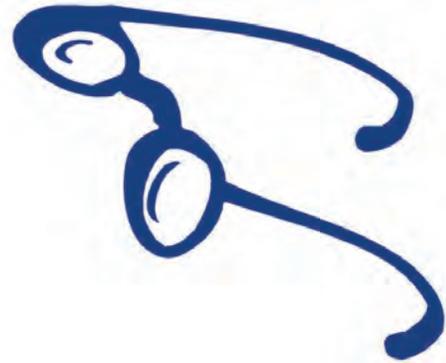


# The Spectacle



A publication of the

## *Minnesota Lions Vision Foundation*

**Minnesota Lions Eye Bank**

**Lions Children's Eye Clinic**

**The MAC**

**Used Eyeglass Recycling**

**Fund to Prevent Blindness  
in Infants & Children**



*Winter 2011*

## **Pledge Helps Move and Equip Lions Children's Eye Clinic**

In October of 2010, the Minnesota Lions Vision Foundation launched a new \$3 million Lions' initiative: the **Fund to Prevent Blindness in Infants and Children**. To date, Lions have donated half that amount, and the results are tremendous.

At the top of the wow list is the new Lions Children's Eye Clinic, now located next to the Amplatz Children's Hospital in Minneapolis. The pediatric ophthalmologists, orthoptists, optometrist, low-vision therapist, and all the staff are delighted with the new facility, and doctors talk of "a new era in pediatric eye care and research—thanks to the Lions." Here is what they have to say:

- Everything is new, which makes coming to work so pleasant.
- The lobby is larger, and patients and their families have plenty of room to wait in comfort.
- There are twice as many exam rooms, so we can help more children.
- The equipment is state-of-the-art, allowing for the best care available.
- The clinic now has a lighting alert system, which allows us to examine more patients, more efficiently.
- We have a scheduling room that lets families schedule surgery or follow-up treatments in privacy.
- There is more office space and a conference room.
- The Lions' presence is everywhere!

**Pledge** continued on page 2

## Pledge continued from previous page

The Fund to Prevent Blindness also supports pediatric research projects. For example, doctors are trying to determine the best medical and surgical treatment of exotropia (eyes deviating outward). They are studying albinism (the absence or reduction of pigment), infant cataracts, and retinopathy of prematurity. They are trying to develop effective chemotherapy for retinoblastoma (cancer of the eye) and develop drugs that can improve amblyopia (lazy eye) in



older children.

So much of this work is made possible by Minnesota Lions, and the new clinic emphasizes its connection with the Lions in many ways: the brass name plaque and the stone Lion head (moved from the old clinic), the prominent name above the admitting desk, and picture after picture of lions (large and small).

Every single visitor to the clinic sees the tremendous effort that Lions make to help children see.



## Vision Foundation Board Assists With Grants

The Minnesota Lions Vision Foundation, a 22-person board with representation from each Minnesota Lions district, regularly awards grants that benefit the Minnesota Lions Eye Bank, the Department of Ophthalmology at the University of Minnesota, and the Lions in general. Some of the grants approved this fiscal year include:

- **Konan Eye Bank-10 Specular Microscope:** An indispensable piece of equipment for any eye bank, a specular microscope evaluates the cornea, counts its cell density, and measure its thickness.
- **Renovation of Eye Bank Lab Area:** Renovated space will enable the eye bank to: offer training that must be done within a lab area (because involving human tissue); maximize

use of lab space for implementing new technical innovations; and support expansion of research tissue preparation and partnerships with other educational institutions.

- **Funding to establish the Lions Advanced Retinal Imaging Center:** The center will have two retina imaging devices unique to Minnesota and rare in the country.
- **Haag-Streit BX900 Photo Slit Lamp:** This slit lamp microscope will capture high quality, digital photographs for corneal evaluation and employee and professional education.
- **Funding to establish the International Journal of Eye Banking:** See page 3.
- **Start up Costs for Minnesota Lions Eyeglass Recycling Center:** See page 3.

