The New England College of Optometry

An Anecdotal History of the First Hundred Years

Century of Vision

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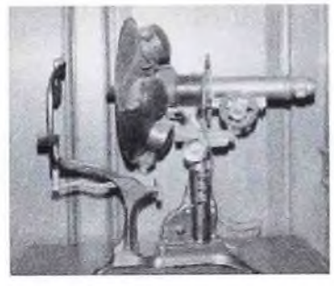

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An Anecdotal History of the First Hundred Years

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Compiled and written by Susan Watson Moline

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About the Author

Susan Watson Moline is an Editorial Consultant to nearly 30 colleges, universities, and hospitals, mainly in the Boston area. Among them are Harvard University, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Wellesley College, and Massachusetts General Hospital. She has written or edited presidential memoirs and institutional histories such as this for the New England Conservatory of Music, Wheelock College, and the College of the Holy Cross. Other projects include case statements; corporate, foundation, and major gift proposals; state and federal grant materials; and coffee table image pieces. She holds a B.S. in Journalism cum laude from Ohio University.

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Contents

FOREWORD

With Our History in Mind…

With Our History in Mind...

The greatest challenge The New England College of Optometry will face in the next decade will be the fulfillment of our mission—educating optometrists to practice the optometry of the twenty-first century. We are in daily pursuit of determining how best to achieve this mission.

Even as the role of the optometrist evolves—and consequently the definition of optometry itself changes—so must we remain flexible in our response. We cannot apply yesterday's answers to tomorrow's questions. Rather, we must take from the past what has been, and always will be, valued: the contribution of the individual, the effectiveness of the cooperative effort. With this foundation, and with ever-renewing commitment, we shall actively anticipate the future and, where possible, *create* change. It is this resilience and innovation that has made us, as an institution, strong.

For too long, optometry has been an isolated profession. Educationally, our mission is to train professionals to deliver quality eye care in an integrated setting. In the future, private optometrists' offices may be anachronistic. It may be that we are all going to be involved with health centers instead. It may be that we deliver our care in settings beyond our imagination today. To do so, we have to be better at integrating optometry

with other professions. Our challenge educationally, beyond nuts and bolts training, is to understand how to achieve that integration and share it with professionals here and around the world.

A major objective for the College, and one of my personal priorities, is to move the profession forward internationally. In October of 1992, Larry Clausen and I were invited to the People's Republic of China to participate in a ceremony designating Wenzhou Medical College as the National Optometry Center for China. It was a momentous experience, one that enabled us to establish an exciting exchange program. Someday it will bring Chinese scholars to Boston and send our own to China to learn from ophthalmologists and optometrists there.

Over the last hundred years, optometry has changed from a profession of selling eyeglasses to one of understanding more about vision and health, eye health and eye disease. The College has changed along with it. From the front rooms of August Klein's home on Rutland Street to the gleaming rotunda on Beacon Street, we have educated thousands of men and women to become fine eye care providers and leaders of our profession. Today, as we celebrate the achievements of our last century, we eagerly embrace the promise of the next.

Joseph Bickford, O.D.
Chairman of the Board

Acknowledgments

This book has been a joy to write, thanks to many people. At the College, I must begin with President Larry Clausen for believing in the value of stories yet to be told. As I gathered the personal perspectives of dozens of faculty, staff, and alumni over 12 months, he provided the guidance needed to ensure balance and integrity. Priscilla Clark, Executive Assistant to the President, paved the way for interviews with important background and introductions. Tina Sanford, Administrative Secretary, cheerfully provided phone numbers and class years on an almost daily basis. Frances Flynn, Reference Collection/Development Librarian, drew together a number of primary sources including such items as the 1905-06 Catalogue of the Klein School. As the project neared completion, Editor Kathleen Dunn proved invaluable, focusing tireless attention to consistency and correctness.

I am grateful to all sources for times so well remembered and stories so lovingly told. In addition to President Clausen, there were Presidents William Baldwin, Dow Smith, and Sylvio Dupuis. Faculty, alumni, staff, and other friends of the College included John Asarkof, Richard Baker, Morris Berman, Joseph Bickford, Lester Brackley, Helen Bradley, Nancy Carlson, John Carter, Anthony Cavallerano, Joseph Craven, Albert Glickman, Thomas Greenberg, Catherine Hines, Burtt Holmes, Herbert Iventash, Hyman Kamens, Frank Kozol, Paul Lappin, Arnelda Levine, Janet Mechanic, Sanford Monsein, Joseph

Montminy Jr., Foster Namias, Adelbert Parrott, Arthur Roberts, Ira Schwartz, Eugene F. Seavey, Forrest Seavey, Albert Sloane, Arnold Sloane, Joseph Svagdys, Norman Wallace, and Samuel Wasserman.

I am especially grateful to the daughters of Theodore Klein, Charlotte K. Huntington and Theodora K. Bickford, for first-hand accounts of not only their father but their grandfather, August Klein, as well. Just as the two men nurtured their fledgling school, these two women have enriched the College with memories of candor, grace, and utter devotion to family.

Susan Watson Moline
May 1994

CHAPTER ONE

A Place to Start

1894-1932

Founded in 1894 by August Andreas Klein, The New England College of Optometry is the oldest continuous program of optometric education in the United States. It has graduated over 3500 men and women, 75 percent of whom now practice in New England. They have become leaders in their field, serving on the executive and licensing boards of professional organizations throughout the world.

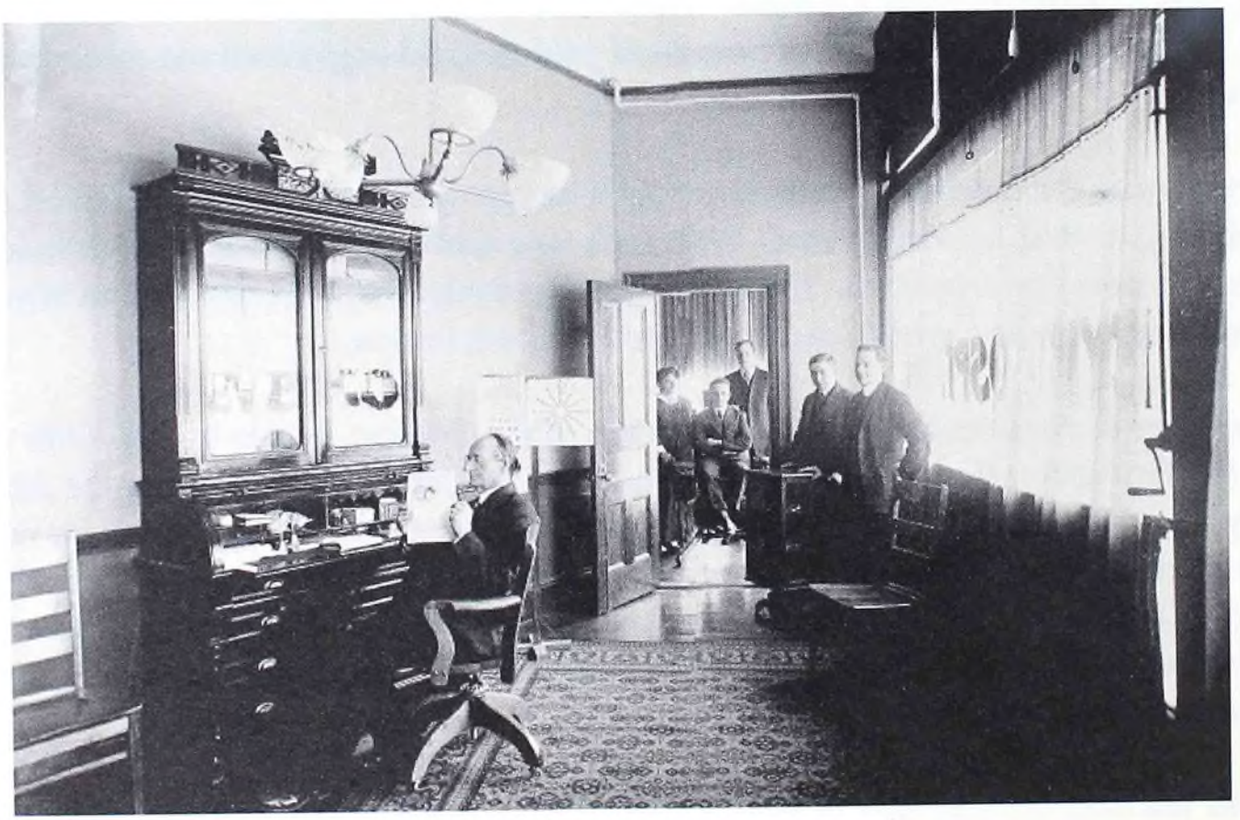
Growing as the optometry profession itself has grown, the College has moved many times during its first hundred years. With each new address, it has met new demands and greeted new opportunities. Today, its recently-renovated home on Beacon Street reflects its new role as a world leader in optometric education.

The story of American optometry, and thus of the College, begins in 1783 with the sale of the first spectacles in the newly-united states by John McAllister. For the next half century, ready-made glasses were sold by peddlers, door-to-door. By 1850, there was a sizable demand for glasses. Seizing opportunity, the American Optical Company began producing glasses in 1869. Lenses, however, were still made in Europe, where they were perfected by microscope makers. In 1889, the United States began manufacturing optical glass and an industry was born.

Over the next decade, new devices to test vision were introduced and public interest increased. Dr. Klein, a practicing ophthalmologist, recognized the need for special

training in the use of these devices and, in 1894, launched the Klein School of Optics at 2 Rutland Street in Boston. The forerunner of today's New England College of Optometry, the Klein School was one of the earliest formal training programs in optics and refraction in the United States.

Little is known about Dr. Klein's early years. He was born in 1846, presumably in the Stuttgart region of Germany, and arrived with his mother in America when he was only 16 years old. "I have no idea about the rest of his family—his father, or if there were brothers or sisters," admits his granddaughter, Charlotte Klein Huntington.



Dr. August Klein and students at the turn of the last century

In 1882, Dr. Klein graduated from the Boston University School of Medicine. Following an internship at the Homeopathic Hospital in Boston, he went abroad to study ophthalmology in Jena, Heidelberg, Leipzig, and Berlin. Upon his return to America, he launched both his practice and the Klein School. He would continue to lecture, mostly Theoretic Optics, and to serve as the School's President until his death in 1936.

Co-educational from the start, the Klein School offered a one-year program designed primarily for high school students. The curriculum included short-term courses in Optics, Anatomy, Pathology, Mathematics, Physics, Dispensing, and Refraction. The faculty was composed of seven instructors including August Klein and three of his grown children, Theodore F. Klein, Herman L. Klein, and Wilhelmina A. Svendsen. His oldest son, Paul, owned a pharmacy on the corner of Tremont and Boylston Streets.

By 1897, instruction had expanded to include Ophthalmology, Chemistry, Trigonometry, as well as Mechanical Optics. The latter covered the construction of frames and lenses, including methods of bending frames, repairing, soldering, edge grinding, surface grinding, and rimless and bifocal work.

One of the School's earliest advertisements proclaimed:

Klein School of Optics
2 Rutland Street, Boston, Mass.
The only scientific optical school in America.
Instructions in all branches of optical work,
from the bending of a bridge
to the grinding of the most complicated lenses.
Ophthalmoscopic diagnosis of errors of
refraction and diseases of the eye.
Full Course: $75.00
Single term: $30.00

Located in downtown Boston near Tremont Street, 2 Rutland Street was most likely Dr. August Klein's home. Charlotte Klein Huntington, however, remembers the School at 185 Summer Street, across from South Station. In fact, that is where her father, Dr. Theodore Klein, met her mother. She remembers 123 Blue Hill Avenue, a later home of Dr. August Klein in Roxbury, as "quite a beautiful building, with round windows in front and wrought iron railings going up."

The Klein family was not particularly close, according to Mrs. Huntington. Holidays were mainly a gathering of her mother's side of the family, rather than her father's. Even so, "Aunt Minnie [Wilhelmina] would come and way back, Grandpa [August] and Grandma," she says. "Grandma's name was Clarabel, and she was August's second wife. All the boys called her 'Little Belle' because she was so tiny. She was a tremendous cook, too. Their house was intriguing because it had a kitchen down in the cellar with a dumb waiter. They didn't use that too often, though, because they had a maid on the first floor who did most of the cooking. But we did have a lot of fun with that dumb waiter, going up and down to the cellar!"

Mrs. Huntington remembers Dr. August Klein as the grandfatherly type, who sang to her and her two sisters, Barbara and Theodora ("Theo" for short), in German. His favorite tune was the folk song, "Ach Du Lieber Augustine." She also remembers his summer place down in Monponsett. "It was a big house," she says, "with an awful lot of land, including cranberry bogs. Grandpa had a grinding wheel for sharpening axes and so forth. Oh, was that fun to just stand around and whir that big stone!"

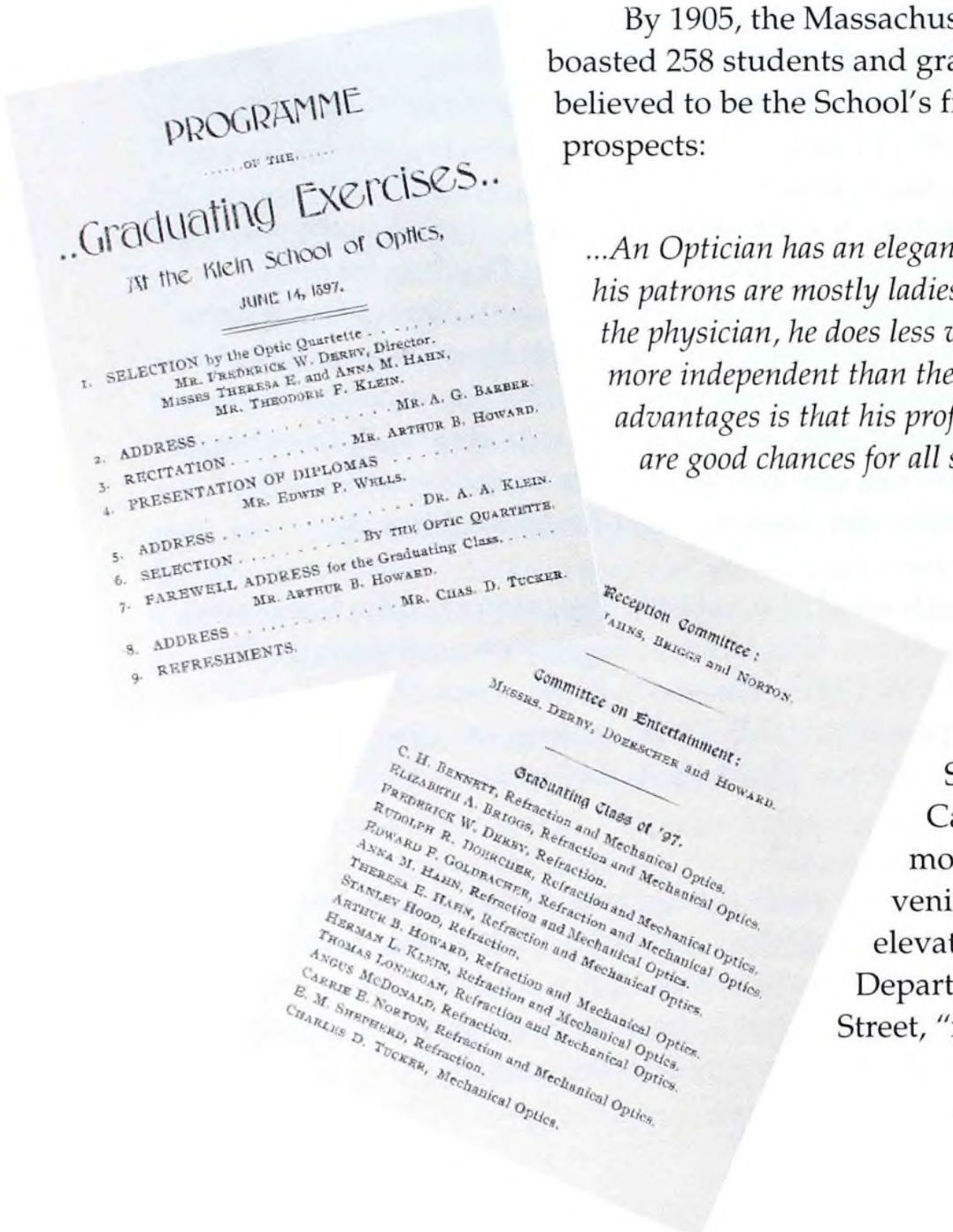
At first, Dr. August Klein prohibited his optical students from attending clinics. Those he reserved exclusively for physicians, according to the March 1897 issue of *The Optical Journal*. Finding, however, that a number of prominent opticians wanted

more complete instruction on refraction and the use of the ophthalmoscope, he eventually arranged for lessons that would not interfere with his clinical work or private practice. It was only later, when he recognized the excellence of his optical students' diagnoses, that he admitted them to the clinics.

While instruction in ophthalmology was the most thorough, other areas were not neglected. Edwin P. Wells, longtime superintendent of the Gold Department at the American Optical Company, organized the School's first Mechanical Optics Department. At that time, the department boasted five instructors. Mr. Wells himself lectured on the general mechanical construction of frames and material; A. G. Barber on optical instruments; William P. McEvoy on bending frames, repairing, and soldering; R. R. Droscher on edge grinding, rimless and bifocal work; and Edward Ellis on surface grinding. The Kleins also taught: August, Chemistry and Anatomy; and Theodore, Physics.

The Class of 1897 graduated on June 14; the original "Programme of the Graduating Exercises" is in the College Library today. The occasion began with a selection by The Optic Quartette, featuring Frederick W. Derby, Theresa E. Hahn, Anna M. Hahn, and Dr. Theodore Klein. Diplomas were presented by Mr. Wells. Among the 15 graduates were Dr. Herman Klein and at least four women: Elizabeth A. Briggs, Anna M. Hahn, Theresa E. Hahn, and Carrie E. Norton.

By the turn of the century, optometry was becoming established as a profession in its own right. In 1898, the American Optometric Association (AOA) had been formed as its first national organization. In 1901, the Klein School of Optics officially changed its name to the Massachusetts School of Optometry. Within the next few years, more than 60 private schools of optometry would be founded across the country.



PROGRAMME

.....OF THE.....

..Graduating Exercises..

At the Klein School of Optics,

JUNE 14, 1897.

1. SELECTION by the Optic Quartette . . . . . .
   Mr. Frederick W. Derby, Director.
   Misses Theresa E. and Anna M. Hahn,
   Mr. Theodore F. Klein.
2. ADDRESS . . . . . Mr. A. G. Barber.
3. RECITATION . . . . . Mr. Arthur B. Howard.
4. PRESENTATION OF DIPLOMAS . . . . . .
   Mr. Edwin P. Wells.
5. ADDRESS . . . . . Dr. A. A. Klein.
6. SELECTION . . . . . By the Optic Quartette.
7. FAREWELL ADDRESS for the Graduating Class. . . . .
   Mr. Arthur B. Howard.
8. ADDRESS . . . . . Mr. Chas. D. Tucker.
9. REFRESHMENTS.

Reception Committee:

Mains, Briggs and Norton.

Committee on Entertainment:

Messrs. Derby, Doerscher and Howard.

Graduating Class of '97.

C. H. Bennett, Refraction and Mechanical Optics.
Elizabeth A. Briggs, Refraction and Mechanical Optics.
Frederick W. Derby, Refraction.
Rudolph R. Doerscher, Refraction and Mechanical Optics.
Edward P. Goldbacher, Refraction and Mechanical Optics.
Anna M. Hahn, Refraction and Mechanical Optics.
Theresa E. Hahn, Refraction and Mechanical Optics.
Stanley Hood, Refraction.
Arthur B. Howard, Refraction and Mechanical Optics.
Herman L. Klein, Refraction and Mechanical Optics.
Thomas Lonergan, Refraction and Mechanical Optics.
Angus McDonald, Refraction.
Carrie B. Norton, Refraction and Mechanical Optics.
E. M. Shepherd, Refraction.
Charles D. Tucker, Mechanical Optics.

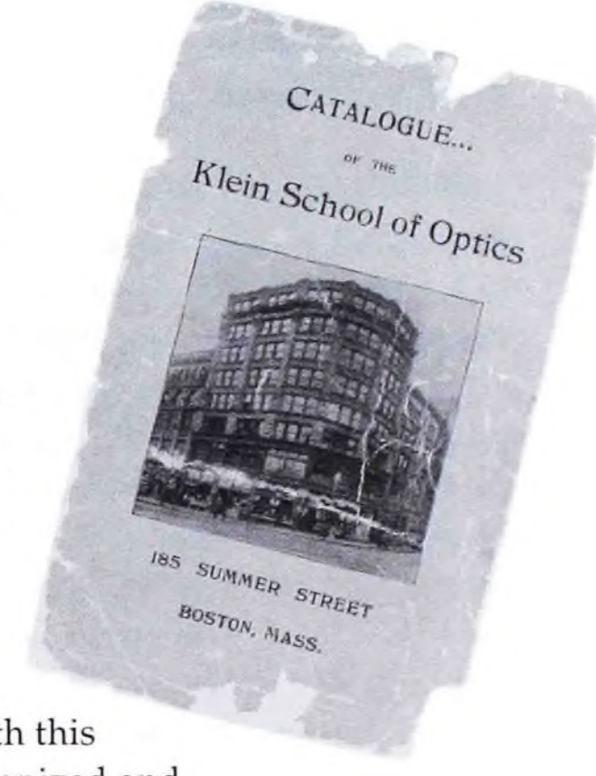
By 1905, the Massachusetts School of Optometry boasted 258 students and graduates. The 1905-06 Catalogue, believed to be the School's first, heralded their career prospects:

...An Optician has an elegant, delicate, scientific profession, his patrons are mostly ladies, he has less drudgery to do than the physician, he does less worrying than the lawyer, and is more independent than the minister, and one of the greatest advantages is that his profession is not overcrowded. There are good chances for all scientific Opticians.

Subjects included Anatomy, Physiology, Physics, Ophthalmology, and Mechanical Optics. Most courses were held at 185 Summer Street, a location the Catalogue described as "one of the most accessible in Boston, being convenient to all railroads, surface and elevated cars." The Mechanical Department was at 410 Washington Street, "in the heart of the optical trade."

A full course of ten weeks cost $75, or $50 without Mechanical Optics. The following texts were required:

Gray's Anatomy
Foster's Physiology
Brockway on Physics
De Schweinitz on the Eye
Haab's Atlas of Ophthalmoscopy
Prentice on Ophthalmic Lenses.

