

## The Pediatrics, Optometric Vision Therapy & Rehabilitation Programs at the Southern College of Optometry

**Marc B. Taub, OD, MS, FAAO, FCOVD; Glen Steele, OD, FAAO, FCOVD**

*Southern College of Optometry*

Founded in Memphis, Tennessee in 1932, Southern College of Optometry (SCO) ranks as one of the nation's leading institutions of optometric education. Students and faculty enjoy the opportunity to learn and practice optometry in The Eye Center, one of the largest and most clinically advanced vision and eye care centers in the country. Over 70,000 patients receive care at The Eye Center every year. Our students benefit from hands-on learning as they accompany faculty on community outreach initiatives at school vision screenings and regional health care settings. SCO students also travel abroad to take eye care to those in need around the globe.

At SCO, introduction into the world of binocular vision and pediatrics begins in the first year of didactic work. Overall, there are seven courses in the disciplines, which make up 20.5 credit hours in the curriculum. The seven courses include 16 lecture and 9 laboratory hours. (See Table 1)

Visual Sensation & Perception is taught in the spring of the first year by Patricia Cisarik, OD, PhD. Areas discussed in the course include: neurophysiology of the visual system, psychophysical methodology and its applications in research and the clinical setting, clinical electrophysiology of the visual system, visual perception (including light and dark

adaptation), color vision (including the diagnosis of color vision deficiencies), spatial vision (including visual acuity and hyperacuity, contrast sensitivity), temporal aspects of vision (including processing time, temporal interactions, flicker sensitivity, and motion perception), cognitive aspects of vision (including object recognition, visual illusions and visual attention) and the effects of development, aging, and disease on visual function.

Ocular Motility is also taught in the spring of the first year by Paul Harris, OD, FCOVD, FACBO, FAAO. Topics covered include: the neurophysiology and control systems of eye movements, kinematics and actions of the extraocular muscles, relationship of eye movements to visual perception, disorders of the oculomotor system, and the diagnosis and treatment of eye movement anomalies.

Instruction on the Foundations of Binocular Vision is performed in the fall of the second year. Taught by Patricia Cisarik, OD, PhD, subjects covered in this course (and in the textbook by Scott Steinman, OD, PhD, FCOVD-A) include: psychophysical and physiological bases of binocular vision to include visual direction, binocular correspondence, retinal disparity, the horopter and aniseikonia, physiological diplopia, binocular fusion and sensory adaptation to abnormal binocular conditions, including suppression, rivalry, binocular confusion and anomalous correspondence. Coverage of each topic stresses clinical diagnosis of binocular visual disorders. In addition, the course covers the development of binocular vision and amblyogenesis, including the diagnosis of amblyopia in infancy and childhood by psychophysical and electrodiagnostic means and the treatment of amblyopia.

Following completion of these foundation courses, the following courses are taken beginning in the fall of the second year. For 35 years, Al Fors OD, FAAO, FCOVD has taught Pediatrics. In 2008, Daniel Smith, OD, FAAO joined as course lecturer

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**Table 1: Coursework at Southern College of Optometry.**

| Course                          | Semester Taught | Credit Hours | Lecture Hours | Lab Hours |
|---------------------------------|-----------------|--------------|---------------|-----------|
| Visual Sensation and Perception | 1st year-Spring | 5.5          | 4.5           | 2         |
| Ocular Motility                 | 1st year-Spring | 1.5          | 1.5           | 0         |
| Foundations of Binocular Vision | 2nd year-Fall   | 2.5          | 2             | 1         |
| Pediatric Optometry             | 2nd year-Fall   | 3            | 2             | 2         |
| Vision Therapy                  | 2nd year-Spring | 3            | 2             | 2         |
| Strabismus and Amblyopia        | 3rd year-Summer | 2.5          | 2             | 1         |
| Vision Rehabilitation           | 3rd year-Summer | 2.5          | 2             | 1         |

and Janette Dumas, OD, FCOVD as lab instructor. In this course, students are taught the diagnosis, management and treatment of refractive conditions, binocular disorders and eye diseases common in infants and children. Specifically, the course covers the schema of normal growth and development, with an emphasis on expected vision development from birth throughout childhood, and strategies and procedures for treatment to maximize visual potential.

Vision Therapy is taught by David Damari OD, FCOVD, FAAO and Marc B. Taub, OD, MS, FAAO, FCOVD. The topics covered in this course range from accommodation to ocular motor deficiency to sports vision and acquired brain injury. Emphasis is placed on case demonstration as a means to understand the impact of vision therapy. Dr. Janette Dumas teaches the hands-on laboratory portion of this course, in which students are taught not only how to use equipment in testing but how to use it to provide therapy.

