach at SCCO where clinical team skills training is encouraged. A vast amount of research indicates that complex issues are best addressed by teams of doctors, especially interprofessional teams.

Six optometrists work with the residents, providing what Dr. Grimes calls a “nurturing environment” for the residents. Residents working in the blind rehabilitation center “are able to hone their advanced examination skills ... with state-of-the-art equipment and one-on-one interaction with an attending optometrist,” says Dr. Grimes.

Dr. Grimes says residents also are encouraged to join optometry associations.

“We foster involvement in professional optometry associations,” she says. “We promote lifelong learning.”

Overall, residency programs offer invaluable experience, says Dr. Grimes, who is the Chair of the American Academy of Optometry Resident’s Day Committee and serves on the Accreditation Council on Optometric Education Residency Committee. “I don’t think anything could replace that year – exclamation point!” she says.
A PERFECT FIT

Quarterly wet labs give the gift of clear vision to patients and advanced education to MBKU students.

By Mary Castillo
The University Eye Center at Ketchum Health in Los Angeles is a bedrock for vision care in the local community.

The clinic opened in 1972 when the Southern California College of Optometry moved from Los Angeles to Fullerton. The mission was to serve the South Los Angeles community’s eye care needs as well as provide patient care experience to support the students’ education. Originally called the Optometric Center of Los Angeles, the clinic was established through a U.S. Department of Public Health Special Improvement grant and from the day it opened, the patient load has continued to grow.

Located south of downtown Los Angeles, 31% of the patients who come to the University Eye Center live below the poverty line. Eye care in many cases is not financially viable. However, with the help of grants and resources, and thanks to the dedication of faculty leaders, staff and students, for more than 40 years the center continues to transform the lives of the patients who have nowhere else to go.

A CHALLENGING ROTATION

One of the ways the University Eye Center serves patients is through quarterly wet labs. Held in collaboration with contact lens providers and supported by grants, these events give hands-on experience to fourth-year students of the Southern California College of Optometry at Marshall B. Ketchum University. For patients who can’t afford necessary contact lenses and fitting, it is a life-changing experience.

Melissa Contreras, OD, ’10, Clinic Director and Assistant Professor at SCCO, explains that patients with specific, often rare disorders are carefully selected to participate.

“As a teaching facility, a student doctor performs the examination in collaboration with the faculty doctor. It is a little longer, but patients tell us this is the most comprehensive exam they’ve ever received,” she says. “It is also an educational experience for the patient, who has the opportunity to better understand their condition.”

Lisa Wahl, OD, ’13, Coordinator of the Cornea and Contact Lens department at the University Eye Center and an Adjunct Professor at SCCO, specializes in the fitting of contact lenses for irregular corneas and ocular surface disease, including scleral and hybrid lenses. As an SCCO alumnus, she says that one of her most fulfilling roles is precepting fourth-year optometry students in a multifaceted optometry setting.

“This is a challenging rotation and I guarantee students will see new pathologies or contact lens that they wouldn’t have seen elsewhere,” she says.

A YOUNG LIFE CHANGED

Chad Roberson, a 19-year-old college student and football player, presented a unique case that made him an ideal wet lab candidate. He experienced a big change in his eyesight that was no longer correctable with glasses nor soft contact lenses. He experienced blurriness and intense migraine headaches, which interfered with his ability to pay attention in class and focus on the football field. His mother, a patient at the University Eye Center, brought him in for an appointment.

During his fourth-year rotation at the center, Michael Tran, SCCO ’17, and Dr. Wahl met with Chad to assess his case.

Using corneal topography, Dr. Wahl diagnosed Chad with keratoconus. Keratoconus is a progressive disease that thins and distorts the cornea. Prevalent among Latino and African-American boys, it can occur in one or both eyes and begins in adolescence or early 20s.

“Chad had just started college and playing football,” Dr. Wahl says. “He’d never worn contact lenses and with his sports activities, soft lenses, which drape over the eye, were not sufficient to provide him the best vision correction.”
At a wet lab hosted by SynergEyes, Chad volunteered to be fitted with hybrid lenses that he could use comfortably every day. After the fitting, he now enjoys the comfort of a soft lens with the hard center that gives him 20/20 vision and will not be dislodged while he plays football.

“I get better grades and I do better on the field,” Chad says. “Dr. Wahl was very calm and gentle and she helped me get the right contacts and the right fit.”

A WEALTH OF KNOWLEDGE

For Dr. Tran, it was a great experience that prepared him for the next phase in his optometry career. “The doctors give us autonomy in our exams with the expectation that we identify the right diagnosis and treatment,” Dr. Tran says. “They help guide us if we’re off track.”

When students complete their rotation, Dr. Contreras is confident that their experiences with complex patient cases will give them a wealth of knowledge they can take into their next chapter as practicing optometrists.

“They will have seen conditions that they wouldn’t normally see in the general population and they will know exactly what to do with it,” Dr. Contreras says. “It’s a win-win situation,” she explains. “Our students get experience with specialty lenses and the patient gets a contact lens fitting and lenses at a lower cost.”

ONE OF THE MAJOR CONCERNS WHEN THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA COLLEGE OF OPTOMETRY MOVED TO A NEW CAMPUS IN FULLERTON WAS THE ABILITY TO PROVIDE ENOUGH CLINIC PATIENTS FOR STUDENT EDUCATION.

After the College sold its property to the University of Southern California, they would no longer have a clinical space in the area. It would take time to build a patient base for the new Fullerton clinic. In September 1970, the college submitted a Special Improvement grant of $1.2 million to the U.S. Department of Public Health to establish a “Central City Clinic.”