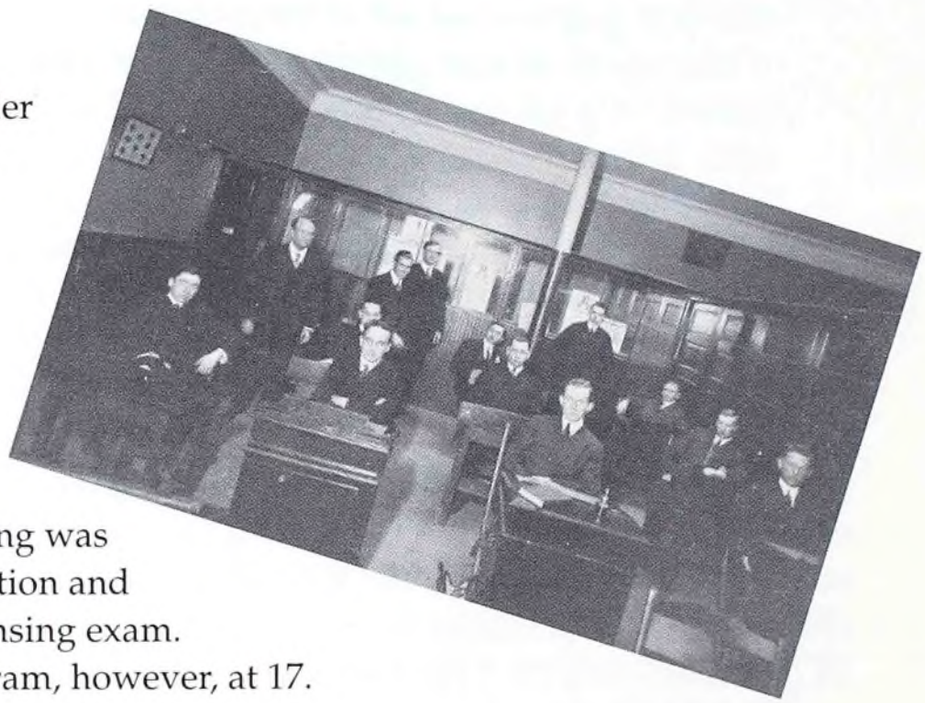


In addition, students were expected to have their own small dissecting cases, ophthalmoscopes, and retinoscopes. Students in Mechanical Optics were also expected to have their own sets of tools, available at either the Globe Optical Company or the Boston Optical Company for about $8.

The length of the academic program continued to expand until, in 1909, a formal two-year program was offered as an alternative to the last half of high school. With this change, the Massachusetts School of Optometry was reorganized and incorporated with Dr. Theodore Klein as Director.

That same year, the National Board of State Examiners in Optometry was established. In 1910, Columbia became the first American university to offer an optometric program. This was about the time that the first eye charts began to appear in the United States. Ophthalmologists were bringing them back from Europe, usually Germany or Austria, where they had gone to specialize. At the time, there were no such centers for advanced training in this country.

In 1912, it was decided in Massachusetts that a person must be licensed to examine the eyes. In order to get that license, he or she must pass a test. A grandfather clause, however, enabled anyone who had sold glasses in the last two years to obtain a license without a test. As optometry grew more organized, it increased the intensity or severity of its licensing examinations and a Board of Registration of Optometry was established in the Commonwealth.



The Board soon required that a person be at least 21 years old in order to become licensed. Most likely, the Board felt that a person of that age would have the maturity to handle professional duties responsibly. In step with the Board, the Massachusetts School of Optometry required that its students be 19 years old to enter its two-year day program. The reasoning was that students would be 21 at graduation and immediately eligible to take the licensing exam. Students could enter the night program, however, at 17.

In 1915, Ohio State University offered the first four-year degree program leading to a Bachelor of Science degree in Optometry. The following fall, the Massachusetts School invited all graduates since 1895 to attend its Opening Session at Thespian Hall, 168 Massachusetts Avenue. Also in the College Library today, the original invitation identifies Dr. August Klein as Dean and Dr. Theodore Klein as Registrar.

Charlotte Klein Huntington remembers the School most clearly at this Massachusetts Avenue address. "It was on the second floor. That darn School was always upstairs, now that I think of it!" she laughs. "Yes, and the stairs went like this—about three miles up! When we had the Victory Parade after World War I, they put up seats in the windows so everybody could watch the parade. There were families and everybody sitting there. I remember my baby sister being asleep in the desk in the other room."

She remembers her father, Dr. Theodore Klein, as a very quiet, intelligent person, who was very private. He smoked both a pipe and cigars, and in the evenings, he would sit by his radio. "He had that radio on all the time," Mrs. Huntington says, "for the news, more than anything." She hastens to add that he would be blind for the last ten years of his life. Even so, he would serve as Director of the School until his death in 1946.

Optometry continued to grow as a profession. By 1917, complete visual analysis was a routine part of an eye examination. By 1918, American manufacturing of optical glass was flourishing. In 1920, the International Federation of Optometry Schools was formed with the Massachusetts School as a charter member.

By 1921, the American Optometric Association had appointed a Council on Optometric Education for the purpose of "encouraging and developing all Standard Optometry Schools so that the student who wishes to qualify may know that he will get the proper instruction. Only those schools maintaining certain standards as to Faculty, Equipment and Teaching will be accepted...." The first Doctor of Optometry degree in the United States would be granted by the Pennsylvania College of Optometry in the mid-'20s.

Back on Massachusetts Avenue, admissions requirements were four years of high school or the equivalent, good moral character, and at least 19 years of age. The academic

year consisted of two semesters, beginning September and February. The Senior Class met from nine to five Monday, Wednesday, and Friday; nine to noon Tuesday and Thursday. The Junior Class met from nine to two Monday, Wednesday, and Friday; nine to four on Tuesday; and nine to five on Thursday. Tuition was $175 a year. Although most students still commuted, the Catalogue (now called the "Bulletin") assured them they could "live as economically in Boston as in any city of its size."

The first year of study consisted of Algebra, Geometry, Trigonometry, Physics, Anatomy, Practical Optics, Theoretic Optometry, Physiology, Practical Optometry,

and Clinics. The second year included Theoretic Optometry, Practical Optometry, Pathology, Clinics, Physiologic Optics, Theoretic Optics, and Hygiene. Students could also learn the business aspects of the profession through special courses in stock keeping, ordering, and optical advertising. They could also earn certificates for post-graduate work.

At that time, the faculty included Dr. August Klein, Pathology and Physiologic Optics; Dr. Theodore Klein, Theoretic and Practical Optometry; David Y. Cohill, Anatomy and Physiology; Guy S. Blodgett, Theoretic Optics; Mrs. Svendsen, Anatomy and Physiology; Joseph W. Griswold, Mathematics and Physics, Mechanical Optics; Melvin A. Atherton, Mechanical Optics; and Dr. Herman Klein, Practical Optics and Business Management. Anna J. McCabe was Secretary to the Faculty.

Charlotte Klein Huntington remembers Mrs. Svendsen as "an old German woman, really. She wasn't too tall, on the heavy side, rather plain, wore glasses, and had her hair pulled back. She looked more like my grandfather than my father. She had more of the bigger nose, like Grandpa had."

Seated in the center are Dr. August Klein, Mrs. Wilhelmina Svendsen, and Dr. Theodore Klein (left to right).

It was in 1921 that Eugene F. Seavey's mother dropped her glasses in the chicken yard and he took them to Harold Ormsby, an optometrist in Wakefield, for repair. So began the optometric career of Dr. Seavey who, at 92, is today the School's oldest alumnus. That very day, Dr. Ormsby asked him if he would like to work for him. Dr. Seavey grabbed the opportunity to learn on the job, earning a dollar a day in the office and attending class at night.

Dr. Seavey attended the School on four nights a week initially, then three nights, in order to earn his diploma in three years. He remembers Dr. Theodore Klein well, describing him as "a jolly, good-natured fellow who would always stop, shake hands, and wish us well." He would go on to practice for 50 years, opening his own practice in 1925 in the Dexter Building across from Jordan Marsh on Washington Street. In 1968, he would move his practice to Wakefield. Today, his son, Forrest, also an alumnus, continues that practice.

The American Academy of Optometry was established in 1922, the year that Theodore R. Sargent entered the Massachusetts School of Optometry. There were about 50 students in his class; tuition was $87.50. In a 1979 interview with William R. Baldwin, the College's President, Dr. Sargent recalls how he first became interested in optometry. Fresh out of high school, he was earning $28 a week working for Matthew J. Fowler, an optometrist in Haverhill who would later become one of the Commonwealth's leading practitioners. It was Dr. Fowler who persuaded him to go to optometry school.

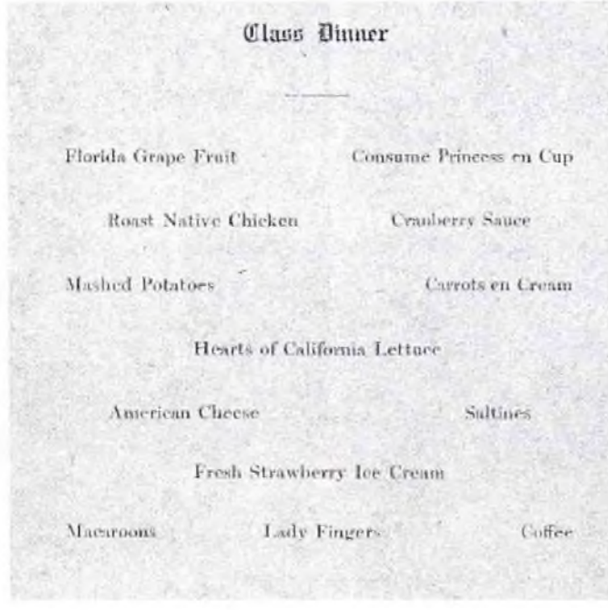
The School was "run by dedicated men who could see a future, and that future was refraction," Dr. Sargent declares. Dr. August Klein, who was close to 80 then, was "very clever and we all loved him....He was a very moral man, very moral, and he wanted us

to be moral. There were no shenanigans. It was either you come to school and you study, or you don't come."

Dr. Sargent knew Dr. Theodore Klein better because he taught the optical subjects, 90 percent of the curriculum. Apparently he set a moral standard as high as his father's. Dr. Sargent recalls his saying over and over, "If you don't think you can make it, or if you have a handicap, or whatever, keep right on going, no matter what."

Dr. Sargent remembers only four instructors, including Mrs. Svendsen, who taught Physiology and Anatomy, and a Dr. Cohill, a physician from Salem. Dr. Sargent took every course except Theoretic Optics. Even with the Clinic as the basis for his second year, he actually saw very few patients at the School. He did, however, attend the New England Optometric Convention in March 1923 as a student. Years later, he would give his bronze convention pin to the College Library for safekeeping.

About 20 of Dr. Sargent's original classmates graduated with him in 1924. The Graduation Banquet was held at the Square and Compass Club on May 31 with the following menu:



Class Dinner

Florida Grape Fruit — Consume Princess en Cup

Roast Native Chicken — Cranberry Sauce

Mashed Potatoes — Carrots en Cream

Hearts of California Lettuce

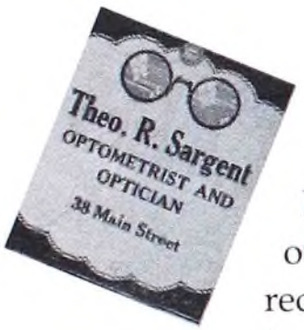
American Cheese — Saltines

Fresh Strawberry Ice Cream

Macaroons — Lady Fingers — Coffee

About half of this class opened their own practices; many others joined those already established. Dr. Sargent himself opened a practice in Peabody and, for his first ten years, was the only optometrist in town. Even so, he had to advertise in the local paper.

Dr. Sargent remembers patients' understanding of the profession in those early years as limited at best. He tells the story of one woman who arrived with needle and thread in hand. "She just wanted to see well enough to thread her needle. That was all. Another woman came in for glasses one day. She came back the next and said, 'These glasses aren't any good. I can't read!' We took her in again and, after endless questions, discovered that she didn't know *how* to read. She thought that if she put on glasses, she'd automatically be able to read!"



It was about this time that one of the School's greatest benefactors earned his diploma. Described in School records as "an earnest and faithful student who at all times conducted himself as a gentleman," Warren H. Beider graduated in 1926 at the age of 20. He would practice optometry for over 50 years. When he died, he would leave his entire estate to the College in recognition of its effect on his life. His generosity continues to have impact on brilliant and needy students today through the Beider Scholarship, established in his honor.

Albert Sloane, another young man who would help shape the future of the Massachusetts School of Optometry, was entering just as Dr. Beider was leaving. Dr. Sloane recalls enrolling directly out of high school, without any entrance exam. "It was more of a trade school than a professional school at that time," he says. "There was no degree, only a diploma."

Located at 168 Massachusetts Avenue over Rhodes Brothers grocery store, the School consisted of two classrooms with blackboards and "no lecture chairs, just any old chairs." Dr. Sloane remembers the smell of spices over the market in the summer and students throwing a football to the roof in the fall.

"I had about 27 students in my class," he says. "For the most part, you could divide them into three categories. First were the students whose parents or friends owned jewelry stores. They were convinced there was a future for them. I think fully a quarter of my class fell into this category.

"The next group," he continues, "were those who found optometry to be an inexpensive *entrée* into a profession. Economics drove many of us, like myself, who wanted to be in a profession but could not afford medical school. Medical school had its pre-medical school requirements, but we could have a profession two years after high school. Tuition was about $400 for the whole program. For that, we would be able to open offices as optometrists.

"The third group of students was a number of boys who came from relatively well-to-do families and had gone to private schools and failed. They were not medical school caliber, but their parents wanted them to keep on trying. They lived in apartment houses in the shadow of Symphony Hall. I remember one fellow. I can see him, but I can't remember his name. He wore a raccoon coat, a derby hat, and smoked a pipe. That was pretty much the ideal back then."

At the time, most students had to work their way through school. Dr. Sloane, for example, was a soda clerk in Scollay Square, in a place called The Dover Smoker. He is grateful to Dr. Theodore Klein for making exceptions for students who had to work for their tuition. "I would not always have mine paid," he admits, "and he would allow me

to pay $5 at a time. I believe the School had a policy that you couldn't take an exam if your bill was not paid. On several occasions, Theodore overlooked that."

Charlotte Klein Huntington remembers yet another example of her father's generous spirit. "When Franklin Roosevelt closed the banks, he loaned food money to faculty families," she recalls. "Many would have gone hungry for a few days had he not done that."

Although Dr. August Klein remained President of the School until his death in 1936, Dr. Theodore Klein "ran the whole show," according to Dr. Sloane. "August was a very old man by then, with a fair amount of gray hair." It was Dr. Theodore Klein, who taught Refraction, who was his favorite instructor. "He taught us how to test for glasses," he explains. "He would examine us and probably describe a certain test. He tied his lessons to what we were going to have to do as optometrists. The other instructors were sort of theoretical. His lessons were practical."

Another practical lesson came in the annual class trip to the American Optical Company in Southbridge, Massachusetts. It was always at the end of the year, between exams and graduation. "They used to invite us for a Friday, as potential customers," Dr. Sloane recalls. "They served us a lunch and took us through the factory, showing us the work they were doing."

Later, after medical school, Dr. Sloane's knowledge of optometry would pay off. "There were 11 of us, all M.D.s, going to Chicago on the train to take the board examination," as he tells it. "One of the persons asked me a question about glasses. When he realized how little he had learned about them, he asked me to spend the whole trip just teaching him the basics. That year, 1938, was the first year that questions on refraction appeared on the exam. Out of the 11 of us who went from Boston, he and I were the only two that passed."

At the time, optometry was still very much a developing profession. "Originally, glasses were sold over the counter at Kresge's, or through mail order houses like Sears or Montgomery Ward," Dr. Sloane explains. "The frames were generally made of very cheap wire. They were black and not very appealing. In fact, they were often called 'cheaters,' as if wearing glasses to read were cheating."

Dr. Herman Klein's tool kit

The truth is that, in the early 1900s, many people who needed glasses had no idea that they needed them. They didn't drive as we do today, nor read as much, nor watch television. They simply didn't know what they were missing. As glasses became more available, however, the wealthy wanted better frames, gold rather than iron. Soon jewelry stores had a monopoly on reading glasses. In fact, during the '20s, most jewelry stores had a sign the shape of spectacles hanging outside. Indeed, jewelry stores were where most optometrists of that day worked.

Dr. Sloane is the first of many sources to name fraternity hazing as the single event they remember most from their student days. Just about everybody belonged to Pi Omicron Sigma, notorious for such antics as making Harold Lewis sit in the middle of Massachusetts Avenue strumming a banjo. Initiation wasn't quite so simple.

"I remember it all quite vividly," Dr. Sloane says. "I was asked how devoted I was to the eye, then how I'd like to eat a raw eye. They blindfolded me and, of course, it was a raw oyster. That was just the beginning, though. They marked us all up with a kind of rouge, actually a powder that was used in the polishing of lenses then. Then we were

taken to a cemetery and left tied to gravestones. It was somewhere beyond Lexington. We were purposely tied not too deftly so we could escape. As soon as their car pulled away, I was able to get out on the main road. I remember thumbing my way in with a farmer bringing in produce."

After medical school, Dr. Sloane would return to the Massachusetts School of Optometry in 1929, where he would teach Diseases of the Eye for the next seven years. It was during this time as a faculty member that he developed a lasting friendship with Dr. Theodore Klein. During the late '30s, Dr. Sloane would operate on him for cataracts.

Ralph H. Green, who would lead the School through two critical decades, entered as a student in 1927. Within three years, he would be asked to join the faculty. He would continue to teach for over 35 years. In 1946, he would be named Dean, a position that enabled him to guide the institution until 1965 with his own personal stamp and style.

In an interview in a 1990 issue of the College Alumni Association publication, *Perspective,* Dr. Green recounts how there were about 20 students in his class. Most were the sons or daughters of practicing optometrists or opticians, he says, or of physicians who could not gain admission to a medical school. "And there were a few like myself," he notes, "perhaps two or three, that started cold—that didn't know an optical center from an axis!"

He remembers many of the faculty, particularly Dr. August Klein, who taught Pathology; Dr. Theodore Klein, who taught Theoretic and Practical Optometry; Mrs. Svendsen, who taught Anatomy; Dr. Blodgett, who taught Geometrical Optics; and a Mr. Woodward, who taught Optics Laboratory. By this time, of course, Dr. August Klein was a very old man and highly myopic. Dr. Green tells how he read his lecture notes,

"very close up, not more than two or three inches from his face. He'd read one page, turn it over, read the back, turn it over, and read the front again. About halfway down, he'd look up and ask, 'Sound familiar? We've heard this somewhere before!' Eventually his condition forced him to give up reading his notes altogether. At that point, Wilhelmina [Svendsen] stepped in and began reading for him routinely."

After graduation, Dr. Green went on to the Illinois College of Optometry for additional clinical experience and a Doctor of Optometry degree. In 1930, Dr. Theodore Klein asked him to return to Boston to teach the final year of the four-year evening program. The evening program was for those who worked during the day, opticians and shop people who wanted to study optometry. Dr. Green taught essentially all of the courses in Optometry, Optics, and Pathology.

The profession of optometry—and the education it required—continued to develop. In 1930, the American Optometric Association published its first professional journal. That same year, the Massachusetts School of Optometry raised its entrance requirement to four years of high school.

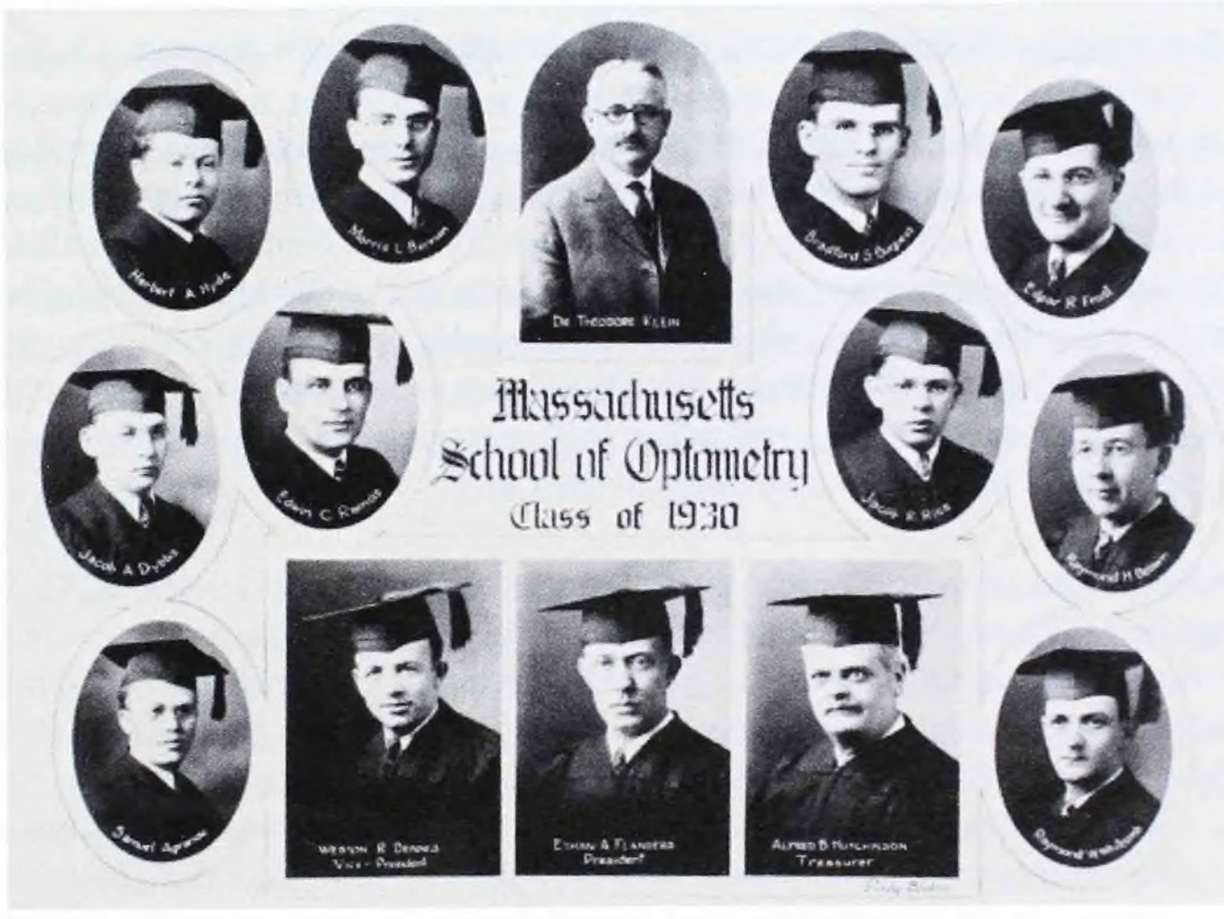
It was in 1928 that Morris Berman enrolled. Still one of its most active and dedicated alumni, he was in a class of 13. He remembers the School on Massachusetts Avenue, occupying the second floor over Rhodes Brothers grocery store, and Dr. August Klein. "He was a very congenial Prussian gentleman," he says, "sort of like a character in the movies."

