

SPECTRUM



NEWSLETTER OF THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
OF THE INTERAMERICAN UNIVERSITY
OF PUERTO RICO
SCHOOL OF OPTOMETRY

30TH
ANNIVERSARY
INTER
OPTOMETRY
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SPECTRUM

The Newsletter of the Alumni
Association of Inter American
University of Puerto Rico
School of Optometry

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Postal address:

Inter American University of
Puerto Rico

School of Optometry
500 John Will Harris Ave,
Rd. 830

Bayamón, PR 00957

e-mail: hsantiago@inter.edu,
acorrea@inter.edu

Editor

Héctor C. Santiago, OD, PhD

Collaborators

Arleen E. Correa, MBA
Arthur J. Afanador, OD, PhD
Andrés Pagán, OD, MPH

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Special Edition commemorating the 30th anniversary of the School of Optometry

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**Message from Manuel J. Fernós, JD, LLM,
President of the Inter American University
of Puerto Rico**

Today I have the pleasant opportunity to speak to our students of Optometry at the launch of the new School magazine. I consider appropriate at this time, to develop a short historical account of our School of Optometry.

Today, our School has an unquestioned reputation, but that prestige is not the result of accidental circumstances or lack of effort, commitment and sacrifice.

Our School was founded on January 7, 1981. It was certainly a Christmas present from the Inter American University of Puerto Rico to the world. It was founded by the second Puerto Rican President of our beloved Inter, Dr. Ramon A. Cruz.

In those years the School occupied a modest and conspicuous space on 465 Fernando Calder Street on Roosevelt extension in the Hato Rey neighborhood. A month later, it occupied the Bernardini Building, from 1981 until August 2007, on 118 Eleonor Roosevelt in Hato Rey.

Its first Interim Dean was Dr. Henry Hofstetter. The second one was Dr. Patricio Meneses, also on an interim basis. The School's first full time Dean was Dr. Arthur Afanador, who led our school for 15 years.

Today it has 900 alumni who are scattered like seeds all over the world flourishing in the service of others, laboring and honoring the name of Inter American University. Today we have to say to all of you: THANK YOU!



**DEAN'S MESSAGE
Andrés Pagán, OD, MPH**

Dear Colleagues and Friends:

In addition to celebrating the 30 anniversary of its foundation our School celebrates with great pride the high approval ratings achieved by our students in the National Board Examiner in Optometry (NBEO) tests during 2010. Thanks to the commitment of the university community, our School is now in one of the most important periods and highest stage of development in its short life. The dedication of our faculty, students and staff has been instrumental in this development.

However, to continue the sustained development and position ourselves as one of the best educational institutions in the nation, the integration and support of our alumni is essential. Having recognized this, as well as the urgent need of a formal medium of information to convey essential information, we present today, full of joy, this first edition of the Journal SPECTRUM, which evolved from the previous newsletter.

SPECTRUM will be published in both Spanish and English, at least 2 times a year. The contents will include among other things, a variety of articles of interest to our faculty, a summary of activities undertaken by the School, and programming details of continuing education courses to be offered during the year. We hope this magazine will also include important information from you, our graduates. One section that we hope will be of great pleasure and interest is the Vision in Contrast program. In this section you will appreciate reproductions of works of art produced by a variety of Puerto Rican artists, some of whom are visually impaired or blind. The original works of art will be placed on the beautiful walls of our new School of Optometry. The exhibition will not only help the visually impaired and blind artists, but also a portion of the proceeds from the sales will go to the scholarship fund of the School of Optometry.

Dr. Hector Santiago, Past Dean of the School of Optometry, and former editor of the newsletter PRISMA, will be the main editor of the newsletter.



Message from Dr. Joe E. Ellis, President of the American Optometric Association

On behalf of the American Optometric Association, I would like to offer my sincere congratulations to the Inter American University of Puerto Rico School of Optometry (IAUSO) as it celebrates 30 years of optometric education.

More than 900 optometrists have graduated since IAUSO opened its doors in January 1981. With the bilingual nature (English/Spanish) of the school, IAUSO has become a world leader in producing bilingual optometrists with graduates who are able to examine and communicate with both English and Spanish speaking patients.

The school is also at the center for the development of Latin American optometry. IAUSO has been a leader, along with the Puerto Rico Optometric Association, in pursuit of therapeutic laws for the people of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico. IAUSO also serves as the secretariat for the Latin American Association of Optometry and Optics (ALDOO) and the Latin American Association of Schools and Faculties of Optometry (ALDEFO).

Congratulations again! Here's to many more years of educating the future of our profession!