In Strabismus and Amblyopia, students learn to both diagnose and treat each of the subject conditions with an emphasis on vision therapy. Drs. Al Fors and Janette Dumas teach this course, which includes a laboratory.

Taught by So Yeon (Sharon) Lee, OD, FAAO, Vision Rehabilitation covers the etiology and epidemiology of vision impairment. Specifically, the course content includes the prescription of optical and non-optical devices used in the management of the low vision patient and the examination, treatment and management of patients with reduced vision.

Starting as early as their second year, student interns begin seeing patients in The Eye Center. Their

main role is to perform ancillary testing on patients, including autorefraction, lensometry and blood pressure, among other activities. In their third year, students begin rotating through both the Pediatrics and Vision Therapy and Rehabilitation (VTR) services.

In many colleges of optometry, pediatrics and vision therapy are a combined service. At SCO, this is not the case. In 2004, vision therapy and pediatrics were separated into two distinct services. In dividing the two services, clinic administration's goal was to create a new identity for vision therapy as a place not only to treat children, but all patients who have a need for the service. Administration also sought to create a continuum of treatment for patients with vision rehabilitative needs, such as those with profound visual impairment or those who have experienced a brain injury. Ultimately, this split was the first of three steps taken to create the VTR service.

SCO took the second step toward creating the VTR service in May 2009. Due to the departure of both the low vision and vision therapy service chiefs, the two services were combined to create the VTR service. After an exhaustive national search, Dr. Marc B. Taub was named the first chief of the department.

The third and final step in the process, the creation of a clinical course, was completed in May 2010. For the first time, fourth year students received a clinical grade specific to the VTR service. Previously, grades for low vision and vision therapy were included in other clinical courses.

The VTR service includes seven traditional examination rooms and separate areas for motor activities, perceptual activities and low vision demonstration. While patients are seen throughout

the day for evaluations and therapy, about half of all therapy is performed after the end of the school day. Therapy is scheduled in 45-minute time slots that include time for demonstration of home activities to parents or guardians. All evaluations and therapy sessions are entered into the electronic medical record system by using mini-notebooks that connect wirelessly. This technology allows students to move from one area to the other freely.

Previously paired with vision therapy, the pediatric primary care service continues to flourish under the supervision of Dr. Dan Smith. In June 2010, Dr. Glen Steele stepped down as chief of the service after serving for 25 years. Dr. Smith brings 14 years of experience in both private practice and a hospital setting and 2 years on the pediatric faculty of SCO to the position. Pediatric primary care includes eight examination rooms, sees pediatric patients up to the age of 13 and remains the primary referral source for patients seen in the VTR service.

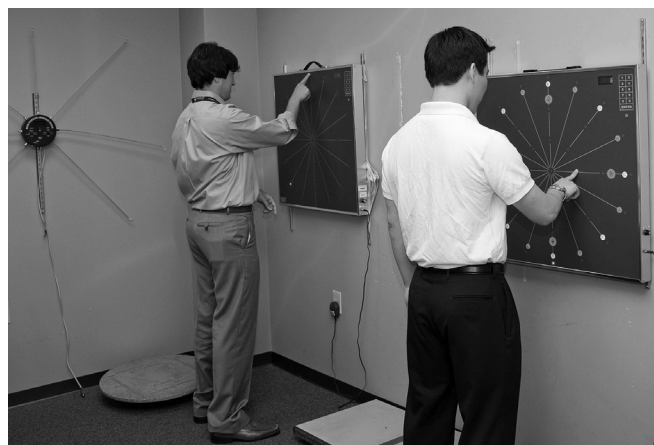
In the third year, students spend one day per week in blocks of 3-4 weeks in the VTR service, which allows them to learn from several different doctors with varying philosophies. The same students spend one day per week in the pediatric service in the spring semester. These experiences are invaluable, because students spend two-thirds of their final year at private practices and institutions throughout the country. In the fourth year, students spend one semester, or approximately 15-16 weeks, on campus. During that time, one day per week is spent in each of the Pediatrics and VTR services.