Like Dr. Sloane, Dr. Berman worked his way through school. He worked Saturdays and Sundays for ADT, the security organization. "I was one of those tying in the signals that the watchmen would ring in their boxes. I left the house in Malden at five o'clock, started work at six o'clock, and didn't get home until eight o'clock Sunday morning. Summers, I worked six days a week. We got paid 35 cents an hour then."

For fun, the students frequented the bowling alley next to the Uptown Theatre, the site of the Berklee School of Music today. In fact, the name of Dr. Theodore Klein was posted on the lanes for achieving the highest bowling score. The students also used to go skating at the Boston Arena on Huntington Avenue, which even had a boxing ring. The gathering spot for lunch was either the long, narrow deli next to the Uptown Theatre or the Café de Paris, across the street from the School and memorable—for Dr. Berman, anyway—for its dried cod.

He recalls the same fraternity ritual as Dr. Sloane, with a few embellishments. "There were three or four of us sitting in a dark room lit only by a single red light," he begins. "They put a stethoscope up to our chests and attached it to a magnifier. Then they had us look up, up, up and follow the red light up, up, up. Then they said, 'You know, in order to really be in optometry, you've got to swallow a bull's eye.' We'd been

dissecting them in class. Then they stuffed them down our throats. We didn't know what they were. They were oysters, though, with strings tied to them. We were gagging. 'Oh, you don't like it?' they asked, then pulled the string. Then they took us out to about where Route 128 is now and we had to walk back."



When Dr. Berman graduated in 1930, he was 20 years old, one year short of the required age for the state licensure exam. Taking a cue from the experience of Dr. Green, he and five classmates took a bus out to the Illinois College of Optometry for a third year

of study. The instruction they had received in Boston was so valuable that, according to Dr. Berman, they sailed through that last year in six months. Like Dr. Green, he earned his O.D. from Illinois.

Enter the Class of 1932, whose 35 members would help shape not only the course of the School, but the profession itself. Among its ranks were the beloved Foster Namias, Joseph Montminy Jr., Richard Baker, G. Edward Bradley, and John Asarkof.

The son of an optometrist in Fall River, Foster Namias worked for the American Optical Company as a young man. He enrolled in the Massachusetts School of Optometry on a partial scholarship in 1930. He quickly made his mark as a brilliant student and at Commencement, gave the valedictory speech. His lowest grade, he recalls wryly, was a B+ in Optometry from Dr. Green. He was taught Pathology by Dr. Sloane and, with his pal Dr. Montminy, finagled his way into Boston City Hospital to observe eye surgery as a student. And when Pi Omicron Sigma dropped him off in Brockton, he walked back to his apartment in Back Bay.

Dr. Namias was asked to teach immediately after graduating. Because of his vast knowledge and skill, he was qualified to teach any number of courses, but concentrated on Ophthalmic Optics and Fabrication. The intellect and wit he exhibited during his 50-year tenure became legendary. With his Practical Optics students, he was merciless. "Let me have your wrong answer now," he instructed them. When he returned papers, he read the worst answers to the entire class, with attribution. Beneath the bluster was a brilliant man who spent endless hours with the students who needed it. Highly-respected nationwide for his expertise and experience, he became, more than anyone, the soul of the School.

Joseph Montminy Jr. was the son of a prominent optometrist in Lowell. He remembers the Class of 1932 as unusually close. Commuting by train from Lowell to Boston every day, he occasionally slept over at Dr. Namias' apartment after a late night out. Once, he left a pair of shoes there. When he returned, someone had nailed them to the floor.

Warned in advance, Dr. Montminy was prepared for his fraternity initiation. He, too, was covered in red paint and flour and dropped off somewhere in Quincy. Fortunately, he had nailed a $20 bill under the heel of each shoe. The police took him back into Boston, where he got a bed and bath at the YMCA on Huntington Avenue.

Dr. Montminy remembers all of the Kleins as quiet and generous. "They helped a lot of young optometrists. I think they may have even given tuition to some." By this time, Dr. Theodore Klein was running the School and Mrs. Svendsen teaching Anatomy in a three-year program. Upon graduation, Dr. Montminy would join his father's practice in Lowell.

The son of an Arlington dentist, Richard Baker exhibited an aptitude for science at an early age. "I've always thought that the visual process was the most fascinating, the most dominating process in man," Dr. Baker says today. "At that time, however, optometry was not too well known. Its practitioners were respected, though, and the profession made advancements like any other. I just wish we had the knowledge we have today back then.

"We had no clinical experience then," he continues. "We could only examine each other. The Kleins were very genuine, very sincere and devoted to the School. Theodore handled the front office, I guess you'd say, while Herman handled the more technical side."

Because there were only five faculty then, the School was "almost like a family," Dr. Baker says. Dr. Green, who taught perimetry, instilled in him the understanding that "there is more to vision than the eye and that the optometrist's objective is to take care of the entire visual process. Ralph was very thorough and highly motivated. As a teacher, he was totally absorbing."

In those days, Dr. Baker's commute on the streetcar from Arlington via Harvard Square cost all of ten cents. For breaks, he and his classmates used to frequent the Café de Paris on Boylston Street. "It was the nicest, cleanest place," he recalls, "and we knew the waitresses after a while. We got a complete meal for 35 cents—soup, vegetable, meat, coffee, and dessert!" Upon passing the state Board examinations, Dr. Baker later joined G. Edward Bradley in a practice in Somerville. Today, he and his son, Roy, Class of 1977, share a practice in Arlington.

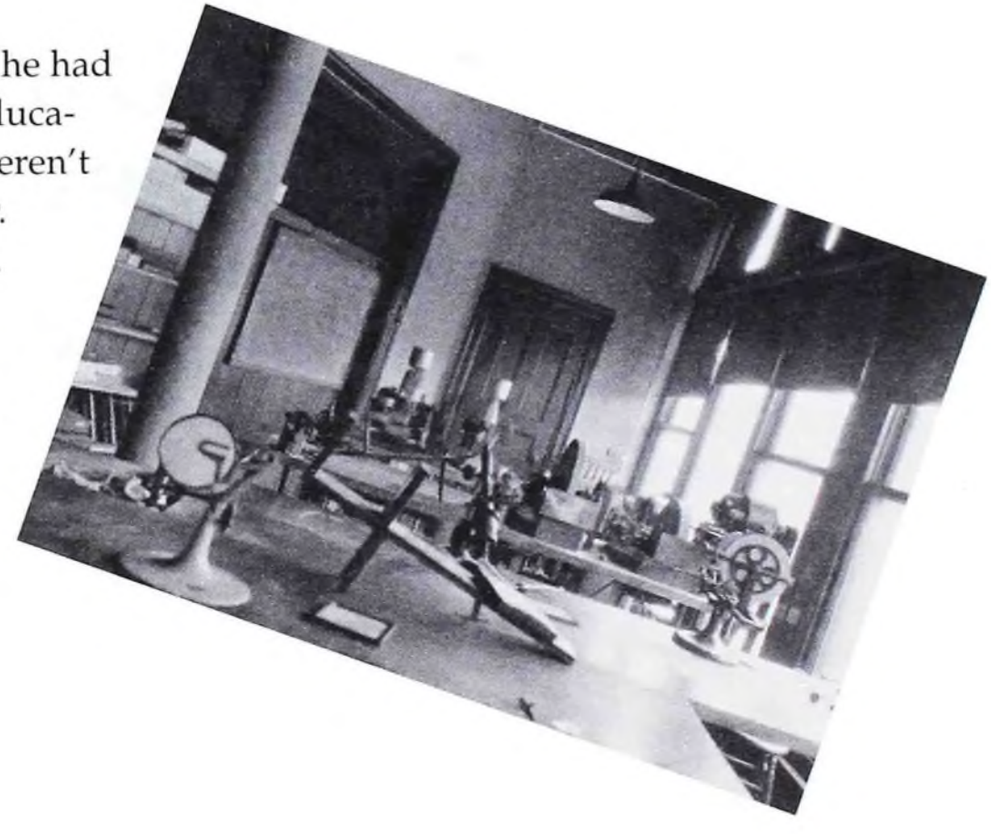
One of 16 children, Dr. Bradley received a football scholarship to Fordham University before coming to the Massachusetts School of Optometry in 1930. He was also a medium heavyweight championship boxer with an Irish sense of humor. Upon graduation, he opened a practice in Somerville. He would be elected to the state legislature, practicing optometry in the morning and working at the State House in the afternoon. In the '40s, he would become Mayor of Somerville and in the '60s, would serve on the Governor's Council. It was during that turbulent decade that he made time to serve the School as Chairman of the Board of Trustees.

A high school classmate of Dr. Baker's in Arlington, John Asarkof remembers the five of them—Drs. Namias, Montminy, Baker, Bradley, and Asarkof—studying for the state Boards. "I recall that each of us took a subject we were best at, and we questioned one another on that particular subject. Foster and I were the only ones who passed the first time we took them. He was a good friend. Not only was he very bright, but he had a

caustic tongue. When he taught, if a student tried to be wise or pull something on him, he'd cut him down to size. He'd say something like, 'It's wrong; but for you, Jones, it's all right.'"

Just as these five were graduating, Adelbert "Del" Parrott was seeing the School for the first time. "It was on Massachusetts Avenue with a fruit store underneath it," he remembers. "When I first saw it, I didn't even want to go inside. But I was there, so I went in anyway. The people were so cordial and so animated and understood the field so well that I began to get interested."

It was Dr. Theodore Klein with whom he had spoken that day. Although Dr. Parrott's education to that point was fine, his finances "weren't so hot. I think I had $150 to put down. Dr. Klein said, 'Well, let's just think about this. We'll let you know.'" The next week, he called him back. "School begins in September," he said. "Bring in your $150. You can start."



CHAPTER TWO

Room to Grow

1933-1946

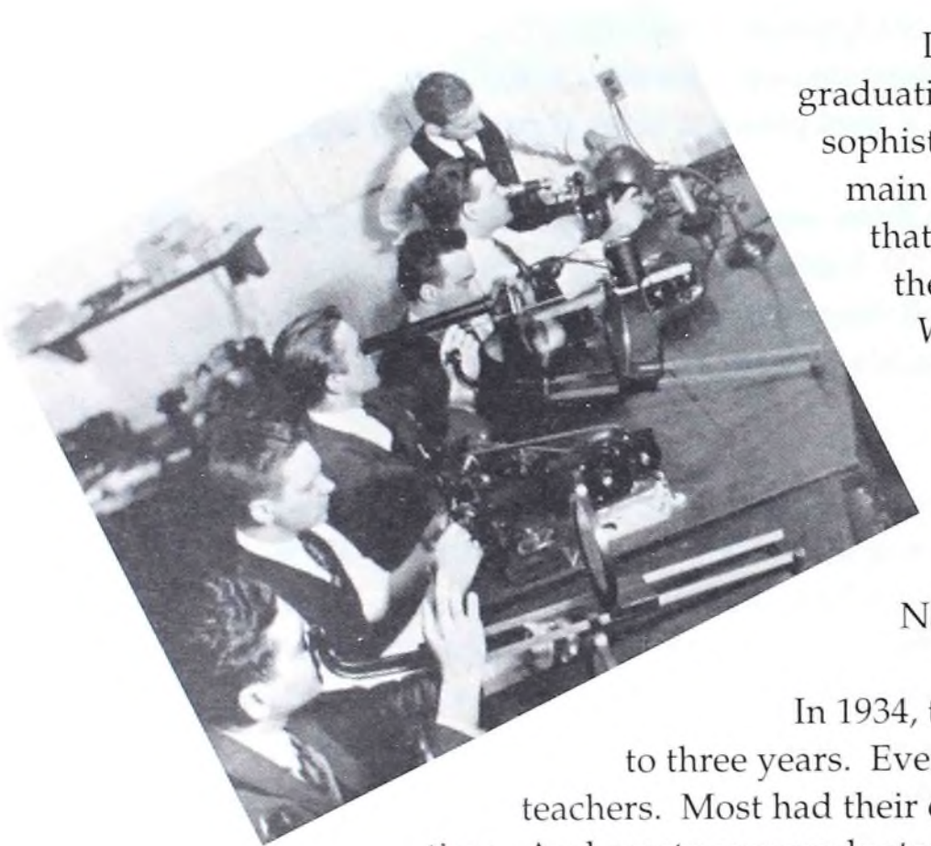
In 1933, the Massachusetts School of Optometry moved to 1112 Boylston Street, between Hemenway Street and Massachusetts Avenue. It has been variously described as over a bowling alley, a pool parlor, a funeral parlor, and a liquor store.

Wherever they were, Dr. Green says these were "much larger and finer quarters. We had a terrifically big optical laboratory. Dr. Klein outfitted the entire basement. We had all the lens grinding equipment and a full-time person who taught the art of grinding. That was a big thing in those days, to teach a student how to grind a cylinder. You had to go down there with lenses."

Although there was space for a clinic on the first floor, there were no patients for a while. At the time, Dr. Green was refracting about 20 boys a night from the Harry E. Burroughs Newsboys Foundation Medical Clinic, next to the State House. Although he sent referral notes home with the boys, they were largely ignored because the families had no money. Dr. Green recognized Burroughs Newsboys as an excellent source of optometry patients and, with Dr. Theodore Klein's approval, the Massachusetts Optometric Clinic was born. Its first patients were, indeed, the boys off the streets of Boston's West End. Here, they were supplied glasses at cost.

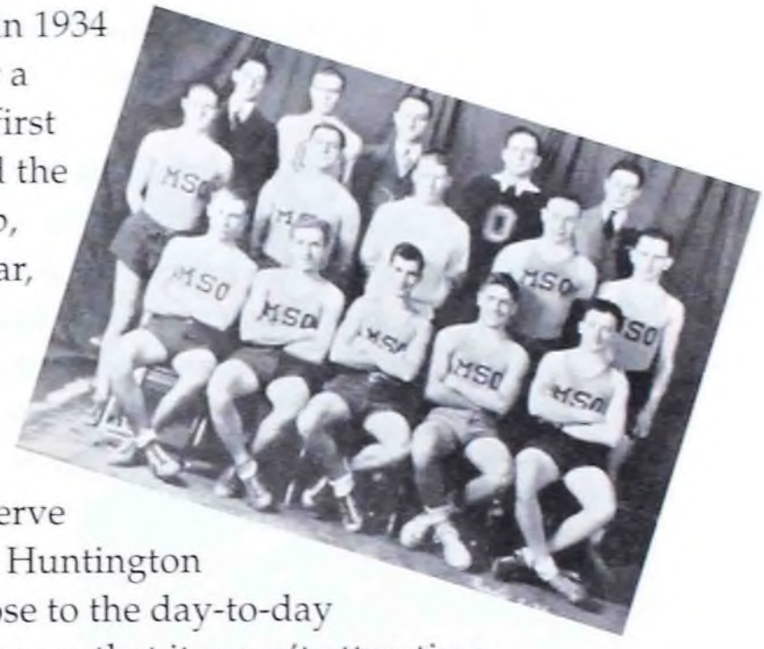
Even in the '30s, optometry remained a fledgling profession. "During the '20s and '30s," Dr. Green maintains, "optometry wasn't practiced; it was prostituted. When I first went into optometry, glasses were sold across the counter in department stores

and five-and-dime stores. There were signs in the windows, 'No charge for examination,' 'Examination free.' Lay corporations were practicing optometry by hiring optometrists. It wasn't until the state Board began to raise the standards, forcing optometry to behave itself, to do more thorough work, to get out of the ghetto, so to speak, and into private practice, that the profession began to turn around. It did a terrific clean-up job."



Dr. Sloane contends that after his graduation in 1927, the School became more sophisticated, "less of a trade school. The main change," he points out, "was the fact that Foster Namias was teaching. Then there were Ralph Green and Paul Cline. We had some very bright people who had come to the School mainly because it was affordable preparation for a profession. That was true in Foster's case, and in Paul's case." Originally classmates, both Drs. Namias and Cline had stayed on to teach.

In 1934, the program was extended from two to three years. Even so, there were very few full-time teachers. Most had their own practices, and taught only part-time. And most were graduates of the School themselves, recruited by the Kleins. By 1936, all accredited schools of optometry would increase their requirements to three and four years.



Student life broadened during the '30s. It was in 1934 that Dr. Green lobbied hard—and successfully—for a basketball team. In 1935, the Student Council was first organized. And in 1936, the basketball team played the Middlesex College of Medicine, Roxbury Boys Club, *Boston Globe*, and Chelsea Toreadors. That same year, the School's first sorority, Epsilon Omicron Sigma, was formed.

Upon Dr. August Klein's death in 1936, Dr. Theodore Klein was named President. He would serve until his own death ten years later. Charlotte Klein Huntington remembers her father as a "hands-on" manager, close to the day-to-day running of the School. One of his ongoing concerns was that it wasn't attracting enough women students. "I remember we'd get a girl to come in to register and he'd be in heaven!" she laughs. "We were brought up thinking it didn't make any difference whether you were a girl or a boy, you could do anything you wanted to."

She and her sisters, Theodora and Barbara, all worked in their father's office from time to time. Although each carried the title of Registrar, Mrs. Huntington remembers handling admissions and payroll as well as class scheduling. Theodora Klein would later become her father's eyes as his own deteriorated.

The class entering in 1936 was the last in the three-year program. It was also the class of Arnold Sloane, Dr. Albert Sloane's younger brother. By this time, many new courses were being introduced and new faculty hired to teach them. Dr. Albert Sloane points out that many of these new courses had been mere topics in the courses he had taken years earlier. Now they were courses on their own. "And as the faculty

increased," he adds, "more and more time was given to substance. The School was showing a steady improvement in scholastic objectives."

There were over 100 students in this class, including four women. They attended classes five days a week, nine to five, with a short break for lunch, he recalls. On Fridays, after class was over, they'd spend time in the optical lab in the basement. John Graham taught Shop, or how to make up a pair of glasses. "I remember him as non-academic, but he certainly knew his business," Dr. Arnold Sloane recalls. "A good practical teacher, he taught us how to edge lenses, how to mount them into frames. Actually, Foster Namias trained us, too. He also taught us about neutralizing lenses and dotting optical centers. That was part of a Practical Optics course.

"The thing I remember about Foster was that if you weren't a good student, it wasn't good to be in his class," he continues. "He'd say, 'There are two ways of doing something. There's this way and then there's the way Buddlehook would do it.' Buddlehook, of course, was a very poor, totally hypothetical student. Foster kept us laughing."

By the time Dr. Arnold Sloane graduated, the profession had changed quite a bit. A law had been passed that an optometrist could not practice within the confines of a jewelry store. Consequently, most of his classmates went into private practice.

The first four-year program was introduced in 1939. Entrance requirements included four years of high school English, one of Algebra, one of Geometry, one of History, and one of Lab Science. Annual tuition and fees for student activities, medical care, the School paper, and Library totaled $375. The minimum cost of new equipment for four years, including a diagnostic set, trial frames, practice eye, set of tools for Optical Shop, and a dissecting set, totaled $155. Pi Omicron Sigma was described in the Catalogue as featuring "discussion of current topics by leading business and professional men."

There was also an orchestra and class social activities. There was even a Dean of Women, Mrs. Svendsen.

By 1939, administrative offices, labs, and lecture rooms were on the second and third floors at 1112 Boylston Street. The Clinic was next door, at 1114-1118 Boylston, on the first floor. Soon afterwards, the Klein family bought 472 Commonwealth Avenue and the Clinic moved to that address.

Dr. Theodore Klein continued to teach until infirmities forced him to stop about 1940. He sent for Dr. Green. "I'm losing my sight," he told him. "I'm finding it very difficult to get around. I have to be driven to and from school. I want you to assist me." Dr. Green did this for six years, representing Dr. Klein at educational meetings and conferences, accompanying him to meetings when it didn't require too much traveling. It was during this time that Dr. Green persuaded radio station WHDH to allow him to give a 15-minute talk on eye problems and eye health each week. He gave over 100 of them.

The Class of 1942 was only the second in the new four-year program. It included Albert Glickman, Herbert Iventash, Samuel Wasserman, and Janet Mechanic, to name a few. Arnelda Levine, who practices with Dr. Mechanic in Brookline, followed in the Class of 1943.

Dr. Glickman remembers the School being over a bowling alley on Boylston Street. At lunchtime, the students used to bowl, then be late for afternoon classes. From a family of optometrists, he remembers Dr. Namias by his nickname, "The Bear." During the mid-'60s, he and Donald Horley would help to re-organize the Alumni Association. Both would eventually serve as the Association's President. Among their projects would be a special rotogravure supplement to the Sunday *Herald*. Focusing on optometry in general, and the Massachusetts School in particular, the publication resulted in hundreds of letters of inquiries regarding admission. Now used more commonly, this was a novel approach to "marketing" a school.

Dr. Iventash believes that 1112 Boylston was once a funeral parlor. His entry into the profession was really a matter of chance. He had decided that he would go to either the Massachusetts School of Optometry or Boston University Law School. He thumbed his way up to Boston from Providence to check them out. Because the School was closer to the highway than BU, he saw it first and his fate was sealed. While in school, he paid $4.50 a week for an apartment on Hemenway Street which he shared with two others. He has now been in practice in Rhode Island for over 50 years.

Dr. Wasserman lived in Boston. As a student, he assisted Dr. Mark Budilov in Geometric and Physical Optics Lab, which paid his tuition. In 1947, he would join the faculty to teach Geometric and Physical Optics. With faculty teaching for about $3 an hour then, a "real sense of camaraderie" developed. They knew and enjoyed each other both professionally and socially. In 1972, he would receive the honorary degree, Doctor of Ocular Science.

Drs. Mechanic and Levine remember Dr. Green's office on the second floor and the Clinic on the first. "The Clinic was very rudimentary in those days. It wasn't anything,

little cubby holes with some equipment, whatever equipment was available." While they were students, the School opened the new Clinic at 472 Commonwealth Avenue, near Kenmore Square.