Message from Dr. Earl Smith, President of the Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry

On behalf of the Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry (ASCO), I'm very pleased to offer congratulations on the 30th anniversary of the Inter American University of Puerto Rico School of Optometry (IAUSO). Since 1981, IAUSO has served a special role in the optometric education enterprise as the only fully bilingual optometric institution among the 20 ASCO member schools and colleges. This has led to a diverse student body at the institution and an international, multi-ethnic environment that provides its graduates with the opportunity to serve the large Hispanic populations in Puerto Rico and the continental United States. It also set the stage for IAUSO's role as the center of development of advanced standards for all of optometry in Latin America. This includes working to expand the scope of practice in the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico through advocacy of therapeutic laws.

Over the past 30 years, ASCO has been enriched through your leadership and through the leadership of Dr. Arthur Afanador and Dr. Hector Santiago, who both served as presidents of our association. As ASCO President, Dr. Santiago was an advocate and inspirational leader for diversity of the national optometric student body and the development of cultural competency guidelines for all the schools and colleges of optometry. In 2007, the deans and presidents of ASCO had the privilege of visiting your new state of the art Optometry School facility just prior to its opening while being exposed to a slice of Puerto Rican culture.

ASCO is honored to offer the school our earnest congratulations and very best wishes to Dean Andrés Pagán, and to the students, faculty, administration and alumni of the Inter American University of Puerto Rico School of Optometry upon the occasion of its 30th anniversary.



Message from Professor George Woo, President of the World Council of Optometry

Many congratulations to the Inter American University of Puerto Rico's School of Optometry on its 30th anniversary! I am extremely delighted that the School has blossomed into the wonderful, venerable institution it is today. Fortunately, unlike any 30-year-old human, the 30-year-old School is not yet passed its prime. Instead, it continues to grow in stature and strength as the years advance. One only needs to remind oneself that the Inter American University of Puerto Rico School of Optometry, which is accredited by the Accreditation Council on Optometric Education of the American Optometric Association, is hosting both the Secretariats of the Latin American Association of Optometry and Optics and the Latin American Association of Schools and Faculties of Optometry.

From a global perspective of optometry, our counterparts in the continental US lead the world in many ways. Their optometric education and scope of practice are second to none. I truly hope that the School and the Puerto Rico Optometric Association will be successful in their quest for legislation to allow the prescribing and use of therapeutic drugs in professional practice so that qualified optometrists in Puerto Rico will have the same opportunity to train and improve public health as many of their peers in US states are able to. If the scope of practice is expanded, optometry in Puerto Rico would also become an even greater inspiration than it is already to the rest of Latin America, a shining example of what can be potentially achieved in the future.

On this optimistic note, may I wish all of the current and past students, faculty members and clinicians of Inter American University of Puerto Rico School of Optometry the very best in their endeavors to improve the eye and vision health of the people of Puerto Rico and elsewhere.

Happy 30th anniversary, Inter American University of Puerto Rico School of Optometry!



Message from the Editor Dr. Héctor C. Santiago

Twenty-seven years ago, I made one of the most important decisions in my life. After just finishing the OD degree at the New England College of Optometry, I decided to dedicate my life to optometric education. Most importantly, I decided that as a Puerto Rican, I had the responsibility to return to my Island to contribute to the newly founded School of Optometry. I arrived on the Island to be interviewed by Dr. Arthur Afanador, Dean of the Inter American School with the desire to become a full-time faculty member. He asked me to help as an Assistant Dean for Student Affairs while also teaching in the program. Throughout the years I became involved in many areas as a faculty member, Director of Continuing Education, Assistant Dean for Academic Affairs and in 1997, as Dean of the School, until June 2008. Without question, these have been some of the happiest years in my life.

During these years we have seen a gradual transformation of the School from one devoted to fulfill the needs of optometrists for Puerto Rico, to one committed to the education and training of bilingual professionals. Today the student body is one of the most culturally and ethnically diverse of any educational institution in Puerto Rico and the United States. Our students become professionals prepared to serve the needs of all patients, but most especially, the growing Hispanic population in the continental United States.

One of the milestones of the School has been the construction of state-of-the-art facilities in Bayamón with the support of President Manuel J. Fernós. These facilities, designed by the renowned Architect Federico Montilla, are a great source of satisfaction and pride to all of us.

As we celebrate our 30th Anniversary, we have good reasons to be proud of our accomplishments. It is also an opportunity to reiterate our commitment to the highest standards of optometric education and eye care services to the community we serve for many years to come. To our alumni, students, faculty, staff and friends: Congratulations!



Message from Dr. Juan Vázquez, President of the Latin American Association of Optometry and Optics President, Puerto Rico Board of Examiners in Optometry

As an alumnus of Inter American University of Puerto Rico School of Optometry, I am pleased to convey my sincere congratulations to my Alma Mater in the celebration of its 30th Anniversary. I am also very proud to be the first alumnus to become President of the Latin American Association of Optometry and Optics, the professional organization representing the interests of optometrists in the Latin American region. Puerto Rico will host the 2011 World Congress of Optometry where fellow optometrists will visit the Island. Many of the events will be held at the School of Optometry where our visitors will have an opportunity to appreciate, first hand, the extraordinary growth in the breadth and depth of optometric education provided through this institution.

