

# OUTLOOK



J O N E S   E Y E   I N S T I T U T E

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## AMD/Low Vision Awareness Month February 1 - 28



Macular degeneration, often called AMD or ARMD (for age-related macular degeneration), is a leading cause of vision loss and blindness, affecting 1.6 million Americans age 50 and older. More than 17,000 Arkansans have late-stage AMD, while hundreds of thousands more suffer from some form of the disease. The problem is growing: the National Eye Institute says that Americans with moderate to severe AMD will number 17 million by 2020, more than double the current figure.

Low vision is a term commonly used to mean partial sight, or sight that is not corrected with contact lenses or standard glasses. Vision is still functional but the degree of loss interferes with the ability to perform daily activities. The severity of the loss can be moderate to almost total blindness.

Low vision can be caused by an eye injury or various eye diseases. Common causes of low vision include:

- CATARACTS - causes vision to be hazy
- MACULAR DEGENERATION - effects central vision
- DIABETIC RETINOPATHY - causes distorted or blurred vision
- GLAUCOMA -loss in peripheral vision and difficulty seeing at night.



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## ALL EYES ON YOU – YMELDA ALDRIDGE



### ■ What music or books are you currently enjoying?

My music collection is mostly from the 80s, but I like all kinds of music. One of my favorite artists is Alanis Morissette. I enjoy reading short stories, mysteries and biographies.

### ■ Who has most influenced your life?

Probably my father, he taught me about compassion for others and being honest; plus I like the fact that he likes music too—he is always whistling a tune.

### ■ What inspires you?

I am inspired by laughter, enthusiasm, generosity, hospitality and music.

### ■ What is your favorite word?

Honesty

### ■ Tell us about your family.

I met Steven while we were both working at the post office in my home state of Texas. After six months of dating, we were married. We moved around quite a bit until we settled in his home state of Arkansas. We have been married for over 11 years. We both work for UAMS and our greatest happiness is our 6-year-old son Casey!

### ■ What can you not live without?

A good night's rest

### ■ What do you enjoy most about working at JEI?

Learning about the human eyes and all the wonderful, interesting people that help make my job busy and fun at the same time.

### ■ What do you enjoy most when you are away from work?

Dinner and a movie is what my family usually enjoys-- but I love to go roller-skating once in a while too!

### ■ Choose three dinner guests from any period of time. Who would they be?

Too many choices...I really don't know.

### ■ Where would you go on a dream vacation?

I would like for my family and I to take a comfortable and scenic train ride to Washington, D.C.; stay in a really nice hotel, try some great restaurants, see everything there is to see at the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History and visit all the historical districts. Of course this would take place when my son is old enough to appreciate it!

### ■ What do most people not know about you?

I don't know what day I was born. My (adoptive) parents gave me the DOB of July 31, 1969, so that's when I celebrate.



## RICHARD A. HARPER, M.D RECEIVES MEDICAL EDUCATION EXCELLENCE PROFESSORSHIP



Richard A. Harper, M.D. was recently invested with the Charles Hartzell Lutterloh and Charles M. Lutterloh Medical Education Excellence Professorship after being nominated by John P. Shock, M.D., and selected by a steering committee.

The endowed Lutterloh professorship is part of the Lutterloh Trust for the Advancement of Medicine, given to UAMS by Carroll Hartzell Lutterloh, widow and mother of two prominent Arkansas physicians. Established in 1998, Dr. Harper will serve as the 4th Lutterloh Professor to receive this 3-year award. Some nomination requirements include: full time faculty at or above the rank of an associate professor, proven record in medical education and potential to expand knowledge and innovation.

Dr. Harper was actively involved in reorganizing the GME committee at UAMS and helped create the current effective GME institutional oversight of all residencies and fellowships at UAMS. As a result of this reorganization, UAMS has become a national leader in GME, especially in the areas of implementing the ACGME general competencies and program evaluation.

As the Ophthalmology Residency Program Director at UAMS since 1997, Dr. Harper has implemented significant

new processes that have enhanced the program's effectiveness. He has actively guided the development of curricula and evaluation tools for the ACGME general competencies. One of these tools, the 360-degree global evaluation, was the subject of a poster that was presented at the American Academy of Ophthalmology (AAO) annual meeting in 2006. The development and implementation of another tool, a Mock Oral Exam, has resulted in one poster presentation and is the subject of two papers that are in preparation. His work in these areas has been recognized by UAMS with the Residency Educator Award in 2003 and 2005.

On the national level he has been an active part of the ophthalmology program directors community through the Association of University Professors of Ophthalmology (AUPO). As a result, he has made three presentations at the AUPO annual meeting, one presentation at the AAO, and was recently elected to the AUPO Program Director's Council. As a member of this Council, he was invited to give six presentations on various aspects of resident education at the 2007 Asia-Pacific Academy of Ophthalmology meeting in Lahore, Pakistan.

As Program Director, Dr. Harper is responsible for the scheduling and oversight of the overall lecture series. He is a faculty representative at our monthly Journal Club, and he reviews all of the resident research presentations each year prior to our department's Resident and Alumni Research Day. He has received the annual Faculty Teaching Award given by our department's residents five times for his teaching efforts. He teaches junior and senior medical students every six weeks in the neurosciences rotation and participates in the yearly ICM lab for second year medical students teaching direct ophthalmoscopy. He is an advisor for two to three students each year and currently serves on the thesis committee for one MD/PhD student. He has received the Red Sash Award five times in recognition of medical student teaching. Dr. Harper also gives several lectures

each year to our COMT students in the areas of genetics, low vision and optics. In teaching outside the department, he provides the ophthalmology review for the USMLE step 2 review course each year and has been a judge for the Department of Pathology Resident Research Day for several years. He recently gave a grand rounds presentation at the Arkansas State Health Department on Age-Related Eye Diseases.

