

THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE
OF OPTOMETRY

BY

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The history of the Ohio State University College of Optometry could be given by listing the leading events of its existence. But such a history would be far from adequate, since the events of its development were largely determined by people--optometrists, university officials and committees, faculty members, students, legislators, and friends and benefactors of optometric education.

The past becomes blurred with time, which makes it difficult enough to ferret out the contributions of those who played leading roles, let alone those of the countless others who were also involved. Yet, records do clearly show that many of them were motivated by a deep dedication to the profession of optometry and a faith that improved education would help bring to reality their dreams for it. Even today, when the hopes of optometric pioneers have largely been fulfilled, the continued development and progress of The Ohio State University College of Optometry and the profession which it serves are dependent upon individuals in and outside of the profession whose efforts are not generally known, as well as those whose contributions are at least partly known. They seek no personal acclaim but are content with knowing that they work for a cause that deserves their support. We on the faculty acknowledge their contributions with deep appreciation.

In writing this centennial history I will undoubtedly omit important segments, partly because of space limitations but partly, also, because of unfamiliarity with much of the past. I ask readers for their understanding of oversights and invite those who have additional details to provide them for a future revised and expanded history.

The founder of the program of optometry at The Ohio State University was Charles Sheard, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Physics, son of a Methodist minister. He had come to the Ohio State Physics Department in 1907

after doing graduate work at Princeton. In 1912 he received his Ph.D. from that institution. Sheard had acquired a considerable knowledge in physiological and ophthalmic optics and had published various papers on these subjects. He also put his knowledge into practical application by carrying on a small part-time optometric practice, largely among faculty members, at his house at 367 West Tenth Avenue on the edge of the campus. Ironically, its location was almost directly across the street from what was to become, in 1950, the site of the Optometry Building.

In the Spring of 1908 Sheard was invited to give a series of lectures to the Ohio State Optical Association at its convention, and he made a deep impression. During the next few years, a number of optometric leaders in the area tried to interest him in the need for better optometric education. Among these were such eminent men as Dr. Emil Arnold, Ann Arbor, Michigan, Dr. John C. Eberhardt, Dayton, who also served as a president of both the Ohio State Optical (Optometric) Association and the American Optical Association, and who is credited with independently coining the word optometrist and urging its use, Dr. P. C. Harris, Columbus, who later became the first president of the Ohio State Board of Optometry, Dr. Clark Sloan, Cleveland, who was president of the Ohio State Optical Association (now the Ohio Optometric Association) in 1914, Dr. F. P. Barr, Lancaster, and Dr. W. V. Nicum, Dayton, who was chairman of the committee which raised the initial funds for and provided the equipment for the courses in optometry. As Dr. Sheard came to know these men, and their aspirations for the profession, he joined in their cause and helped to lay the groundwork for a program at Ohio State.

In 1914, thirty-three states had passed laws recognizing the profession of optometry. Some states required no education to practice, only that the optometrist pass a state board examination, while others, among them New

York, Iowa, Delaware, Indiana, and Michigan, required at least two years of high school, plus three years of study in an optometrist's office or graduation from a school of optometry. Ohio had yet to pass an optometry law and did not do so until 1919.

Columbia University in 1910 had started a two-year certificate course in optometry. According to Dr. Nicum, in a letter dated July 15, 1914, addressed to the President and Board of Trustees of The Ohio State University, Ohioans constituted the largest out-of-state group of students at Columbia, including the top students in two of the first three classes.

In August, 1914, Dr. Sheard submitted a proposal to President William Oxley Thompson and the Board of Trustees recommending a two-year certificate program in optometry patterned after the one at Columbia. He had on July 6th and 7th received the unanimous vote of the convention of the Ohio State Optical Association authorizing him to submit the proposal and pledging \$2,000 to be given to the University by September 1st, ten students, and equipment necessary for the courses in optometry. On August 4th the University Trustees approved the proposal and named Dr. Sheard Professor of Applied Optics and director of the course. On September 15th, twelve students registered. Classes began the following day.