I invite the alumni to participate in all the events of the anniversary and share the happiness of these 30 years in the life of our dear School.



Message of Dr. Janine Toucet- Pacheco, President of the Puerto Rico Optometric Association

As we celebrate the 30th Anniversary of the Inter American University of Puerto Rico School of Optometry the joy overwhelms us all. As President of the Puerto Rico Optometric Association and a graduate from this wonderful institution, I extend my sincere congratulations to the alumni, faculty and current students of the School of Optometry at its 30th Anniversary.

As Victor Hugo rightly said: "Let us never forget that the good is only achieved through the best". To you, my School of Optometry, thanks for always giving us the best and to cultivate and promote teaching excellence that has allowed us to grow and develop in this profession we love. Congratulations!



**Message of Dr. Sonia M. Colón,
President of the Class of 1984 of
the Inter American University of
Puerto Rico School of Optometry**

Upon receiving a call from Dr. Hector Santiago, indicating the School was going to celebrate the 30 years of its founding, I realized, ... thirty years! Many things have happened in 30 years!

I felt melancholy and went back to the past. I searched the yearbook of the first graduating class and began to remember those great moments. From the nervousness we felt during the interviews to select the first students, our goal of achieving a diploma. By 1984, only 17 succeeded to complete the program.

Many stayed in the tortuous path, tears, sorrows, sacrifices and laughter, joy and satisfaction of a realized dream. A dream came true both for those of us in that first graduating class, and for the 124 optometrists who fought and gave everything on to that dream. It also passed through my mind some names such as: Dr. Henry Hostetter, Dr. Patricio Meneses, Dr. Raymond Bobea, Dr. Rivera, Dr. Barbara Fink, Dr. Dennis Livingstone and Dr. Afanador's red socks.

I had the privilege of working from the beginning as President of the first graduating class, as the first President of the Puerto Rico Optometric Association under Law 129 of December 1993, and in this historical moment, as a member of the Board of Examiners for Optometrists of Puerto Rico.

I love this profession and I thank God for allowing me to belong to such a distinguished class. Congratulations to the School of Optometry for 30 years and I urge you to stay in a spirit of unity, serving together in harmony.

**Message of Dr. Walter Ramírez-
Pagán, President of the Alumni
Association of the School of
Optometry**

The Alumni Association of the School of Optometry (AGEO) welcomes all our guests, alumni, faculty, staff, students and general public to our School. Today we celebrate a great occasion: the 30th Anniversary of the founding of the School. It has been a long road, requiring dedication to get to our present place of honor. We should all be proud to be participants of this path. The AGEO mission is to assist in this development from different perspectives. We have earmarked funds to assist in the infrastructure and have given support to students with awards and incentives. We have a future ahead and we need everyone to participate to the extent that we can to continue fulfilling this mission.

As President and alumnus, I want you to feel at home and take advantage of the facilities that we have available for you and your families.

**Message from Prof. Laura Brusi,
Coordinator Bachelor of Ocular
Optics and Optometry
Faculty of Sciences, National
University of La Plata, Buenos Aires**

Optometry, as a primary eye and visual care profession, faces the challenge of reducing or eradicating preventable functional blindness, mainly caused by uncorrected refractive errors. These conditions have an impact on schooling and employability, affecting the Human Development Index of the country.

The academy challenges us to provide solutions through research and technology transfer to give the necessary solutions demanded by a society in continuous development

The celebrations for the 30th Anniversary of the Inter American University of Puerto Rico School of Optometry reflect a symbol of excellence in the quality of education achieved and one of the clear academic benchmarks for our Latin America, so it is an honor for us to accompany them on this special occasion in its history.

Messages in occasion of the celebration of the 30th Anniversary of the School

I offer my sincere congratulations to all alumni of the School of Optometry at the 30th anniversary of the institution. You are the reason for the development of our school for all these years. Your success and achievement fill us with pride and are our most precious treasure. Congratulations and blessings.

-Mayra Rullan, OD, FAAO

The 30th anniversary of the school is a very special event for me. I am retiring after 30 years of service to this institution which I have come to love. I fondly remember the start of the school and all the obstacles: new facility, new students, new faculty, new administration. The problems were endless. Fortunately, we had very good students, really dedicated faculty, and the new facility in Hato Rey in 1982 allowed the school to deal with and overcome most of the problems. They were truly exciting time. By the 10th anniversary celebrated at the El San Juan Hotel with all the graduates, faculty and ASCO Deans and Presidents, the school was well established and continued to develop to the present. I feel fortunate to have experience the next major event of the new School at the Bayamon Campus. I leave the School with pride in my 30 years of service, and proud to have been associated with the amazing development of the School of Optometry at the Inter American University of Puerto Rico.