## Eyeglass Collection Center Opens in Minnesota

Minnesota Lions have been collecting used eyeglasses since 1992, and they now have a collection center of their own! Endorsed by Multiple District 5M and part of the Lions Clubs International Eyeglass Recycling Center program, the Minnesota Lions Eyeglass Recycling Center (LERC) in Sauk Rapids is open for business.

The LERC is operated by the Sauk Rapids Lions Club and is located at 1220 Frost Road NW in Sauk Rapids. Lions and community members are welcome to drop off or send glasses to this location. The LERC is a collection site only, and not a processing center, so used eyeglasses from Minnesota will continue to be transported to the Wisconsin Lions Foundation Eyeglass Recycling Center in Rosholt, Wisconsin, to be processed. This foundation provides eyeglasses for Lions' missions, as well as outreach by other organizations such as Feed the Children and VOSH (Volunteer Ophthalmic Services to Humanity).

For more information on the Minnesota Lions Eyeglass Recycling Center, contact PDG Lion Robert Hoofnagle at 320-266-1611 or [vettman90@charter.net](mailto:vettman90@charter.net).



## Minnesota Lions Eye Bank Develops Journal: Will Benefit Eye Banking Worldwide

Minnesota Lions Eye Bank is launching a new and invaluable tool for the world of eye banks: The *International Journal of Eye Banking*. This journal will publish professional, scholarly articles on all facets of eye bank-



### International Journal of Eye Banking *Philosophy*

- Encourage open and free access
- Uphold an independent voice
- Adhere to the highest content standards and publishing practices
- Achieve rapid publication of relevant, timely content
- Encourage participation by eye bank professionals around the world
- Welcome debate and discussion to advance the profession
- Provide educational opportunities
- Share best practices
- Archive important information about the practice of eye banking
- Connect the community and its resources

ing, ranging from original research to technical updates to best practices.

“Eye banks and their services are unique,” said Lion Jackie Malling, Minnesota Lions Eye Bank CEO and journal editor-in-chief, “and they deserve and need an independent voice. The journal provides an eye banking-specific forum that will promote information exchange and help eye banks worldwide collaborate to adopt advances in eye banking and related research.” All facets of eye banking, from regional standpoints to specialty perspectives will be represented.

The Minnesota Lions Eye Bank, a unit of the University of Minnesota’s Department of Ophthalmology, will publish the journal, in cooperation with the Eye Bank Association of America. The journal’s editorial board is currently comprised of 15 members from the world’s eye banking community, and more members are being added.

The first issue of this open-access online journal will appear in 2012. For more information, contact the managing editor at [editor@eyebankingjournal.org](mailto:editor@eyebankingjournal.org) or visit [EyeBankingJournal.org](http://EyeBankingJournal.org).

# Spotlight on Volunteers

## Frank Lorenzo Honored with Betty Walen Volunteer Award

On October 29, 2011, at the annual *Thanksgiving for Vision* celebration in Brooklyn Center, the Minnesota Lions Eye Bank bestowed the Betty Walen Outstanding Volunteer Award on **Lion Frank Lorenzo**. A member of the Saint Anthony Lions Club, Lion Frank is richly deserving of the honor.

Frank was officially introduced to the Minnesota Lions Eye Bank when he became treasurer of their board of directors in 2000. Not too long after, Betty Walen became too ill to do everything she had previously done for the eye bank, and Frank volunteered to take over some of her office duties.