In 1970 those associated with any large university would marvel at the speed with which the optometry program was established. The \$2,000 contribution seems small by today's standards, but it represented over 20% of the \$9,150 in gifts for all purposes made to The Ohio State University in the 1914-1915 year. Contrast this with the \$2,184,100 given to the University in just the first half of 1969. In 1914 the total enrollment at the university numbered 5,332; this year it will exceed 45,000. In 1914 the entire Ohio State budget was \$1,300,553, of which \$144,034 came from

student tuition fees. Last year student tuition fees provided \$22,121,862 of the total expenditures of \$185,754,326. The College of Optometry expenditures for the current year will exceed half a million dollars. In 1914 the optometry tuition was \$100 a year, rooms rented for \$6 to \$8 a month, and board cost \$3 or \$4 a week. Books were estimated to cost up to \$20 per year. Today tuition is over \$600 a year for Ohio students and is nearly \$1,700 for out-of-state students. Room and board adds around \$100 a month. Books and instruments cost another \$150 a year.

The two-year optometry curriculum required two years of high school for admission, and its first year included courses in mathematics, physics, anatomy, physiology, English, theoretical optics, practical optics, and theoretical and practical optometry. The courses during the second year were theoretical optics, physiological optics, practical optics, theoretical optometry, ocular pathology, and optometric practice, in which the student spent at least one half day per week for one semester in the office of an optometrist.

The practical optics courses were taught by Mr. Daniel D. Hubbell of the White-Haines Optical Company, and Mr. Homer White of the Ohio Optical Company. Practical optometry courses were taught by Dr. F. P. Barr, Dr. C. N. McDonnell, of Columbus, who had been president of the AOA in 1910, Dr. Clark Sloan, and Dr. John C. Eberhardt, who was described as a gifted orator and teacher.

Almost simultaneously with the start of the two year certificate program, Professor Sheard, in September, 1914, submitted to the University a proposal for a four year degree course to replace it. It called for four years of high school for admission. The first two years of the degree program consisted entirely of courses carrying credit in the liberal arts

curriculum. Four semesters of either French or German were included, as well as English and mathematics, but most of the courses were in the basic sciences -- chemistry, psychology, physics, zoology, physiology, and anatomy. The third and fourth years contained the sciences closely related to optometric education -- anatomy and physiology of the eye, theoretical optics, and bacteriology, as well as additional mathematics. Also included were mechanical optics, applied optics, physiological optics, general and ocular pathology, and clinical practice, plus a series of courses in economics and business law, followed by a course in "optical jurisprudence and ocular economics," taught by Dr. Eberhardt.

In 1914 the independent Starling-Ohio Medical College was transferred to Ohio State to become its College of Medicine. Several oculists urged the University to place the recently-started optometry program under the College of Medicine, and on January 18, 1915, a faculty group, the Committee on Instruction, approved such a recommendation for the two-year course but turned down the proposed four-year program on the grounds that it was partly vocational and not of sufficient importance. On January 23, Dr. Sheard appealed to President Thompson, pointing out that he had not even been consulted by the Committee. He submitted strong arguments against placing the program under medicine and recommended either a separate school or department, or affiliation with the College of Arts, Philosophy, and Science. Since Dr. Sheard had been a professor of physics, the courses in optometry were originally associated with the Physics Department, which was then part of the College of Engineering.

Dr. Sheard also argued for the importance of optometry, writing that "if a degree . . . should not be given because the work is not important, then all degree courses in dentistry, pharmacy, etc., should be revoked."

He further contended:

"We will set a precedent by the establishment of a degree course. Columbia led in the matter of a certificate course. The question arises, 'What is the function of a University?' Is it to wait until the public becomes thoroughly conscious of the fact that men are not being trained properly and to the best advantage before we turn out men with the full complement of scholastic training? Is Ohio State to wait until other colleges have established such degree courses and then fall into line, or shall it be the leader?"

In his letter of reply, President Thompson said that he was referring the proposal **back** to the Committee on Instruction. On motion of Professor of Mechanical Engineering William T. Magruder, a subcommittee on applied optics was appointed, with Professor of Psychology George F. Arps, as chairman. Professor Arps was also the chairman of the Committee on Instruction. Other subcommittee members were Professor Sheard, Professor of Preventive Medicine Eugene F. McCampbell (who one year later became Dean of the College of Medicine), Professor of Anatomy Francis L. Landacre, and Professor of Pathology Ernest Scott.