-Arthur Afanador, OD, PhD

We join in the celebration of 30 years of the Inter American University of Puerto Rico School of Optometry. We thank God for the opportunity to be part of a group of collaborators of this institution, besides the privilege of serving over the past years. It is our commitment to forge excellent professionals in the field of optometry for Puerto Rico and the rest of the world.

-Damaris Pagan, OD, MPH

It gives me great pride to share with you this celebration of 30 anniversary of the founding of the School of Optometry. For the past 22 years I have been part of the development of optometry in Puerto Rico, 6 of them working

part-time and 16 as full time. I am very pleased with the work we do daily in our school for the welfare of the public who has chosen us to be their eye care providers. In addition to all students who have selected us to provide them with the knowledge required to practice this wonderful profession. Many years been committed to our institution and what it represents. I look forward to serving all those who continue to put their trust in us, both patients and students.

-Manuel A. Conde Seijo OD

I joined the workforce at the Inter American University of Puerto Rico in 1992. The school of optometry is a community of privileged membership comprised altogether of less than 30 fulltime academic and part time clinic faculty, and less than 200 students. In effect one tends to recognize and attend every student on the program. During those early years of stay on the island I frequently was asked the question by students, friends and colleagues if I 'liked it' here and what my long term plans are? Then I did not have a ready answer and I would always dodge the questions. This work environment has exposed me to people from all works of life and ethnicity, especially students, and as I rode the winds I made more friends than I have enemies yet nothing can be more rewarding than to be known a graduate of the School has an established practice or has a teaching position somewhere else. All things considered including the time spent at the School and on the island I can comfortably state that "I like it here". I am glad to be a part of the School as it celebrates her 30th anniversary and I might still be here when the School celebrates her 50th Anniversary.

-John Mordi, OD, PhD

Over the past three decades, what began as an educational project to train eye care professionals has become the first pillar of bilingual education in this professional field. We are proud to serve as a link and a model for other professional schools seeking to offer first-rate professional eye care for Spanish-speaking patients of the Americas.

-José Díaz, MD

I am pleased to join the School of Optometry family, the educators, students and collaborators in celebrating the schools 30th anniversary. Blessings in this small but significant community certainly merit prominent mention of "Optometry for the World". On this special occasion, I am also mindful of the debt we owe to our earlier educators, administrators and students. They all contribute to this community with their cultures, traditions and beliefs. Here we equip them to be health care professionals and influence them as leaders who will transform

with the truth of ecumenical Christian values and who never failed to acknowledge their dependence on God. My best wishes for another successful 30 years of teaching, learning, sharing and living God's love.

-Rev. Ileana Vargas, MD, Chaplain

Congratulations to the School of Optometry at its 30th anniversary. I expect many years to come as an institution of education and service to the people.

-Juan Galarza, OD

I still have several photographs and the invitation card of the activities commemorating the 10th anniversary of our School of Optometry... March 7, 1991! It was in the parking lot of the old building in Hato Rey! It has been my great pride and privilege to be a member of the family of our School of Optometry for the past 20 years! We share a history full of challenges, commitment, hopes and disappointments, the end of an era and the beginning of a new road and a new home... Let's go forward! Teach us to number each of our days so that we may grow in wisdom" Psalms 90:12. Happy anniversary!

-Nilda Lorente-Torres, OD

I think the school should be considered a pride not only of those who founded and maintained it, but also of the country. Besides being the only one of its level in the Caribbean it has motivated many foreign students, who today are doctors who are proud of having pursued their careers inside its walls.

-Gustavo Díaz, MD

Reflecting on past events allows us to improve the present. Since its founding, the Inter American University of Puerto Rico School of Optometry has demonstrated this. It is my honor to be part of the program and to commemorate the 30th Anniversary of its foundation. This celebration represents the devotion of the School to educate the members of this great profession and to prepare students to exalt human values and provide a better service to the community.

-Jose M. De Jesus, OD, MA

For thirty years the Inter American University of Puerto Rico School of Optometry has developed and educated optometrists for Puerto Rico and the world. I am proud to be a member of the staff who contribute to make this School one that is distinguished by the quality of teaching, professional environment, cultural diversity and our institutional ecumenical Christian values. These values are the basis for achieve a comprehensive, moral and ethical education for our eye care

professionals. My congratulations and many more years of excellence.

-Arleen E. Correa, MBA

For the past 16 years, I had the privilege of belonging to the faculty of our Inter American University of Puerto Rico School of Optometry. During these years I have seen how the profession and education in the School has developed. I have witnessed how our School has evolved from one with a Puerto Rican student profile to a School where ethnic and cultural diversity converge in a way that I never would have imagined possible. Our School is facing a bright future, and with that that future in mind the School is committed to continue evolving academically. In the next academic year we will implement the most comprehensive curriculum review in the history of the School. We are confident that our academic program will be exemplary and raise the level of knowledge of our future students and graduates and prepare them even better to face the future challenges of our profession. I congratulate the students, alumni, past and present faculty members, and past and present members of the administration of the School of Optometry for demonstrating excellence in all areas of education and the exercise of our profession of optometry. I congratulate all of those who have been part of our School of Optometry.