They, like so many others, remember that Dr. Namias "acted like a bear, but underneath he was really soft." They also remember Dr. Cline, who taught Physiological Optics, "a genius, so far above everybody else," and Dr. Spritz, a pediatrician who taught General Pathology and Physiology. Dr. Spritz was "very nice, very soft-spoken, a lovely man, a real gentleman." Mrs. Svendsen they remember as "a sweet, lovely woman" who taught General Anatomy, and Theodora Klein as a capable administrator who came in even when her father was no longer able.

Drs. Mechanic and Levine grew up together in Brookline and took the trolley to school. They remember going to the movies downtown when classes were canceled due to snow, and the "guys" going to Scollay Square to see Sally Keith perform. They remember a sorority, Epsilon Omicron Sigma, and a deli with gigantic sandwiches.

Epsilon Omicron Sigma, 1936

Both women feel that their gender presented an obstacle when it came to setting up their practice. "The profession had come a long way," they admit, "but it was nowhere near what it is today. Being women, we had a much more difficult time." In 1948, they launched their private practice in Brookline, which continues to this day.

Dr. Asarkof joined the faculty in 1942, most likely to teach Practice Management. At the time, there were about 20 people on the faculty, most of whom were part-time, all of whom reported directly to Dr. Green as Dean. He describes Dr. Green as very dedicated, very hard-working. "Of course, because money was scarce then, he fulfilled several functions in addition to being Dean. He taught, for example, and handled purchasing." Following the war, Dr. Asarkof would return to the College to teach. He, too, would continue to practice and teach for nearly 50 years, until his death in 1994.

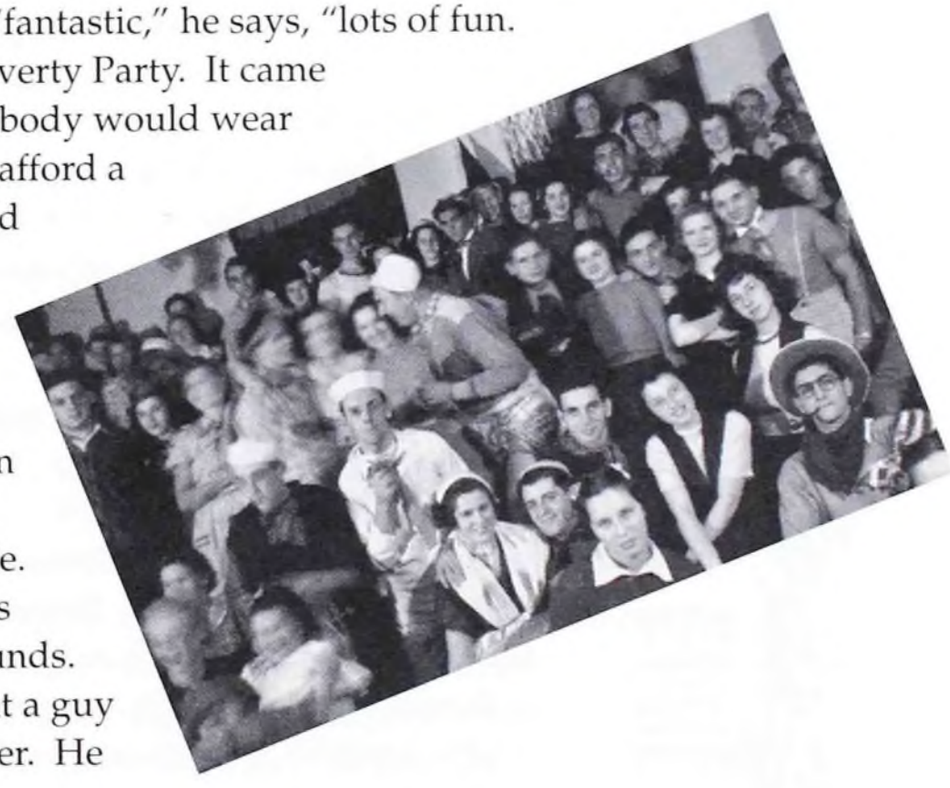
Dr. Asarkof tells of another faculty member, Otto Hochstadt, who would be instrumental in setting the course of both the School and the profession. "Otto Hochstadt was a physician from Austria. He came over, I think, in 1939, before the Nazis got in power. Once here, he encountered a delay in receiving a medical license to practice in Massachusetts. The School needed someone to teach Physiology, though, and he took the job. He was forever grateful because when he really needed someone, the School was there. I remember later, when the School couldn't meet its payroll, he wrote out a check.

"He was very dedicated," Dr. Asarkof continues, "and very influential in several things—getting the approval for the School to grant a bachelor's degree, then an O.D. degree. He testified in favor of the first diagnostic drug bill in Rhode Island. The ophthalmologists were very much opposed to it. He went down there and fought them tooth-and-nail. Otto Hochstadt was a great friend of optometry."

The profession, Dr. Asarkof points out, was still developing in the mid-'40s. "We did refractions, fitted glasses. Contact lenses were in their infancy. That was about it." People were either in private practice, or commercial organizations, or they taught. Occasionally there was still an optometrist in a jewelry store.

Frank Kozol first enrolled at the Massachusetts School of Optometry in 1942. He remembers the School on Boylston Street being over O'Keefe's Liquor Store, and the Clinic at 472 Commonwealth Avenue. As was the case for many at the time, his education was interrupted by the war. He returned afterwards and would graduate in 1948. In 1951, he would join the faculty and remain for more than 40 years.

The social activities back then were "fantastic," he says, "lots of fun. Our fraternity ran what we called the Poverty Party. It came around the time of Halloween and everybody would wear some type of a costume. If you couldn't afford a fancy costume, you'd wear something old that went with the theme of poverty, some kind of old, torn clothing.



"They would charge a couple an admission fee of a penny a pound. When a couple presented themselves at the party, the date was asked to get on a scale. What they did not tell the individual was that they had jacked up the scales 50 pounds. I remember one young lady who brought a guy who was 250 pounds, a big football player. He got on the scale and nearly broke it!"

Dr. Kozol remembers more about the fraternity than just initiation. "When we were pledging, they'd do all sorts of interesting things, sheer foolishness. They'd have us stand on a main street like Boylston and instruct us to propose marriage to the next woman who came along. What they did not tell us was that they had made arrangements with some young woman previously. One of the pledges would go up to her and ask her to marry him. The woman would reply, 'As a matter of fact, I will.' And they would be hauled off to a bogus preacher who would start the ceremony."

There was a closeness at the School back then, Dr. Kozol says, "a real cohesiveness among the students, and also between the students and faculty. You can't say it was because of the small size of the class; we had 100 students in mine. We worked up a very, very strong sense of loyalty to the School and to our instructors."

In 1943, Dr. Kozol went into the service. Many others did as well. During World War II, the number of students enrolled dropped to four or five in each class and the School's finances dwindled. A large building, 1112 Boylston Street became a burden and everything was moved to the Clinic on Commonwealth Avenue. Administrative offices, classrooms, and labs were consolidated there until 1946 when Dr. Theodore Klein died.

For those students not in the military, the editors of *Scope*, a student monthly, wrote, "...Our country is at war. The world is at war. Under the present emergency conditions, our courses will proceed with unabated fury during the summer....This year we are not returning from summer vacations. At the present time, there is no entering class. Since none of us can be certain that he will complete his courses before being called to serve with the armed forces, it should be unnecessary to advise everyone to take full advantage of every available opportunity to information in the time at our disposal....We urgently recommend that everyone buy United States Government Bonds and Stamps."

Then, in 1946, "the fun started," according to Dr. Green. "Everything was on Commonwealth Avenue and we were beginning to get the G.I. Bill students. We went up to Huntington Avenue and rented some quarters formerly occupied by Northeastern University, opposite the New England Conservatory of Music. They were beautifully arranged rooms, large and airy, with skylights, built-in blackboards, and platforms for the instructors. Each would accommodate 100 students or more. Theodore Klein arranged for the move just before he died. We still had the Commonwealth Avenue building for the Clinic, though. We now had two buildings.

"By then," he continues, "we were out of money, out of faculty, and out of equipment. We had so little money that I carried every tablet armchair that the School owned, personally, by a truck that I borrowed from a meat market. I carried every one of the chairs from Commonwealth Avenue over to Huntington Avenue on a Saturday afternoon.

"Not only did we have no money, we owed money. When Theodore Klein died, I sat on my heels for about two months, waiting for the family to make up its mind what it wanted to do. That's when they sent for me and said, 'Look, you have been the closest to the School. You understand its operation. We want you to be its head.' So the American Optometric Association's Council on Education came in April to find that I was its head, with nothing to head!

"I had maybe a week or two before the Council arrived," he continues. "All they said was that they wanted me to come to the upcoming AOA Congress. It was in June, in Pittsburgh. I remember meeting with the members of the Council in a smoke-filled room. They had their sleeves rolled up, ready to get at me. I sat there and said, 'Look. This is what we have. This is what

we owe. You saw the conditions and they were just beyond belief.' For all practical purposes, at that time the School had lost its accreditation. It had none because it had nothing to be accredited. There was no School to speak of."

Up until this time, the School had been operated as a family business with, according to Mrs. Huntington, "the Klein family putting every cent it had into it." Any delay in moving the School forward after Theodore Klein's death was understandable. Only 68 years old at the time, he died quite suddenly of a cerebral hemorrhage at work one day. Theodora Klein Bickford concurs with her sister. "Our father financed the School until his death in 1946," she writes. "The School was his whole life."

The Council was clear in its demands of Dr. Green. "'The first thing you have to do is get the Kleins to give up the charter. Dissolve it, and start from scratch. Get a non-profit charter. With that, you would at least have the basis upon which to build.' And then they gave me ten things, I think, that had to be done by December 31 of that year. That gave me very little time, between June and December 31, to build a chemistry laboratory, to build up the faculty, and to get equipment, all with no money."

It order to get chartered, the School was required to have incorporators. Finding the appropriate individuals was one of Dr. Green's responsibilities. The first meeting of the incorporators of the Massachusetts School of Optometry was held on June 19, 1946, at 472 Commonwealth Avenue. Attending were Gertrude C. Klein (Theodore's widow), Theodora Klein, Dr. Green, Dr. Hochstadt, Joseph M. Duffy, the senior Dr. Montminy, and Dr. Bradley. Dr. Herman Klein was elected President; Dr. Green, Vice President and Dean; and Theodora Klein, Secretary. A petition for a non-profit charter was granted in November.

Dr. Joseph Montminy Sr., like Dr. Bradley, had experience on Beacon Hill, which Dr. Green felt would be useful. "He knew his way around the State House, where we might

someday have to seek advice as to how to go about getting some things done. Our long-range plan was to be a degree-granting institution. We were feeling our way around because, up to this point, no optometry school had ever applied to grant degrees in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. This was a new thing with the Board of Collegiate Authority. They hardly knew how to evaluate us.


Dr. Ralph H. Green

"When I saw the Council in December," says Dr. Green, "we had accomplished just about everything that they wanted. We had built a faculty and a chemistry laboratory on a shoestring. We had gone to the Massachusetts Department of Corporations and Taxation and gotten a non-profit charter, so at least we had a beginning. With that, we began to move a little bit. The students were beginning to come in. We were beginning to see a little money."

Nineteen forty-six proved pivotal in the history of the School. That year, it set the following five goals:

- procurement of a non-profit charter
- full accreditation by the AOA's Council on Education and Professional Guidance
- acquisition of a permanent home
- the right to confer appropriate professional degrees
- the right to be classified as an Institution of Higher Learning.

Hyman R. Kamens, who would become one of the School's most beloved faculty and administrators, enrolled in 1945, "right after the war. I entered as a second-year student, after being in medical school one year. When the school I was attending shut its doors, my brother, who was an M.D., told me about a profession called optometry. He said optometrists go to school only six months and then earn a comfortable living. I applied and they gave me advanced standing. I didn't know it was a four-year course!"

Because the School was operating on an accelerated trimester system to accommodate returning G.I.s, Dr. Kamens would graduate in 1947. That was the same year the School received full accreditation. The clinical staff consisted of:

Herman L. Klein, *Director*
Joseph F. Antanelis, *Clinician-in-Chief*
Mitchell Kuhn, *Clinician*
Arthur O. Bruce, *Clinician (Ocular Pathologist)*
William Smith, *Clinician (Orthoptics and Visual Training)*
George Cohen, *Visiting Clinician*
Joseph Craven, *Visiting Clinician*
William Oldach, *Visiting Clinician*
Frederick Farnum, *Clinician (Contact Lenses).*

By then, the School was on Huntington Avenue near Symphony Hall on the corner of Gainsborough Street. There was a bowling alley underneath. Dr. Kamens' fondest memory was being asked, during his fourth year, to teach Optometry Theory, specifically how to determine the prismatic correction obliquely, to the third-year class.

The Clinic was at 472 Commonwealth Avenue, which Dr. Kamens remembers as "gorgeous. Had an elevator and everything. We had very few patients, though. We worked on each other, like first-year students do now, and played cards. When a patient walked in, one of us was supposed to examine him, but there were 20 of us trying to grab patients. We'd have to toss a coin. I think I had three patients my whole fourth year."

His toughest course was Ophthalmic Optics, taught by his favorite professor, Dr. Namias. It was because of "his personality, the material he taught, the practicality of what he taught. It was useful information that would help you in practice. Foster was

really an introvert, but to overcome that, he yelled at you. He was very comical. He'd pick on one person every week."

Dr. Green was also a favorite of Dr. Kamens. "He was a great actor. You never knew what was going to happen in his class. He'd call on you dramatically, all of a sudden. 'Well, what do you think about this?' He was a great lecturer. Plus he had the most interesting material. Taught Optometry."

There were only 28 students in Dr. Kamens' class, although the next class, with students coming out of the service, shot up to 98. "We knew each other very well," he recalls. "We were an older, more mature group because most of us were in the service. We were in our twenties. No, we didn't hang around together. All we worried about were our careers. We didn't fool around. Everything was serious, very serious." With a little coaching, however, Dr. Kamens remembers the annual Eye Ball at the Statler Hotel, now the Park Plaza. A tradition started years earlier, the event was complete with a live band and Miss Eye Ball.

The war cured Dr. Kozol of any interest in medicine. "As a combat medic, I crawled around on the battlefield trying to patch people up who were blown apart and so forth. I learned I wanted nothing to do with surgery or medical trauma ever again. I wanted optometry more than ever." When he returned to the School, it was over the bowling alley on Huntington Avenue. "I think it was called Huntington Alleys or something.

When an instructor was lecturing, we'd hear the ball hit the floor. The instructor would stop until the ball hit the pins and then continue."

This was the accelerated program specially designed for veterans, the same in which Dr. Kamens had enrolled. "The majority of students were veterans," he explains, "and we went literally day and night, all day every day with no breaks. We had no summer breaks, no vacations, no time off. That enabled us to complete our education more quickly so that we could get on with our lives. The administration was very sympathetic to the needs of returning veterans."

He remembers courses in Anatomy, Physiology, Pathology, Bacteriology, Immunology, Geometrical Optics, Ophthalmic Optics and Physiological Optics, Theoretical and Applied Optometry, Visual Training and Ophthalmics, and Contact Lenses. Many of the optical courses had labs as well. At this time, students were also required to spend one morning a week at the YMCA in a physical education program.

"We all used to call Foster Namias 'The Bear,'" Dr. Kozol laughs. "It was a term based in affection, actually. Foster had a gruff exterior. If students were not prepared with the material and he called on them in class, they would probably be shredded and diced. So students made it their business to be really well up on the material. We took it as humor though; we enjoyed him. He was absolutely brilliant, mind-bogglingly brilliant. He was well known and highly respected across the length and breadth of the country."

Dr. Foster Namias

Dr. Namias taught Ophthalmic Optics. "In the lab, we were taught how to work with lenses and frames, hands-on practical work making up glasses, adjusting, repairing, etc.," Dr. Kozol

recalls. "Foster had some lab instructors who worked with him, but he would also come down to the lab to supervise and make sure. 'There's only one right way,' he'd say. He was a stickler for doing things the right way. He didn't want any half-hearted procedures. He wanted things done correctly. Totally.

"Yes," Dr. Kozol admits, "I'd say he was tough. He was very, very demanding. He wanted the School to turn out the best possible doctors of optometry, so he set high standards, high goals for his students. We really worshipped him. First of all, he was so thoroughly knowledgeable, not only about the course that he taught, but many other courses that were peripheral to that. He'd give us a very, very complex problem and at that time, we didn't have calculators. We had slide rules and log tables. We'd be breaking our heads to solve the problem, and he'd solve it in his head.

"Beneath the facade of his rough exterior, there was a genuinely warm, kind, sympathetic person. Classmates who were not doing well in his courses would go to him for help and he would sit down with them and help them, encourage them. He would agonize over students who were having problems. He just didn't want anyone to know he was sympathetic."

Dr. Kozol remembers Dr. Hochstadt fondly, too. "I loved Otto dearly," he says. "He was a physician, a heart specialist from Vienna. He used to teach all the medical sciences—Anatomy, Physiology, Pathology, Bacteriology, Immunology. Like Foster, he had an exterior of being tough and demanding. He felt that he was teaching a group of medical students. I think he was a superb teacher, very warm, kind-hearted, and generous.

Dr. Otto Hochstadt

"I remember once he learned that a student living in the Back Bay area with his wife was falling on hard times. This student didn't have enough money to put coal in the cellar for his furnace. He was going to freeze in the wintertime. Otto made sure that money got to him and he swore us to secrecy. He did not want the student to know where the money came from. And then because Otto was a physician, students and faculty would go to him for medical problems. He would never take a nickel from any of us. He would give medications to students and again, he wouldn't take any money from them.

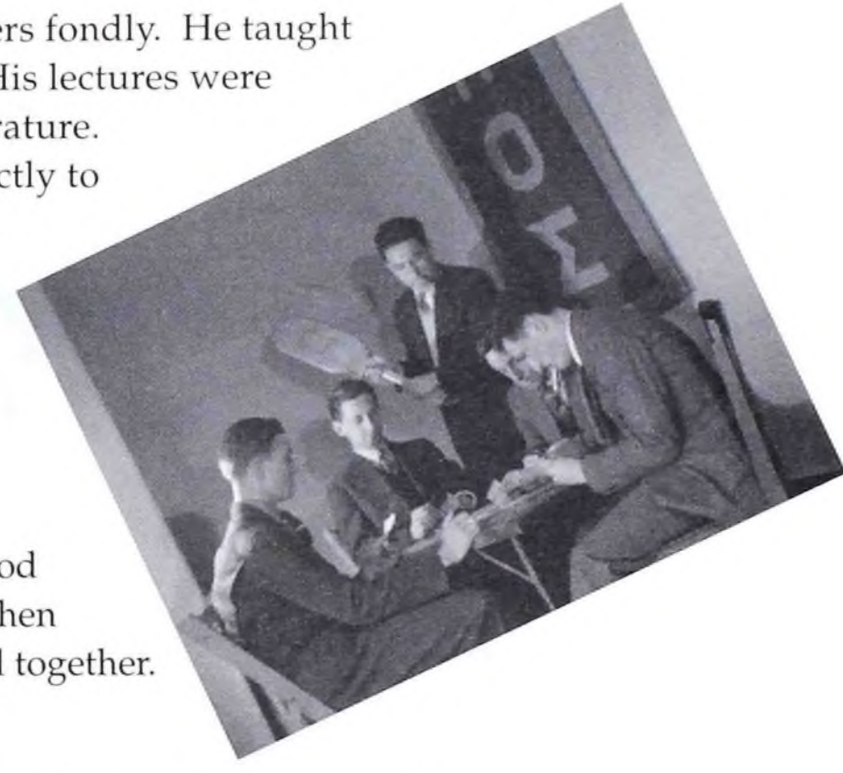
"He did this kind of thing repeatedly," Dr. Kozol recalls, "in different ways. He used to have a joke. He thought it was unprofessional for a young man to walk into class without a necktie on. This was one of his sticklers, so if a young man would walk in without one, he would fine him 50 cents. He'd have a collection of neckties that he would give to the student to wear during class. Afterward, he'd give him his 50 cents back."

Dr. Hochstadt could also be tough. Dr. Kozol tells how, at one point, the American Medical Association (AMA) decided to intimidate any physician teaching at an optometry school. It made it clear that physicians teaching at optometry schools would lose their hospital privileges. Dr. Hochstadt was a physician, of course, and very proud of being an American. He was going to take the AMA to court.

"Yes, he sued them. He got a lawyer to contact the AMA and he told him he had plenty of money and that he was willing to spend all of it. 'You are depriving me of my constitutional right to do something that is legitimate, to teach at a college of optometry. I am going to prove that you are wrong and I will use all of my financial resources to do it.' He had several friends who were millionaires who were willing to back him. When the AMA got wind of that, it backed down. He made it back down. He was a feisty guy! We had other physicians teaching here who understandably quit their jobs rather than defy the AMA. We lost them."

Dr. Hochstadt would later serve as Treasurer of the Board of Trustees, Dr. Kozol points out. "They said he ran the Trustees with an iron fist. He brought aboard a very, very good group of Trustees who helped the School develop and expand. We would not be where we are today were it not for his foresight in getting high-level Trustees here."

Dr. Green is another person Dr. Kozol remembers fondly. He taught principally Theoretical and Applied Optometry. "His lectures were classics, superior to anything in the optometric literature. We learned so much from him that we applied directly to our practice of optometry. His portrait, which now hangs in the College's rotunda, shows him with a book open. He always had a book open. He was always studying the literature.



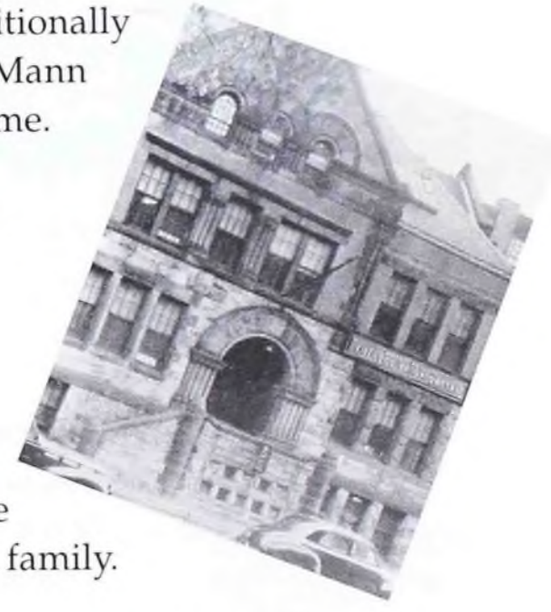
"When we were involved in our attempts to get accreditation not only from optometry, but from the accrediting groups in New England, he fought the good fight," says Dr. Kozol. "He and Otto were a team. When Otto was a Trustee and Ralph was Dean, they worked together. They fought very diligently on behalf of the School."