After a number of meetings and hearing of expert testimony, including that of Dr. Sloan and Dr. Eberhardt on behalf of optometry, Dr. Andrew Timberman, Professor of Ophthalmology, Dr. J. H. J. Upham, Professor of Medicine, and Dr. John E. Brown, Professor of Otolaryngology, the subcommittee on May 18, 1915, unanimously passed a motion that a "four-year curriculum in Applied Optics should be adopted." On May 21st, the report was approved by the Committee on Instruction.

The subcommittee report indicates that Dr. Timberman and Dr. Upham both supported the four-year curriculum. On the other hand, Dr. Brown felt that the four-year program was not warranted and that Applied Optics . . .

"should be confined to the refracting of the eyes with a vision of 20/30. He further maintained that the work in Applied Optics should be given as post-graduate work following the degree Doctor of Medicine. Your committee was unable to reconcile Dr. Brown's last statement 'that Applied Optics is post-graduate work' with his apparently strong inclination to limit the curriculum in Applied Optics to two years. In case the committee understood Dr. Brown, as stated above, then it may clearly infer that he holds the position that, either the students in Applied Optics should have a complete medical training, or, such students should relatively have no training in the medical sciences. The committee held that a middle-ground as between these two extremes adequately represented the needs of the students in Applied Optics. The Dental curriculum is illustrative of such a middle-ground position in which curriculum only such medical courses are selected as are cognate and germane to the work of the dental students."

In approving the degree program, the Committee on Instruction added the requirement that Dr. Sheard, with his academic background, be responsible for each of the courses in applied optics to insure that they were of university caliber even though some were taught by practicing optometrists of limited academic background.

The new degree program was approved by The Ohio State University Board of Trustees in time for the opening of the new academic year in September, 1915. The two-year certificate course was discontinued, with the exception that those who had enrolled in it the year before were given the second year.

Looking back, we can realize that the establishment of the four-year degree program was a major milestone in optometric history, for it was the first four-year degree program to train optometrists offered anywhere, and it was at a major university. The program led to the degree Bachelor of Science in Applied Optics from the College of Engineering, where it remained until 1937. It set a pattern for leadership which has continued in many ways.

Although the original proposals by Dr. Sheard referred to a curriculum in optometry as well as courses in optometry, the approved program emerged in a way that the word optometry was in no way used to describe the degree, curriculum, or any of its courses or their content until 21 years later. In agreeing to use the term applied optics within the University (although he continued to use optometry in much of his correspondence), Dr. Sheard conceived the idea of ultimately establishing a school of optics, which would teach all branches of optics, theoretical and applied, and would become the world's leading research center in optics and vision. He worked to develop such a center at Ohio State by later helping to establish within the Graduate School the Sheard Foundation for Research in Vision, which would help provide for its support.

Dr. Sheard was disappointed when only six students enrolled in the first class of the degree program, but he was encouraged by the opening of the clinics in optometry for the ten students taking the second year of the certificate course. They cared for 576 patients during the first year, about as many as now visit the College of Optometry clinics in one week.

In an effort to build support for the program and to attract more students, Dr. Sheard together with the Ohio Optical Association wrote a small promotional booklet, "Some Optical Rear-Sights, In-Sights, and Fore-Sights about the Ohio State University Course in Applied Optics," published in June 1916, after the ten (and only) two-year men received their certificates. Three of these men elected to remain to complete the four-year degree course, but on the whole enrollment continued low for the next few years, with the disruptions of World War I adding to the problem. There were no graduates of the degree program until 1918, when one man received the degree. The

next graduates, a class of eight, came in 1920. The new colleges of medicine and dentistry also had lowered enrollments during this period. However, the aspirations of Dr. Sheard and the Ohio Optical Association can be sensed in the following quote from the booklet:

"A few men in Ohio have had in the past years an optical vision, a dream of a University course in applied optics and optometrical science as an established part of collegiate instruction based upon and containing within itself the elements of solidity and strength and all that goes to make for true scientific and professional training. This dream became a reality in full when, in June, 1915, the University faculty of The Ohio State University favorably recommended to the President of the Board of Trustees the establishment of a four-year course in Applied Optics leading to a degree appropriate to the work. This recommendation and its subsequent acceptance by the University authorities established a new landmark in the onward progress of the science of visual optics; this action was unique in that the practices of ministering to the optical needs of an eye was a PROFESSION and NOT A TRADE. The highest honor was conferred upon optometry; it remains to be seen whether optometry was worthy of and desirous of such a recognition. Faith without works is dead -- enough said, for this portion of optometrical history is yet to be made and comes under our 'Foresight.'"

The booklet describes the courses and tells of the progress made during their first two years. It closes with an appeal for qualified students, an appeal which, while not urgent in 1969, is still meaningful in that any profession, optometry included, depends for its continuation and growth on attracting capable and dedicated young people to its ranks. The more qualified our new students, the more we can expect in ^Ffuture progress.

Excer^{pts} from the "Foresight" section of the booklet follow.

"In the words of Whittier, the poet, we can say, 'We know not what the future hath, Of marvel or surprise,' but we can surmise and work accordingly. We shall not allow this golden opportunity to slip through our fingers. Opportunity knocks but once at each man's door; this is the knock at the door of NATIONAL OPTOMETRY. We have hoped for the day to come when the educational opportunities now afforded us could be a reality.

WE HAVE THE REALITY - - shall we let it die because of lack of support and interest? Decidedly and emphatically, NO. What are we to do? First of all, we must provide some students . . .

We can further help by bringing to the attention of parents who come to us for our services the splendid opportunities of the future for young men and women in Applied Optics. . . . Preach the doctrine of a clean profession, of a profession based on science, of a profession that can conserve, as nothing else can, the most precious gift of vision. Raise the question, WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO WITH YOUR BOY? It is the most vital of all questions to a parent. Give them the answer. Your words of counsel and advice may lead to the ultimate production of a great von Helmholtz, a great Donders, a great Javal, yea, even greater than these, in the years when you and I are setting 'beside the silent sea waiting the muffled oar.' HAVE FAITH AND LET IT WORK. Be a Jacob of old, wrestle with the angel, vow 'I will not let thee go' and in the morning of life help rear this great and lasting living memorial established in our great University."

Even with Professor Sheard's major contributions to the establishment of the optometry program and his national reputation in visual science gained through research and publications, he was not immune to occasional criticism from his fellow optometrists. In July, 1915, shortly after approval of the degree program, Dr. Sheard heard rumors of dissatisfaction among Ohio optometrists as to how he was handling the program as well as suspicions that he was benefiting financially. Dr. Sheard responded with a letter to the committee of optometrists, and pointed out "that the request that you made that my salary be made \$2,500 has not, up to date, been granted. I wish to state here that financially I have not profited as much as I would have if I had remained a member of the Physics Department and I respectfully submit that my life for the past year would have been much pleasanter in many ways and I should have been spared hours of struggling and numerous attempts to land this proposition, as I finally succeeded in doing, against untold odds. In these attempts I was ably supported by several men in the state; I do not

claim all the credit by any means." Records show that Dr. Sheard's salary was \$2,200 as a professor of physics prior to 1914 and that it remained at this level for several years after the applied optics program was under way. Other criticism, including omission of names of optometrists from the new University bulletin, were answered.

"If the names of the lecturers had been included, the opposition would have battered away on that feature. I feel that you will appreciate the wisdom of 'growing in grace.' . . . I am stating these points frankly and in the hope that you will believe me sincere as I say I am in support of the proposition of turning out a high class of optometrists. I likewise believe that it is not asking too much of you and the men in the state to leave all such matters relative to the educational policy (making your suggestions as often and freely as you desire and at any time) to the man who knew when and how to install this work. . ."

In 1969, when optometric education in the U.S. has achieved goals that even as recently as 1950 would have been considered visionary, it is well for all optometrists to know that such progress has come because of the untiring efforts of many people. Future progress will require even more effort, but it can be achieved if all optometrists will take an active interest in the educational institutions and back them with substantial support, including financial.