However, the College received a grant of significantly less money - about $260,000 for just one year. This limited funding did not discourage the clinic leaders from moving forward with the clinic, having purchased and begun renovations on the South Broadway property. The clinic was called the Optometric Center of Los Angeles and opened in April 1972. Fortunately, the patient load never declined at this location nor at the Fullerton clinic. As time has proven, the Southern California College of Optometry patient clinics have become valuable resources to both patients and future generations of optometrists.
Alumna’s Estate Gift Provides Residents with Educational Experience in Kansas

By Cathi Douglas

When Suzanne Tran, OD, ’03, graduated from the Southern California College of Optometry, she was inspired by her professor and mentor Tim Edrington, OD, MS, to pursue a residency and found herself spending the year after graduation at Northeastern State University in Tahlequah, Okla.

As a result of her positive SCCO and residency experience, she had the foresight to include the College in her estate plans.

Giving back has always been important to Suzanne, and though she sadly left us all sooner than expected, I am confident she would be proud that her legacy is being carried on by her mentor, Dr. Edrington," says husband and SCCO alumnus, Mark Miller, OD, ’91.

Thanks to Dr. Tran’s estate gift, the Dr. Suzanne Tran Cornea & Contact Lens Residency Training Endowment has been established. Dr. Edrington can send his current and future cornea and contact lens residents to the Midwest for special residency training. Dr. Miller wanted the residents to start this year, so an additional gift from him will fund the program for the next three years while Dr. Tran’s endowment matures.

Dr. Edrington recalls, “I was fortunate to spend time with Dr. Tran during her cornea and contact lens residency at NESU in Oklahoma. She was very proud of her experiences during her year at NESU and we shared our thoughts about how important residencies are. In Dr. Tran’s case, she was able to use her post-optometry school training to benefit her patients who were in need of specialized contact lens care. When I learned of Dr. Tran’s passing, and her estate gift to SCCO, I knew that supporting future residents’ education would be an ideal way to honor her legacy. She was so committed to education as a way to serve patients in the community, and this endowment will honor her in perpetuity.”

Now observing his 40th year at the Southern California College of Optometry, Dr. Tim Edrington says he still gets excited about prescribing medically necessary contact lenses to patients who otherwise have little hope of seeing clearly. “What I like most about providing contact lens care to our patients is that we make peoples’ lives better.”

A graduate of Indiana University’s College of Optometry, Dr. Edrington first began prescribing contact lenses to patients when he served as an Army officer at Walter Reed Hospital in Washington, D.C. “Other doctors of optometry at Walter Reed were not prescribing contact lenses at that time, so I started to develop an interest in it, and my interest kept growing.”

"I knew that supporting future residents’ education would be an ideal way to honor her legacy.”
Dr. Edrington, who also practiced optometry in Illinois and Texas prior to accepting a teaching position at SCCO, is a Fellow of the American Academy of Optometry and a Diplomate in their Cornea, Contact Lens, and Refractive Technologies Section. He has a master’s degree in higher education from Cal State Fullerton and has authored more than 50 published manuscripts in peer-reviewed journals, more than 70 published articles, more than 120 published research abstracts and 10 book chapters on cornea and contact lenses.

“The passion in my life is teaching contact lenses to the optometry students and our residents,” he says. “It’s a joy to work with them and to see the students and residents grow during the year or two we work together.” The residents are already doctors of optometry, and they come to the University Eye Center at Ketchum Health for further training in their specialty area of cornea and contact lenses.

Dr. Edrington began training residents in 1996 and has trained and mentored about 30 residents since then. Although the majority of their training is direct patient care at the University Eye Center, the residents observe and learn from optometrists and ophthalmologists at hospitals, private practices and universities as they treat patients and perform complex surgeries.

SCCO’s current residents, Drs. Annie Lee and Andrew Vo, will travel in May to Overland Park, Kan., to observe corneal specialists Timothy Cavanaugh, MD, and Jared Jaynes, OD. Dr. Jaynes graduated from SCCO in 2012 and completed his residency at SCCO’s University Eye Center the following year.

Dr. Cavanaugh was a study investigator who played a vital role in getting refractive lasers approved for use in the United States. He was the first laser eye surgeon in the Kansas City area to use the microkeratome, the extraordinarily precise surgical instrument used to make incisions in LASIK surgery. Dr. Cavanaugh also has extensive experience in performing bladeless, laser-assisted cataract and LASIK surgery and is nationally recognized for his work in corneal transplantation and other surgical treatments for corneal disease.

During his SCCO residency, Dr. Jaynes focused on management of irregular corneas, anterior segment disease, ocular prosthetics, pediatric contact lenses and specialty contact lens designs. His contact lens concentration included scleral gas permeable lenses for anterior segment pathology, such as, keratoconus, dry eye syndrome, exposure keratopathy and post-surgical ectasias. He also received training in reform eyes for ocular disfigurement, and scleral shell prosthetic lenses.

Drs. Cavanaugh and Jaynes’ practice specializes in care for patients with anterior segment eye disease who need medical treatment or surgery. Dr. Edrington says, “Going to Kansas to work with them will take our residents’ educational experience to the next level.”

Drs. Annie Lee and Andrew Vo, current residents at SCCO’s University Eye Center at Ketchum Health, are both graduates of UC Berkeley College of Optometry.

“The passion in my life is teaching contact lenses to the optometry students and our residents.” from experiencing different ocular diseases and complex surgical cases as we observe excellent clinicians and corneal surgeons, the best in the nation. We are glad for these opportunities,” Drs. Lee and Vo recently spent two weeks working alongside four corneal surgeons at UC Irvine.

“All of our specialty eye care services at Ketchum Health are top-notch in providing patient care,” Dr. Edrington says. “SCCO’s faculty are highly regarded and outstanding teaching clinicians, many of whom also conduct strong clinical research.”

Drs. Andrew Vo and Annie Lee, Residents at the University Eye Center at Ketchum Health Anaheim.

Tim Edrington, OD, MS, Professor, Southern California College of Optometry.
“Dr. Edrington has been an excellent mentor, always willing and there to help us,” Dr. Lee notes. “He’s given us the opportunity to write articles for journals. He’s well-connected. I feel lucky to have worked with him.” Dr. Lee adds that Dr. Edrington’s reputation was one of the factors that influenced her decision to do her residency at the University Eye Center at Ketchum Health.