The creation of the VTR clinical course has prompted changes in assignment for both third and fourth year students. Previously, third year students were the main vision therapists and fourth year students provided most of the evaluations in the vision therapy department. Under a system that launched in Summer of 2010, both sets of students perform the evaluations and therapy. As the majority of therapy is performed after the school day ends, fourth year students perform the therapy at that time, which allows the same student to see the same patient for an unprecedented 15-16 straight weeks. This change in scheduling led to improved continuity of care for patients, students and staff doctors. The importance of this change cannot be understated.

Both the VTR and Pediatrics departments are strong, thriving and growing. A total of 5081 unique, individual patient encounters were recorded for the



*The vision therapy room at The Eye Center at Southern College of Optometry.*



*The motor activity in vision therapy houses the Wayne saccadic fixator, Marsden ball and a large chalkboard.*



*The low vision demonstration room contains CCTVs, hand-held electronic magnifiers, and items to improve activities of daily living.*

VTR service for the fiscal year 2009-2010. This represents a 68.50% increase in patient encounters over fiscal year 2005-2006 and a 7% increase over 2008-2009. This includes approximately 3,400 vision therapy sessions as well as Sensorimotor and/or Visual Perceptual/Developmental Evaluations (CPT 92060, 96116, 96111, 97532, 97533), office visits (920XX, 9920X, and 9921X) and low vision consultations

(92004, 92014, 99204, and 99214). Likewise, the Pediatrics service had 5,546 patient visits in fiscal year 2009-2010. This continues an upward trend that has seen the department grow 40.38% since fiscal year 2005-2006 a 5% increase over the previous year.

The faculty in SCO's VTR and Pediatrics services is perhaps the finest at any college of optometry. The faculty boasts two past presidents of the College of Optometrists in Vision Development (COVD), the editor of a major optometric journal, the current President-Elect of COVD, the current Chair of InfantSEE®, the current vice-president of the Optometric Extension Program Foundation (OEPF), ten Fellows of the College of Optometrists in Vision Development, and ten Fellows of the American Academy of Optometry. The faculty also has authored over 150 articles, collectively.

### **Pediatric Vision Therapy and Rehabilitation Faculty**

#### **David A. Damari, OD, FAAO, FCOVD**

Dr. Damari is a Professor at SCO and Chair of the Department of Assessment, which is responsible for institutional review, measures of academic outcomes and quality assurance in the curriculum. He is a Fellow and President Elect of COVD, a Fellow of the American Academy of Optometry (AAO), and a faculty associate of OEP. He completed the fellow-in-residence program at the National Board of Examiners in Optometry, he has served on several committees. He teaches or has taught Optometric Theory and Methods, Vision Therapy, Pediatric Optometry, Neurological Eye Disease, and Strabismus and Amblyopia courses at SCO. He still sees patients at least one half day a week at The Eye Center.

Dr. Damari is the consultant on visual disabilities to many national and state testing and licensing boards, including the National Board of Medical Examiners, the National Board of Osteopathic Medical Examiners, the CFA Institute and the Graduate Management Admission Council. He wrote the chapter on visual disability in the book *Accommodations in Higher Education under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)*, edited by Michael Gordon and Shelby Keiser (GSI/Guilford, 1998).

Before his tenure at SCO began in 1997, Dr. Damari was a private practitioner in Rochester, New York, helping hundreds of patients meet their visual needs in education, athletics and the workplace.

Before he started the Rochester practice, he was an associate with Drs. Nathan Flax and A.M. Rappaport in Garden City, New York. He graduated and completed a residency in Vision Therapy at SUNY College of Optometry.

#### **Janette Dumas, OD, FCOVD**

Dr. Dumas is an Assistant Professor at SCO. She received her Doctor of Optometry degree from University of Missouri-St. Louis College of Optometry in 2003. She then completed her residency in Pediatric Optometry at SCO in 2004, after which she was appointed to the Faculty in July 2004. Currently, she is the instructor for Optometry Theory & Methods IV, the Vision Therapy Laboratory and serves as co-instructor for Strabismus and Amblyopia. She is active in clinical research and has lectured at national and regional meetings. Her professional affiliations include the AOA, the National Optometric Association (NOA), the Tennessee Optometric Association (TOA) and COVD.

#### **Tressa Eubank, OD, FAAO, FCOVD**

Dr. Eubank, who holds the rank of Professor, served as Chief of Low Vision Rehabilitation Services at The Eye Center (TEC) at SCO from 1993 through 2005. A 1974 graduate of Indiana University's School of Optometry, Dr. Eubank has been with SCO since



*Drs. Tressa Eubank, Daniel Smith and Al Fors.*

1988. She has 15 years of prior experience in private practice, including 10 years as adjunct professor and clinical consultant at Western Michigan University. She holds Optometric licensure in Tennessee and Mississippi, and has privileges at two local hospital-based rehabilitation centers.