Professor Sheard continued to head the program until 1919, when he accepted a position with the American Optical Company as head of its scientific bureau and editor of its American Journal of Physiological Optics. In 1924 he went to the Mayo Foundation, where he headed the program in biophysics. He retired from Mayo in 1949. Starting in autumn 1952 he served for a year as interim dean at the Los Angeles College of Optometry.

Sheard's interest in optometric education and research continued throughout his life, and he personally contributed a substantial sum to the

Sheard Foundation for Research in Vision, which was set up in 1944 by a number of his admirers in order to provide an endowment to assist vision research at Ohio State. Dr. Sheard served in the 1940's as a member and chairman of the AOA Council on Optometric Education, and actively promoted a five-year curriculum to lead to the professional doctorate. In 1957 he received the Tillyer Medal of the Optical Society of America. He was honored by the American Academy of Optometry, which in 1952 formed a committee to sponsor the publication of a collection of his writings, "The Sheard Volume," in 1957 and directed that profits from its sale be added to the Sheard Foundation at Ohio State. He died in 1963, a few days before the Ohio State University Faculty Council approved the six-year program leading to the Doctor of Optometry degree. In 1964 optometrists nationwide gathered funds for a painting of Dr. Sheard, which now hangs in the Topaz Library of the College of Optometry, in grateful appreciation of his role in establishing optometry at Ohio State and his efforts to advance visual science and its application to the needs of mankind.

Dr. Howard D. Minchin, who had received his Ph.D. in physics in 1906 from the University of Michigan, came from the University of Rochester in 1919 to head the Ohio State program as Professor of Applied Optics. With the end of World War I, enrollment increased somewhat, a total of 69 students receiving degrees during the 1920's.

Morgan C. Davies, a member of the class which received the Certificates in Applied Optics in 1916, was added to the faculty in 1920 as an instructor. In 1922 he received the B.Sc. in Applied Optics, having also apparently been a student. He remained an instructor until 1926, when he took up the study of medicine. He was replaced by Clarence R. Ellis,

B.Sc. in Applied Optics, Class of 1923. In 1928, Dr. Davies, who in the meantime had earned the M.D. degree, succeeded Dr. Minchin as director.

The faculty of the courses in Applied Optics also included members of other University colleges and departments who taught students in applied optics. It is of special interest to note that Samuel Renshaw, Ph.D., was listed on its faculty starting in 1925 as an Assistant Professor of Psychology. Alpheus W. Smith, Ph.D., was first listed on the applied optics faculty in 1928 as a Professor of Physics, although he had been on the physics faculty for some years. Both men played important roles in the continuing development of optometry at Ohio State.

From 1928 on, various optometrists were also listed in the bulletin as clinical assistants, starting with D. Orval Kraner, John Sherrard, William A. Sherrard, and Robert A. Hare.

Dr. Davies resigned the directorship in 1932 to devote full time to the practice of medicine and was succeeded by Dr. Ellis, who served as director until 1935 on a part-time basis while continuing his private practice of optometry. Dr. Howard F. Haines, a graduate in 1932, joined the staff as a clinical assistant in 1932, teaching a wide range of courses, including physiological optics. In 1933 Dr. Ellsworth E. Reese was made a clinical assistant.

The 1930's saw enrollment in optometry increased considerably, and during that decade there were 192 graduates, compared with only 78 from 1916 through 1929. However, the University administration felt that optometry had not made adequate academic progress, and was not making a sufficient contribution through research. Dr. Alpheus W. Smith, then chairman of the Department of Physics and later dean of the Graduate School, had helped his

department grow considerably in stature. Since optometry had come into the University through the Physics Department, it was his resolve that optometry show similar improvement. A committee was formed early in 1935 to find a new director who had research ability and a desire to move optometric education forward. Dr. Smith played a leading role in the search and was assisted by Dr. Renshaw of the Department of Psychology, known for his own research in visual perception. They consulted with various optometrists, including Dr. A. M. Skeffington of the Optometric Extension Program, who was also seriously considered for the job.