Dr. Edrington is quick to add that it takes a team of people to provide residents with the kind of educational experiences and training required to grow into excellent clinicians. “Drs. Annie Chang, Elaine Chen, Justin Kwan, Dawn Lam, Eunice Myung Lee and Barry Weissman all play instrumental roles in the training of not only Drs. Vo and Lee, but also our past residents. At Ketchum Health our team of cornea and contact lens doctors are educational leaders in the areas of irregular cornea management, prosthetic lens fitting and care, dry eye treatment, myopia control and corneal disease. Without these esteemed colleagues, we couldn’t have grown the program into what it is today,” Dr. Edrington concludes.

The foresight of alumni like Drs. Tran and Miller – combined with exceptional faculty like Dr. Edrington – truly enrich the educational experience at SCCO and the University Eye Center at Ketchum Health.

“SCCO changed both my and Suzanne’s lives. The experience we each had there and the relationships we built, speak volumes to the quality of education and community at the College. I take solace in knowing that Suzanne’s memory will live on through this program and the resident experience will be enriched through this educational opportunity,” says Dr. Miller.

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT GIFT OPPORTUNITIES TO SUPPORT THE STUDENTS AND CLINICAL CARE THROUGH SCCO, please contact Joan Rubio, Vice President for University Advancement at jrubio@ketchum.edu.
Marshall B. Ketchum University is proud to celebrate the recently approved construction on the College of Pharmacy’s new Pharmaceutical Sciences Research Laboratory, which will open later this year at the Ketchum Health facility in Anaheim Hills, Calif.

The plan is to update an existing space at MBKU Health with state-of-the-art research equipment specifically chosen to meet the needs of the ongoing research projects currently being conducted by faculty members in the College of Pharmacy. This equipment includes 12 workstations, a cutting-edge tissue/cell culture laboratory, and other essential support equipment such as vent hoods and formulation instruments. The lab will provide facilities for College of Pharmacy faculty to add to the body of knowledge in pharmaceutical science while maintaining the expertise that is essential to their professional development. The lab will also ensure that the research done by faculty enhances the reputation of MBKU’s College of Pharmacy.

Leading the effort is Rajesh Vadlapatla, PhD, Chair and Associate Professor in the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences. Dr. Vadlapatla is thrilled about the opportunities that having a fully equipped research lab will provide for him and his colleagues. “All the faculty we have here at Ketchum have expertise in their different areas,” he explains. “The University is providing the resources that we require by funding the equipment and the facility. Having the expertise, the resources provided by the University will very much help us in doing meaningful research.”

The lab gives College of Pharmacy faculty a place to continue the experimentation that they are already conducting elsewhere. Because MBKU faculty need to be involved with research to stay current in their field and advance in their professional careers, they form partnerships with labs at larger institutions of higher education and collaborate on the work there. The new Pharmaceutical Sciences Research Lab will provide an avenue for them to bring this work home to Marshall B. Ketchum University.

The lab will accommodate the research of a number of faculty who already have ongoing research projects, among them Charitha Madiraju, PhD, whose work aims to find novel pharmacologically active therapeutics for treatment of cancer and autoimmune diseases, and who will also use the lab to continue mentoring post-doctorates and associate scientists on research projects centered on anti-cancer agents. Jozef Stec, PhD, who has been performing projects in synthetic organic, medicinal, and analytical chemistry for over a decade, is currently researching discovery and development of new and effective medicines to combat tuberculosis.

"Having the expertise, the resources provided by the University will very much help us in doing meaningful research."

— Rajesh Vadlapatla, PhD
Chair and Associate Professor in the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences
“Having the lab will help us connect with the students even better,” says Dr. Vadlapatla. “This helps them day to day in class, of course, but it also distinguishes them as they pursue residency and fellowship programs. This offers them an advantage, and is one way we are able to keep our students involved in our research.”

The current research of Young Cho, PhD, is focused on two main areas. The first is the testing of anti-neoplastic cytostatic actions of various natural plant extracts in mammmary carcinoma model system in vitro, and the second is the examination of insulin-mimetic effects of the orphan nuclear receptors.

Andy Nauli, PhD, has two major research projects in the area of dietary fat absorption, examining both how red meat allergen is transported by the gut and also working to determine the physiochemical properties of lipophilic drugs. And Dr. Vadlapatla’s own research explores the areas of extended-release drug delivery systems, preformulation, dosage form formulation, and analytical method development.

The other means by which the Pharmaceutical Sciences Research Laboratory will allow MBKU to extend its mission is by enhancing the opportunities College of Pharmacy students have to apply the knowledge they learn in their classrooms to a laboratory setting. This aspect of the lab’s potential is of particular interest to Dr. Vadlapatla, who initially planned for a long career in the pharmaceutical sciences industry before discovering a love for teaching shortly after completing his PhD. The lab gives him and other College of Pharmacy faculty a priceless teaching tool. Zhijun Wang, PhD, is currently working on three areas: (1) Utilization of herbal medicine to improve chemotherapy in cancer research. The herb-drug combination will be used to overcome chemo resistance and reduce the side effects of chemotherapy; (2) Sublingual formulation development; and (3) Pre-clinical and clinical pharmacokinetic studies.

“Each student is required to complete a capstone project in which they combine clinical research with other scholarly activity,” he says. “For example, I have three students right now who are working on doing literature research and writing review articles. But when we have our lab, we can do more hands-on experiments and they will be engaged in a different, more valuable way.”

Projects like these are the sure signs that Marshall B. Ketchum University continues to grow in resources and reputation. The Pharmaceutical Sciences Research Lab in the College of Pharmacy is the first step in a process that will help MBKU’s College of Pharmacy faculty initiate research projects, begin to attract grants, and further establish the credentials by which the University is accredited—all while maintaining the advantages with respect to its smaller size and higher student engagement that MBKU already enjoys.