Drs. Hochstadt and Green were a formidable combination, he continues. "Because of their efforts primarily, the School moved ahead, rather than backwards. We were a private, non-profit institution that was not university-affiliated and, at that point in time, the Council on Education of the AOA was looking askance at this type of school. They wanted optometry schools to be university-affiliated or they didn't want any part of them. Both Ralph and Otto proved to them that it was not necessary to be affiliated with a university in order to be a top-level school. We served as a unique example for all the other optometry schools who were in similar circumstances."

CHAPTER THREE

Breathing Space
1947-1970

The next few years would prove heady indeed, as each of the objectives set in 1946 would be realized. In 1946, the Massachusetts School of Optometry had been given the right to conduct a school of optometry on a non-profit basis. In 1947, the Council on Education and Professional Guidance of the American Optometric Association had pronounced it unconditionally accredited. In 1948, the Trustees would purchase the Horace Mann building at 178 Newbury Street as the School's permanent home.



In 1950, the Massachusetts Board of Collegiate Authority would grant the School new status as the Massachusetts College of Optometry, and with it, the right to confer the degree of Bachelor of Science in Optometry. In 1952, the College would be granted the right to confer the Doctor of Optometry degree, as well as the honorary degree, Doctor of Ocular Science. Also in 1952, the Trustees would purchase the Clinic building at 472 Commonwealth Avenue from the Klein family.

The Horace Mann building, near the corner of Newbury and Exeter Streets, was purchased from Boston University for about $110,000. Recently the site of the Harvard Book Store Café, the building had originally been a grammar school. In fact, Dr. Green

recalls neat little rows of hooks low enough for children to hang up their coats. For the College, it would provide administrative offices, classrooms, research laboratories, a library, and recreation facilities for 20 years.

The move was made for several reasons, but primarily for the sake of convenience. "We thought the environment of Huntington Avenue left a lot to be desired," Dr. Green explains. "Newbury Street was much finer. It was also closer to the Boston Public Library, and not that far a walk to the Clinic building on Commonwealth Avenue. It was centrally located."

The Newbury Street address also made sense for a changing enrollment. Immediately after the war, class size had peaked at about 100. By the end of the '40s, however, it had dwindled to about 80. The new quarters would provide not only the space, but the sense of self the School needed to come into its own as a full-fledged college. Even so, the way

would not be easy. There would be no graduating class in 1951; new degree requirements would mean that the entering class of 1948 would not graduate for four years.

"We got our non-profit charter," Dr. Green begins, "and immediately applied for the right to confer the Bachelor of Science degree in Optometry. We appeared before the Board of Collegiate Authority after a tremendous amount of paperwork. We supplied each member of the Board with a folder that was over an inch thick with the background of everyone on the faculty and in the administration, every piece of equipment we had, and we were rejected.

"We were very upset, very hurt," he continues. "Nevertheless, we went right back again and the second time, we were successful. No sooner did the ink dry on the Bachelor of Science than we applied for the right to give the Doctor of Optometry degree. In fact, the Board criticized us for moving so fast."

Indeed, the College did receive the right to grant the Doctor of Optometry degree in 1951. The ability to grant two degrees made it stronger than ever before. "Now that we had the right to give the Doctor of Optometry, the program was much more attractive to students," Dr. Green explains. "All the other schools had very broad degree-granting powers. I think we were the only independent school at that time that did not."

By this time, Dr. Kamens had been supervising the Clinic at 472 Commonwealth Avenue for several years. Located near Kenmore Square, the Clinic in 1948 provided services in Refraction, Visual Training and Orthoptics, Visual Fields, Ocular Pathology, and Subnormal Vision. In 1952, with the purchase of the Clinic building from the Klein family for some $40,000, the College established the Boston Eye Clinic.

"I'd been practicing with my brother for a year when Ralph Green called and asked if I'd like to become head of the Clinic," Dr. Kamens recalls. "That was 1948. Actually, he asked if I'd be willing to work at the Clinic in the capacity of a preceptor, checking the patients to make sure the students' work was accurate. I was doing fairly well in my practice, but this was guaranteed income and I was married, so I thought, 'I might as well do that. I can run my practice on nights and weekends,' which I did." Dr. Kamens would direct the Clinic until 1965.

"I remember the very first patient I checked for a student. It was a six year-old boy. The mother had brought the child in because he was failing school. He couldn't get through first grade. When they took his vision test, he couldn't see anything. I was able to correct him to 20/15 and she thought I was a genius. I wasn't a genius. Anybody could have done it."

Gradually, the Boston Eye Clinic grew. Dr. Green made it a point to visit settlement homes and charitable organizations to see whether the College could handle some of their optometric problems. He approached each organization individually, and eventually they provided many of the Clinic's patients. Two or three times a week, a team of four or five senior students went out to Chelsea, for example, and with minimal equipment, screened 20 or 30 boys and girls.

Dr. Green remembers how he developed the patient pool. "I rapped on the door and said, 'Look, I have this service to offer. Would you want to take advantage of it?' We would go into the Italian Home for Children up near Faulkner Hospital and say, 'We'll come in here and we'll screen all these children. We'll pick out those that need help and we'll try to do something about helping them.' We developed Boys Clubs in both the West and South Ends. We also worked with a number of Cambridge settlement houses."

Dr. Kamens recalls an audience with Cardinal Cushing on Lake Street while looking for patients at the Home for Catholic Children and the Home for Little Wanderers. Over the years, the nuns and priests brought thousands of children to the Clinic, usually on the streetcar or in a van. Dr. Kamens also approached colleges such as Boston University and Northeastern University, but had little luck there.

The College's Visual Training Specialty Clinic, 1952

The Clinic operated on a three point program—no pay, part pay, and full pay. "We had so many no pay and part pays," says Dr. Green, "that the full pay could not balance. We operated in the red, but we had to provide our students with experience." This "charity clinic" had been Dr. Theodore Klein's dream, recalls his daughter, Charlotte Klein Huntington.

Dr. Hochstadt felt the same way. "He always said that the Clinic should never make money because this was a teaching institution," adds Dr. Kamens. "He didn't discourage it, but we never really made an attempt to make money. We did have private patients, though, and they paid. They'd see the students first and then me. They thought they were getting the works. An examination cost about $5; a pair of single vision glasses, about $20. I was surprised that people of wealth would come, but they did. They'd drive up in limousines. We used to get a lot of Back Bay 'bluebloods.' They lived at residential hotels, like the Braemore or Somerset. They would learn about us by word of mouth."

Graduating in 1949, Sanford Monsein had 60 students in his class. Now President of the New England Council of Optometrists, he began attending meetings of the professional societies as early as 1946, as a student. He remembers "a small impoverished school on Huntington Avenue, next to Symphony Hall," learning directly from Dr. Herman Klein at the Clinic, and spending "an inordinate time" in the Library. During his senior year, he examined "perhaps a total of 12 patients," a fact he regrets. Reflecting on his years at the College, he says, "It was really like a family then. Our education enabled us to graduate and those who wanted to, could progress."

By 1950, the College was a charter member of the Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry. It offered a four-year program leading to the Bachelor of Science degree in Optometry, following at least one year of pre-optometric study at an accredited college or university. It broadened its curriculum with a new course, Introduction to Semantics, a two-hour lecture which, according to the Catalogue, would help students develop an "awareness of the power of words in more efficient and constructive human relations." There was a Faculty Committee on Student Guidance, a Student Council, Glee Club, Camera Club, and a promising basketball team. There were also two publications: *Scope*, a student monthly, and *Reflections*, the yearbook. Tuition was $400 for the year.

Dr. Herman Klein died in 1951. In the decade that followed, the standard curriculum for optometry would evolve into two pre-professional and three professional years of study. From 1951 to 1962, Joseph Montminy Sr. would serve as President of the Board of Trustees, the College's first. Until recently, Joseph Montminy Jr. practiced with his own sons, Paul, Class of 1965, and George, Class of 1969, who continue the tradition in Lowell.

Dr. Herman L. Klein

From 1950 on, the College enjoyed "a rather even course," according to Dr. Green. "We had accomplished all that we set out to do. Our faculty was stronger, and we were doing a magnificent job on the national Boards. Although we had no extra money, we were not in too much trouble financially. We used to have to borrow money every summer, take out a loan on our bank account in order to pay the faculty during the summer months when there was no income. We always operated close to the chest, but we were out of financial trouble."

Even so, enrollment dropped during this period, just as it did at schools of optometry across the country. After peaking in the early '50s, it would continue a sharp decline until the mid-'60s. The American Optometric Association became quite concerned and launched a tremendous campaign nationwide to encourage college students to enter optometry.

"When the G.I. Bill ran out, the number of students we were attracting began to dwindle to just a handful," Dr. Green explains. "And it became a very serious matter. I think optometry schools, themselves, were actually doing everything to attract students, hijacking them from one school to another. It got as serious as that."

Graduating in 1952, G. Burtt Holmes would become a renowned pioneer of international optometric education. Throughout his career, he would remain a strong and steady friend of the College. First a faculty member at Newbury Street, he would be named to the College's Board of Trustees in 1965 and serve as its Chairman from 1982 to 1984. In 1987, he received the honorary degree, Doctor of Humane Letters, and is a past recipient of the Outstanding Alumnus Award. He has held numerous leadership roles within the profession, including President of the International Optometric and Optical League; Director of the National Health Council; Secretary of the Inter-American Optometric Foundation; and President of the American Optometric Association, the New England Council of Optometrists, and the Massachusetts Society of Optometrists.

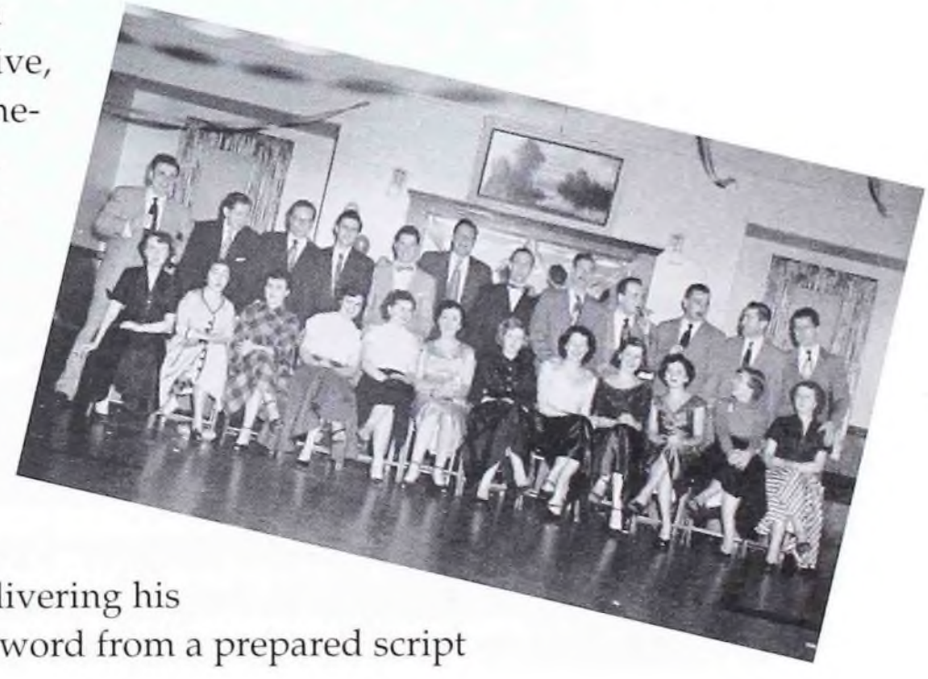
Ira Schwartz was in the Class of 1953, the first to complete requirements for the Doctor of Optometry degree. A four-year program, it was accomplished by Dr. Schwartz in three. The son of an optometrist, he was a civilian scientist working in Groton, Connecticut when he decided to try optometry. Already trained as a physicist, he was about four or five years older than most of the students and developed lasting friendships with the faculty, particularly Drs. Green, Hochstadt, Kamens, Kozol, and Namias. In 1965, Dr. Green would ask him to teach Advanced Theoretic Optics, which he would do for four years. He would serve as a Trustee with Dr. Holmes from 1971 until 1983.

Dr. Schwartz adds to the legend of Dr. Hochstadt's generosity. He tells how, when the College couldn't meet its payroll, Dr. Hochstadt reached into his own savings to do so. He also tells the story of Dr. Hochstadt's inviting a student, "who shall remain nameless," and his wife to dinner just before graduation. During dinner, he told the student

that he had enrolled him at Harvard Medical School. All of his tuition and expenses had been paid. The student's reply was unforgettable. "I'm not interested," he said. "I want to be an optometrist."

By the mid-'50s, tuition was close to $600. Financial aid such as the Maurice H. Saval Tuition Scholarship, the Massachusetts Society of Optometrists Scholarship, and national and state auxiliaries' scholarships were available. There were student lounges and a snack bar. The basketball team walloped Cambridge Junior College, 77 to 25, and Emerson College, 85 to 57. Faculty committees were established in the areas of Academic Affairs, Admissions, Promotions, Student Counseling, and Scholarships and Awards, as well as Research and Publications.

For students looking for adventure, the June 1957 issue of *Scope* carried a full-page ad for the French Foreign Legion. Applicants could enlist either under their own name or "under a supposed name" for service in North Africa. "There, you will lead an active, outdoor life," the ad read, "sometimes somewhat rough, devoted to honour and work. You will participate both by weapons and by tools to the maintenance of a prosperous peace and to the equipment of undeveloped countries."



On the faculty since 1951, Dr. Kozol recalls adventure of another sort. "We had an instructor here—who shall remain nameless—who was compulsive about delivering his lectures from a podium, reading word for word from a prepared script

in a low monotone that would put everyone to sleep. Finally, the students couldn't stand it anymore and they disassembled the podium. They put one part on the roof, one in the basement, one in the yard and so forth. The guy came in to give his lecture and without his podium, he couldn't do it."

Even in the '50s, students had limited opportunity for clinical experience. Now professor of Optometry, Joseph Svagdys saw only six patients before his graduation in 1955. In 1957, he took a job at the Boston Eye Clinic as a stopgap measure until he could open a practice. He has been there ever since.

"Back then, the thing to do when you graduated was to open a storefront office and wait for patients to come," he recalls. "When they didn't come, I went back to visit Dean Green and Dr. Kamens. I joined the Clinic as an instructor at the Kenmore Square facility at $55 a week." For a time, he would serve as a clinical preceptor along with Dr. Kamens. When the Clinic moved to 1255 Boylston and became the New England Eye Institute in the mid-'80s, Dr. Svagdys would move with it. Over the years, he would serve in various supervisory roles, shaping the clinical experience of thousands of students.

Now a prominent optometrist in New Orleans, Thomas Greenberg enrolled in the three-year program in 1958. He remembers how it all came about. "It was a time of indecision for me. I had a B.S. in history and needed something that would result in a job. Back then, optometry did not have the esteem it does now; but my father, a physician, talked me into it. That was just two weeks before classes started."

Dr. Wasserman, who taught Geometric Optics, was one of Dr. Greenberg's favorite professors. About 40 years old then, he seemed almost "one of the guys," wisecracking in a flat Boston accent. "Once he was even impressed with a calculus formula I'd

worked out," Dr. Greenberg laughs. "And Dr. Hochstadt used to tell us not to be so concerned about grades; that learning was the important thing. I swear he must have graded our tests by throwing them up in the air and seeing where they landed."

Dr. Greenberg played on the 1960 championship basketball team, along with "Big Bob" Honors and "Little Bob" North. Clinched only in the final minutes of the playoff game, the championship was a thrill for the entire College. "Starting its season with two heart-breaking losses, the MCO basketball squad, under the able coaching of Mitchell

Kuhn, came on to win 12 of its next 14 games," reported *Scope*. "The play-off championship was won [by a score of 67-59] against the Massachusetts College of Art on Wednesday, March 16 at the Boston Garden. The game was played as the preliminary

contest to the Boston Celtics-Philadelphia Warriors professional play-off game. Immediately following the game, the play-off trophy was presented to the MCO winners on the Garden floor, the announcement being made over the loud-speaker system to the vast crowd."

Dr. Greenberg also served as sergeant-at-arms for Omega Epsilon Phi, what he calls the "less studious" of the two fraternities. He remembers meeting for breakfast at the restaurants along Newbury Street, attending the Eye Ball, drinking colored beer, and playing football in Franklin Park. He distinctly remembers learning to ski in New Hampshire and returning to the College on crutches. Along with 20 classmates, he graduated in 1961 with Dave Garroway as Commencement speaker. The former host of the "Today" show had a daughter whose eyes had been saved by optometry.

Dr. Baker had become Chairman of the Board of Trustees in 1959. He fondly recalls the joviality of those meetings with fellow Trustees such as Dr. Hochstadt and Maurice Saval. One of Boston's most prominent businessmen and philanthropists, Mr. Saval would later serve the College as Chairman of the Board and one of its major benefactors. This was a time of broadening the curriculum and expanding student opportunity for clinical experience. By the early '60s, the curriculum would be four years in length and require two years of pre-optometry.

Dr. Joseph Montminy Jr., Mr. Maurice H. Saval, and Dr. Adelbert Parrott (left to right)

Dr. Bradley served as Chairman of the Board from 1962 until 1965. He was among the first to receive the College's new honorary degree, Doctor of Humane Letters. During his tenure, the Clinic maintained eight out-patient departments.

The Orthoptics and Visual Training Department handled over 3,000 patient visits each year. Student training emphasized refraction, contact lens fitting, orthoptics and visual training, with each student examining about 75 patients a year. In addition, seniors conducted visual surveys in schools, community centers, and other institutions.

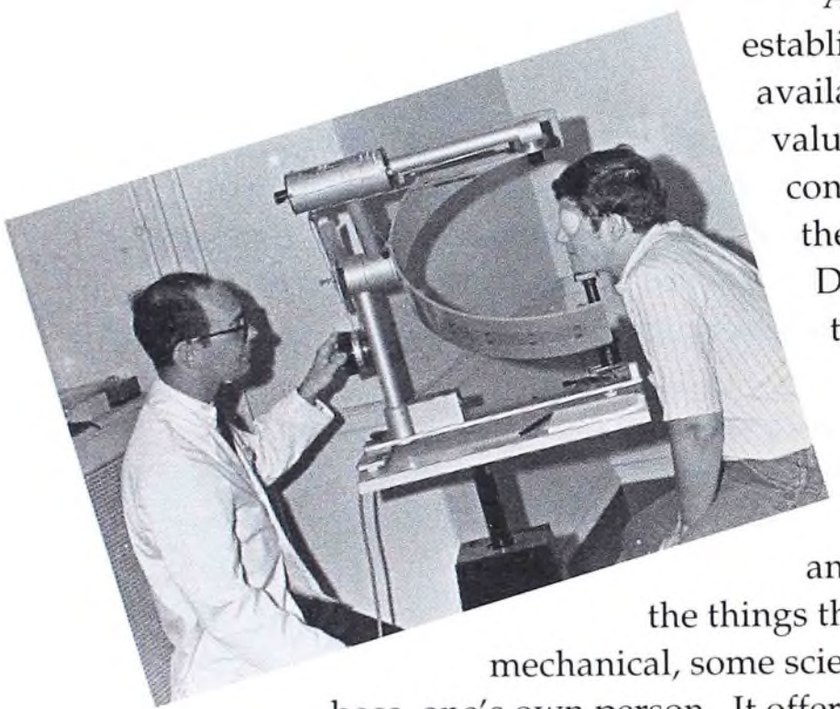
In 1965, the College purchased the Copley Methodist Church adjacent to the Horace Mann building. The church would later be razed as part of a plan to erect a modern classroom building.

By this time, student membership in the American Optometric Association and the Massachusetts Society of Optometrists (MSO) was growing, a reflection of increased interest in the affairs of organized optometry. Its officers met regularly with students to share information and promote high ideals within the profession. The MSO President was Joseph Craven, a 1943 graduate who would serve optometry in countless ways.

"Years ago, Richard Baker and I had visited optometrists throughout Boston," he recalls, "trying to get them to update and eliminate free examinations. Now, in the '60s, we were still working to elevate the profession. One of the things we did was to clean up the advertising in telephone books. None of it came easily because the medical professionals, especially the ophthalmologists, felt that they should see all the patients and that optometrists should just fill prescriptions."

Dr. Craven also worked on various site selection and alumni committees. By this time, the Alumni Association was playing an important role in support of the College. Recognizing early the need to address finances, the Association contributed significantly to the Building Fund. For several years, it implemented a vocational guidance program which was conducted under the auspices of the MSO and presented to high schools, junior colleges, and colleges throughout New England. The Alumni Association also provided scholarship aid.

Throughout the '60s, the College was active in post-graduate education. In conjunction with the Massachusetts Society of Optometrists, it offered a series of courses in contact lens fitting and glaucoma detection to MSO members. The College also offered annual courses in Space Perception and Aniseikonia, Binocular Refraction, Ocular Motility, Occupational Vision, and Subnormal Vision.



At the Boston Eye Clinic, the College also established a Contact Lens Consultation Service available to practicing optometrists. It was most valuable to practitioners with difficult or unusual contact lens cases. This service supplemented the regular out-patient Contact Lens Department which trained students at the clinical level.

Joseph Bickford, Chairman of the Board since 1991, earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Optometry in 1965 and an O.D. three years later. Optometry had all the things that he wanted in a profession. "It had some mechanical, some science," he explains. "One could be ones's own boss, one's own person. It offered independence."

Images of faculty come quickly to his mind. "I remember the first time I saw Otto Hochstadt. I was in class and he strolled down the aisle to my right and said, 'Pay attention, because Khrushchev is entering the room.' He looked and acted just like Nikita Khrushchev. Ralph Green was intelligent, dapper, always very well dressed, very well groomed. He had a little mustache which he always kept neat. He was very dedicated, very hardworking."

Dr. Green retired in 1965, submitting his resignation to Dr. Hochstadt, Treasurer of the Board at the time. He remembers Dr. Hochstadt's thinking he was out of his mind when he handed it to him. "He said, 'What do you mean? What is this?' He said, 'I'm not passing this to the Board of Trustees. I'm going to carry it in my pocket. You're going to change your mind.' He carried it in his pocket for weeks. Finally, I said, 'Otto, you'd better present it because, if you don't, I'm going to write out another copy. I'm going to hand it to them myself.' And he finally did."