Frank began managing the eye bank accounts, sharing his expertise as a CPA. He volunteered to work eye bank events, representing the eye bank, the board of directors, and Lions Clubs International. He began visiting the eye bank at



*Frank Lorenzo and Betty Jane Walen at Betty's 90th birthday celebration.*

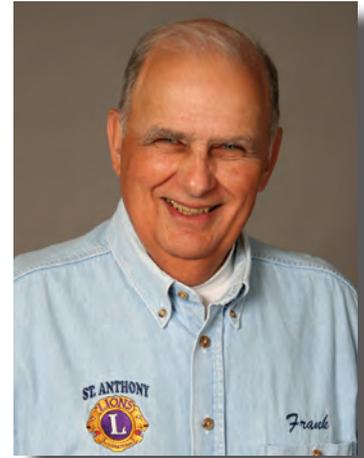


*Lion Frank and his wife, Lion Roberta, pose with Goldy Gopher at Eastcliff where they commemorated the launch of the Lions Fund to Prevent Blindness in Infants and Children, July 31, 2010.*

least weekly, sometimes daily. Always offering, always with an intelligent eye to what might be helpful, Frank became more and more valuable to the Minnesota Lions Eye Bank.

Today, Frank has given thousands of hours of volunteer time to the eye bank and its board of directors. Of almost equal value is the advice and wisdom he shares. His knowledge of all things Lions, in particular, is extraordinary and has served the eye bank well. Frank was instrumental in chartering the Minneapolis Ambassadors Lions Club at the University of Minnesota and remains a guiding Lion for its members. This club has given the eye bank and the department of ophthalmology a better presence among Lions members and a better understanding of the Lions drive to serve.

Frank is honest, hardworking, and generous. He is passionate about his call to service as a Lion. His devotion to the Minnesota Lions Eye Bank makes the organization a better partner in service—to the community, to the state, and to the world.



*Lion Frank Lorenzo, winner of the 2011 Betty Walen Volunteer Award.*

### Betty Walen Outstanding Volunteer Award

To pay tribute to a remarkable volunteer, Minnesota Lions Eye Bank established the **Betty Walen Volunteer Award** in 2009. The award honors those who demonstrate exceptional commitment, service, creativity, cooperation, or leadership while volunteering for the Minnesota Lions Eye Bank.

#### Honorees

- 2009 - Betty Jane Walen
- 2010 - Lion Robert S. Becker, Jr.
- 2011 - Lion Francis "Frank" Lorenzo

# Spotlight on Volunteers

## A Salute to Lions All-Star Baseball Organizers

*Baseball coaches from Midwestern universities and colleges sit near the baselines and chat with scouts from major league teams. Stopwatches start precisely with the crack of the bat and stop when the player steps on first base. In just one weekend coaches and scouts get to observe the 80 best baseball players among Minnesota's recent crop of high school graduates. As a result, players from towns big or small get scholarship offers or professional baseball contracts. In the history of the Lions High School All-Star Baseball Tournament, 26 players have gone on to major league careers. Four of these players are wearing World Series rings.*

For 37 years, the Lions High School All-Star Baseball Tournament has offered up entertainment for fans, opportunities for players, coaches, and scouts, and support for the Lions Children's Eye Clinic at the University of Minnesota. The first two benefits are vast but not directly measurable. The third is more easily quantified and reveals an astounding total of more than \$390,000 raised to help children enjoy a lifetime of sight.

Three Lions, in particular, have made this multifaceted benefit a reality: Lion Bill Bard of Sauk Rapids, Lion Jerry McCauley of Saint Paul, and Lion Bob Wharton of Mounds View. Together, they create a memorable and magical experience for all involved.

"We try to make it more than just a weekend of baseball for these kids," said Jerry McCauley, longtime Lions club member and one of the tournament's founders. "We take them to the University so they can hear what the Lions do for the Minnesota Lions Eye Bank and the Lions Children's Eye Clinic. We eat all of our meals together and stay in the same hotel. By the tournament's end, a real camaraderie develops."

"If this tournament existed only for the kids, that would be enough," said Lion Bob Wharton, another of the tournament's founders. "But the event also raises a lot of money for

volunteering at the games. "We have a small group of volunteers planning the event, but we have a lot of Lions that show up every year on game days to sell programs, t-shirts and tickets,"

said Lion Bill Bard, who has been instrumental in the tournament for many years. "At the heart of this tournament is a commitment to the Lions Children's Eye Clinic and a love for high school baseball. A lot of Lions share that."