YOU'RE INVITED TO MAKE A GIFT TO MBKU'S COLLEGE OF PHARMACY TODAY. Please contact Joan Rubio, Vice President for University Advancement at jrubio@ketchum.edu.
When Summer Li first met Justin Kwan, OD, Assistant Professor and Chief of Cornea and Contact Lens Services at Marshall B. Ketchum University, she had one wish: to look her best on her wedding day. She did not want to worry about the inconvenience of her glasses sliding down her nose, make-up smudges or glare while taking photos.

A SEARCH FOR ANSWERS

Summer had always worn eyeglasses growing up; but in college, she noticed a huge difference in her vision. “After working or gaming, I’d have headaches and extreme eye fatigue,” she remembers. “I also couldn’t focus, and my eye turn started happening.”

Summer’s eyes turned inward (also known as esotropia), making her feel very self-conscious. She began a 10-year journey of going to various optometrists who gave her different prescriptions such as reading glasses and bifocals. “I used to wear contact lenses but as my condition worsened, I couldn’t wear them,” she explains. “But when I was prescribed prism eyeglasses, it was a miracle for me.”

Vision of Love: Ketchum Makes a Patient’s Wedding Day Wish Come True

By Mary Castillo

Summer Li and her husband Stephen Li on their wedding day. Summer is wearing scleral lenses prescribed by Dr. Justin Kwan.
Prism lenses in her eyeglasses got her eyes to work together and align her vision, preventing double vision and the eye turn. Her first prism prescription worked for a time but then the eye fatigue returned, so she went to the University Eye Center at Ketchum Health. Summer learned that vision therapy wouldn’t be effective for people like her with inward eye turn.

“Eye muscle surgery is the only option to permanently fix that issue and I was looking for other options,” she says. After her comprehensive evaluation, she received stick-on prism lenses that she could put over her prism eyeglasses that allowed her to see correctly again.

But when she became engaged, she investigated the possibility of using contact lenses. Her optometrist, Alex Corbin Liu, OD, ’03, an alumnus of Southern California College of Optometry at Marshall B. Ketchum University, referred her back to the University Eye Center and to his friend, Dr. Justin Kwan.

KETCHUM FINDS THE ANSWER - SCLERAL LENSES

Dr. Kwan remembers that Summer first contacted him via email and he was impressed by the research she had undertaken. After they corresponded, she arrived at his clinic with her fiancé, Stephen, at her side.

He welcomed their questions to understand the intricacies of how he could solve her wedding issue through scleral lenses. “We took the time to discuss their knowledge and present new ideas,” he says. “But we also wanted her to try on lenses and experience what was possible for her, so she could wear scleral contact lenses that would give her the prism prescription to not only see clearly but also to help with her eye turn.”

Scleral lenses are large-diameter gas permeable (GP) lenses that vault over the entire corneal surface and rest on the “white” of the eye (the sclera). Due to their size, scleral lenses are more stable on the eye and less likely to dislodge, especially for sensitive eyes or irregularly shaped corneas.

“When you put a prism in a regular soft or hard contact lens, it rotates down and worsens the double vision rather than correcting it,” Dr. Kwan explains. “But through our use of a corneal topographer and a series of diagnostic fittings, we can direct the lab to place the prism in the exact location of a scleral lens to correct Summer’s vision. Her lenses wouldn’t work on anyone else but her.”

— Justin Kwan, OD
“This was probably one of the best decisions I’ve made,” she says. “They took some adjusting and getting used to, but the scleral lenses felt great.”

— Summer Li, Ketchum Health Patient

“When you put a prism in a regular soft or hard contact lens, it rotates down and worsens the double vision rather than correcting it,” Dr. Kwan explains. “But through our use of a corneal topographer and a series of diagnostic fittings, we can direct the lab to place the prism in the exact location of a scleral lens to correct Summer’s vision. Her lenses wouldn’t work on anyone else but her.”

After three visits to obtain the perfect fit, Summer reached a new high in her journey to improve her eyesight. “This was probably one of the best decisions I’ve made,” she says. “They took some adjusting and getting used to, but the scleral lenses felt great.”

A BEAUTIFUL SIGHT

Summer’s wish came true. On her wedding day, she walked down the aisle wearing her new scleral contact lenses.

“Summer was so nice to send me a photo of her on her wedding day,” Dr. Kwan says with a smile.

Although Summer wears her prism eyeglasses daily, she has the option to wear her contact lenses for special occasions such as work presentations.

“I feel more confident,” she says. “But I also practice better habits by taking more frequent breaks throughout the day and resting my eyes.”

After Summer shared her experience with Dr. Kwan and his team on Yelp, a young woman reached out to her with questions. Summer didn’t hesitate to refer the woman to Dr. Kwan. “I’m so grateful to give hope to others who struggled as I once did,” she says.
Marshall B. Ketchum University is pleased to announce

THE ADDITION OF FAMILY MEDICINE AND A PHARMACEUTICAL SCIENCES RESEARCH LAB

FAMILY MEDICINE

The addition of Family Medicine will allow students from all three programs to learn as a team to provide primary health care to patients. Under the direction of Brandon Grove, MD, PAs will care for patients in the Family Medicine Center. Patients will be cared for from infancy through adulthood.

PHARMACEUTICAL SCIENCES RESEARCH LAB

The Pharmaceutical Sciences Research Lab in the College of Pharmacy is the first step in a process that will help MBKU’s College of Pharmacy faculty initiate research projects, begin to attract grants, and further establish the credentials by which the University is accredited—all while maintaining the advantages with respect to its smaller size and higher student engagement that MBKU already enjoys.

YOU’RE INVITED TO MAKE A GIFT TO KETCHUM HEALTH.

Please contact Joan Rubio, Vice President for University Advancement at jrubio@ketchum.edu.
Numerous Awards Recognize Overseas Refugee Missions of Alumnus Dr. Akio Kanai

By Cathi Douglas

Akio Kanai, OD, ’72, Southern California College of Optometry alumnus and longtime owner of Sapporo-based Fuji Optical Company, has received numerous recent awards honoring his international work providing refugees with eye care.