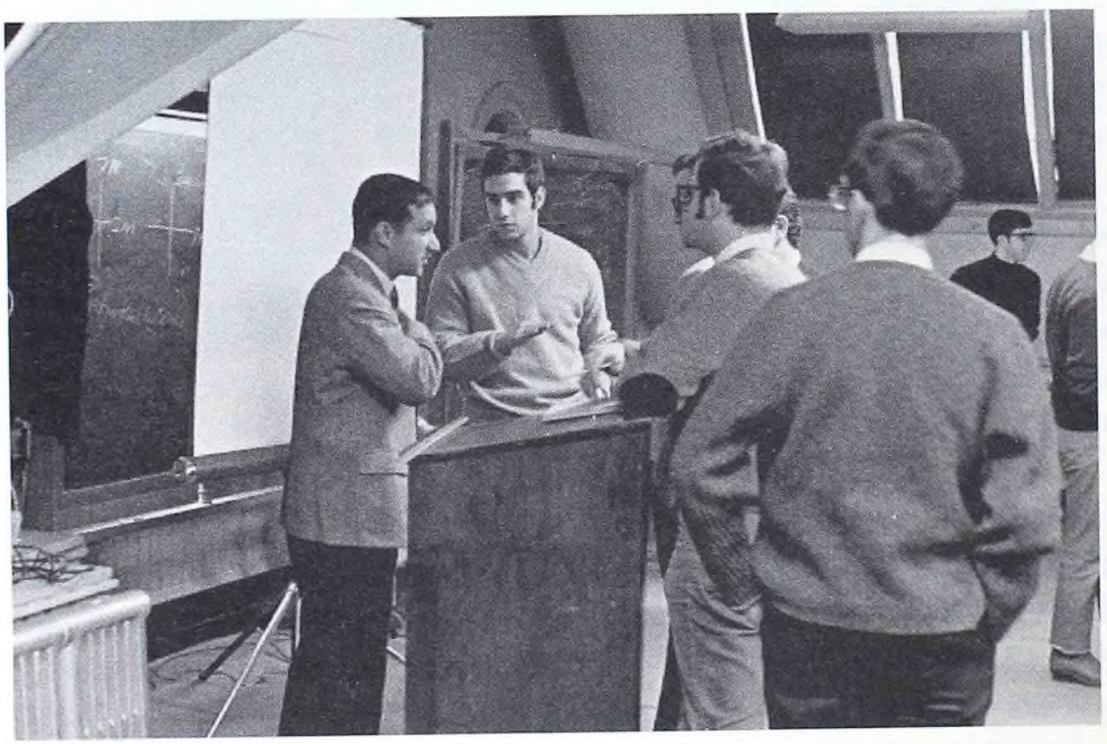
Upon this resignation, Dr. Hochstadt asked Dr. Kamens to become Acting Dean. He was a logical choice, loved and respected by faculty and students. In fact, the Class of 1964 had dedicated its yearbook to him. As Dean, he would be responsible for public relations and fund raising, effectively raising thousands of dollars for the Building Fund. In 1975, he would be named Dean of Student Affairs and Admissions, and granted the honorary degree, Doctor of Ocular Science. His work at the College was nearing three decades and would eventually span more than four.

By this time, the College was in the process of being re-accredited and Dr. Kamens' job was "to be sure we would keep our accreditation. I hired teachers," he says, "developed the curriculum, got students; I did everything. I was in charge of the Board, prepared the Board meetings, wrote up the minutes. It was a lot of work, but I was young then, about 40."

There were about 50 students in each class, 200 in all; tuition was about $800 a year. The permanent faculty was still very small, only about five or six full-time. The rest, about 30, were practicing optometrists who taught only part-time. The administration consisted of Dr. Kamens and Dr. Kozol, whom Dr. Kamens convinced to join him as Registrar. "It was a temporary job," laughs Dr. Kozol today, "which lasted 25 years!" In 1990, Dr. Kozol would relinquish the position of Registrar in order to take on more teaching assignments.

The College was re-accredited in 1966 with the recommendation that it hire a President, improve its curriculum and facilities, and alter its practice of hiring alumni as faculty. The next year, the College was visited by the American Optometric Association's Council on Optometric Education for a formal evaluation. This body recommended that the College increase its educational planning, increase faculty involvement in that planning, strengthen its finances, and relocate for more space.

By then, the College required that students have 60 semester hours of pre-optometric courses at an accredited college or university prior to admission. In 1967, it received a



federal grant, its first, to improve the academic program through better organization and new courses in Contact Lenses, Biochemistry, Optics, and Biological Sciences. Soon thereafter, a faculty committee on Professional Ethics and Conduct was formed and tuition was raised to $1,000 per year.

One of the outstanding graduates in 1966 was David Ferris, President of both his class and the Student Council. He would be elected President of the Rhode Island Optometric Association in 1972. In 1986, Dr. Ferris would become the second of only two of the College's alumni to be named President of the American Optometric Association.

Lester Brackley graduated in 1968 in a class of about 30. Upon graduation, he would become active in the Alumni Association and in 1977 be elected its President. In 1979, he would become the Alumni Representative to the Board of Trustees. He would continue on the Board for years, serving as Chairman from 1985 to 1991. He remembers 178 Newbury Street well.

"As you walked into the basement, there were two small rooms. One was just sort of a 'sit around' room. The other had a ping-pong table in it and you couldn't swing the paddle without hitting the walls. There was a woman there who used to sell snacks, Miss Jackson. And the janitor was Mr. Stilley." He even remembers an organ grinder with a monkey who used to hang around the Boston Eye Clinic in Kenmore Square.

Dr. Brackley enjoyed Dr. Hochstadt immensely. "He insisted that we wear ties to class. He had these terrible ones he'd stick on you if you arrived without your own. And he was dead against smoking. Every once in a while, we'd stick a cigarette in the jaw of the skeleton he kept in the closet. Dr. Hochstadt was a great guy. He helped

not only the school, but the students as well. He'd encourage us to give blood at a nearby medical building. Then," he chuckles, "with the money they gave us, we'd go buy cigarettes!"

In 1968, under the leadership of Dr. Kamens, the College became the first optometry college to establish an affiliation with a United States Public Health Service Hospital. Three fourth-year students were assigned to the Eye Clinic of the Hospital on a rotating weekly basis, under faculty supervision. Each student screened an average of 40 patients a week for pathology and, with staff direction, refracted patients.

Dr. Foster Namias (seated), Dr. Frank Kozol, Dr. Hyman R. Kamens, Dr. John E. Asarkof, Dr. Jake C. Baboian, Dr. Lester M. Brackley III (standing left to right)

In 1969, William R. Baldwin was named President, a post he would hold for 10 years. Like the '50s, this would be a decade of dramatic change for the College. When Dr. Baldwin arrived, there were only three full-time faculty—Drs. Kamens, Kozol, and Svagdys. Dr. Baldwin remembers what drew him East from Pacific University in Oregon.

"In the late '60s, I was on a Special Projects Review Committee for the National Institutes of Health. The College had submitted a proposal to NIH asking for about $28,000. I had visited the College only once, when it was on Newbury Street, but the thing that struck me most was its limited facilities. I, and several others on the Review Committee, felt that the level of NIH support should be increased substantially.

"Burtt Holmes called me," he continues. "I had been working with the Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry since 1963 to develop a new curriculum for optometry. I had been talking with people in different institutions about how we were going to implement this as a model. By 1968, we had it developed to a point where I thought it had to be tried. I discussed it with Dr. Holmes and realized that the College would be an opportunity to do that. If the grant were changed and redesigned around the new curriculum, it could benefit the College and serve my purpose at the same time.

Mrs. William Baldwin, Dr. G. Burtt Holmes, and Dr. William Baldwin (left to right)

"I told Dr. Holmes that I wouldn't be interested in implementing the new curriculum myself, but that I would try to find somebody to do it. To make a fairly long story short, I couldn't find anyone. Dr. Holmes was pestering me so much, I went to the College in 1969 and we submitted the grant. I think the College would have gone out of existence if it hadn't been for NIH support. Over the next ten years or so, NIH awarded it about $3 million."

Dr. Baldwin would bring enormous change to the College. He would introduce new trends in health care, recruit nationwide for both faculty and students, and raise standards in the classroom, in the Boston Eye Clinic, and in research. From the very start, he did things differently. One of the first things he did was to move the President's office to 483 Beacon Street. Another was to institute Alumni Representatives to the Board of Trustees. Dr. Bickford, in fact, was among the first.

This was only one of many actions the College was taking to institute a policy of inclusiveness in all aspects of operation. Opportunity for community service was expanded at the United States Public Health Hospital, Hanscom Air Force Base Health Services, Dorchester Community Center, and Kennedy Memorial Children's Hospital. Four scholarships were established to foster growth of optometry in underdeveloped countries or within disadvantaged social and economic groups.

The full impact of Dr. Baldwin's tenure cannot be measured in tangible accomplishments alone. As with many of the earlier leaders of the College, much of his effectiveness was due to the force of his dynamic personality and the example he set.

Arthur Roberts, who would become Vice President for Business and Finance, remembers how, after a full day at the College, a leisurely dinner, and pleasant conversation, they would work late into the night "and Bill never wanted to stop. He did the same on week-ends. He also had an uncanny ability to identify, often as a result of networking, special projects that could bring federal funding."

Dr. William R. Baldwin

Dr. Baldwin notes, however, "I didn't make all the decisions myself. New people coming in always see things that people who have done things for a long time don't see."

Change, however, did not come easily. Students at the Massachusetts College of Optometry, like thousands of others across the country, were anguished, then enraged over both the war in Vietnam and social injustice at home. Dr. Baldwin recalls those days. "My office was on the corner, on the second floor. The students from MIT and Harvard and BU and Northeastern converged at that corner to march to the Common. Beacon Street was a warren of students; there were students by the dozens."

One of those who participated in the demonstrations was Anthony Cavallerano, who would graduate in 1972. The shooting of Kent State students by members of the National Guard "brought to a head the idealistic differences between the generations. The first- and second-year students at the Massachusetts College of Optometry joined over four million students at 500 colleges throughout the country in a strike that brought

an early end to the academic year. Nearly 20 students elected to defer taking final examinations and cut short the semester in protest."

Despite the depth of conviction on both sides of the issues, "the College administration always treated us with the utmost respect," he says. Today, Dr. Cavallerano is Assistant Dean of Clinical Education at the College and Director of the New England Eye Institute.

At the close of this turbulent decade, Dr. Baldwin oversaw the departure from Newbury Street. The College was once again on the move.

CHAPTER FOUR

Home at Last

1971-1994

It must have been fate that brought the College to the elegant Beacon Street brownstones in 1971. The Library building at 420 Beacon was constructed at a reputed cost of $250,000 for a prominent Boston family in 1894, the same year that the Klein School of Optics was founded.

The building would become the birthplace and childhood home of Emily Sears, who later married Henry Cabot Lodge. Built on filled land near the center of Back Bay after Boston's Great Fire, it was the first "fireproof" house of record in Boston. The interior is graced with handcarved wooden paneling, marble fireplaces, and handpainted gilt wallcoverings. Today the Library houses an extensive collection of materials relating to vision and health care in both print and non-print formats. There are also rooms for quiet reading, areas for small group study, carrels equipped with audio-visual materials, and a small student computer center. Reference services include access to computerized data bases.

Named in honor of Foster Namias, Namias Hall was designed by J. H. Schweinforth and built in 1904. Its mansard roof and wrought iron balcony give it the unmistakably French style so admired by its designer. Its interior is distinguished by a spectacular four-story spiral staircase, capped by a circular stained glass window. Located at 424 Beacon, the recently-restored building houses classrooms, a cafeteria, administrative offices, and many of the instructional laboratories. The College bookstore provides students and alumni with current texts in vision science and health care, as well as ophthalmic equipment.

At 422 Beacon is the Saval Student Center, named in memory of Maurice H. Saval, Chairman Emeritus of the Board of Trustees. Designed by Little and Brown, the structure was built in 1899. Today, it houses College admissions, the Vice President for Student Affairs, Registrar, and student support staff. Classrooms, laboratories, and faculty offices are located on the upper floors.

Over the years, these Beacon Street buildings have had many owners. Most recently, they had served as a secretarial school, the Chandler School for Girls. According to Dr. Baldwin, the School was owned by a Harvard alumnus who felt that secretaries did not have the social graces they should. Consequently, he started a school that would train them properly.

"The deal that he and I made was for $1.2 million," Dr. Baldwin recalls. "We would pay $200,000 down and a minimum of $100,000 a year for six years. At the end of that time, the total would be paid. Without any interest, it was the simplest deal you could imagine. When the attorneys got a hold of it, however, the first thing they told us was that we could not make an agreement to buy property without interest. We had to recalculate the whole deal with something like four percent interest. And then the attorneys raised questions we hadn't thought of. What about fixtures? What about liabilities and so forth? That simple deal wound up a 100-page document."

Dr. Baldwin arrived at the College with two main missions. The first was to change the curriculum. "The reason for that," he explains, "was to change the scope of optometric practice from refraction and spectacle peddling to primary eye care. The optometric political arm had started talking about the optometrist's being the primary entry point of eye care. Somewhere along the line, they started talking about the optometrist's being the primary *provider* of eye care. That meant that you had to know how to diagnose disease. It required a much stronger emphasis on general health sciences, biological sciences, and pharmacology."

Within a few years, schools of optometry nationwide were adopting the curriculum model that evolved at the College. It had three major thrusts. The first was a major increase in clinical training. The second was a substantial increase in instruction in the biological and health-related sciences. The third was an expansion of training in instrumentation, the use of new equipment and techniques.

The first proposal for federal funding was to support basic science faculty for a period of three years. With the grant of $200,000, the College was able to hire two psychologists, a neurophysiologist, a nutritional chemist, and an engineer/psychologist. Soon afterwards, two O.D. Ph.D.s were added. All were full-time, regular faculty. Previously, nearly all faculty had been part-time.

Among the new faculty in 1970 was John Carter, Professor of Optometry and Physiological Optics. He would serve as Dean from 1973 to 1977. Responsible for crafting several of the grant proposals, he adds his own perspective on the curriculum changes.

"Prior to 1970, the program had been heavily optics- and spectacle fabrication-based," he recalls. "There was a reasonable background in refraction and other things, but very, very little in the biological sciences. The thrust of the changes was really to bring the curriculum more in tune with what other health professions were doing.

"Even in 1970, it would have been stretching things to call optometry a health care profession," he continues. "The students would have been able to look in an eye and recognize an obvious eye disease, but they didn't really have any significant feel for what the eye manifestations of systemic diseases were. They didn't really have any working familiarity with eye diseases. They may have known what the picture looked like, but they didn't have any experience in pursuing a complicated diagnostic process or anything that involved treatment."

Norman Wallace arrived from the University of Houston in 1971 as Director of Special Studies. At the College only a short time, he significantly broadened its academic reach by establishing a number of new program options. They included a two-year accelerated program for those holding doctorates in related sciences (referred to as the POD program), technical training for optometric assistants, and continuing education programs. Before leaving to become President of the Pennsylvania College of Optometry, he would initiate several other programs on a trial basis. Those included a three-year master's program, as well as a collaborative Ph.D. program in Vision Science at Northeastern University.

The POD program, slated to begin in 1972 with 12 students, was marketed heavily in scientific journals. Of the 30 individuals who applied, only 11 were accepted into this already-selective program. By the time the semester started, there was still space for one more student.

"I remember well how we got our last student," Dr. Wallace says. "I was leading the 11 on a tour of the College the first day of classes. We were in the Library, in the stacks. Just as I was pointing out the visual science books, Dr. Kozol, who was Registrar at the time, came rushing in. 'Here's your twelfth man!' he said. It was Dr. Paul Ogbuehi from Nigeria. I didn't know anything about him, but Bill Baldwin had talked with some faculty over there and they had simply put this man on a plane. I can tell you that he had the shortest admissions interview on record! A first-class student, he went on to establish the optometry program at the University of Benin. Later, he became its Dean."

A collaborative effort with Fisher Junior College, the technical training program was designed to develop paraprofessional competencies in the optometrist's office. The ten or so participants that first year received didactic instruction at Fisher and clinical training at the College's facility in Kenmore Square. There, at the Boston Eye Clinic, they learned how to take case histories; how to test for such things as visual acuity; and how to select, measure, order, and dispense frames. At the end of two years, students earned associates' degrees as optometric technicians from Fisher.

The continuing education program was developed in 1971 in direct response to Rhode Island legislation enabling optometrists to use drugs for diagnostic purposes. A hard-fought victory over intense opposition from the medical community, this was the first such legislation in the country. While indeed a major breakthrough for optometry, it required that practicing optometrists be specifically trained in ocular pharmacology. The resulting program, developed and taught by the College in collaboration with the Massachusetts College of Pharmacy, soon became a nationwide model. Offered over

a three-month period at East Cranston (Rhode Island) High School, the 96-hour program required both didactic and clinical instruction by College faculty. Some 90 practicing optometrists participated in the initial program.

The College's second federal grant, more than $1 million over three years, was for clinical affiliations and instrumentation. Previously, only seniors saw patients, perhaps a total of 60 in all. The new curriculum required students to begin learning instrumentation in their first year and to devote their entire fourth year to working in the clinics. By graduation, each would see over 1,000 patients. A change in the term system from semesters to quarters helped to facilitate this new approach.

The College approached neighborhood health centers and government-affiliated hospitals, telling them that if they would make room for an optometric service, it would provide the equipment and the faculty for one year. After that, several options were available to the health centers and hospitals, and a number of cooperative arrangements developed.

"I don't know how many places we went into, but many," Dr. Baldwin says. "We went into the Dorchester Neighborhood Health Center, the Dimock. By 1979, I would guess we were in 30 locations. The first Veterans Administration hospital was downtown, the Outpatient Center in Boston. Then we went into Bedford, Jamaica Plain, and so on. Then we started moving into state hospitals."

The College was not always well received, however. Dr. Baldwin recalls that some optometrists viewed these clinics as competition and actually complained to the Massachusetts Society of Optometrists about it. "I never understood that," he says. "We made optometry more visible, so more people knew what optometrists were about and respected them. In any case, you can't educate students and train them properly unless they can see patients."

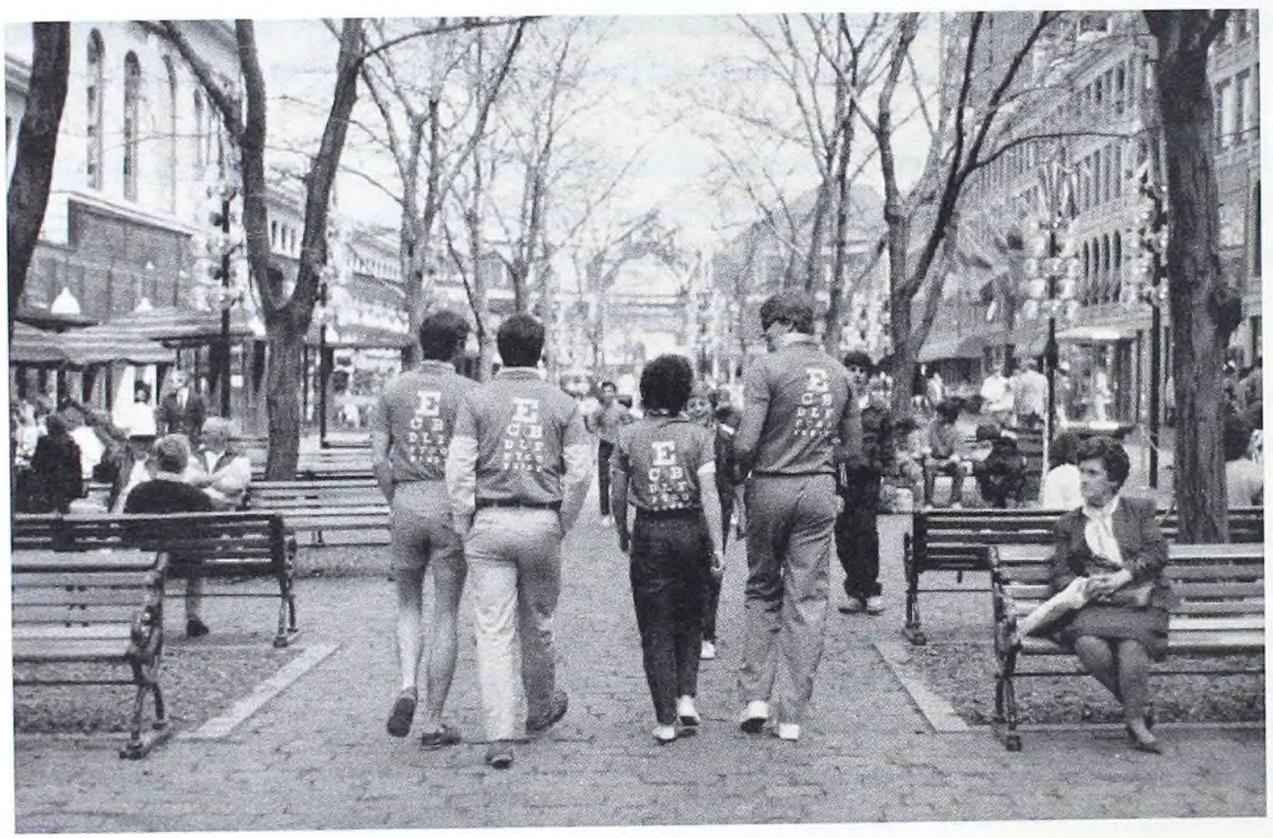
He particularly remembers the last neighborhood health center the College entered during his tenure, Columbia Point, in 1977. "I had some very interesting experiences because I hadn't used the latest instrumentation.

"There was an instrument called an 'air-puff tenometer,'" he explains. "I had never used this, but I decided I must take the pressure of my first patient. I fidgeted for ten or 15 minutes and had to puff this thing two or three times. There's nothing painful to it, but it startles you. I finally got her reading out of one eye and started to move into the other eye. She asked, 'What are you going to do?' I said, 'I'm going to take the pressure of your other eye.' 'Oh no, you're not!' she said and got up and walked out. That was my first patient at Columbia Point."

The three recent major changes—the increases in clinical affiliation, in basic science faculty, and in instrumentation—took time and money, and Dr. Baldwin felt the time had come to find someone to manage the institution's finances. The treasurer of the American Optometric Association spent several days at the College working out financial systems and, in 1973, Arthur Roberts was hired to oversee them. Now Vice President for Business and Finance, he had first come to the College on an audit for a Boston accounting firm. When he arrived, the College's operating budget was still less than $400,000. There was no endowment whatsoever. Today, the operating budget is $9 million. Endowment is $4 million.

Dr. Baldwin's second mission was to affiliate the College formally with a university. He cites several reasons that this was important.

"One is that affiliation gives you financial visibility and stability, which private schools will never have unless they have a huge endowment. Second, it gives you a way to attract faculty. It's very tough to attract faculty to private schools that don't have financial stability. Third, it gives you a way to support research. If you're living off the tuition



of students, you can't justify research. Fourth, it gives you visibility as a learning profession and with that, the advantages of going to the government and getting programs.