-Angel Romero-Ayala, OD

I would like to congratulate the Inter American School of Optometry for its 30th Anniversary. I feel honored to have joined such a unique group of educators. I look forward to experiencing many more years of educational excellence along with students, faculty and staff establishing the standard for optometric brilliance.

-Katerin Ortiz, OD

Educational institutions grow largely by the quality of their product: the graduates. Today the Inter American University of Puerto Rico School of Optometry celebrates thirty years of service excellence in the education of eye care professionals. We have grown and advanced as we continue on that path of excellence that has always characterized us. Today we are international, we develop professionals to uplift us with their achievements not only in Puerto Rico but throughout the world. I have been part of the School as a student, faculty and administration now twenty-five years that make me proud to be part of it. My congratulations to the students, faculty, and staff ... but above all to that great group of alumni who are living proof of the School of Optometry Inter American University of Puerto Rico. Congratulations!

-Iris R. Cabello- Rivas, OD



A brief history of the beginnings of the School

The School of Optometry begins- January 1981 – the first year



*Arthur Afanador,
OD, PhD*

The School of Optometry actually began its operation on January 7, 1981 with Acting Dean Hofstetter. It had been scheduled to begin operation in August of 1980, but was delayed because of a lack of a Dean, faculty, staff and equipment. Twenty-seven of the 32 candidates admitted to the first class for August of 1980, were finally registered in January 1981 and were scheduled to continue their second semester during the summer of 1981. And so they became the first class of 1984. Dr. Hofstetter adopted the curriculum from Indiana University for the new School and incorporated it into the School first catalog of 1980-1982 that contained three departments.

The School of Optometry began in temporary quarters at Fernando Calder 465, Extension Roosevelt in the Hato Rey district close to the banking center of San Juan and stayed there for its first two academic years. Unfortunately in May of 1981, Dr. Hofstetter's wife broke her hip, and was transferred to Indianapolis to the University hospital. Dr. Hofstetter accompanied his wife and informed the administration that he would not be able to return and continue as Acting Dean. Dr. Ramon Cruz appointed a member of the

school's faculty, Dr. Patricio Meneses, a biochemist graduating from the Universidad Central de Madrid, as the School's second Acting Dean. He served from May till August of 1981, and supervised the second semester presented during the summer of 1981. That summer, Dr. Ramon Cruz, on recommendations by Drs. Hofstetter and Borish, invited Dr. Arthur J. Afanador to Puerto Rico from Indiana University, for an interview. He was offered and accepted the position of First full time Dean of the School of Optometry.

An immediate concern of the President for the new Dean was to review and move quickly to recommend a move to a permanent location for the School from the inadequate temporary facility. Dean Afanador considered the three options; moving in with the San Juan Batista Medical School; converting a large house in front of the Metropolitan campus; or remodeling the Bernardini Building which had housed the Metropolitan campus. The final decision was for the Dean to develop plans for the remodeling of the Bernardini Building in Hato Rey. The remodeling began in March of 1982 and was completed under the supervision of the Dean by the mid summer of 1982, when the School moved into its permanent

facility. The move during the summer was contracted to Mr. Jorge Figueroa who also repaired and maintained the School's optical equipment, and was aided by the staff, faculty and even students. That summer was extremely busy with the move to the new building, preparing for the opening of the Clinic to include new third year students, recruitment of the new first year students, recruitment of two new full time faculty, Drs. Crossman and Shnider for the third year, as well as ordering and installing equipment for the new clinic. Dr. Livingstone was appointed as the first clinic director in addition to his other teaching assignments and began organizing the clinic and recruiting part time clinical faculty for the third year clinic to begin in August of 1982. All of the part time clinical faculties recruited were volunteer members of the Colegio de Optómetras de Puerto Rico.

The official inauguration of the school's permanent facility took place on October 10, 1982. By this time the School of Optometry had become part of the Metropolitan campus and the Dean of the school responded to its Chancellor Dr. Rafael Cartagena. This relation to the Metropolitan Campus remained till 1995 when the School of Optometry, like the School of law, became a separate unit responding directly to the President.