Since 1997, Dr. Eubank has been instrumental in obtaining financial assistance grants to benefit the visually impaired. Grants provide services for low vision evaluations and devices, the provision of transportation and referral for non-optometric vision rehabilitation services. In addition to receiving grant funding, Dr. Eubank led a community-wide effort to establish a referral network of agencies known as Vision Quest to assist individuals with vision impairment in improving their quality of life through low vision rehabilitation.

Dr. Eubank is now establishing a vision rehabilitation program for persons having an acquired brain injury and stroke. Professionally, Dr. Eubank is affiliated with the AOA, AOA Low Vision Section, TOA, AAO, is an associate of the OEPF and a Fellow of COVD. She also serves as consultant for bioptic driving for the Tennessee and Mississippi Departments of Safety. Dr. Eubank has presented numerous posters and lectures on the clinical practice in the areas of low vision, vision in the classroom, and functional vision consequences of acquired brain injury.

### **Al Fors, OD, FCOVD**

Dr. Fors, Professor, earned his BS and Doctor of Optometry degree from SCO (1969). Dr. Fors completed the E.B. Alexander Fellowship at Gesell Institute of Child Development (1971) in New Haven, Connecticut. He is a Fellow of COVD and is an associate of OEP. At SCO, Dr. Fors teaches the Pediatrics and Strabismus and Amblyopia courses and sees patients in both the Pediatrics and Vision Therapy clinics. He is the faculty supervisor for SVOSH and the SCO Lions Club. He has traveled to over 10 countries across the globe with SVOSH. In 2004, Dr. Fors received a lifetime achievement award from SCO for over 35 years of service to the college.

### **Paul Harris, OD, FCOVD, FACBO, FAAO**

Dr. Harris is a 1979 graduate of the State University of New York, College of Optometry. He practiced in the Baltimore metropolitan area before joining SCO in the Fall of 2010. He is a fellow of COVD, the AAO and the Australasian College of Behavioral Optometry (ACBO). He has published two series for the OEPF, an organization that he currently serves as Vice President. He also served on the COVD board of directors as the At-Large Regional Director (1998-99).

Dr. Harris is an accomplished author and has participated in several research projects. The Optometric Editor's Council in 1983 voted his series, "Unique Services and Your Success", the best non-technical article. Dr. Harris also authored the award winning *Journal of Optometric Vision Development* (JOVD) article, "Toward a Unified Theory of Vision" in 1993. In 2003, COVD awarded him with the Skeffington Award, which recognizes an individual for a body of published work in the field.

In 1991, Dr. Harris began his teaching career as part of the Baltimore Academy for Behavioral Optometry (BABO), the mission of which was to help expand the quantity and quality of behavioral optometric care available to the public. These courses are now part of the OEPF's educational base and are known as the OEP Clinical Curriculum, which provided hands-on small-group post-graduate clinical education in the field of behavioral vision care. Over 1000 optometrists and vision therapists in the US and abroad have taken part in one or more of these courses.



*Dr. Cynthia Heard shows the proper use of a CCTV in the low vision demonstration room to a patient and students.*

### **Cynthia G. Heard, OD, FAAO**

Dr. Cynthia Heard received her Doctor of Optometry degree in 1992 from The Ohio State University College of Optometry. She completed a postgraduate residency in Geriatric Vision and Visual Rehabilitation at the Birmingham VAMC, which is affiliated with the University of Alabama at Birmingham School of Optometry.

Dr. Heard is currently an Associate Professor of Optometry at SCO. Her professional areas of interest are diabetes patient education, nutrition and eye health, ocular disease management, vision care for

individuals with behavioral conditions, and visual rehabilitation. In 2005, she authored *The Optometry Drug Guide: Informed Decision-Making at the Point of Care*, which is updated annually.

Dr. Heard is a member of the AOA, NOA, TOA, Optometric Retina Society, and a Fellow of the AAO. She is currently a Council on Optometric Practitioner Education (COPE) Reviewer, SCO Vision Therapy & Low Vision Rehabilitation Residency supervisor, and Chair of the ASCO Diversity and Cultural Competency Committee.

