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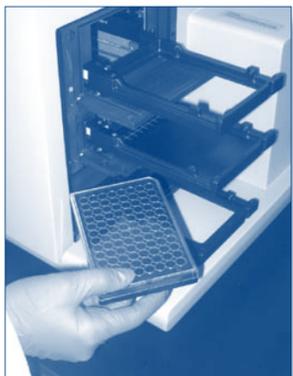
## Lions Clubs International Foundation Comes Through Again

Ground-breaking research and unparalleled clinical care begin with dedicated faculty, technicians, and personnel. Sustaining this kind of excellence demands the acquisition of new equipment to ensure doctors and patients have access to state-of-the-art techniques and care. This year, the Ophthalmology and Vision Science Department worked closely with the Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF) to receive a \$160,000 matching grant.

The FlexStation 3 Microplate Reader will revolutionize how researchers screen for new pharmaceutical drugs, drastically accelerating the rate at which possible treatments for glaucoma and age-related macular degeneration can be tested. Moreover, the Microplate Reader allows greater flexibility with experimental design, promoting newer and more creative ways to experiment with compounds on cultured cells.

Two devices for clinical care, the HRT3 Tomographer and the Dynamic Contour Tonometer, will provide better

information for clinicians and better care for patients. The HRT3 Tomographer is a state-of-the-art imaging device for the optic nerve, allowing clinicians to more accurately assess the progression of glaucoma.



The Dynamic Contour Tonometer directly measures pressure in the eye (no “puff of air”) and incorporates new technology that measures the pressure in the eye without the influence of the thickness of the underlying cornea, allowing clinicians to measure the pressure of the eye faster, with more precision, and with increased safety and patient comfort.

This recent matching grant from LCIF is the third of its kind to the Department over the past 10 years. Remarkably, all of the equipment purchased with these funds remains in good condition and in use in

research laboratories. With these tools, faculty can maintain their world-class status and continue their remarkable service to the Arizona community. Deep gratitude extends to every Lion in Arizona for making this research possible.

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# AN EYE TO THE FUTURE NEWS

RESEARCH • EDUCATION • PATIENT CARE

Winter 2008

## High School Teachers Endow First Chair in Ophthalmology!

As high school teachers in Phoenix, the late Murray and Clara Walker devoted their lives to the service of others. With no children of their own, the couple's students were their family. It is no surprise that two teachers so passionate about education would want to leave a lasting legacy. The Walkers invested more than \$2.5 million of their life savings in research at The University of Arizona College of Medicine. Their estate gift to the UA Foundation created endowed chairs in ophthalmology and respiratory sciences.



Murray and Clara Walker

The Murray and Clara Walker Memorial Endowed Chair in Ophthalmology is a permanent fund that will produce an annual payout to be expended in support of ophthalmology research. Joseph Miller, MD, MPH, professor of ophthalmology and head of the Department of Ophthalmology and Vision Science, said that the Walker gift “...shows that people who work in education value the university and trust the faculty to see that their goals are met, even when they are gone. It will be an honor to help the Walkers achieve this dream.”

The Walkers shared a home on Missouri Avenue in central Phoenix and lived a very simple life that was enriched through their lives as educators. “She loved the University

and had a big heart for education,” said Ida White, Clara's caretaker until her passing in September 2006. Mrs. Walker was born in Willcox, Ariz., and graduated with her bachelor's degree in education from The University of Arizona. She taught history, government and economics at West Phoenix High School until her retirement in 1969. Many former students have very fond memories of her curly brown hair, broad smile and ever-present string of pearls.

Murray Walker was born in Willow City, Texas, and was a World War II Air Corps

veteran. Following his years in the service he served as a firefighter before attending Arizona State University to study secondary education. He taught biology at Carl Hayden High School. Always well-dressed in jacket and tie with a fresh crew cut, he was both respected and beloved by his students.

“As teachers, I think the Walkers understood the connection between new knowledge and the betterment of human life,” said Daniel Stamer, PhD, professor of ophthalmology and vision science at the College of Medicine. “Here at The University of Arizona we have a talented group of vision scientists studying the major causes of blindness in both children and adults. This gift will help make their lives brighter.”