For more than 35 years, Dr. Kanai’s Fuji Aid Mission has traveled annually to work in war-torn regions. He first worked with Indochinese refugees in Thailand, then with refugees in Nepal and Armenia and since 2005 has traveled to Azerbaijan to examine the Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and fit them with eyeglasses.

He received the Yomiuri International Corporation Prize given by the Yomiuri Newspaper Company, the largest newspaper organization in Japan and perhaps the largest in the world, with more than eight million subscribers.

The November 2017 award ceremony was held at the Imperial Hotel in Tokyo. The 5 million yen awarded as part of the prize was donated to the IDPs and refugees in Azerbaijan. During the ceremony, Dr. Kanai received congratulatory greetings from Antonio Gutteres, the Secretary General of the United Nations.

Lastly, for a 35th anniversary book commemorating the overseas efforts of the Fuji Vision Aid Mission, Dr. Kanai received a congratulatory message from Prime Minister Shinzou Abe.

“I decided in 1983 that I wanted to do something for society,” Dr. Kanai said in a telephone interview from his office in Japan. “I wanted to use my profession in service. At that time, many refugees from Indochinese countries were going to Thailand and someone from the camps asked us to help improve their vision with screening and glasses.”

When he visited the United Nations headquarters in Geneva in 2005, officials invited him to visit Azerbaijan. “They were in a similar situation and they needed our help.”

Dr. Kanai is the second of three generations of his family to practice optometry. His two sons, Drs. Hiromasa Kanai and Kuniyoshi Kanai, are optometrists as well. Dr. Hiromasa Kanai practices at the Fuji Optical

“Because of optometry, I have had the opportunity to serve the refugees. The work is inspiring and appreciated. I feel I can do a lot to make people’s lives better. I feel quite fortunate.”

– Akio Kanai, OD, ’72
Company with his father, Dr. Kuniyoshi Kanai is an Assistant Clinical Professor of optometry at UC Berkeley. His elder son, Hiromasa, will accompany him in June when he heads again to assist patients in Azerbaijan.

“The refugee situation varies from country to country,” he explained. “In the case of Azerbaijan, we have 1,500 refugees from Chechnya, Iran and Afghanistan, and they have many displaced persons from territorial conflicts.

“About 10 years ago, there were 1 million displaced IDPs according to the government statistics,” he said. “We found out many of them needed glasses.”

In Japan and the United States, he explained, there are many near-sighted people. But among the refugees overseas he has discovered that many of them are far-sighted. “That is actually not good,” he said. “Your eyes get tired of focusing. With moderate to high far-sightedness your vision gets worse. Many of the people need glasses for daily life – for reading, writing and work.”

His recent awards are not the first he has received honoring his volunteerism. In 2006, Dr. Kanai received the UNHCR Nansen Refugee Award, which is presented annually to an individual or organization that has dedicated time going above and beyond the call of duty to help people who have been forcibly displaced from their homes. The award, presented by the United Nations Refugee Agency, is named for Fridtjof Nansen, a courageous Norwegian explorer and humanitarian who served as the first high commissioner for refugees for the League of Nations.

Kanai feels blessed with the abundance of his life, is humbled with the many honors he has received, and wants always to reciprocate for what he has by giving to people who need his help. “That’s why I started working with the refugees.”

He said he has many fond memories of his time at SCCO. “I was impressed by the quality of the education and the professional knowledge and skills of the professors,” he remembered. “The best part was the training I got there.”

In fact, Dr. Kanai said his education helps him every day in his work. “Without my professional education in optometry my life would be very different,” he said. “I’m very happy I chose optometry as my profession,” he added. “Because of optometry, I have had the opportunity to serve the refugees. The work is inspiring and appreciated. I feel I can do a lot to make people’s lives better. I feel quite fortunate.”
IN THE SCHOOL OF PA STUDIES, COMMITMENT TO
our students, our alumni and our community are essential. We are
dedicated to giving all students experiences in caring for
underserved communities, and we recognize the importance of giving
back through service. From their very
first day at MBKU, students
participate in experiences based on
our program values and those tenets
are reinforced throughout their
experiences in the program.

We are certain that our graduates
have the compassion, dedication
and knowledge to transform lives. Our second class graduated
from the School of PA Studies on Nov. 11, 2017. Every student
provided health care for an underserved community during
clinical rotations. They also developed and implemented projects
locally to support a healthier population.

For the second time, we are proud to announce a 100% pass rate
on the PA National Certifying Exam. The graduates are quickly
establishing themselves in their new practice locations, and we
are excited to watch their careers develop.

To strengthen our community-focused initiative, planning is well
underway to open the Family Medicine Clinic at Ketchum Health.
Brandon Grove, MD, is leading the charge as Medical Director,
and PA faculty and students will work together to provide quality
health care. The clinic will also provide an opportunity for all
three MBKU professions, PA, optometry and pharmacy, to
practice together in an interprofessional setting. For students,
the clinic provides a pathway to put what they have learned in the
classroom into action.

We are enthused to have an avenue for students to experience
what interprofessional collaborative practice truly means. We are
excited to see what the future holds for the School of PA Studies.
Together, we will create new opportunities for collaboration and
partnerships with our colleagues, patients and communities.

Mark Bullimore, MCOptom, PhD
Dean, Southern California College of Optometry

Dr. Bullimore congratulating Annabelle Storch, SCCO Class of 2019, for
being elected to the AOSA executive council as their President-Elect.

Judy Ortiz, PhD, PA-C
Deputy Chief of Staff for Academic Services
Dean, College of Health Sciences
Director, School of Physician Assistant Studies

FIRST REFLECTIONS
As I write my first Dean’s message, it is difficult
to believe that I’ve been on the job for just a few
months. I’ve learned so much, made so many
new friends, but still have a long way to go.