Dr. Renshaw recommended Dr. Glenn A. Fry, then a postdoctoral fellow in the Department of Ophthalmology at Washington University in St. Louis. He had in 1932 received his Ph.D. in psychology from Duke University.

Dr. Fry accepted the challenge and began his duties in the summer of 1935. Working with Professor Smith, Dr. Fry lost no time in establishing a graduate program leading to the M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in physiological optics, the first to be associated with an optometry program. He pursued research programs in various areas of vision and optometry, including color vision, accommodation and convergence and their relationship, ophthalmic optics, visual perception, especially as it relates to orientation of the person, and a variety of other areas. The first graduate students were Drs. Howard Haines, Herbert G. Mote, and Ellsworth Reese, who were awarded M.S. degrees in 1938 and 1939. The first student also to receive the Ph.D. degree in physiological optics was Dr. Henry W. Hofstetter, an optometry graduate in 1939, whose degree was awarded in 1942. The output of this graduate program helped to meet the pressing need for qualified faculty, not only at Ohio State but also at other schools and colleges of optometry

throughout the country, yet even today this need still remains a pressing one.

Meanwhile, Dr. Fry also carried a very full teaching load, and at one time or another taught almost every optometry or physiological optics course in the curriculum. He learned his subjects so well that he was able in 1937 to take and pass the Ohio Optometry Board examination, even though his original training was not as an optometrist.

Other major steps forward were taken after Dr. Fry came to Ohio State. In 1936, for the first time in their existence, the courses were called optometry instead of applied optics, and the University catalog specifically stated that the principal objective of the program was to train students for the practice of optometry. In 1937 the University gave its vote of confidence by establishing the School of Optometry within the College of Arts and Sciences. After 23 years at Ohio State, optometry had indeed come of age.

In 1939, following the original goal of leadership in optometric education, the curriculum was extended to five years, with one year of pre-optometry and four years in the School of Optometry. During World War II it was temporarily returned to four years. After the war ended, the five-year program was resumed, but with two years of pre-optometry and three years in the School of Optometry.

With the increased enrollments from the return of veterans, classes were expanded to 60 to help meet the demand for optometrists. Despite the low enrollment during the war, a total of 197 degrees were granted during the 1940's. In 1946 the clinics and laboratories were still largely in Mendenhall Physics Laboratory, as they had been since 1914, and the need for a building for optometry became so critical that Ohio optometrists took effective action.

The idea of raising funds for an optometry building had first emerged in 1940. This fund drive was originally set up as the Sheard Foundation Committee by Dr. P. C. Harris, of Columbus, its chairman, and Dr. Richard M. Hall, of Cleveland, its secretary. Others who were part of this original drive were Dr. H. Ward Ewalt, Pittsburgh, Dr. James Hammon, Vincennes, Indiana, the inventor of the Panoptik bifocal, and Dr. Emil Arnold, of Ann Arbor. However, it was Dr. Sheard's desire that any fund to honor him be an endowment to support research, rather than a building. In accordance with his wishes, the building drive was renamed the Optometry Development Fund. Since those funds collected at the war's end had not reached the goal, the Ohio State Optometric Association agreed to give the drive their full support. President Harold W. Oyster, Vice President Herbert G. Mote, Legal Counsel Ralph Wilkins, Dr. Henry W. Hofstetter of the faculty, and Dr. H. Ward Ewalt of Pennsylvania spent many a day touring Ohio and nearby states calling on optometrists and others for funds. They worked with the Ohio State University and its Development Fund, headed by Alumni Secretary John B. Fullen, and Herbert Decker, who served as the staff assistant for the fund drive. The drive raised over \$108,000, which was supplemented with a \$200,000 appropriation from the Ohio Legislature.

The completed Optometry Building was dedicated on June 10, 1951, and housed the administrative offices, classrooms, clinic, and the Lionel Topaz Memorial Library, established with an endowment from the Topaz family in memory of the founder of the Optometric Weekly. The new facilities and larger faculty allowed for continued improvement of the quality of the program, especially in clinical instruction, with special emphasis in such

areas as visual training, contact lenses, aniseikonia, and low vision. Particular assistance in the development of these areas was given by Professor Vincent J. Ellerbrock, who in 1946 had received his Ph.D. degree in physiological optics, the second to be awarded. He later was a major contributor to the continuing education program of the American Academy of Optometry, which was named in his memory after his untimely death in 1965.