Dr. Heard received the Epsilon Psi Epsilon Outstanding Clinical Instructor Award in 1997 and the NOA Optometrist of the Year in 1998. She has served as a clinical and senior examiner since 2001 for the National Board of Examination in Optometry Clinical Skills Examination. Dr. Heard served as Central Ohio Optometric Association Zone Governor in 2002. She was the 19th NOA President from 2003-05. Dr. Heard has lectured to medical support groups, civic organizations, and at local and national professional meetings on numerous topics that include her areas of professional interest.

### **So-Yeon (Sharon) Lee, OD, FAAO**

Dr. Lee joined the Faculty at SCO in July 2007. After receiving Doctor of Optometry degree from Illinois College of Optometry in 2006, she completed a one year residency training in Low Vision & Rehabilitation at SCO. She became a Fellow of the AAO in 2009. Dr. Lee teaches in both clinical and didactic settings at SCO. She provides clinical care in the VTR and Adult primary care clinics. She is also the instructor for the lecture and lab portions of the Vision Rehabilitation Course and co-instructor of a Theory and Methods Lab. Dr. Lee has presented posters at national conferences and lectures at local meetings. She is a member of the AAO, AOA, and TOA.

### **Willis C. Maples, OD, MS, FAAO, FCOVD, FACBO**

Dr. Maples, a professor of optometry at SCO, earned his BS (Geography and Chemistry) in 1964 from the University of Southern Mississippi in Hattiesburg, MS. He earned his Doctor of Optometry degree from SCO (1968). Dr. Maples practiced in south Mississippi for 12 years, specializing in children's vision and vision therapy. In 1979 he earned a MS degree in community Health Education



*In 2010, the WC Maples Scholarship for Clinical Excellence in Vision Therapy was created. Pictured from left to right are Drs. Karen Kehbein, Ashley Reddell, David Damari, Marc Taub, Janette Dumas, WC Maples, Tressa Eubank, Glen Steele and Al Fors.*

from the University of Southern Mississippi. He is a Fellow of COVD, ACBO and AAO. Dr. Maples has been active for 36 years in the AOA and has served on numerous AOA committees at the national level. He has also been active in the OEP Foundation for 36 years.

Dr. Maples has served in all the offices of the COVD including holding the position of president. He was awarded by the A.M. Skeffington Award by COVD for his contributions to the behavioral literature in 2000 and the Skeffington-Alexander Award at the International Congress of Behavioral Optometry in 2010. Most recently, the W.C. Maples Scholarship for Clinical Excellence in Vision Therapy was dedicated in his honor at SCO. He was chief of the vision therapy clinic for 17 years at College of Optometry Northeastern State University in Tahlequah, OK.

He has written more than 70 articles and is actively pursuing research in the areas of visual epidemiology, refractive errors, oculomotor dysfunction, strabismus, learning disabilities and brain injury. Dr. Maples is the current editor of the Journal of Behavioral Optometry for OEPF. He has lectured extensively in the United States, Australia, New Zealand, Central America, South America, Asia and Europe.

### **Anna Schlesselman, OD, MS**

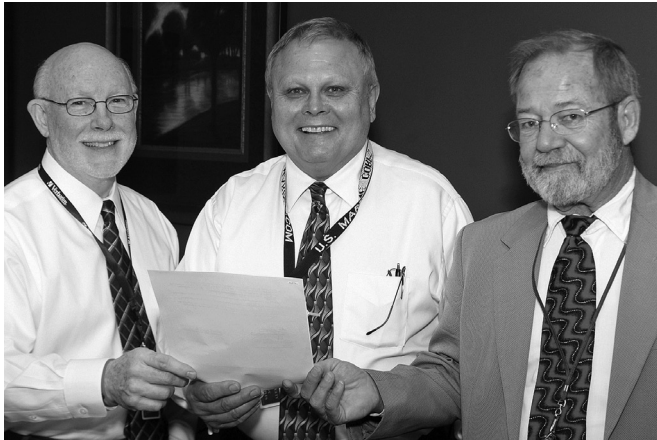
Dr. Schlesselman received her Doctor of Optometry degree in 2007 from The Ohio State University. She also received a Masters of Vision Science degree from The Ohio State University in 2007. Her postgraduate residency in Primary Care was completed at the Albuquerque Veterans Affairs

Medical Center, affiliated with the University of Houston College of Optometry.

Dr. Schlesselman holds the rank of instructor at SCO. Her professional areas of interest include ocular disease management, primary care, and binocular vision.