For the time being I’m living in a furnished
vacation rental in Newport Beach. I was able
to drive into town, unload the car, visit the
supermarket and then immediately focus all
my attention on leading SCCO. The commute
is bearable — if I time it right — and gives me
time to reflect and plan. Here’s what I’ve learned thus far.

We have some gifted young faculty. I’m inspired by the interactions I’ve had,
learning about their passion for teaching, leadership and research. One
of my joys is mentoring these colleagues to reach their goals and to better
serve the College and our students.

We recruit fabulous students. Our first-year class is third in the nation —
behind only Berkeley and SUNY — based on OAT scores. This is no anomaly.
We’re consistently in the top tier alongside public institutions like Houston and
Ohio State. I love speaking with applicants and pre-optometry clubs.

Our students do amazing things. One of my many pinch-me moments was
learning that Annabelle Storch, Class of ’19, was elected President of the
American Optometric Students Association, representing 8,000 students
across the country. I’ve also listened to poised presentations, seen our local
community served and seen video of a phoropter-based marriage proposal.

I have work to do. Whether it’s striving to improve our board scores, updating
our training facilities, reviewing our curriculum, recruiting new faculty or
attending memorial services for alumni, my days are full. And so is my heart.

Dr. Bullimore congratulating Annabelle Storch, SCCO Class of 2019, for
being elected to the AOSA executive council as their President-Elect.

Southern California College of Optometry
IN THE FALL OF 2017, Marshall B. Ketchum University’s College of Pharmacy welcomed the creation of a California Pharmacist Association (CPhA) Chapter as the first pharmacy student organization. As the Association’s newest affiliated student chapter, MBKU pharmacy students are enjoying the CPhA Academy of Student Pharmacist activities and initiatives throughout the year. Together, student members from all 13 California Schools of Pharmacy will work to advance the CPhA’s mission to engage and empower their peers to build a healthier community and advance the profession.

Additionally, the College is well along the way to enrolling our third cohort of students. Recently, we hired our new Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, Dr. Javad Tahreshi, and our new Chair of Social and Administrative Sciences and Interim Chair of the Department of Pharmacy Practice, Dr. Elvin Hernandez. Everyone is excited and pleased to have these two seasoned educators as our new administrators.

Two faculty members and four MBKU pharmacy students participated in our first free health screening fair on Jan. 28, 2018, in the Value Scripts Pharmacy, located in Westminster, Calif. Students provided counseling to community members on cardiac care and glucose management.

The faculty and staff of the College of Pharmacy have been working diligently on constructing a self-study in preparation for our April site visit from the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education in order to advance to Candidate Status. This was a very momentous achievement in the College’s history.

Edward Fisher, PhD, RPh
Dean, College of Pharmacy

On Thursday, April 19, 2018, students from MBKU’s OD, PA and PharmD programs, along with RN students from Cal State Fullerton, participated in the first-ever interprofessional simulation exercise at MBKU’s campus in Fullerton, Calif. Small groups of students were given 90 minutes to work through a standardized patient encounter in one of MBKU’s mock patient exam rooms. Under the supervision of faculty, students worked collaboratively to evaluate their patient, which included everything from asking the patient about their health history to a physical examination to developing a comprehensive management plan. Students from MBKU’s College of Pharmacy were on hand to conduct a pharmacy consult as part of the exercise.

“The program gave students the opportunity to apply interprofessional communication skills to a simulated patient encounter,” said Allison Mollet, PA-C, Associate Director, School of PA Studies.

“It was exciting to collaborate with students from other programs,” said Tara Anderson, PA-S, Class of 2019. “Each of us brought our unique skills and training to the exercise, but we were all working toward the same goal, addressing the healthcare needs of the patient.”

After the 90-minute exercise, students and faculty debriefed to discuss what went well, what they learned and how the team approach to care impacted the exercise. Marshall B. Ketchum University plans to host more IPE simulation exercises in the future.
**Recognition**

**WILLIAM ELIZONDO, OD, ’49,** was recognized for his amazing accomplishments from his military service, civic service, political advocacy, philanthropy and his practice in the July issue of San Antonio-Houston Street Talk magazine.

**ALICIA FEIS, OD, ’08,** was appointed as Associate Dean at the Arizona College of Optometry.

**TINA DANG ALDANA, OD, ’11,** was featured by the United States Army for her outstanding work as a Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) Optometrist at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Germany. As a leader in her field, Dr. Dang Aldana hosted the Chief of Optometry from Vicenza, Italy, who visited to learn more about the TBI optometry processes.

**AMANDA BEAUDRY, OD, ’16, MS, ’16,** (right) recently completed her residency in Pediatric Optometry and Vision Therapy/Neuro-Optometry at the Center for Vision Development Inc. in Pasadena, Calif. and relocated to live and practice in Santa Barbara, Calif.

**AAO Awards and New Fellows**

**AKIO KANAI, OD, ’72,** and Fuji Optical Company, where Dr. Kanai serves as the Chief Executive Officer, received the Yomiuri Shimbun’s International Cooperation Prize from the United Nations.

**DEBRA MCINTYRE, OD, ’98,** was reappointed to the California Board of Optometry by Gov. Jerry Brown. She has served on the board since 2016.

**Updates**

**MINDY TOABE, OD, ’98, VICTORIA TRIEU, OD, ’98,** and **DEREK TONG, OD, ’98,** catching up at AAO Chicago 2017. Dr. Toabe practices at the Cleveland Clinic in Ohio. She currently serves as the President of the Scleeral Lens Education Society and gave two workshops on Scleeral Contact Lens Fitting at AAO. Dr. Trieu practices in the Chicago suburbs and resides with her husband and three lovely children. Dr. Tong practices in Pasadena, Calif. and supervises two SCCO residents in Pediatric Optometry and Vision Therapy/Neuro-Optometry at his private practice, the Center for Vision Development Optometry Inc.

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**American Academy of Optometry**

Academy 2017 in Chicago was another successful meeting for our students, residents, faculty and alumni. SCCO was represented well at the meeting through numerous poster, paper and lecture presentations as well as volunteer and committee work. AAO Fellows and Awardees are listed below.