The graduate program continued to make progress, although its emphasis, even as now, was on high standards rather than large enrollment. Those receiving M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in physiological optics from Ohio State have served as deans of three colleges of optometry, and have achieved distinction in clinical, academic, industrial, and military research. They have aided optometric education through teaching and writing, and have served the country and the profession in various offices, committees, and councils in the government and professional associations.

The School of Optometry continued to maintain some laboratories in the physics building. To consolidate the activities under one roof, the School of Optometry in 1957 received a \$600,000 state appropriation to expand its building. The four-story addition, fully air-conditioned, was put into use in 1961, and tripled the space, allowing for increased emphasis in clinical optometry as well as research.

During the late 1950's, the faculty and director of the School of Optometry, after careful study, concluded that optometric education now required a six-year program, with four years in the School of Optometry. A curriculum which would lead to the Doctor of Optometry degree was developed and submitted through University channels for approval. It received the full support of Dr. J. Osborn Fuller, then dean of the College of Arts and Sciences

and now president of Fairleigh Dickinson University, and was subsequently approved at a meeting of the entire faculty of the College of Arts and Sciences.

At the level of the Faculty Council, representatives from the College of Medicine questioned the adequacy of instruction in diseases of the eye and related courses, and they proposed a joint clinical program, operated under the supervision of the Department of Ophthalmology. A committee was formed by Dr. Frederic W. Heimberger, Vice President for Academic Affairs, to consider the matter. It consisted of Dr. Fry; Dr. Claude Perry, Professor of Ophthalmology; Dr. Eric Ogden, chairman of the Department of Physiology; Dr. Linden Edwards, chairman of the Department of Anatomy; Dr. Jorgen Birkeland, chairman of the Department of Microbiology; and Dr. Colin Macpherson, vice chairman of the Department of Pathology. An appropriate sequence of courses in anatomy, physiology, microbiology, and pathology was proposed, at the same general academic level as included in the dentistry curriculum and requiring the addition of organic chemistry to the pre-optometry curriculum. However, the idea of the combined clinical program between optometry and ophthalmology could not be put into effect because of wide differences in viewpoint.

There was considerable interest on the part of both ophthalmologists and optometrists in this program, since it would be the first program at a major state university to lead to the O.D. degree. After three years of committee consideration, Vice President Heimberger in November 1963 strongly recommended such a program at a meeting of the Faculty Council, and it was approved. University President Novice G. Fawcett, who had taken his undergraduate major in physics, endorsed the program, and in December it was

approved by the Board of Trustees.

The Ohio Legislature in 1963 established a Board of Regents to help coordinate higher education at the various state-assisted universities. The nine-member Board was appointed by Governor James Rhodes, and members chose Dr. Harold W. Oyster as their first chairman. Dr. Oyster, who from 1951 through 1964 served as a State Representative in the Ohio Legislature, also served from 1948 to 1964 as liaison officer from the Ohio State Optometric Association to the School of Optometry. He now is the Vice President for University Development at the University of Toledo. All new degree programs require approval of the Board of Regents, and the O.D. program in January 1964 was one of two receiving their first approval. It was put into effect with the class entering in 1964. The first O.D. degrees were granted in June 1966 to four graduates of the five-year curriculum who elected to take the sixth year. A total of 26 five-year graduates have taken the sixth year. The first class to enter the program received the degree in 1968, a group of 32. This class made the total number of graduates in optometry 1,054.

Although Ohio State graduates comprise only 5% of U.S. optometrists, they have accepted the responsibility of leadership in optometric activities at virtually all levels. At least ten state optometric associations have had Ohio State graduates as presidents, from California and Arizona in the West, to New York and Pennsylvania in the East, from Michigan and Wisconsin in the North, to Florida and Alabama in the South. Dr. H. Ward Ewalt served as AOA President in 1962-1963, and Dr. Henry W. Hofstetter serves currently.