### **Glen Steele, OD, FCOVD**

Dr. Steele is a clinical Professor and recently stepped down as Chief of the Pediatric Service at The Eye Center at SCO after serving in that capacity for 25 years. He also has a private practice emphasizing the eye and vision care needs of the infant and child. Dr. Steele is a past president of the COVD and the Optometric Extension Program Foundation. He is currently chair of the AOA InfantSEE® Committee. He has lectured extensively throughout the USA



*In 2008, the Glen Steele and Al Fors Scholarship in Pediatrics was created. Pictured from left to right are Drs. Glen Steele, WC Maples and Al Fors.*

and internationally in the area of infant vision development and care.

Dr. Steele was selected Tennessee's Optometrist of the Year in 1999 and also as one of Optometric Management's Top Ten Optometrists of the Decade in 2000. He was the first chair of Operation Bright Start - Tennessee, a program to emphasize the need for eye and vision care of the infant. In 2001, he received SCO's Lifetime Achievement Award. In 2005, Dr. Steele was presented with Vision Service Plan's Southeast Regional People First Award. In 2005, he received the G.N. Getman Award from the College of Optometrists in Vision Development for service to the profession and, in particular, a concern for all children. In 2006, he was presented with a resolution by the American Optometric Association

House of Delegates for his work in InfantSEE®. In 2008, a Developmental Vision Endowed Scholarship at SCO was established jointly in his name along with Dr. Allen Fors, OD, FCOVD. In 2010, Dr. Steele was awarded the Prevent Blindness Tennessee Lifetime of Service Award for Optometry.

### **Daniel Smith, OD, FAAO**

Dr. Smith is an assistant professor and Chief of the Pediatric Primary Care service. He received his B.S from Bob Jones University in Greenville, SC. He earned his Doctor of Optometry from SCO in 1994 and completed a residency in Pediatrics at Children's Mercy Hospital in Kansas City, Missouri in 1996. Dr. Smith joined the faculty at SCO in 2008. Prior to his tenure at SCO, Dr. Smith provided vision care in his private office in Lawrence, KS, and at the Department of Ophthalmology at the Children's Mercy Hospital in Kansas City, MO.

Dr. Smith has been published in peer-reviewed journals such as the *American Journal of Ophthalmology and Pediatric Neurology*, as well as, professional magazines including *Missouri Medicine and Optometric Management*. His current interests include long term ocular complications secondary to systemic pediatric anomalies, pre and post-operative strabismus management and amblyopia management. His professional affiliations include the AOA, and the state associations for Tennessee and Kansas. In 2009, he became a Fellow of the AAO.

### **Scott Steinman, OD, PhD, FAAO, FCOVD-A**

Dr. Steinman has been an optometric educator, researcher and computer programmer since 1981. He has published two textbooks, four book chapters and dozens of research and computer publications. He is a graduate of the SUNY College of Optometry, and the University of Houston's Ph.D. program in vision science, studying under Dennis Levi. He did his post-doctoral fellowship at the Smith-Kettlewell Eye Research Institute. Dr. Steinman has served as the Chair of the Vision Science Section of the AAO, Chair of the Electrodiagnostics Diplomate Examination Committee and Co-Chair of the ASCO Informatics SIG. He has received the COVD Award for Outstanding Contributions to the Science of Vision and the Rachel C. Atkinson Award for Eye Research. Dr. Steinman was an Assistant Professor of Ophthalmology and Anatomy & Physiology at the Washington University School of Medicine,

where he designed and engineered their infant vision testing clinic.

Dr. Steinman has written over seventy computer programs for teaching vision science and scoring vision therapy eye movement and perceptual tests. He is a scientific consultant for Diopsys Inc., manufacturers of electrodiagnostic testing equipment, and a programming consultant to Bernell Vision Therapy Products.

### **James E. Venable, OD, FCOVD**

Dr. Venable joined the faculty at SCO as an Assistant Professor in January 2004 and serves as Executive Director of The Eye Center at SCO. He is a 1989 graduate of SCO. An accomplished speaker and specialist in pediatric vision care, he lectures frequently throughout the Southeast. Dr. Venable holds Fellowship status in COVD and the Tennessee Academy of Optometry, is Past-President of the TOA and was the TOA's 2005 Optometrist of the Year. Dr. Venable concentrates his practice in the special needs of preschool and school-aged children. His special interests are in the areas of learning-related vision disorders, strabismus and amblyopia. He provides clinical care in the Pediatric Primary Care and Vision Therapy Services and provides didactic instruction in 1st, 2nd, and 3rd professional year courses. His current courses include: Introduction to Optometry, Vision as A Correlate for Learning and guest lectures in Pediatric Primary Care, Vision Therapy and Strabismus and Amblyopia.