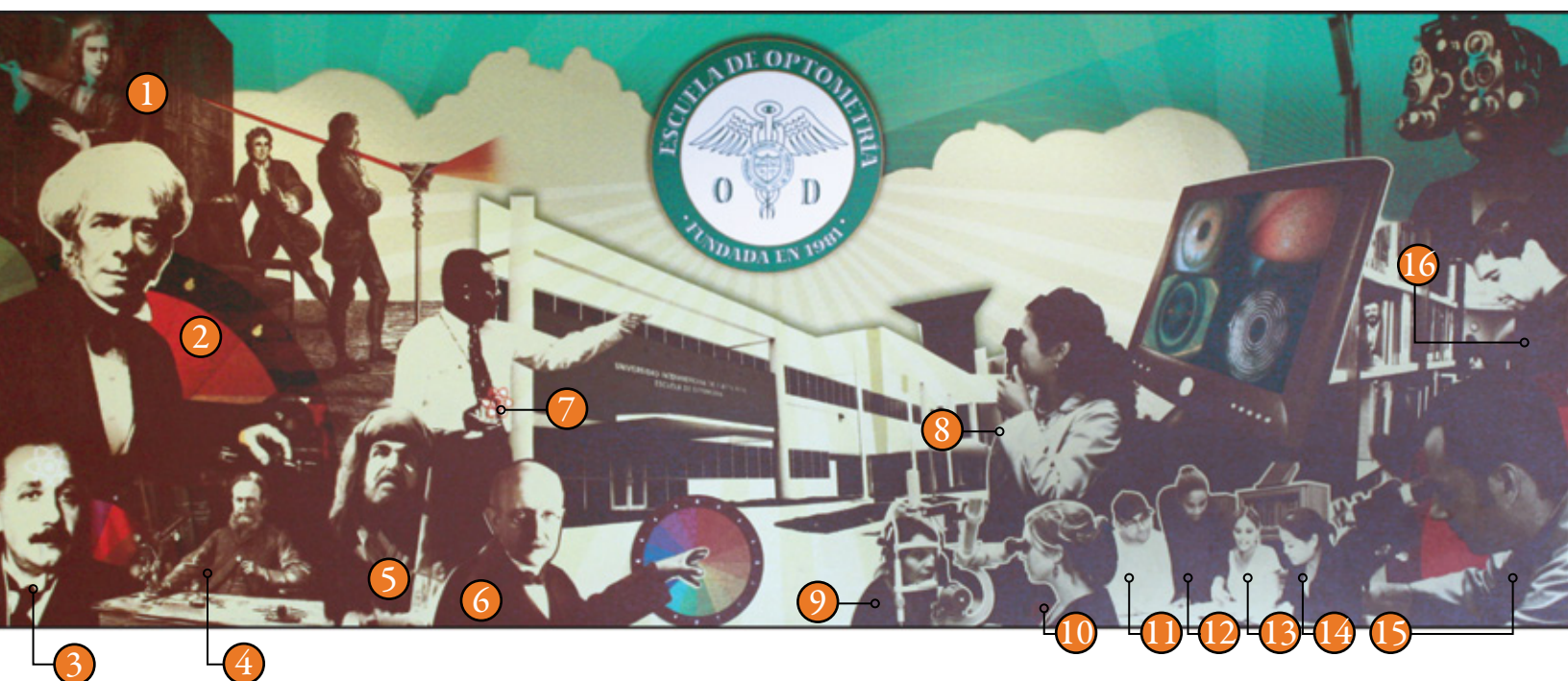
Since the newly inaugurated building in 1982, till the time of the first graduating class in June of 1984, there were a number of important developments and changes in the administrative and curricular at the School in Hato Rey. Dr. Denis Livingstone, the first clinic Director developed and implemented the new third and fourth year clinical program. As the clinic developed it became obvious that an expanded administrative structure was needed for the school. Up to that time, the Dean was the administrative structure. Dr. Henry Hofstetter and his wife were invited to spend a week with the Dean at his home during the fall of 1983, and to review the progress of the school. It was Dr. Hofstetter recommendation that an assistant dean structure with faculty serving as part time administrators be considered. This was similar to the administrative structure at Indiana University where only the Dean was a full time administrator. It was presented to the chancellor and agreed that the development of an administration was necessary to include two part time Assistant deans from the faculty. This concept of part time administrators recruited from faculty in addition to the Dean, continued till 1993. In the fall of 1984, Dr. Jorge Gorbea was

appointed Assistant Dean of Clinical Affairs/director of the clinic and Dr. Hector Santiago was appointed Assistant Dean for Student Affairs.

The three original departments of the curriculum were merged into two departments in 1982, and published in the 1981-83 catalog. By Aug 1983 each department had chairmen: the department of Basic and Visual Science was chaired by Dr. Steve Schwartz, O.D., Ph.D., and the Department of Clinical Sciences was chaired by Jorge Gorbea, O.D. who was also the director of the clinic.

During the spring semester in 1984 Dr. William Baldwin who was Dean at the University of Houston, College of Optometry, was invited for an in-depth series of presentations to the faculty and administration on the curriculum based on the tract model recently implement at the College of Optometry in Houston. During the three days at the school, he presented a tract model that the faculty adapted to the school. During Dr. Baldwin visit, he also consulted with Dr. Schwartz who had been charged by the Dean to plan a MS graduate program at the school. After a frank discussion of resources at the school, an agreement was reached that the University of Houston would act as a sister institution and give preference to all OD graduates from Puerto Rico that wanted to further their education in a graduate program instead of trying to develop a graduate program at the School.

