

# AN EYE TO THE FUTURE



Winter 2007

RESEARCH ◀ EDUCATION ▶ PATIENT CARE

## Ophthalmology Salutes Lion Dan D'Antimo



▲ Dan D'Antimo

"My Dad felt eye research would ultimately end blindness and because he had a huge sense of social responsibility, that meant he worked hard to be sure it was funded," according to Dan D'Antimo's daughter, Lisa Adeli.

Stalwart supporter, fundraising leader and dear friend of the Department of Ophthalmology, Lt. Col. and Lion Daniel D'Antimo died on July 12<sup>th</sup>, 2007. Dan was a respected community leader and tremendous supporter of eye research through the Tucson Breakfast Lion's Club. From the time he arrived in Tucson and met fellow Lion Howard Shiff, D'Antimo was central to support for vision research. Avid fundraisers, he and Shiff along with other Lions, began a partnership with the Department to work toward the eradication of eye disease. Their efforts yielded substantial support and have resulted in the University of Arizona's nationally renowned research effort.

Dan earned the rank of Lt. Colonel in the United States Marine Corps in which he served proudly until 1964. Dan had wanted to be a Marine since he was 8 years old. He enlisted as a private just months before the attack on Pearl Harbor. His leadership abilities

in WWII and Korea earned the Buffalo, N.Y., native an officer's commission. During his military years, Dan received a bachelor's of science degree in economics from the University of Buffalo and attended night school to earn his doctor of law degree from George Washington University.

Following retirement from the Marines, Dan went to work on Wall Street as training director of a major investment firm. After five years of commuting two hours each way to work, he moved his family to Tucson in 1970 and opened the city's first A.G. Edwards & Sons. His leadership led to the successful expansion of the firm to three offices in Tucson and one in Green Valley.

"My Dad was not stereotypical in any way. Not as a Marine Colonel, not as an Italian, and not as a broker," says his daughter, Lisa Adeli. "He led through trust and mutual respect. His quiet, reserved manner did not mean that he did not speak his mind, it just meant people trusted him when he did." The Department of Ophthalmology researchers and staff are deeply grateful for Dan's final expression of quiet reserve and huge social sense of social responsibility—a very generous gift to research through his estate.

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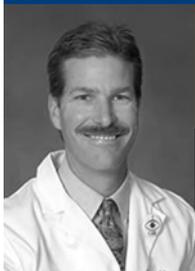
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# Faculty Spotlight

Faculty in the Department of Ophthalmology are deeply devoted to their daily efforts in teaching, research and patient care. In addition to their dedication through their scholarly and clinical efforts, many faculty also express their commitment to improved vision and prevention of blindness through their charitable giving. In recent interviews, two donors who serve as faculty members express their thoughts about philanthropic support of the Department of Ophthalmology.



**W. Daniel Stamer, PhD**  
Head of Research, Associate Professor  
and Research Scientist

**Q.** “Tell me about why you give to Ophthalmology?”

**A.** I believe in the direction that the Department has gone, in the people who are doing research here and the potential for critical advancements.

**Q.** “What motivates you to contribute financially when you devote so much time and effort already?”

**A.** “I think that it is important to put your money where your mouth is. If I am going to ask concerned community members to give to our research program, I feel that it is important that I tell them that Ophthalmology is one of the charities I give to.”

**Q.** “Why is charitable support of research so important to you?”

**A.** “Stability. Other sources of money to support research are unstable. For example, because of Katrina and the war in Iraq, federal monies for research are currently very difficult to obtain.”



**Jim Schwiegerling, PhD**  
Associate Professor and Research Scientist

**Q.** “Why do you choose to give to Ophthalmology?”

**A.** “I’ve been involved with the Department since I was a graduate student. I have seen it evolve from a small program to an internationally recognized research entity. Giving in all

forms aids this evolution.”

**Q.** “Why is charitable support of research so important to you?”

**A.** “I like to see the culture of enthusiasm and the can-do attitude on the eye-related problems we work on. Charitable support encourages and motivates pursuit of these noble goals.

**Q.** “Do contributions really make a difference? How so?”

**A.** “All contributions, large or small, make a difference. Whether they support a whole laboratory or just a project that might otherwise go unfunded, these donations allow us to push forward the state of knowledge and directly benefit patients.