## Cecile Moore- A Coin and a Confession

When asked about the basis of her and her husband Frank's generous support of eye disease research over the years, Cecile Moore responds that they shared a deep and abiding passion for research that improves sight and hearing. She goes on to further explain the genesis of their generosity by recalling two stories that kindled their impulse to help those threatened with deafness or blindness.

The first story touched Cecile deeply when she was a small child. As a Chinese refugee in Hong Kong, 5 year-old Cecile remembers looking down onto the street from her family's window trying to identify a noise she heard below. As she looked out she saw a man sitting on the sidewalk banging a sardine can against the street. She asked her mother, "What is wrong with that man?" Her mother said, "He is blind and cannot work in order to feed his family." The next day the man was back banging his can. Five year-old Cecile couldn't bear it. She took a coin from the dining room table and threw it out the window to the man below. Her mother was very upset and asked Cecile why she had done that. Cecile told her, "So he can feed his family." Her mother informed her that she had just thrown the family's budget for breakfast, lunch and dinner out the window. That early memory still serves as a catalyst for Cecile's interest in and support for vision care and blindness prevention.

The second turning point in her life came later. Frank's mother had a hearing deficit that worsened as she grew older and caused her to withdraw. When Frank and Cecile asked her why she was not interacting with the family,

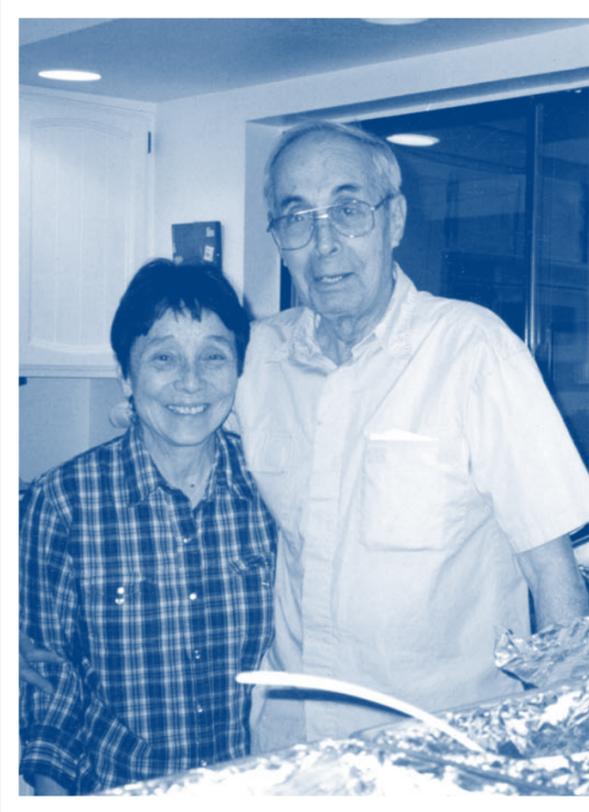
she responded, "I hate being deaf, it is awful, I would much rather be blind than deaf." It was at that defining moment that they decided to focus their philanthropy

on hearing and sight. Frank became even more engaged with the UA Ophthalmology Department research when he was diagnosed with macular degeneration. They committed a significant portion of their life savings to assist with scientific research at the University of Arizona that would improve life for people of low vision.

On a recent visit to Dr. Brian McKay's Macular Degeneration Research laboratory, Cecile had numerous practical and scientific questions regarding the blinding disease. She said, "It is fascinating to see the progress they are making and I am proud of the solid

scientific work underway to better treat this disease. It is funny now; I am paying great attention to whether people have blue eyes or brown eyes and am concerned about whether or not this means they will get Macular Degeneration. All of a sudden this has become noticeable and important to me."

The confession of a beloved family member battling deafness and the impulsive gift of a single coin as a child has made Cecile Moore a significant partner in scientific research. Though her husband Frank died in 2004, she continues to make a difference in the process of eradicating eye disease for young and old alike.



Cecile and Frank Moore

## The Eyeball Express

People who donate their eyes for use in transplant or research perform a priceless service for society. Unfortunately, eye donation for research is dramatically down in Arizona and in the rest of the U.S. This is unfortunate because many of the blinding diseases that affect Arizonans like Macular Degeneration, Diabetic Retinopathy and Glaucoma are predominantly human diseases and require the use of human eyes for research to find a cure.