*Dr. Marc Taub demonstrates the use of the vectograms to two students in vision therapy.*

### **Marc B. Taub, OD, MS, FAAO, FCOVD**

Dr. Marc Taub is an Assistant Professor and Chief of the Vision Therapy and Rehabilitation Service at The

**Table 2: The Residency in Pediatrics and Vision Therapy.**

- Provide vision care to a large number of patients from varied socioeconomic and cultural backgrounds
- Participate in direct patient care in the Pediatric and Vision Therapy Services
- Supervise third and fourth year students in the Pediatrics and Vision Therapy Services
- Participate in Emergency Care services
- Participate in Community Outreach Program which includes vision screening at local area public and private schools
- Interact with other health care professionals including ophthalmology, pediatric ophthalmology, neurology, occupational, physical and speech/language therapy and reading specialist
- Provide consultative services to SCO faculty and other health care and education professionals
- Attend national and state conferences including but not limited to the College of Vision Development, American Academy of Optometry and American Optometric Association
- Participate in research and article authorship with SCO faculty
- Lecture in related courses and participate in laboratories related to those courses

Eye Center at SCO. He earned his BA in 1997 from Washington University in St. Louis, MO. He earned his Doctor of Optometry degree in 2001 from the Pennsylvania College of Optometry in Philadelphia, PA. Dr. Taub completed a residency in Primary Care Optometry with an emphasis in Pediatrics (2003) at Nova Southeastern University in Ft. Lauderdale, FL. He earned a Master's of Science in Clinical Vision Research at Nova Southeastern University in 2010. He is a Fellow of the AAO and the COVD and is a clinical associate of OEP.

Dr. Taub teaches in the Vision Therapy clinical courses and is currently active in clinical research including being an investigator in the PEDIG amblyopia studies. Other areas of research include attention and vision, eye movements and the efficacy of vision therapy. He also serves as the supervisor for the residency program in Peds/VT at SCO. He is currently the assistant editor for *Optometry & Vision Development*, the journal of COVD and is on the review board of the *Journal of Behavioral Vision*, the journal of OEP as well as *Optometry Times*. He has written numerous peer-reviewed articles. Dr. Taub

**Table 3: The Residency in Vision Therapy and Low Vision Rehabilitation at SCO.**

- Provide vision care to a large number of patients from varied socioeconomic and cultural backgrounds
- Participate in direct patient care in the Low Vision and Vision Therapy Services
- Participate in direct low vision patient care at off campus clinic locations
  - Star Center-Jackson, TN
  - Clovernook Center for the Blind-Memphis, TN
  - Memphis VA Hospital-Memphis, TN
- Supervise third and fourth year students in the Low Vision and Vision Therapy Services
- Participate in Emergency Care services
- Participate in Community Outreach Program which includes vision screening at local area public and private schools
- Interact with other health care professionals including ophthalmology, pediatric ophthalmology, neurology, occupational, physical and speech/ language therapy and reading specialist
- Provide consultative services to SCO faculty and other health care and education professionals
- Attend national and state conferences including but not limited to the College of Vision Development, American Academy of Optometry and American Optometric Association
- Participate in research and article authorship with SCO faculty
- Lecture in related courses and participate in laboratories related to those courses
- Advocate for patients requesting services or accommodations under various federal laws, including Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, and the ADA Amendments Act.

has lectured and presented posters at international, national and local conferences.

### Residency Programs

The largest growth area in the SCO residency program comes in the areas of pediatrics and vision therapy. There are ten residency positions in nine programs. Two college based programs, Pediatrics/ Vision Therapy/Low Vision area available.

The Residency in Pediatrics and Vision Therapy, first created in 1981 is under the supervision of Dr. Marc B. Taub and provides advanced training in the care of pediatrics using vision therapy as a treatment modality for various vision disorders. Residents gain

extensive experience in the diagnosis and management of anomalies of binocular vision and assessment of vision function. Specialty areas of infant vision, strabismus, amblyopia, visual perception, vision therapy, pediatric eye disease, head trauma, special needs and electrodiagnostic techniques are explored. Residents work with other optometric specialties including contact lens, low vision and ocular disease, as well physicians, educators, psychologists, and other professionals in a diverse assortment of clinical and educational settings. This program is flexible and is adjusted to meet the resident's needs and desires. The graduates of this residency program are in private practice and teaching at optometric institutions across the country. SCO currently has two residency positions for this program. The Residency in Pediatrics and Vision Therapy affords the resident the following opportunities found in Table 2.