**FELLOWS**

- Amanda Beaudry, OD, FAAO, ’16
- Jennifer Dang, OD, FAAO, ’13
- Tina Zheng, OD, FAAO, ’15
- Melissa Anstett, OD, FAAO, ’13
- Desireh Akhamzadeh, OD, FAAO, ’16
- Kevin Yuan, OD, FAAO, ’14
- Grace Liao, OD, FAAO, ’16
- Sepinood Sebghati, OD, FAAO, ’16
- Linda Nguyen, OD, FAAO, ’16
- Elizabeth McMahon, OD, FAAO, ’16
- Ashley Luke, OD, FAAO, ’16
- Maggie Nguyen, OD, FAAO, ’15
- Tiffany Chen, OD, FAAO, ’16
- Jeffrey Binstock, OD, FAAO, ’15
- Brittany Kitamata-Wong, OD, FAAO, ’17
- Jolie LeGate (SCCO Student Class of 2020)

**AWARDS**

**Eminent Service Award**
- Harue J. Marsden, OD, MS, FAAO, ’87 (posthumously)

**Terrance N. Ingraham Pediatric Residency Award**
- Amanda Beaudry, OD, FAAO, ’16

**George W. Mertz Contact Lens Residency Award**
- Grace Liao, OD, FAAO, ’16

**Douglas W. Hopkins Primary Care Residency Award**
- Ashley Luke, OD, FAAO, ’16

**Alfred Rosenblum Jr. Low Vision Residency Award**
- Rachel Young, OD, R ’17

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**TO SHARE YOUR CLASS NOTES,** contact us at alumni@ketchum.edu.
IN MEMORY OF

Elizabeth E. Caloroso, OD, MOpt
Professor Emerita

Elizabeth E. Caloroso, OD, MOpt, Professor Emerita of the Southern California College of Optometry, died March 13, 2018, after a short battle with leukemia.

“A love of optometry and a dedication to contribute to its enhancement are abundantly evident in a review of the professional career of Dr. Caloroso. Her optometric accomplishments are highlighted in both private practice and in education by her exemplary efforts in vision therapy and the special vision care needs of children and infants,” wrote former SCCO President, Lesley L. Walls, OD, MD.

A native of Los Angeles, Dr. Caloroso traveled north to the University of California, Berkeley, where she earned four degrees: BA in psychology, 1949; BS in physiological optics, 1952; OD, 1953; and MOpt, 1968.

Dr. Caloroso’s teaching career began at SCCO in 1954 as a Clinical Instructor. In 1957, she became an Assistant Clinical Professor prior to accepting a teaching position at her alma mater, UC Berkeley, in 1966. She attained the rank of Associate Clinical Professor in 1972 at UC Berkeley, but retained her ties to SCCO as a visiting professor. During the 1974-1975 academic year, Dr. Caloroso re-joined SCCO on a full-time basis. Her teaching assignments took her to the University of Houston, College of Optometry, before returning, once again, to SCCO in 1981 at the rank of Professor.

Adding to her rich optometric career are the numerous administrative positions she held. Her first such position was as Director, Ocular Pathology Clinic, Los Angeles College of Optometry. Then, in 1975, she was named Chief of Vision Therapy/Pediatric Services. Dr. Caloroso also served as Coordinator of the Children’s Vision Residency, Pediatric Optometry and Vision Therapy Residency, and Pediatric/Disability Services.

During Dr. Caloroso’s academic career, she developed programs and courses in the areas of pediatric optometry, vision therapy and behavioral optometry. She also initiated the first residency program at SCCO in children’s vision.

Dr. Caloroso authored books, chapters and journal articles primarily in her specialty area of vision therapy. In 1974, she published her first book, Orthoptics, and in 1993 she co-authored with SCCO Professor Michael W. Rouse, OD, MSEd, Clinical Management of Strabismus.

Throughout her distinguished career, Dr. Caloroso published and presented a number of papers in her area of expertise, and she served as the faculty adviser to numerous student optometrists around the country.

Dr. Caloroso was a member of the California Optometric Association from 1954-1981, and the American Optometric Association from 1962-1981. She was also a member of both the national and California chapter of the American Academy of Optometry.

On June 30, 1998, Dr. Caloroso completed 36 years of service to SCCO. She was a loyal, enthusiastic and faithful member of the College’s faculty, as well as a mentor and role model for her students, residents and colleagues.

“The SCCO community mourns the loss of a treasured member of our family,” said University President Kevin Alexander, OD, PhD. “Dr. Caloroso was a committed member of the SCCO faculty for more than 30 years. Our deepest sympathies are extended to her family, friends, colleagues and former students.”

Marshall B. Ketchum University publishes this In Memoriam section to honor our deceased colleagues, friends and alumni. We extend our deepest condolences to the family and friends of the deceased.

Coot H. Nelson, OD, ’47
Robert Pazen, OD, ’62

Mort Greenspoon, OD, ’51
Gene R. Sieben, OD, ’62

Kimberly Ackley Blackwelder, OD, ’88

Bruce A. Carr, OD, ’64

Steve Grant, OD, ’68
Ketchum University faculty publications

A listing of Ketchum University faculty* publications in peer-reviewed journals.
September 2017-April 2018

SEPTEMBER


Hauswirth SG. Today’s cross-linking is not your father’s Oldsmobile: the safety and efficacy of corneal cross-linking is leading to new methods and indications for the procedure. Contact Lens Spectrum. 2017;32(9):28-34.

Kwan J, Mai T. Practice management pearls from ODs on Facebook. California Optometry. 2017;44(4).


Yeu E, Whitley WO. Committed to specialized care with co-managed relationships. Primary Care Optometry News. 2017;22(8):S4-S8.

OCTOBER


Schachter S. Why ODs should incorporate meibography: know what devices are available and how imagery can affect patient care. Optometry Times. 2017;9(9):1, 24-9.