There is prestige and visibility. And finally, the association with people from other disciplines strengthens not only that program, but the outlook of the entire institution."

There were several attempts at affiliation during these years, all of which proved futile. One was with Boston University, in the early '70s. It involved BU's Vice President for Health Affairs, Louis Rohrbaugh, who would later serve on the College's Board of Trustees. The next opportunity came in the mid-'70s with Tufts University. Maurice Saval, President of the New England Board of Higher Education at that time, was among those pushing for a New England Health Sciences University, to be located at Tufts. The next attempt came in late 1978, when the College worked to establish an affiliation at the new University of Massachusetts Medical Center at Worcester.

Now Professor of Optometry and Chair of Patient Care Management, Nancy Carlson entered the College's four-year program in 1973. "We had 64 in our class," she recalls, "and we all sat in the same seats for three years. The classroom was located where the Dean's office is now. A sort of informal study group developed and since I lived in Back Bay, they always came to my house. These people were important to me. I wasn't really ready for some of what I had to study here, so it was helpful to have a peer explain it to me in a way that was different from what had been said in class."

She particularly remembers Paul Lappin's Geometric Optics course. "In the beginning, I found it difficult and then, all of a sudden, I got it and it was really fun. Dr. Lappin was a wonderful lecturer and he would derive formulas on the board. He gave me my first A in optometry school."

A 1941 graduate himself, Paul Lappin had joined the faculty in 1970 as Associate Professor of Environmental Vision. He and Dr. Baldwin had become friends as graduate students at Indiana University.

"I was doing research at Northeastern University when Bill Baldwin contacted me about joining the faculty of the College," Dr. Lappin says. "If you know Bill, you know that he could sell anything to anyone!"

He discovered that he enjoyed teaching, chiefly Optics, and continued to teach until, in 1978, he was named Dean. He held the position reluctantly for two years, after which he returned to the classroom full-time. Dr. Lappin remembers the '70s as a time of expansion for the College. Opportunities for clinical rotations increased to include Hanscom Air Force Base and the Veterans Administration hospitals. There was exciting talk of affiliation with institutions such as the University of Massachusetts Medical Center in Worcester. Full-time faculty grew to about 60.

Currently Professor of Physiological Optics, Dr. Lappin identifies the POD and international exchange programs as among the greatest accomplishments of the last 20 years. He credits their initial success to a vigorous advertising campaign; their ongoing success, to outstanding faculty and students. He is concerned, however, about students' ability to afford an optometric education in years to come. "The College is fiscally sound," he points out, "but at the cost of horrendous tuition."

By 1974, tuition for the first year had climbed to $2500. Clinics operated at Dimock Community Health Center, Dorchester House Multi-Service Center, and the South End Community Health Center. Specialty clinics at the Boston Eye Clinic included Pathology, Pediatrics, and Vision Rehabilitation. In 1976, the College was re-accredited by the American Optometric Association and officially changed its named to The New England College of Optometry.

By 1977, Dr. Carter had returned to teaching full-time. Teaching today in beautifully renovated classrooms, he remembers the cramped quarters of those earlier years. "Quite honestly, you hoped that not all of the students showed up for any given class," he says,

"because if they did, you couldn't really seat them. We ran 115 students per class in a room with 85 seats. On a relatively hot day, you couldn't run the air conditioner because it made so much noise the students couldn't hear the lecture. And there was no workable public address system. All we had was a wireless microphone which would occasionally pick up a cab's radio signals. We'd get cabbies coming through in the middle of a lecture. It was awful."

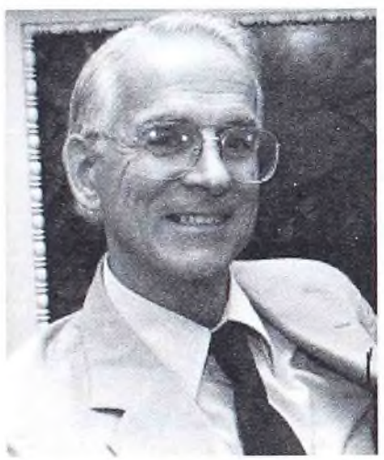
In 1979, Dr. Baldwin became Dean of the College of Optometry at the University of Houston. His fondest memory of The New England College of Optometry is "the spirit of the people who were here when I came. They didn't have any particular reason to like or cooperate with this guy who wanted to change everything. There were two people on the Board who really turned out to be my closest friends. One was Maurice Saval, a great man of Boston and the financial expert on the Board. The other was Otto Hochstadt, a gruff old bird with a very, very deep soft spot. He was probably the College's greatest benefactor."

F. Dow Smith, an optical physicist with Itek Corporation, was named President in 1979. He would hold the top post until 1985 and would be credited with changing the financial structure of the College.

For several years, increased competition among optometry schools had elevated entrance requirements nationwide. The New England College of Optometry had become one of the most competitive, admitting only one in six applicants. Beginning in the '80s, however, there was a significant decline in the applicant pool. Part of the reason for the decline, Dr. Smith explains, was a necessary increase in tuition. Until then, the College had been operating at a deficit. In order to eliminate the deficit, he introduced "full cost tuition." Simply put, full cost tuition is the College's operating budget less outside revenue, divided by enrollment.

The College tried to soften the blow of the tuition increase by explaining the grim realities to both students and parents. The federal funding which had propelled the College through the '70s no longer existed. Working through the New England Board of Higher Education, however, Dr. Smith was instrumental in developing a program that expanded financial aid for out-of-state students. For many, this made a crucial difference.

Also during the Smith presidency, the College purchased 418 Beacon Street, the brownstone next to the Library. The $550,000 purchase with nothing down was financed through a bond issue, the College's first, from the Massachusetts Health and Educational Facilities Authority. A home for clergy of the Archdiocese of Boston at the time, it would become a dormitory for 30 optometry students. The purchase didn't come easily. The College was challenged by the Back Bay Association, a group dedicated to controlling development of the area. Eventually, the College had to appeal its case to the Boston Planning Board before it was approved.



Dr. F. Dow Smith

On the Board of Trustees at the time, Dr. Bickford is particularly proud of his role in the acquisition of the dorm. "The building beside us came up for sale," he recalls, "and we had a meeting. Maurice Saval said, 'I'll loan you the down payment if you want to do it.' I kept pressing the Board. 'Why wouldn't we buy it? It'll never come up for sale again. We'll find a use for it.' Today, it gives us great flexibility. We use it as a dormitory and we make a little money off that. If we have rooms that go wanting, we can offer them as part of scholarship packages. We can offer those rooms to visiting lecturers who might need to stay a week or two. It gives us any number of options."

Dr. Bickford actually taught at the College during these years and found it "an incredible amount of work! There was a lot of preparation and after-class work, much more than I had anticipated. It was good for me to do that as a Trustee. I had always been critical of professors teaching so few hours. I would say, 'You work only nine hours a week!' Then I found out that nine hours a week was really like 20. And my class was very simple compared to the classes that full-time professors were teaching. I had a lot more empathy for their situation given my experience."

Chairman of the Board of Trustees Dr. Joseph Bickford with former Chairs Dr. Lester Brackley, Dr. G. Burtt Holmes, Dr. Richard Baker (left to right)

By 1985, in addition to the traditional four-year O.D. program, there were two-year programs for Optometric Technicians and Optometric Assistants. There were post-doctoral residencies with advanced training in special areas, continuing education courses, seminars, lectures, and practicums. There was a special recruitment and support program for minorities and disadvantaged students: the Optometric Career Access Program (OCAP). There were 30 full-time faculty. In addition to the Boston Eye Clinic at Kenmore Square, there were nearly 30 external clinical affiliates nationwide. There were also clinics at Hadassah University Hospital in Jerusalem and the United States Army Medical Center in Germany.

Tuition for the four-year program was $10,650 a year. Student activities included the Eye Ball, the NEWENCO Follies Talent Show, and the Retinal Rally, a road race through Boston.

Dr. Sylvio L. Dupuis

Into this environment stepped Sylvio L. Dupuis, New Hampshire's Commissioner of Health and Human Services, as the College's new President. A politician at heart, he had been out of the optometry profession since 1971, when he successfully ran for Mayor of Manchester, New Hampshire. In 1975, he had become the founding President of Catholic Medical Center in Manchester. His biggest surprise upon arrival was the College's attitude.

"There was a smallness mindset that I tried to replace with a 'jewel in the crown' mindset," he notes. "If you have only one switchboard person, that person had better be the best because there's no place to hide. We should pay more, rather than less, because we are going to demand more accountability. We brought in an outside person to help us look at salary ranges and wage scales for faculty and staff. If we are going to make an investment in someone, then our goal should be longevity."

Dr. Dupuis also inherited the College's attitude about moving. "I got caught up in it," he remembers, "and thought it was one of our missions, one of the reasons I had been brought in. For a couple of years, we looked at different sites, at the pricing and property." In fact, the Beacon Street buildings were nearly sold in 1988. When that deal fell through, the College began asking itself questions. Was it moving for growth? Did it really want 800 students whom it wouldn't even know? "The answer," says Dr. Dupuis, "was that we were really moving because our buildings didn't work well."

The College examined its clinical facilities first. The Boston Eye Clinic in Kenmore Square, the old brownstone purchased decades earlier by the Klein family, was no longer suitable for training 100 students per class. The building was sold and the proceeds became the basis for the College's unrestricted endowment. The Clinic was then moved to 1255 Boylston Street, where it remains today as the New England Eye Institute.

"Then we started to look at the academic facilities," Dr. Dupuis recalls. "We cleaned the place up and instilled a sense of pride. Small things are sometimes the most valuable. We started doing things, broadening Christmas parties and receptions, and planning days for the Trustees."

The College also instituted a retreat, a planning day for staff away from the College. In fact, it was there that the need to raise major funds was addressed. In 1985, however, the College was raising only $75,000 to $80,000 a year from outside sources. Staley Robeson, a fund raising organization, determined that, given past giving records, the College could probably raise about $106,000 a year. That was nowhere near enough, and the Second Century Capital Campaign was born with a goal of $2 million.

The College did reach its goal, but Dr. Dupuis is the first to point out that "there was a lot of serendipity involved." In 1988, the estate of alumnus Warren H. Beider transferred his home on Long Island to the College. Proceeds from the sale of this property totaled approximately $450,000, making Dr. Beider's bequest, at the time, the largest single gift ever made to the College.

Of course, there were many times when the College did wish to buy real estate. According to Dr. Dupuis, Trustee Maurice Saval would enable the College to do so by providing it with a "loan," in actuality a gift. Over the years, Mr. Saval had pledged another $50,000 to the College. In his will, he donated another $250,000 to endow the Saval Institute for Optometric Study in Israel.

"Over the years, Mr. Saval gave the College close to $575,000," says Mr. Roberts, "its largest cumulative gift to that date. On the Board, he was tough and bright, never afraid to ask a question." President and Chief Operating Officer of American Universal and Canadian Universal Insurance Companies, Mr. Saval was a pioneer and leader in the special and unusual risk insurance field in this country. His primary activities as a broker were as Correspondent of Lloyd's of London. A native Bostonian, he was deeply involved in many educational, civic, and philanthropic activities. For more than a decade, he served as a member and chairman of the New England Board of Higher Education.

Mr. Saval's relationship with the College spanned three decades. As a Trustee, he served in a number of capacities, including Chairman of the Board. In 1966, he received an honorary degree, Doctor of Humane Letters. The Saval Institute in Israel now enables fourth-year students to gain valuable clinical experience at the Hadassah Hospital in Jerusalem.

The College has indeed been fortunate with such individual generosity. Melvin Stack, who graduated in 1953, established the College's first charitable remainder trust. A large bequest from Lester Marcus, Class of 1954, will establish the Lester and Carmen Marcus Chair in Clinical Sciences, the first endowed chair in the College's history. Another major gift has been arranged by Joseph Feldberg, who graduated in 1952, and will eventually provide the Joseph Feldberg Scholarship, more than twice the size of any previous single fund.

Dr. Dupuis left the College after four years. "I wish I could identify a very complex reason for doing it," he says, "but it was very simple. I could no longer make the commute from Manchester to Boston every day. When I prepared to leave, the College did a presidential search, but there was a sense on everybody's part that Larry Clausen's time had come. For years, Larry had been more like an Executive Vice President than Academic Dean. We worked very closely together, far beyond academics."

Phonathon workers (left row, back to front) Dr. Hyman Kamens, Dr. George Montminy, Dr. Frank Kozol, (right row, back to front) Dr. Lester Brackley, Dr. John Asarkof, Dr. Foster Namias

Dr. Clausen had come from Pacific University in 1982 as Dean of Academic Affairs, the first such appointment to involve faculty input. "Deans up until then had pretty much been appointed," explains Dr. Carter. "When Larry arrived, there was a process through which the faculty interviewed a number of people. The faculty was given the opportunity to look at them and vote yea or nay. With Larry, the faculty felt they had somebody they wanted. This was a valuable change."

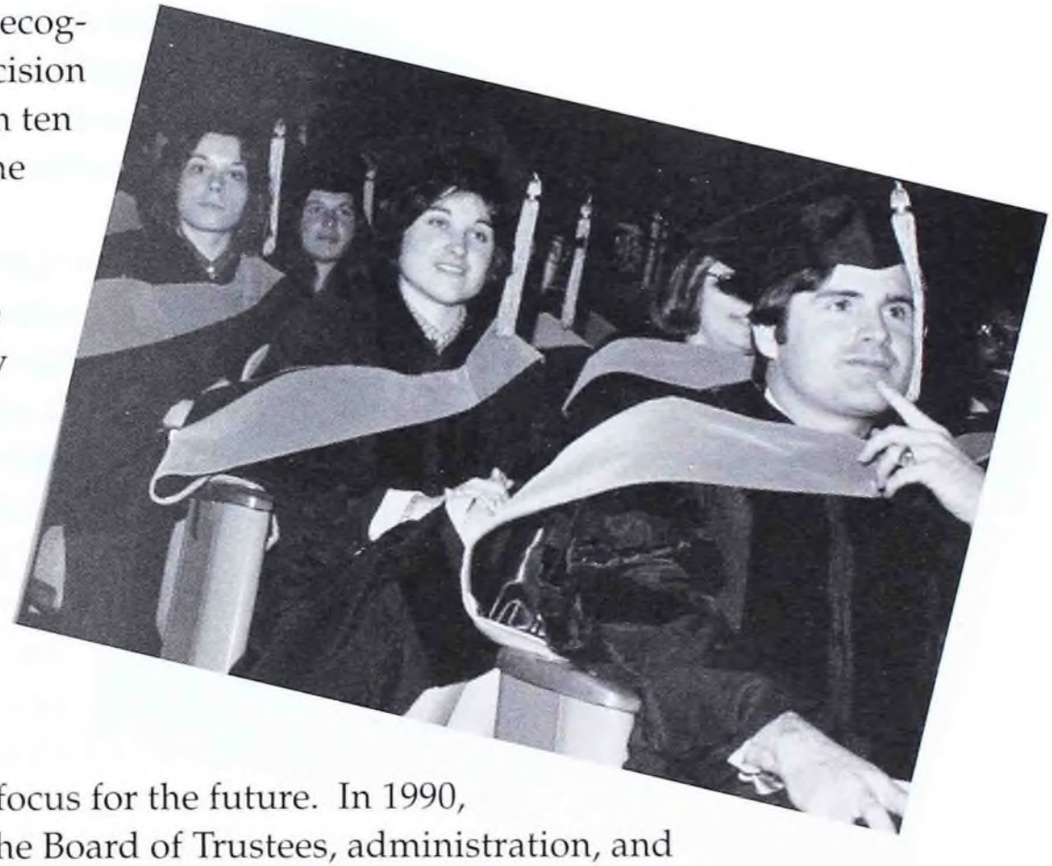
Reflecting now on those early days as Dean, Dr. Clausen says, "There was a strong sense of family at the College," but the institution needed modernization. His mission was "to advance the academic programs, the physical plant, and the faculty. There was great potential here to do more, achieve more."

During his first three years as Dean, Dr. Clausen implemented the all-clinical fourth year, which had been planned by the faculty. He recruited faculty nationwide and developed basic policies regarding sabbaticals, tenure, promotion, and salary structure. With the assistance of faculty members Mark Zorn and Roger Wilson, he was able to obtain federal support to introduce the Optometric Careers Access Program, the recruitment and support program for minorities in order to help diversify the student body.

Dr. Carter points to the development of institutional structure as one more of Dr. Clausen's accomplishments. "Back in the '70s, there weren't any really distinct lines of responsibility. People were nominally this or nominally that, but you could find yourself doing almost anything. There was no money to hire people to help do these things. There comes a time, however, when in order to mature, an institution must have some degree of organization. Dr. Clausen has provided that."

Since becoming President in 1990, Dr. Clausen believes the College has made several major advances. "First, we made the Board of Trustees more active in the life of the

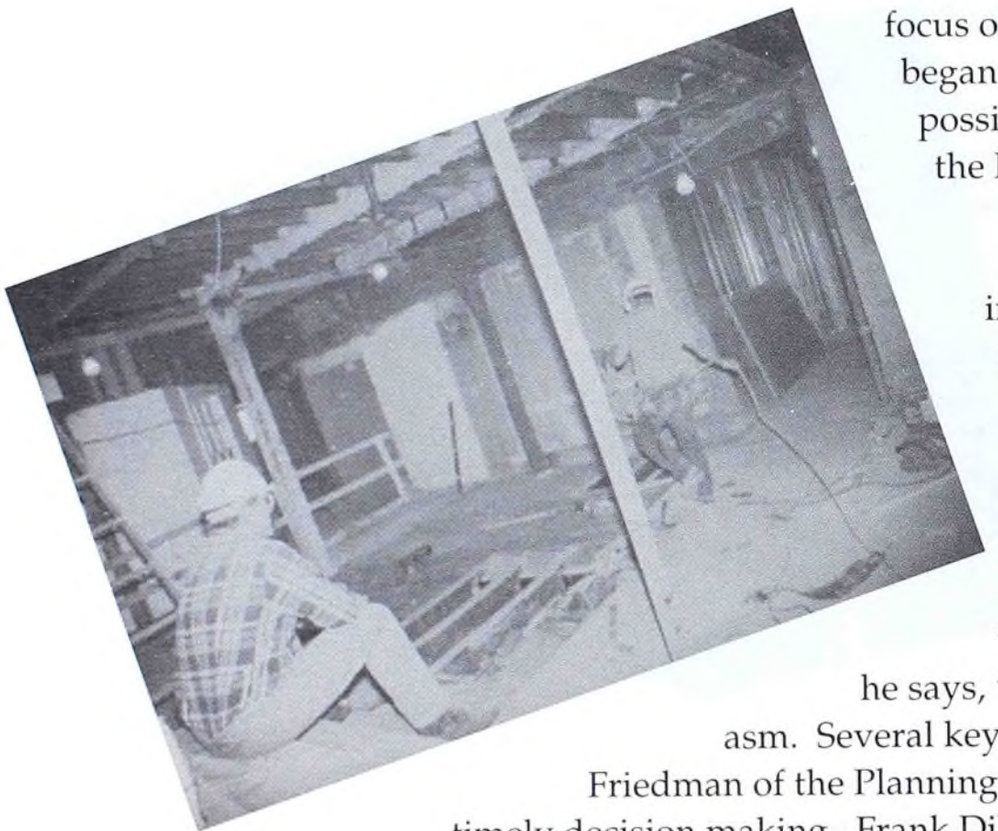
College. We strengthened the Trustees' role as a functioning committee, and encouraged greater participation in the implementation of programs and policies. We also established several new Trustee Committees: Facilities, Institutional Planning, Investment, and Alumni Relations and Development. We needed to put some things behind us, the first being the theory that we were always going to move. We recognized that we had been stuck in indecision regarding Beacon Street for more than ten years. We had to resolve this issue one way or another.



"Second, while we had to change our reliance on tuition as our primary source of income, we first had to preserve it as our financial foundation. We had a private heritage of independence and strength which we were determined to continue. Toward that end, we agreed to invest in a Director of Recruitment.

"And third, we needed a clearer focus for the future. In 1990, we held a retreat, bringing together the Board of Trustees, administration, and faculty to set the agenda and expectations for the 1990s. We developed a Planning Committee headed by Trustee Phil Friedman. We adopted an institutional Mission Statement in 1991. We developed some breakthrough goals which called upon us to realign resources through fiscal conservatism. We needed to shift what we had in order to address certain priorities."

The first priority set in 1991 was to renovate the buildings. Dr. Bickford recalls that getting the Board to understand that was one of Dr. Clausen's initial challenges. "We had to decide finally that we were married to our location, that we were no longer dating. Once we decided that, we could begin to act as though we were committed to it. We could plan, based on that commitment, and focus our resources accordingly." Renovations began in 1991, a $2.5 million investment made possible through bond financing arranged by the Massachusetts Industrial Finance Agency.

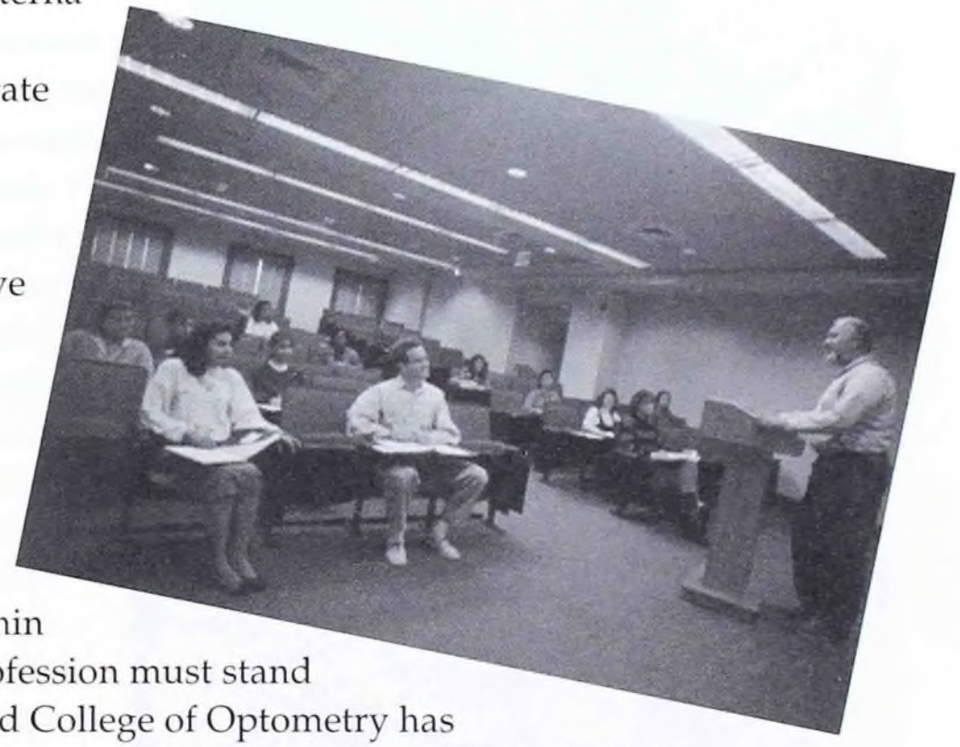


Dr. Clausen's second priority was to increase the endowment to $6 million by the year 2000. The third was to establish a small biological sciences research center at the College. And the fourth was to strengthen clinical affiliations and patient base.