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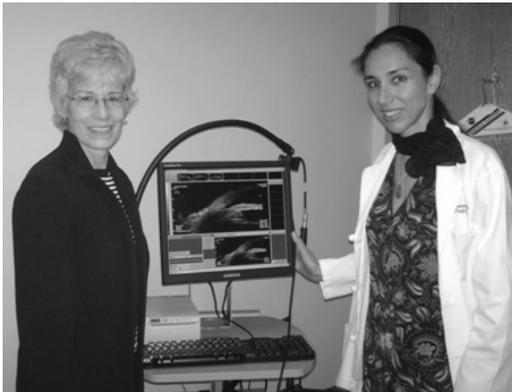
In previous issues of our newsletter I have communicated the tremendous success of our Department faculty at obtaining grant support from federal, state and private organizations to finance our important mission of finding better ways to diagnose, treat and understand diseases that take away our vision. This success has vaulted our Department from bottom 30, into the top 30 Departments in the nation in terms of Vision Science Research in only 10 years; and enabled many important discoveries. What I have failed to communicate, are the unsung heroes of our Department – YOU!

Your support of eye research has ensured success in the following ways:

- 1) The successful recruitment of the best vision scientists to Arizona. In fact, 100% of our research faculty members were recruited to our Department via charitable gifts from citizens in our community. All but one of these faculty members received no monies from the College of Medicine or University in their recruitment package. Thus, their presence at the U of A is entirely due to your generous gifts.
- 2) Much of the research equipment that we use every day in the laboratory and clinic was purchased by donated funds. Having the best, state-of-the-art equipment enables a faster track toward discoveries for our research teams.
- 3) Several of our graduate students in training (our future vision scientists) were supported or are currently supported by philanthropic resources. There is presently a shortage of students trained in the discipline of vision science. Gifts in support of our students make sure that well trained vision scientists are prepared to carry on our mission.

Your gifts have ensured our success in vision research. We celebrate with you and are deeply grateful for your trust, confidence, and generosity.

## Grateful Patient Advances Research



▲ Janet Lang and Roxana Ursea, MD  
(left to right)

Janet Lang, a resident of Tucson, was diagnosed with a serious eye infection in February 2006, which resulted in the formation of ulcers on her cornea. “I was very frightened by the diagnosis,” Mrs. Lang admits. She contacted the UA Ophthalmology Department Lion’s Eye Clinic, and was referred to College of Medicine faculty member Dr. Roxana Ursea, the clinic’s Cornea specialist. Dr. Ursea began her treatment of Mrs. Lang immediately. Mrs. Lang says, “Dr. Ursea went over and above my expectations. She called me at home;

made herself available to see me on the weekends; and checked my progress in her office every other day. She even called the lab herself to ensure the timely return of test results. She was wonderful! I knew I was in the best hands possible.”

After spending so much time together, Mrs. Lang began asking Dr. Ursea about her career. It was then that she learned of Dr. Ursea’s research interests which include exploring new modalities of imaging of the eye and new applications of high frequency ultrasound in anterior segment disorders (diseases that affect the front part of the eyes).

In order to effectively pursue these research interests, a very specialized piece of equipment called an Ultrasound Biomicroscopy (UBM) would be critical. This machine provides an unparalleled look inside the eye not available from any other imaging technique. This noninvasive procedure would allow Dr. Ursea to accurately define the relationships among the many intricate parts of the eye, visualize in detail pathologic changes behind anterior segment opacities (haziness due to scars or

swelling), measure ocular structures (eye anatomy) with increased accuracy and offer help in understanding mechanisms of eye diseases. In addition to research, this machine would serve the dual clinical purpose as a preoperative assessment crucial to planning for delicate eye surgery.

Mrs. Lang then knew the perfect way to thank Dr. Ursea for her incomparable care. She and her husband bestowed the very generous gift of funding necessary to acquire the much needed UBM.

When asked in a recent interview if she felt their gift was a good investment, Mrs. Lang said, “Oh yes! She’s a star but so modest! I’m just so glad I could help.”

Today Mrs. Lang has overcome her very frightening bout with her eye infection and is enjoying life to the fullest. She and her husband, Barry are engaged with a number of colleges and units at the university. The Department of Ophthalmology, and Dr. Ursea, are deeply grateful to the Langs for their generous support of the innovative research pursuits underway in the department.

# *Let Us Hear From You ...*

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

## *Issues of Interest*

- Please consider featuring the following topic(s) in a future newsletter: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Please send me a brochure about **Age-Related Macular Degeneration Research**.
- Please send me a brochure about **Glaucoma Research**.

## *Issues of Support*

- I/we would like more information about **planning a gift** through a charitable gift annuity, a charitable trust, or through my estate or bequest.
- I/we understand a **gift of appreciated stocks** would allow forgiveness of capital gain and a charitable deduction. Please let us know how to gift stocks or bonds.
- Please send me more information about **endowed funds** and how I/we might establish an endowed fund in support of ophthalmology research.
- I/we wish to be acknowledged on the **wall of recognition**. Please send information about the levels of giving and how to be listed.