A plaque on the wall of the clinic reads: "A quarter century of great baseball has raised over



*Lions Bob Wharton, Bill Bard, and Jerry McCauley.*

the Lions Children's Eye Clinic." And the list of beneficiaries is even broader. The Lions of Minnesota enjoy an association with a top quality event; the public is treated to a weekend of excellent baseball; and small town players from greater Minnesota, many of whom are never seen by a college scout at one of their home town games, get to see how they stack up against the city kids.

Lions members statewide support the tournament by purchasing tickets, buying ads in the program (ads are the single greatest source of tournament revenue) and

\$175,000 for the Lions Children's Eye Clinic at the University of Minnesota."



*Lion Bill Bard (right) and 2011 Sauk Rapids High School all-star Brett DeGagne and family.*

## Minnesota Lions Eye Bank Now on Facebook: You Like?

Minnesota Lions Eye Bank has now added Facebook to its electronic portfolio. You will find donor stories, recipient anecdotes, eye health tips, and all the latest eye bank news on the newly-launched Facebook page <http://www.facebook.com/minnesotalionseyebank>.

If you are a Facebook participant, please become our friend. And remember to “like” us!

## Support Donation During National Eye Donor Month

March is National Eye Donor Month, a time to raise awareness about eye donation and cornea transplants. You can help spread the word.

If you are someone who has been touched by eye, organ, or tissue donation or transplantation, please share your story. Give a talk at your local church, temple, mosque, school, community center, or to your own club. Contact your area’s TV and radio



stations and newspapers. Minnesota Lions Eye Bank can provide you with speaker materials and updated information about eye donation.

Encourage your family and friends to make a decision about donation.

People who choose to be donors

may list their decision on a driver’s

license, a state identification card, or a donor registry site such as [www.DonateLifeMn.org](http://www.DonateLifeMn.org).

For more information, contact Lion Sara McFee at 612-624-8952 or [mcfee004@umn.edu](mailto:mcfee004@umn.edu).

## Department of Ophthalmology Welcomes New Chair



Fredericus (Erik) van Kuijk, M.D., Ph.D., assumed the reins of the University of Minnesota’s Department of Ophthalmology on October 1, 2011. Dr. van Kuijk (rhymes with Mike, but you can call him Dr. Erik) succeeded Dr. Jay Krachmer, who retired after leading the department for 19 years.

A retina specialist, Dr. Erik earned both his M.D. and Ph.D. (biochemistry) from the University of Nijmegen, the Netherlands. He completed his internship, residency, and fellowship at the University of Texas Medical Branch, Galveston, where he was a professor in the Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences before coming to Minnesota.

Dr. Erik is very excited to be here in Minnesota, working at the University of Minnesota. He is pleased to be in a department that works hard at patient care, as well as both basic and clinical science research.

The Vision Foundation works closely with the Ophthalmology chair, and board members are delighted that Dr. Erik is already a Lion. Lion Erik was inducted into the Minneapolis Ambassadors Lions Club at the annual Thanksgiving for Vision celebration on October 29, less than a month after moving to Minnesota. His partner in service, Virginia van Kuijk Brooke, soon followed suit and is now a Lion as well. Welcome, Lion Dr. Erik!



*International Director Lion Brian Sheehan (left) inducts Dr. Erik van Kuijk into the Minneapolis Ambassadors Lions Club at the 2011 Thanksgiving for Vision celebration. Also pictured is Lion Erik’s sponsor, Lion Jennifer Marshall.*

# Department of Ophthalmology News

The Department of Ophthalmology at the University has three areas of focus: patient care, education, and research, and every member of the Ophthalmology team, from faculty to administrators to technicians, is committed to providing the best eye care for patients, to discovering new treatments, and to educating the next generation of eye care professionals. Here are a few campus updates.

## New Faculty

The Department is pleased to welcome two new doctors to its team.