The Residency in Vision Therapy and Low Vision Rehabilitation at Southern College of Optometry was created in 2010 and is truly one of kind. Under the supervision of Drs. Cynthia Heard and David Damari, it provides advanced training in the care of low vision patients as well as using vision therapy as a treatment modality for various vision disorders. Residents gain extensive experience in the diagnosis of ocular disease, management of patients with low vision, anomalies of binocular vision and assessment of vision function. Specialty areas of brain injury, neuro-rehabilitation, strabismus, amblyopia, visual perception, electrodiagnostic techniques are explored. Residents work with other optometric specialties including contact lens, pediatrics and ocular disease, as well physicians, educators, psychologists and other professionals in a diverse assortment of clinical and educational settings. This program is flexible and is adjusted to meet the resident's needs and desires. The Residency in Vision Therapy and Low Vision Rehabilitation affords the resident the following opportunities found in Table 3.

Because of the vision and foresight of Dr. WC Maples, the first Private Practice Vision Therapy residency was created in 2007 at the office of Dr. Stanley Applebaum in Bethesda, MD. Since that time, six more programs have been created at the following offices:

- Dr. Pat Pirotte-Wichita, KS
- Dr. Bradley Habermehl-Flint, MI
- Dr. Barry Tannen-Hamilton Square, NJ
- Dr. Leonard Press-Fairlawn, NJ

- Dr. Dan Fortenbacher, St. Joseph, MI
- Dr. John Abbondanza, Southborough, MA

These private practices residency programs offer the opportunity for increased clinical knowledge and the chance to learn the business side of running a practice that includes vision therapy. Each residency supervisor is a Fellow of the COVD and is considered a leader in the field of vision therapy. The goal of these programs is simple: produce well versed clinicians that will incorporate vision therapy into their practices.

As the importance of residencies continues to grow in the optometric profession due to board certification and specialization, there will be a need for an increased number of residency programs and positions. SCO has stepped up to the plate by expanding both and has done so in a variety of specialties. In the areas of pediatrics and vision therapy, SCO offers quality alternatives and offers the optometric community a glimpse at the future of residencies. Please contact the Director of Residency Programs at SCO, Dr. Cheryl Ervin (cervin@sco.edu) if you would like to learn more about how your office might become our next residency approved program.

### Externship Program at SCO

If it were not for dedicated and willing colleagues who choose to serve optometry as mentors to our future colleagues, the externship program would not be possible. Because our academic year is divided into three semesters---or trimesters---each student is assigned to one semester in the on-campus facility and two at externship sites.

One of a student's assignments will be to a "full-scope" private practice, and the other assignment will be to an institutional setting, such as a VA, Indian Health Service or military hospital. SCO also utilizes co-management centers and large multi-disciplinary practices as institutional sites. Under the direction of Dr. Cheryl Ervin, the externship program has increased the opportunities for students to participate in offices that provide vision therapy, but also provide a broad range of services such as contact lenses, disease management, dispensing. We are happy to include the offices of:

- Drs. Carol Scott-Springfield, MO
- Jason Clopton-Cookeville, TN
- Neil Draisin-Charleston, SC
- Lynn Hellerstein-Denver, CO
- Jerri Schneebeck-Centennial, CO

- Charles Shidlofsky-Plano, TX

Many others as options are available for the students from which to select. Please contact Dr. Ervin (cervin@sco.edu) directly if you would like to participate in this wonderful program.

### Conclusion

As early as the first semester of optometry school, students at SCO begin their journey into the world of pediatrics and vision therapy. Starting with classroom work in the first year and progressing through the clinical experience on campus, at externships and finally arriving at the residency program, SCO has compiled one of the most complete programs in the country in the area of pediatrics and vision therapy. Since our faculty have extensive and broad based didactic and clinical experiences, SCO is able to provide incredible care for the patients and instruction to its students. Keeping in mind the changes that have occurred in only the past few years at SCO in this aspect of the program, the sky is the limit as to what the future holds.

## Call for Photos

***OVD* needs your help!**

***You* are in a great position to take the photos we use for our *OVD* covers.**

Photos may pertain to content within the current issue or the field of eye and vision care.

Suggestions for subject matter:

- Vision Therapy sessions
- Staff receiving training
- Therapy done at home
- Consultations
- Visually observable symptoms

... or any relevant interactions between doctors, staff, patients. Photos may be conceptual or representational.



See the Call for Photographs section for submission guidelines and more information.

***Please contribute!***