## *Issues of Contact*

- The following family/friends have an interest in your work. Please send them your newsletter.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Enclosed is my gift in support of Ophthalmology research at the UA.
- Please remove me/us from your mailing list.

**Please return this form to:** UA Ophthalmology and Vision Science, Attn: Vickie Spevak, 655 N. Alvernon Way, Ste. 108, Tucson, AZ 85711, or by fax to (520) 321-3665.



▲ D. Brian Stidham, MD

## Dr. David Brian Stidham Memorial Grows

October 5<sup>th</sup> of this year marked the three-year anniversary of the death of Dr. David Brian Stidham, a respected pediatric ophthalmologist who was brutally murdered outside his northwest side Tucson office. While his absence still bears a weight of palpable sadness, his memory lives on in many ways.

One of those ways is through the Dr. David Brian Stidham Endowment. The initial goal of this endowment was to create a \$50,000 yearly lectureship that would feature premier speakers highlighting the latest in pediatric ophthalmology. To date, your generous contributions have enabled us to reach the \$15,000 mark!

The inaugural lecture, held November 1, 2005, featured Dr. David Plager, Professor of Ophthalmology from Indiana University who trained Dr. Stidham in his early days. Last year's speaker was Dr. Evelyn Annette Paysse of Baylor College of Medicine. Both lectures were well attended by Dr. Stidham's colleagues, supporters, and friends.

The next lecture will be held on Tuesday, March 18, 2008, from 7:30-8:30 a.m. at Tucson Medical Center's Marshall Auditorium. All are welcome!

Thank you to all of you who have chosen to honor Dr. Stidham with your gifts. In particular, the members of the Pima County Pediatric Society and the Stidham family have generously contributed to ensure that Dr. Stidham's memory will be honored.

Anyone interested in contributing to this fund may do so by sending a check payable to:

**University of Arizona Foundation.**

Please indicate in memo area of check:

**Stidham Endowment**

Mail to:

**UA Dept. of Ophthalmology and Vision Science**

**655 N. Alvernon, Ste. 108  
Tucson, Arizona 85711**

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## YOU make a difference!

People are the greatest resource of this United States. Do you want to be part of a winning team? We are judged by the company we keep. Don't we all wish to make our world a better place to live?

The spirit of these thoughts rings true for all who care enough to join with us at the Dept of Ophthalmology and Vision Sciences. Smart, hard working, passionate people, serving others and driven to build a path toward cures for diseases of the eye.

What better place to share your time, resources and energy? A world-class research facility. A busy, respected clinic run by dedicated, smiling staff members. A faculty of brilliant doctors, scientists and engineers.

You, your children and grandchildren deserve this evolving legacy of achievement. Be a Visionary.

Thank you for all you do.



▲ Sandy Shiff,  
Advisory Board Chair

*Sandy Shiff*  
Advisory Board Chair



**OPHTHALMOLOGY  
AND VISION SCIENCE**  
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## Upcoming Events

**Fridays, Jan. 9, Jan. 30, Feb. 6, Feb. 27, March 5, March 26,  
April 2, April 30, May 7, May 28, June 4, June 25, July 2,  
July 30, Aug. 6, Aug. 27, 2008**  
**1:30-5 p.m. (call for appointment)**

### *UA Student Sight Savers Program Glaucoma Screening Clinic*

Glaucoma screenings by UA Student Sight Savers – a group of medical and nurse practitioner students from the Colleges of Medicine and Nursing and volunteer ophthalmologists from the department and the community. The UA Student Sight Savers Program is a community service project funded and administered by the Friends of the Congressional Glaucoma Congress Foundation.

Department of Ophthalmology  
University Physicians Healthcare Hospital and Clinics at Kino Campus  
2800 E. Ajo Way, Tucson  
Appointment, more information: UPH Clinics at Kino Campus, (520) 694-1460

**Saturdays, Jan. 19, Feb. 16, March 15, April 19, May 17,  
June 21, July 19, Aug. 16, 2008**  
**8 a.m.-noon**

### *UA Student Sight Savers Program Glaucoma Screening Clinic*

Glaucoma screenings by UA Student Sight Savers (see description above).

St. Elizabeth of Hungary Clinic  
140 W. Speedway, Tucson  
Appointment, more information: St. Elizabeth of Hungary Clinic, (520) 628-7871

*These events are free and open to the public.*

### **AN EYE TO THE FUTURE**

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Changes of address should be made through Pat Broyles.

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