The new five tract circular model was planned during that summer of 1984, and was implemented for the academic year 1985-87. The five tracts were: Health Science Tract, Vision Science Tract, Optical Science Tract, Optometry Science tract, and Patient Care Tract. The number of credits grew from the origin 130 credits in 1980 to 143 credits in 1985. It soon became evident that the administration by the former department chairmen was not going to be able to supervise the new five tracts. A new administrate structure was proposed and implemented to include three faculty member who dedicated half their time to being the assistant Dean for Academic affair, Student Affairs or Clinical affairs. Dr. Sidney Wittenberg OD, MS was recruited and became the Assistant Dean for Academic Affairs at the beginning of 1985 along with the new tract curriculum published in the 1985-87 catalog of the school. This administrative structure of part time assistant deans continued till June 1994 with various faculty serving as assistant deans. ■



Our mural and its significance



*Héctor Santiago,
OD, PhD*

Once our guests enter the lobby of the School of Optometry, their first encounter is the mural adjacent to the Center for Access to Information (Library). The mural of rectangular shape, with dimensions of 20 feet long and 7 feet high, is the work of graphic artist Nelson Vargas. The design and color was inspired by the pictographs of the decade of 1970. A good example of this is the cover of *The Yellow Submarine* album of British band The Beatles. The mural was placed at the School in the spring of 2008.

At the left half of the mural are represented some famous scientists who contributed to the knowledge of optics and visual sciences.

Isaac Newton (1) is located in the extreme upper left. Physicist and mathematician, he discovered how a prism breaks up light into a spectrum of colors and developed the telescope that bears his name. **Michael Faraday** (2), below the first, was an English chemist and physicist who discovered that the plane of polarization of light rotates in the presence of a magnetic field.

Albert Einstein (3), in the lower left, developed the theory of relativity and the conversion of mass and energy. At his right is James **Clerk Maxwell** (4) who developed a theory of electromagnetic waves and the formation of the color spectrum based on three basic colors. Then

comes **Ibn Arab Alhazen** (5) who is the author of the *Book of Optics*, and who described the process of vision and invented the camera obscura. Immediately to the right, **Max Planck** (6), founder of quantum theory and the theory of black body radiation.

While the left half of the mural depicts the historical basis of the knowledge of optics and visual sciences, a scientist (7) points to the right half of the mural depicting the youth that study at the School of Optometry.

Looking through an ophthalmoscope, which is the gateway to looking inside the human eye, is Dr. **Sharon Silva** (8). Dr. **Iris Sanchez** (9) is examined with the slit lamp by Dr. **Allison Lee Terry** (10). To their right, four students from the Class of 2011 represent the ethnic and cultural diversity of the School: **Mais Mohammad** (11, Canada), **Dawn Williams** (12, African American), **Melissa Natali** (13, Puerto Rican) and **Nancy Luong** (14, Asia). Dr. **Brian Johnson** (15) uses a lensmeter to read an ophthalmic lens prescription while **Bassam Hamdan** (16) uses the resources of the Library. A screen displays corneal images, symbolizing the use of technology in optometric diagnosis. At the center of the mural is a picture of the facilities of the School of Optometry and over this image, the shield of the School, as a radiant sun from which light emanates nurturing the academic life of the institution. ■