As the Lutterloh Professor, Dr. Harper will have a special interest in pursuing new curricular and evaluation tools to address the ACGME General Competencies in resident education. Specifically, he would like to implement new surgical training tools utilizing virtual reality technology.

- He has received the annual Faculty Teaching Award given by our department's residents five times for his teaching efforts.

## ■ JEI GOES RED FOR WOMEN

To celebrate the kick-off of the American Heart Month and National Wear Red Day on Friday, February 1, JEI staff wore red in support of women's heart health.

A contest between the employees was held of those who wore the most red. Dr. Joseph Chacko served as the judge and awarded Luci Vega a \$25 gift certificate to Walmart for wearing a red purse, red cell phone and a red candy cane in her pocket.



### MICHAEL N. WIGGINS, M.D. RECOGNIZED AT THE CHANCELLOR'S FACULTY TEACHING AWARD CEREMONY

A Chancellor's faculty teaching award ceremony was held on Tuesday, February 19 on the 12th floor of the Jack T. Stephens Spine Center to honor the distinguished recipients of 2006-2007. Dr. Michael Wiggins was one of 10 recipients to receive this award and has recently been recommended by the Promotion and Tenure Committee for promotion to Associate Professor with tenure on July 1, 2008.

Dr. Wiggins has been working with resident physicians as the associate residency director and director of refractive surgery. He has also been teaching ophthalmic medical technology students in the College of Health Related Professions. He founded and is the editor-in-chief of the only scientific journal for ophthalmic medical personnel, the Journal of Ophthalmic Medical Technology ([www.JOM-Online.com](http://www.JOM-Online.com)). This journal has been accessed over 110,000 times in countries all over the world.

Dr. Wiggins became interested in educational research through the Teaching Scholars Program, and has authored publications in peer-reviewed Ophthalmology journals on topics such as informed consent, professionalism and, most recently, oral examinations in residency training.

### PLEASE JOIN US IN WELCOMING OUR NEWEST OPHTHALMOLOGY RESIDENT, SWETANGI BHALEEYA, M.D.



Dr. Bhaleeya received her medical degree from UAMS in 2006. Some of her awards and achievements include: Alpha Omega Alpha in 2005, 1957 Alumni Scholarship in 2005, 1976 Alumni Scholarship in 2004, Barton Foundation Scholarship in 2003, Alpha Chi National Honor Society in 2002, Phi Beta Kappa in 2002, Who's Who Among Students in American Universities in 2001, and Best Chemistry Student in 1999.

Some of her public service activities include: Westside Free Clinic, Rural Youth Outreach Program, Fighting AIDS Through Education (F.A.T.E), Medical Applications of Science for Health (MASH), Honor Council, American Medical Student Association, Destination Service, and various other volunteer activities.

Dr. Bhaleeya enjoys cooking, drawing, traveling, Indian folk dancing, Tibetan Buddhism and Tibetan Medicine in her spare time.

## VALENTINE FACTS

- 15% of U.S. women send themselves flowers on Valentine's Day.
- About 1 billion Valentine cards are exchanged each year.
- About 3% of pet owners will give Valentine's Day gifts to their pets.
- California produces 60 percent of American roses, but the vast number sold on Valentine's Day in the United States are imported, mostly from South America. Approximately 110 million roses, the majority red, will be sold and delivered within a three-day time period.
- Hallmark has over 1,330 different cards specifically for Valentine's Day.
- In the Middle Ages, young men and women drew names from a bowl to see who their valentines would be. They would wear these names on their sleeves for one week. To wear your heart on your sleeve now means that it is easy for other people to know how you are feeling.
- It wasn't until 1537 that England's Henry VIII declared St. Valentine's Day an official holiday to be celebrated on February 14.
- Only the U.S., Canada, Mexico, France, Australia and the U.K. celebrate Valentine's Day.
- Teachers will receive the most Valentine's Day cards, followed by children, mothers, wives, and then, sweethearts. Children ages six to 10 exchange more than 650 million Valentine's cards with teachers, classmates and family members.
- The first photograph of a U.S. President was taken on February 14, 1849 by Matthew Brady in New York City. President James Polk was the subject of the famous picture.
- The first televised tour of the White House aired on February 14 in 1962. First Lady Jackie Kennedy hosted the tour.



## 42nd Annual Association of University Professors of Ophthalmology Meeting

John Shock, M.D. and Richard Harper, M.D. recently attended the 42nd annual Association of University Professors of Ophthalmology meeting. The annual meeting, held in Sarasota, Florida this year, included workshops, presentations, research seminars, awards presentations and symposiums.

Dr. Harper currently serves as a member on the AUPO's Program Directors Council. Dr. Shock served as chair of the search committee in 2004 that resulted in the selection of a new executive vice president of the AUPO. Dr. Bartly J. Mondino, professor and chairman of the Department of Ophthalmology and director, of the Jules Stein Eye Institute at the University of California, Los Angeles has just completed his third year as executive director.

## Calendar of Events, Birthdays and Anniversaries

February 2 – Tina Faulkner

February 2 – Cynthia Bond

February 5 – Jennifer Sauer

February 15 – Bhairavi Kharod

February 16 – Judy Sims

February 19 – Teresa Otts

February 22 – Donna Mattingly,  
UAMS 3 year anniversary

March 7 – Susan Zimmerman,  
UAMS 9 year anniversary

March 8 – Shirley Hankins,  
UAMS 15 year anniversary

March 11 – Dr. Amar Safar

March 13 – Pam Whitlock

March 14 – Dr. John Shock

March 17 – Dr. Gissur Petursson

March 17 – Angie Eubanks

March 18 – Ruby Varela

March 20 – Dr. Inci Dersu

# March

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