Due to a complete absence of human donor eyes from Donor Network of Arizona, the primary organ and tissue organization in Arizona, researchers have had to look elsewhere. Two years ago, The University of Arizona vision researchers discovered that Sun Health Research Institute in Sun City procured eye donations along with brain donations for their brain bank. The two quickly established a relationship to obtain these human donor eyes for vision research at The University of Arizona.

The problem was getting these human donor eyes from Sun City to Tucson in time so that they were still viable for

research. Fortunately, our friends in the Arizona Lions' Clubs have stepped up again to help. Throughout the year, night or day, Lions throughout Arizona volunteer their time, vehicles and gas money to transport human eyes from Sun City to Tucson. To date, over one hundred eyes have been transported by 53 Lions. This essential service for vision research has been affectionately named the "Eyeball Express".

The impact of these volunteers extends far beyond the miles they clock on their odometers; with each drop-off, we gain a much better understanding of blinding diseases and come that much closer to better treatments and cures.

Lion Dave Roberts is looking for at least 15 Lions from the Tucson area to help during the summer months when many Sun City Lions have left. If you want to be part of the Eyeball Express, please contact Dave Roberts at 1-800-677-5302.



## Wanda Payne's Gift to Sight

Friend, loving wife, dance partner—just some of the words which remind friends and family of Wanda. But Wanda has another legacy, one which has touched friends and strangers alike in the Southwest: her gifts to the Lions Eye Clinic and ophthalmic research.

Wanda was very specific about her philanthropy. "She always felt that the Ophthalmology Department did great work. She was very impressed," says Ellie Martin, Wanda's former caretaker and close friend. "She came from a working class family and wanted her life savings to support research."

This working class background informed Wanda's generosity. Growing up, she learned how to be hard-working, straight-talking, and humble. According to Maxine Quandt, a close friend of Wanda's, "We didn't even know she was a part of all of these charities! I had to hear from someone else that she had given so generously to Ophthalmology!"

It was at one of these many fundraising events that Wanda first met Dan d'Antimo. First they were dance partners, competing against other couples in ballroom dancing. Soon they were married and began a partnership of love and community support. Sandy Schiff, President

of the Lions Advisory Board, knew Wanda and Dan very well. "We worked together to build a fabulous board of professionals who shared our passion for finding a cure for diseases of the aging eye through the work at the Arizona Lions Eye Clinic. Wanda and Dan made every board meeting and you will find their names on the clinic's donor board because they shared generously their time and their wealth to help all of us and to protect our children's future."

Wanda came to know of the Lions Eye Clinic at The University of Arizona through her close clinical relationship with her physician. Over a period of time, Wanda gained both respect and admiration for the Clinic and the ophthalmic research conducted at The University of Arizona. Eventually, this admiration grew to support, making good on her belief that an investment in clinics and research is an investment in future eye health.

Wanda has left her mark many other places. As an Elk, a Lion, and a regular donor to Goodwill and the Marine Corps Pups, Wanda contributed not only to those that knew her but also to those that needed her. Wanda's giving spirit makes a difference every day as a researcher gains new information from a new piece of equipment or a young boy regains his sight in the clinic.



Wanda Payne

## Let Us Hear From You...

We would like to know what you're thinking! Please look over this form to see if any of these topics interest you. If your concern or question is not addressed here, jot a note to us at the bottom of this form or write to us at [info@eyes.arizona.edu](mailto:info@eyes.arizona.edu).

### Issues of Interest

Please consider featuring the following topic(s) in a future newsletter.

Please send me a brochure explaining Age-Related Macular Degeneration.

Please send me a brochure explaining Glaucoma.

### Issues of Support

I/we would like more information about planning a gift through a charitable gift annuity, a charitable trust, or through my/our estate or bequest.

I/we understand a gift of appreciated stocks would allow forgiveness of capital gain and a charitable deduction. Please let me/us know how to gift stocks or bonds.

Please send me/us more information about endowed funds and how I/we might establish an endowed fund in support of ophthalmology research.

I/we wish to be acknowledged on the wall of recognition. Please send information about the levels of giving and how to be listed.

### Issues of Contact

The following family/friends have an interest in your work. Please send them your newsletter.

I/we prefer that you do not solicit contributions from me/us by mail.

Please remove me/us from your mailing list.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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Please return this form to:  
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