**J. Douglas Cameron, M.D., M.B.A.**, began work at the University in June and heads up the new General Clinic, as well as the Ocular Pathology Service at the University of Minnesota. He received his medical degree from Northwestern University Medical School and his MBA from the University of St. Thomas. Dr. Cameron completed residencies at the Scheie Eye Institute, the University of Minnesota, and Hennepin County Medical Center. Fellowships in ocular pathology were done at the Scheie Eye Institute and the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology.

**Michael A. Page, M.D., M.A.**, joined the department in September as Assistant Professor of Cornea, External Disease, and Refractive Surgery. Dr. Page received his medical degree from the University of Michigan Medical School and his M.A. in Sociology from Stanford University. He was an ophthalmology resident and a cornea, external disease, and refractive surgery fellow at the Casey Eye Institute in Portland, Oregon.

## Ophthalmology Department Fast Facts

- ☞ Becomes its own department in 1955
- ☞ Gets its first full-time chair in 1969
- ☞ Has 19 department faculty members, 10 teaching hospital faculty members, and 6 faculty members with joint department appointments. Many faculty members are involved in research, including 4 basic scientists
- ☞ Offers services in Cornea and Refractive Surgery, Glaucoma, Neuro-ophthalmology, Oculoplastics, Pediatrics and Strabismus, Vitreoretinal, and Pathology
- ☞ Has a General Ophthalmology Clinic and a Genetics Eye Clinic

## Doctors Speak at Lions Symposium

Ophthalmology faculty presented at the annual *Thanksgiving for Vision* celebration on October 29, 2011. The doctors generously shared their knowledge and expertise with 300 Lions and other guests at the 2-hour pre-lunch symposium. New department chair, Lion Erik van Kuijk, M.D., Ph.D., moderated the event.

In the course of the symposium, each presenter made it very clear that Lions support plays a huge role in the work accomplished, whether that work be research or patient care.

### *Thanksgiving for Vision Symposium*

**Lion Ching Yuan, Ph.D.**, Assistant Professor and Director, Corneal Dystrophies Laboratory

#### **2011: A HAL Odyssey**

Dr. Yuan talked about the use of the synthetic chemical Halofuginone in treating fibrosis in the eye.

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**Michael Page, M.D., M.A.**, Assistant Professor

#### **A Better Fit: Femtosecond Laser-Assisted Corneal Transplantation**

Dr. Page examined the merits of a new method of performing cornea transplants.

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**Lion Deborah Ferrington, Ph.D.**, Associate Professor, Departments of Ophthalmology and Biochemistry, Molecular Biology and Biophysics

#### **Using Human Donor Eyes to Study Age-Related Macular Degeneration**

Dr. Ferrington explained her research on how proteins and mitochondria are affected in AMD.

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**Lion C. Gail Summers, M.D.**, Professor, Departments of Ophthalmology and Pediatrics, and Director, Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus

#### **A New Era in Pediatric Eye Care and Research**

Dr. Summers offered a virtual tour and update on the new Lions Children's Eye Clinic at the Park Plaza Building.

**Minnesota Lions Eye Bank**  
**University of Minnesota**  
**1000 Westgate Dr Ste 260**  
**Saint Paul, MN 55114**

**The Spectacle** newsletter is a publication of the Minnesota Lions Vision Foundation sent to Minnesota Lions club presidents and other Lions leaders. Contact the editor with your questions and comments.

Articles are available in alternate formats and may be copied with attribution to the Minnesota Lions Vision Foundation.

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## Calendar

**2012**

*March*

National Eye Donor Month

*Saturday, March 24*

Lions Tours of the University - Minneapolis

*Saturday, March 31*

Minnesota Lions Vision Foundation Board Meeting - St. Cloud

*April 15*

Eye Donor and Family Recognition Program - Saint Paul

*April 27 - 29*

Multiple District 5M Convention - Hinckley

*June 22 and 23*

Lions All-Star Baseball Tournament

*July 14*

Minnesota Lions Vision Foundation Board Meeting - Twin Cities

*Saturday, September 29*

Lions Tours of the University - Minneapolis

*Saturday, October 27*

Thanksgiving for Vision - Brooklyn Center