**NOVEMBER**


Dang VT. IOLS 101: Understanding the monofocal, toric, multifocal, accommodating, and extended depth of focus IOLs, and how to differentiate them to patients. Advanced Ocular Care. 2017;8(7):37-8.


Schachter S. Harsh conditions for contacts: catering to patients who want to wear contact lenses while exposed to the elements. Advanced Ocular Care. 2017;8(7):18-9.

**DECEMBER**


Hauswirth S. When dry eye compromises corneal integrity: your patients' blurry vision, keratitis and infections could be caused by ocular surface disease. Review of Optometry. 2017;154(11):38-43.


**FEBRUARY**


Schachter S. Adding supplements to traditional therapies for dry eye: a variety of management options can help patients of any age have a healthier, more comfortable ocular surface. Contact Lens Spectrum. 2018;33(2):41-43.


**MARCH**


**APRIL**


*Gold denotes MBKU faculty
SAVE THE DATE
and join us for our

SUNSET SOIRÉE

Marshall B. Ketchum University’s signature fundraising event benefitting interprofessional health care education and patient care.

SEPTEMBER 15, 2018
5:30 P.M.
ORANGE COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

Opportunities to support the Southern California College of Optometry, School of PA Studies, College of Pharmacy and University Eye Center at Ketchum Health will abound.
A full event schedule will be available soon at ketchum.edu/sunsetsoiree.

Marshall B. Ketchum University and Ketchum Health is a nonprofit institution.

Marshall B.
KETCHUM UNIVERSITY
# Continuing Education Calendar

## 2018 - 2019

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<th>DATE</th>
<th>LOCATION</th>
<th>PROGRAM</th>
<th>CE CREDIT</th>
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<tr>
<td>JUNE 4 - 7, 2018</td>
<td>SCCO</td>
<td>MBKU Fullerton Campus</td>
<td>Returning to Marshall B. Ketchum University Indian Health Service Biennial Eye Care Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>JULY 22, 2018</td>
<td>SCCO</td>
<td>MBKU Fullerton Campus</td>
<td>MBKU’s Annual Specialty Course Ocular Disease: Part Two</td>
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<td>SEPTEMBER 8 &amp; 9, 2018</td>
<td>SCCO</td>
<td>MBKU Fullerton Campus</td>
<td>Joint SCCO</td>
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<td>OCTOBER 14, 2018</td>
<td>SCCO</td>
<td>MBKU Fullerton Campus</td>
<td>Dr. Morris &amp; Arleen Applebaum Symposium</td>
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<td>DECEMBER 2, 2018</td>
<td>SCCO</td>
<td>MBKU Fullerton Campus</td>
<td>Clinical Topics in Optometry</td>
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<tr>
<td>JANUARY 20, 2019</td>
<td>SCCO</td>
<td>MBKU Fullerton Campus</td>
<td>New Advances in Anterior &amp; Posterior Segment Disease</td>
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### Year-round

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<tr>
<th>LOCATION</th>
<th>PROGRAM</th>
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<tr>
<td>CE Website</td>
<td>Online Coursework ketchum.edu/ceonline</td>
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<tr>
<td>West Los Angeles VA Sepulveda VA</td>
<td>VA Clinical Seminars Thursdays 1-5 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Los Angeles VA ACC</td>
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<tr>
<td>North Vegas VA</td>
<td>VA Clinical Seminars Fridays 1-4 p.m.</td>
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### OCULAR DISEASE: PART TWO

**JULY 22, 2018**

**THIS PROGRAM PROVIDES THE LATEST EVIDENCE-BASED, CLINICALLY RELEVANT INFORMATION IN OCULAR DISEASE MANAGEMENT.** The featured experts include: Drs. Raman Bhakhri, Ray Chu, Charles Flowers, Franklin “Skip” Lusby, A. Mika Moy, Mark Nakano and Benjamin Xu.

Please join us for a day of stimulating education and obtain skills that you will be able to apply to your practice.

**TO REGISTER FOR A COURSE,** please visit “CE Courses and Registration” via the CE Homepage at ketchum.edu/ce.
In early December each year, the University Student Affairs Office hosts the MBKU Leadership Summit. The program provides students with the tools to learn and lead with integrity. It also prepares students to become engaged and influential health care leaders of their future communities and professions. Students are given the opportunity to foster personal development by identifying and strengthening those characteristics and leadership styles which allow them to excel as leaders.

Students from all disciplines – OD, PA and PharmD – are invited to participate in an entire day of leadership development activities. To avoid conflicts with classes, studying and other co-curricular programs, the event is typically hosted on a Saturday or Sunday.

The morning begins with coffee, breakfast and a quick icebreaker or two, followed by a keynote address revolving around the topic of leadership. This year, the students had the pleasure of hearing from our very own MBKU Board of Trustees Chair, Carol Najera, JD. Judge Najera spoke about her own leadership journey and the importance of making your own destiny.

The program continued with an exploration of what leadership is, including the qualities and characteristics of effective leaders, as well as basic theories and models of leadership. Students clarified their personal talents, strengths and challenges as a leader and begin to develop their own definition of leadership.

“To see nearly 50 students come back to campus for a leadership summit over the weekend speaks to the types of students we have here at MBKU,” says Carmen Barnhardt, OD, MSEd, Vice President for Student Affairs. “I am constantly amazed by our students and feel honored to work with them in developing their unique leadership styles which will serve them well as they become engaged health care providers.”

“The Student Affairs Office plans to build upon this successful program and hopes to see participation increase in the years to come,” concludes Tori Holmes, MAEd, Assistant Director for Student Affairs and Student Engagement.

"MBKU works hard to empower its students, and the student leadership summit is really a highlight in the process. The event challenges leaders to explore their attributes that make them great. The summit drove me to nourish those abilities rather than frustrate my efforts on skills that do not come naturally to me. It sounds simple, but realizing there are small changes you can make has a tremendous impact."

- Ken Burns, SPAS, ‘19