"We're making headway on all of these," he says, "and are moving forward with enthusiasm. Several key Trustees have made contributions. Phil Friedman of the Planning Committee keeps us on track with more timely decision making. Frank DiMella of the Facilities Committee took on the Master Plan in 1991. Carroll Winch in Investments had helped us to become more aggressive and more confident in our money management. Maurice Goulet heads the Clinical Committee, looking at the internal clinical programs.

"The Board is helping us acquire the resources necessary to complete the renovations, to strengthen the clinical program, to hire top faculty and researchers for the biosciences," he continues. "As a world leader in optometric education, we have a responsibility to develop international programming for foreign optometrists. Already, we have developed exchange programs in Italy, China, Spain, and South Africa. Our challenge for the '90s is to have antennae out, to be attuned to the changes coming not only in our profession, but also in the delivery of health care generally."

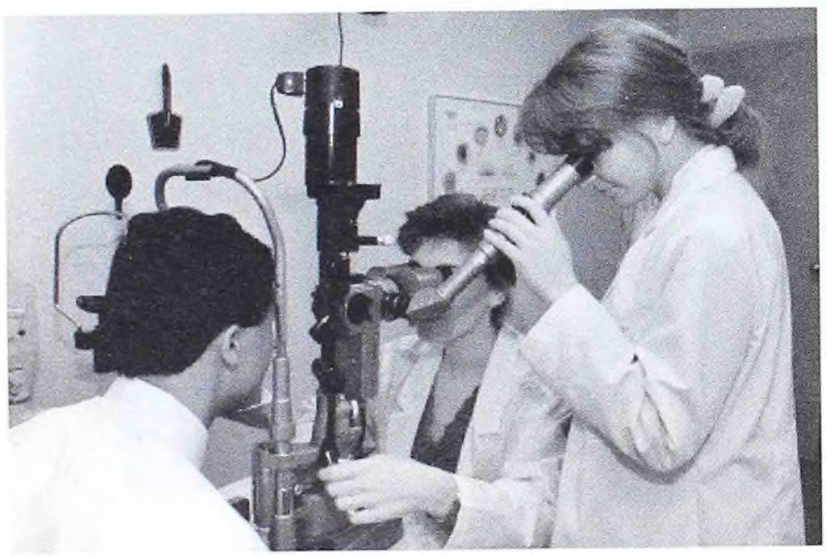
Dr. Holmes applauds the College's internationalization of optometric education. "It wasn't so long ago that we had only state licensing standards for optometrists," he points out. "Now there are regional and national standards. Soon there will be international standards. We probably have the most international students of any optometric college in the country. We have much to share, much to learn from each other. We can no longer afford to be isolated."



Regarding the role of the College within the profession, he adds, "Any learned profession must stand on an educational base. The New England College of Optometry has advanced the profession around the world, as it should. Professional boundaries must be established by education, not by legislation. It is the role of education to lead."

One way in which the College is leading the profession is its conscious effort to recruit and promote outstanding women as both students and faculty. Immediately following her graduation in 1977, Dr. Carlson had begun teaching for the College, specifically in pediatrics at the Boston Eye Clinic and the Cotting School for handicapped children. In 1984, she would begin teaching the first-year course, Optometry Theory and Methods, and in 1988, become the first woman to receive tenure at the College. She has served as Chief of the Primary Care Service at the New England Eye Institute, where she is now Chair of the Department of Patient Care Management.

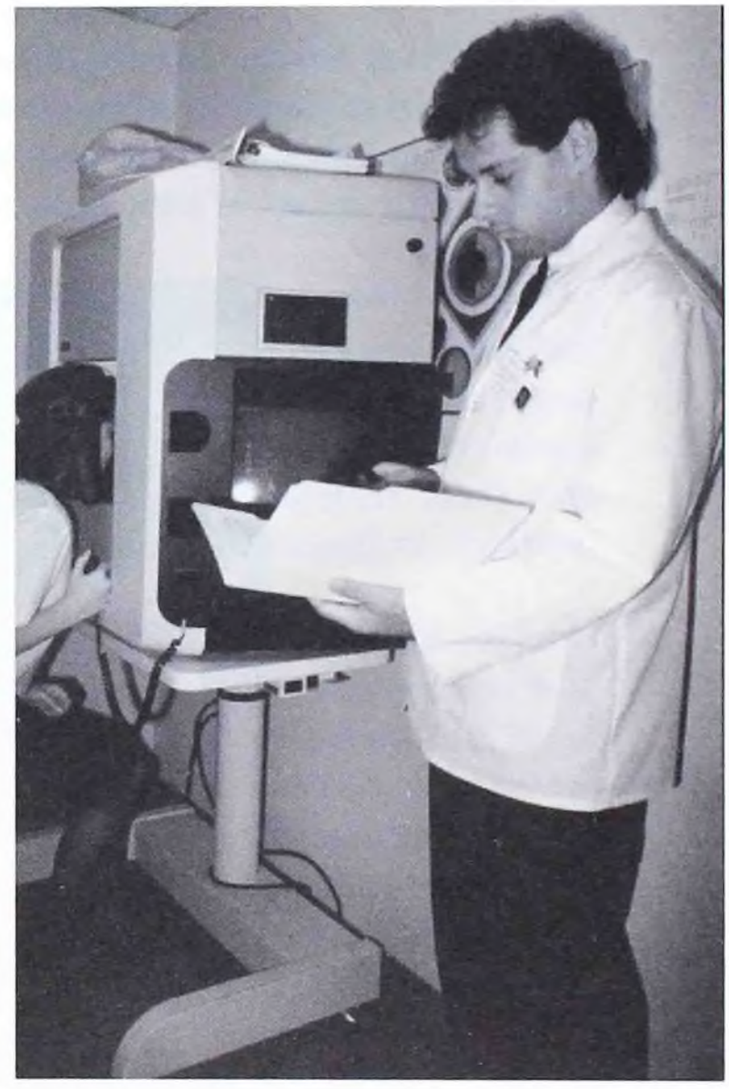
Dr. Carlson has seen much change in the profession during the last 20 years. "The scope of practice has expanded tremendously," she explains. "Twenty years ago, we prescribed glasses and fit contact lenses. Now we not only diagnose but also treat disease. Students have to know so much more than they did when I was in school. There's a much greater emphasis on basic science and health sciences than there was 20 years ago." There has also been an increase in the number of women enrolled at the College. Fifteen percent of her class had been women, compared to 50 percent today.



The students are the same as ever, she laughs, except that they seem to be getting younger. She remembers "one Commencement in the '80s when a group of graduates sent themselves a telegram. A man wearing a chicken suit came running into John Hancock Hall yelling 'Chicken wire! Chicken wire!' and throwing confetti. We all went on with the ceremony as if absolutely nothing had happened."

Dr. Carlson is grateful to the College for giving her the opportunity to take on new challenges over the years. "I started out in the pediatric clinic exclusively and now I do some administration, some teaching, some clinical work. The College has always been open to people growing and changing over time and it has helped foster that among faculty members. And some of my very favorite people in the world are here. I work with people who are friends as well as colleagues."

Catherine Hines, a 1982 graduate, credits the faculty with teaching her "how to think, how to problem-solve. That's invaluable in a profession that seems entirely new every five years. I remember Dr. Nathanson's tests in Optometry Theory and Methods. They were great, like crossword puzzles. And the faculty continue to teach that sort of critical thinking today. The curriculum changes have all been geared toward that."



On the faculty herself from 1983 to 1993, Dr. Hines rose in the ranks from Instructor to Associate Professor of Optometry. She remembers how she discovered the joys of teaching. "As a student, I tutored students in Optics with David Heath. With Dr. Kamens' encouragement, the tutoring became more formalized and eventually part of the student support services program. It was then that I realized that I wanted to teach. I enjoyed explaining things."

Promotion standards changed tremendously during Dr. Hines' ten years on the faculty. On the Faculty Affairs Committee for seven years, and chairing it for two, she was very involved in their development and formalization. "Dr. Clausen has rightfully put a new emphasis on faculty research and publishing," she explains. "For the first time, we now have written guidelines regarding faculty teaching, scholarship, and service. The entire College has matured, largely because of Dr. Clausen."

Dr. Hines sees maintaining affordability as the College's greatest challenge. "The profession can't be exclusively for the upper middle class," she points out. "We must find ways to build our endowment and keep tuition down in order to attract students who reflect a variety of socio-economic concerns."

As The New England College of Optometry celebrates its Centennial in 1994, it has never been stronger. Enrollment stands at about 400, with tuition for the four-year program at $17,500. The city of Boston has become its academic health center. Today, students spend some of their second and much of their third years treating patients at the Clinic. Their fourth year is devoted to outside clinical rotations. By the time they graduate, students have each seen over 1,000 patients.

"It's difficult to predict beyond the year 2000," notes Dr. Clausen. "Certainly we will look at curricular content and how it relates to changes in the practice of optometry. We know that we must be prepared to educate beyond entry-level competencies. We can no longer train students to be proficient in all aspects of optometry; we will look more and more at specializations. And of course, we must constantly examine our revenue base. We would like to build a stronger endowment for student financial aid, financial enhancement, and special programs."

Dr. Bickford agrees that it is difficult to foretell the future. "Crystal balls are always cracked," he notes. "When I look back at all the moves the College has considered, even those that never materialized, I have to say that they all proved fortuitous in the end. For years, we kept on with the idea that we were once again going to move to another location. We continued to look at places to live, places to move, places to go. We were living out of boxes, ready to go at any time. We were so busy thinking about moving up in the world, we never paid a lot of attention to our own quarters."

"Today, we have a beautiful home. We are the world leader in optometric education. We have a proud past and the flexibility to move into a wonderful future."

AFTERWORD

With 2000 in Sight...

With 2000 In Sight...

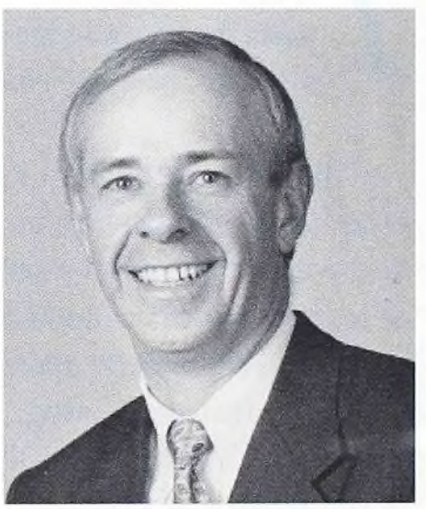
In our reflection of the past hundred years, we have taken note of some individuals who have made lasting contributions to our College and our profession—individuals who, in their work, looked beyond the present with a vision toward the future.

But any one person should not be viewed as an exception so much as a symbol of all who have come before us. Over the century, each graduating class has contained men and women who have served the profession and the College with distinction. The depth of service varies; collectively it is enormous. It is hard to estimate how many individuals per class have made contributions that have forever changed our profession and provided benefit to our well being. Three, five, or ten outstanding individuals per class wouldn't strain credibility. Multiply that number by 100 years and the figure grows to a small army of optometric leaders.

But the numbers are not as important as their ideas and vision for the future—not their future so much as ours. For indeed, true leaders without exception touch the lives of those they know well, and those they do not know at all.

A life of service is often regarded as one marked by sacrifice, but I would rather believe that it brings rich rewards. A quote by Edwin Markham seems particularly appropriate: "There is a destiny that makes us brothers; none goes his way alone; all that we send into the lives of others comes back into our own." By this equation, the College's forebears experienced the richness of life. So it was with those is our history; so it will be with the generations to come.

We stand upon the work of others and peer into the future, and realize that we must prepare diligently for the next century so that those who follow will have a vantage point better than ours.



President Larry R. Clausen
June 1994

Appendices

Presidents and Deans of the College

August A. Klein	*Founder and President*	1894 - 1936
Theodore F. Klein	*President*	1936 - 1946
Herman L. Klein	*President*	1946 - 1951
Ralph H. Green	*Dean of the College*	1946 - 1965
Joseph F. Montminy Sr.	*President*	1951 - 1962
G. Edward Bradley	*President*	1962 - 1969
Hyman R. Kamens	*Dean of the College*	1965 - 1969
William R. Baldwin	*President*	1969 - 1979
F. Dow Smith	*President*	1979 - 1985
Sylvio L. Dupuis	*President*	1985 - 1989
Larry R. Clausen	*President*	1989 -

Board of Trustees*
1946

Herman L. Klein

Theodora Klein

G. Edward Bradley

Joseph F. Montminy

Joseph M. Duffy

Gertrude C. Klein

Ralph H. Green

Otto Hochstadt

* First Board of Trustees of the Massachusetts School of Optometry re-incorporated as a non-profit institution

Board of Trustees
1994

Lucille L. Beaulieu

Joseph J. F. Bickford
Chairman

Lester M. Brackley

Larry R. Clausen
President

John V. Coyle

Francis L. DiMella

Philip E. Friedman

Maurice L. Goulet

Nancy J. Jarvis

John F. Kilcommons

Daniel Kurtz
Faculty Representative

Lawrence M. Levinson

Christine S. Manfredi

Thomas C. McDermott

Arthur H. Neufeld

David A. V. Reynolds
Vice Chairman

Neil I. Schram

Irwin M. Shwom

Richard N. Small

David J. Smith

JoAnn Talbot
Student Representative

Robert F. Tasca

Paul B. Taylor

Arthur D. Trottenberg

John T. Tynan
Treasurer

Clinton L. Wilson
Secretary

ADMINISTRATION
1946

President	Herman L. Klein
Dean of the School	Ralph H. Green
Registrar and Bursar	Theodora Klein
Student Health	Otto Hochstadt
Secretary	Muriel Saunders
Director, Pre-Professional Division	Leslie G. Wright, Jr.
Librarian	Barbara Pikleim

ADMINISTRATION
1994

President	Larry R. Clausen
Vice President for Academic Affairs	Morris Applebaum
Vice President for Student and Alumni Affairs	Hyman R. Kamens
Vice President for Administration	Terrance B. Neylon
Vice President for Business and Finance	Arthur C. Roberts, Jr.
Associate Dean of Academic Affairs	David A. Heath
Assistant Dean of Clinical Education	Anthony Cavallerano
Head Librarian	Lynne Silvers

Director of Minority Student Services	Frances Wright
Director of Financial Aid	Mary Jane Noel
Controller	Maryann S. Richardt
Director of Recruitment	Lawrence W. Shattuck
Director of Personnel	Ellen C. Snowdon
Registrar	Glenda Underwood
Director of Purchasing	Tara M. Zidonik

Mission Statement

The New England College of Optometry, a private and independent professional graduate institution, was founded in 1894 and is chartered by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to grant the Doctor of Optometry degree. Located in Boston, a city of world-renowned cultural, educational, and health care institutions, the College is committed to fulfilling the expectations of its academic environment and the public trust implicit in its charter.

The mission of The New England College of Optometry is to serve the optometric needs of the public by educating optometrists to the highest level of proficiency, integrity, and professionalism.

In achieving its mission, the College:

- attracts and supports a faculty which excels at teaching and is committed to the growth and development of students;
- creates a dynamic environment which combines tradition and innovation, fosters intellectual inquiry, and supports research;
- serves the community by providing quality clinical vision care and educating the public about vision and eye health;
- cultivates compassionate and ethical behavior, promotes life-long learning, and instills sensitivity to the health and social welfare of the community.

Centennial Time Line

1894 August Andrae Klein, a German immigrant and practicing ophthalmologist, opens the Klein School of Optics.

Located at 2 Rutland Street, Boston, the School offers the first formal training in optics and refraction in the United States.

1897 One-year curriculum of Optics, Anatomy, Pathology, Mathematics, Physics, Dispensing, and Refraction is expanded to include Ophthalmology, Chemistry, Trigonometry, and Mechanical Optics.

Instructors include August Klein, Chemistry and Anatomy; Theodore, a son, Physics.

Tuition for the Full Course is $75.00; for a Single Term, $30.00.

Among the 15 men and women graduating this year is Herman Klein, another son.

1901 The Klein School becomes the Massachusetts School of Optometry.

1909 A formal two-year program is offered as an alternative to the last half of high school.

The School is reorganized and incorporated with Theodore Klein as Director.

1915 Now located at 168 Massachusetts Avenue, the School requires students to be 19 years old to coincide with license eligibility of 21, as mandated by the Board of Registration of Optometry.

An invitation to the Opening Session identifies August Klein as Dean, Theodore Klein as Registrar.

1921 In addition to age stipulation, admission requirements now include four years of high school or the equivalent and "good moral character."

Tuition: $175.00.

Among faculty, in addition to August and Theodore, are Wilhelmina Klein Svendsen, August's daughter, in Anatomy and Physics, and Herman in Practical Optics and Business Management.

1924 Full course tuition: about $400.00; graduating class: approximately 20.

1927 Ralph Green enrolls in a class of 20; three years later, he joins the faculty for more than 35 years. He will serve as Dean from 1946 to 1965.

1930 Morris Berman graduates with nine others (out of an original 13) and begins a collection of School memorabilia that adds significantly to our archives.

1932 Among the 35 graduates are John Asarkof, Richard Baker, G. Edward Bradley, Joseph Montminy Jr., and Foster Namias, who will join the faculty the following year.

1933 The School moves to 1112 Boylston Street.

The Massachusetts Optometric Clinic opens at 1114-1118 Boylston.

1934 The course of study is extended from two to three years.

Ralph Green lobbies hard—and successfully—for a basketball team.

1935 The Student Council is organized.

1936 August Klein dies; Theodore Klein is named President and will serve until 1946.

The men's basketball team plays the Middlesex College of Medicine, the Roxbury Boys' Club, *The Boston Globe* office, and the Chelsea Toreadors.

Epsilon Omicron Sigma, the School's first sorority, is formed.

1939 A four-year curriculum is initiated.

Tuition and fees: $375.00; minimum cost for new equipment for four years: $155.00.

While the School remains at 1112 Boylston, the Clinic moves to 472 Commonwealth Avenue.

1942 John Asarkof joins Otto Hochstadt and about 18 other faculty members in reporting to Ralph Green, who is now Dean.

Students begin seeing patients at The Boston Evening Clinic. Other externship programs are implemented with community centers, mission houses, boys' clubs, and public and parochial schools.

1943 Frank Kozol, who had enrolled in a class of 100 the previous year, and others interrupt their education to join the service. He will complete his education after the War and, in 1951, will join the faculty, where he remains.

1945 Enrollment drops to four or five per class; finances dwindle.

School facilities are consolidated with the Clinic at 472 Commonwealth Avenue.

1946 Shortly before his death, Theodore Klein moves the School to Huntington Avenue, over a bowling alley. The Clinic remains at 472 Commonwealth.

On the verge of disbanding, new incorporators name Herman Klein, President; Ralph Green, Vice President and Dean; and Theodora Klein, Secretary; after reorganization, a non-profit charter is granted.

An accelerated program to assist returning G.I.s sees class size grow from 28 to 98. Students are required to pass a Study of Values test to determine mental and emotional ability to complete the course and personality traits for "high professional behavior."

1947 The AOA's Council on Education and Professional Guidance grants unconditional accreditation.

1950 The School becomes the Massachusetts College of Optometry and is granted the right to confer the degree of Bachelor of Science in Optometry; the following year, Doctor of Optometry and the honorary Doctor of Ocular Science.

Tuition: $400; class size, about 60.

1951 Joseph Montminy Sr. is elected the College's first President of the Board of Trustees and will serve until 1962. Herman Klein dies.

1952 Now at 178 Newbury Street, acquired in 1948, the College purchases 472 Commonwealth Avenue from the Klein family and establishes the Boston Eye Clinic.

1953 Ira Schwartz receives the College's first Doctor of Optometry degree, having completed the four-year program in three years.

1957 The College retires the mortgage, held by the Boston Wesleyan Society, on the Horace Mann Building.

A 20-hour post-graduate course in contact lens fitting is offered.

1960 The basketball team wins the Boston Small College Conference championship in Boston Garden.

1962 The College is granted the right to confer the honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree.

1964 Among the accomplishments of a very active Alumni Association: implementation of vocational guidance programs at area high schools, junior colleges, and colleges; significant contributions to the College Building fund; and scholarship aid.

1965 Ralph Green retires; the College selects Hyman R. Kamens as Dean.

1967 The College receives its first federal grant to improve the academic program.

Tuition: $1,000.

1969 The College appoints William R. Baldwin as President. Among the milestones of Dr. Baldwin's 10-year tenure: acquisition of approximately $3 million in grants; expansion of community service; shift in curriculum to establish the optometrist's role as a primary eye care provider; purchase of 420-426 Beacon Street—for the College's final move.

1974 Tuition for the first year: $2,500.

1976 The College's name is changed to The New England College of Optometry to reflect its regional commitments.

1979 F. Dow Smith becomes President and will serve until 1985. During this period, the focus is on fiscal and long-range planning.

Enrollment: 300.

1981 College implements "balanced tuition policy."

Tuition for four-year program: $8,970.

1985 Sylvio L. Dupuis begins four years as President, concentrating on the College's internal structure and organization, fund raising, and endowment.

Tuition for four-year program: $10,650 per year; enrollment, approximately 350.

1990 Larry R. Clausen, named Dean of Academic Affairs in 1982 and later Acting President, is inaugurated as the College's President. Among his early focuses are greater participation by Trustees, development of income sources other than tuition, and wide-ranged planning for the 1990s.

1991 Renovation of Beacon Street facilities begins.

1992 Board Chair Joseph Bickford and Dr. Clausen lead a delegation to China to establish faculty exchange and fellowship programs.

1993 Additional international programs now exist in Italy, Spain, and South Africa, and more are planned.

Tuition for four-year program: $17,460 per year; enrollment, approximately 400.

1994 The New England College of Optometry marks 100 years of growth with Centennial celebrations and expansive goals for the next century.