In addition to Dr. Sheard, Dr. Richard M. Hall, Dr. H. Ward Ewalt, and Dr. Nelson E. Abrahamsen, Sr., have served as chairman of the AOA Council

on Optometric Education. Dr. Abrahamsen and Dr. Ewalt now both serve on the Dean's Advisory Committee of the College of Optometry, along with Dr. Oyster, Dr. Roger G. Boyd, and Dr. Wilbert Briggs. Other AOA committee chairmen and committee members are too numerous to include. Colonel John W. Sheridan, now retired, served as first Chief of the Optometry Section, Medical Service Corps, U.S. Army. Others have served as leaders in the American Academy of Optometry. In common with graduates of all colleges of optometry, they also serve by providing the high quality of optometric care for this country, as well as working to satisfy the still unmet needs for optometrists and optometric care. Optometrists themselves are the largest source of referrals of new students to schools of optometry.

In June 1966 Dr. Glenn A. Fry, whose researches in vision had earned him international recognition, through such honors as the Tillyer Metal the Prentice Medal, Lecturer of the British Optical Association, and the Apollo Award, was named one of ten Regents' Professors in the State of Ohio, the highest academic rank in Ohio. In August Dr. Frederick W. Hebbard, who since 1962 had served as Associate Director, was selected to succeed Dr. Fry. Dr. Hebbard had joined the faculty in 1957 after receiving his optometry and Ph.D. degrees from the University of California, Berkeley.

In 1967 another step forward was made when the Council on Academic Affairs, Faculty Council, and Board of Trustees approved college status for optometry, effective January 1, 1968. Dr. Hebbard was named dean.

An optometry alumni association was organized in 1966, and in 1968 it included among its projects the collection of funds for Doctor of Optometry academic gowns for graduates to wear at commencement. In appreciation, the Class of 1968, in recognition of its status as first to complete the six-year program and also the first to be graduated from the College of Optometry,

conceived the idea of presenting a class gift of a new nameplate for the building to bring it up-to-date with college status. It was installed shortly after their graduation.

Optometric education is made even more relevant to students through the excellent cooperation of the Ohio Optometric Association. For example, in 1962 they introduced a series of practice management lectures for seniors as well as an "internship" program, in which graduates spend a week each at two optometric offices, either after graduation or during the summer between the junior and senior years. A "Senior Day" is held, in which all seniors and their wives, whether from Ohio or elsewhere, are guests of the Ohio Optometric Association for a day of helpful lectures, concluding with a dinner at which many practicing optometrists are also present. Many optometrists who desire new associates are in contact with the College and its seniors, and it is now a fact that the supply of graduates is not nearly large enough to meet the requests.

With its facilities now greatly overloaded as a result of full enrollment and implementation of the six-year curriculum, the College of Optometry now is planning a much needed \$3,000,000 building expansion, which will enable it to increase enrollment to 72 members per entering class, will provide clinical facilities designed for changing modes of optometric practice, and will permit major expansion of research and graduate programs.

Facilities are important, but without an outstanding faculty they could not be effective. Today the College of Optometry has a dedicated faculty of international reputation, including eleven with the Ph.D. degree. The faculty numbers almost 60 in physiological optics and optometry alone, not

to mention those teaching courses in other departments within other colleges of the University. Over half are part-time faculty with highly successful practices, who serve as a mainstay of the outstanding clinical faculty.

Curriculum review is a continuous process, and the College has recently received approval for an advanced contact lens course, a course in public health and optometry, a second course in geometric optics, and an expanded series of clinical courses, as well as improved courses in anatomy and physiology of the eye. A new sequence of psychology courses is now in effect, which also requires a course in general psychology prior to admission.

Lectures on such topics as visual information processing, visual-motor coordination, human factors in vision, now a part of the curriculum, are a few examples of basic education for optometry of the future. These are built on a solid foundation of traditional and current courses in basic and clinical optometry and in visual science so that graduates can also step easily into the optometry of today.

The College of Optometry, as Ohio State University celebrates its centennial still stands dedicated to the principle set forth in 1914 by Dr. Sheard and his associates -- that of leadership in optometric education and research. Working with that goal, the College of Optometry, its faculty, students, and graduates will continue to strive to meet the needs of the future.