Administration of the School of Optometry



Andrés Pagán, OD, MPH
Dean



Iris Cabello-Rivas, OD
Dean for Student



Damaris Pagán, OD, MPH
Dean for Clinical Affairs



José M. De Jesús, OD, MA
Dean for Academic Affairs



Francisco Rivera, MBA
Dean of Administration



Angel Romero, OD
Academic Director



Vision in contrast

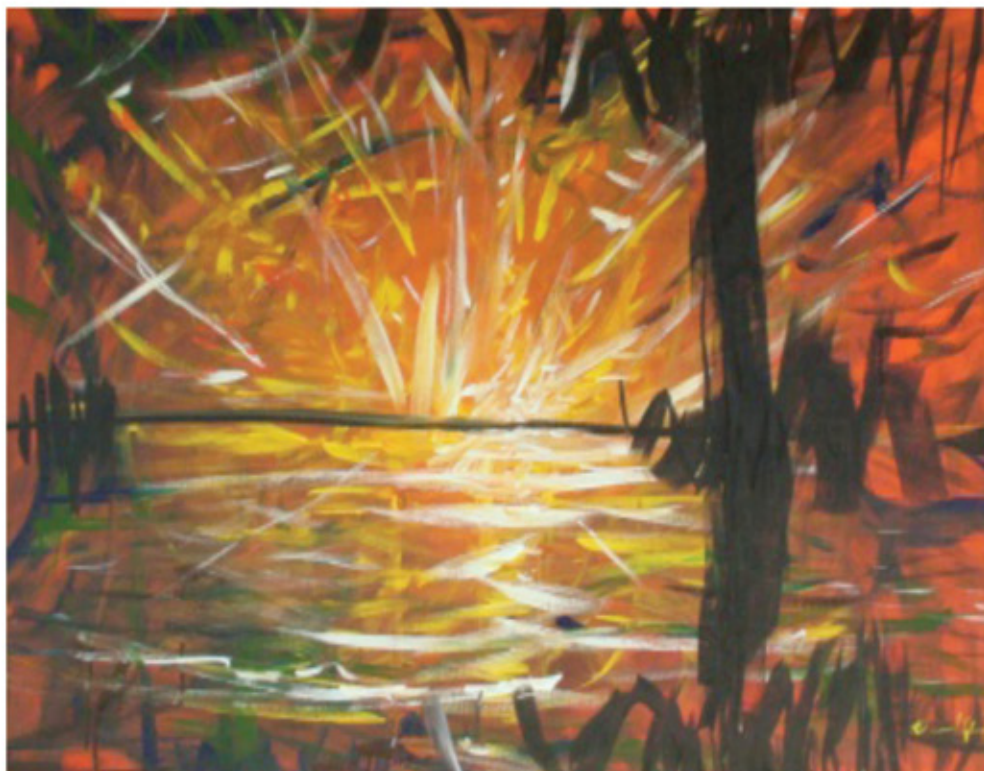
Description of the Project

Andrés Pagán, OD, MPH

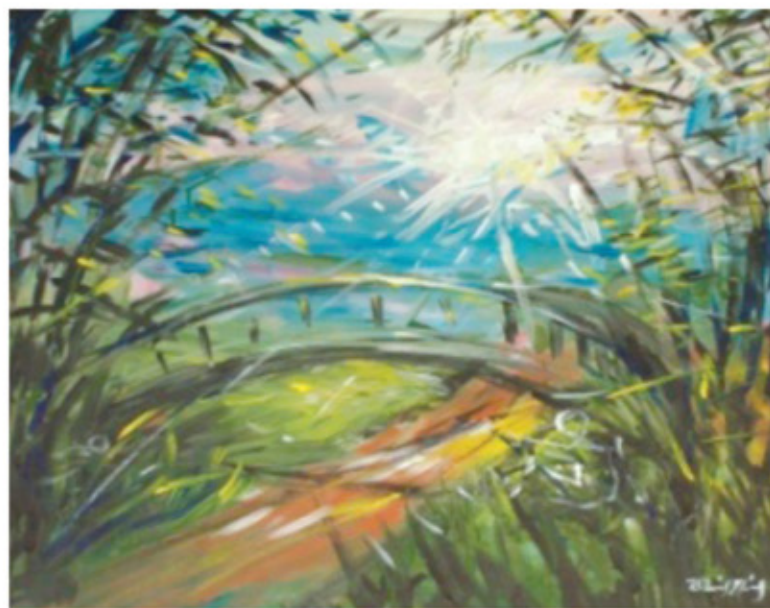
The beautiful walls of the School of Optometry Inter American University of Puerto Rico, where we educate excellent eye care professionals, is also a gallery for the exhibition of works of art created by different artists, including visual artists with disabilities. These works will be available for sale through the Development Office headed by Ms. Maria Julia Aulet. With the acquisition of these works of art you will be contributing to the scholarship fund of the School of Optometry and helping artists involved in the fight against blindness.

All artworks are recommended and managed by a curator. We depict some of the many works on display at the School of Optometry, as well as information about the artist. For more information or to purchase them you can contact Mrs. María J. Aulet, Director of the Development Office of the School of Optometry in the following ways: phone 787-767-1915 ext. 1002; email: mjaulet@inter.edu, fax 787-767-3920. These works can be mailed to those who so desire. ■

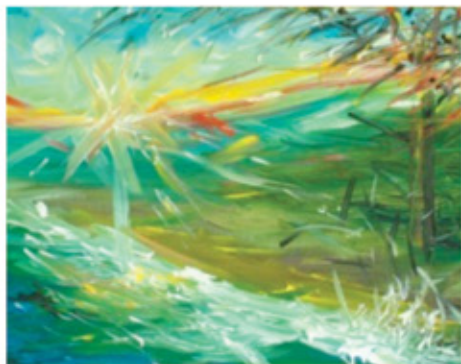
Daniel Hernández was born in Aguadilla, Puerto Rico in 1973, raised in Moca, where he finished his high school. He had an early participation in several local art competitions, winning some of them and reaffirming his vocation for art. Has a BA in Art Education with a concentration in Painting from the School of Visual Arts in Puerto Rico. In the course of his development as an individual and artist, he developed retinitis pigmentosa, an inherited disease that made him legally blind.



I stop by the Landscape
Acrylic on canvas, 36" x 41"



Across My Limitations
Acrylic on canvas, 36" x 41"



Shining In My Bank
Acrylic on canvas, 36" x 41"

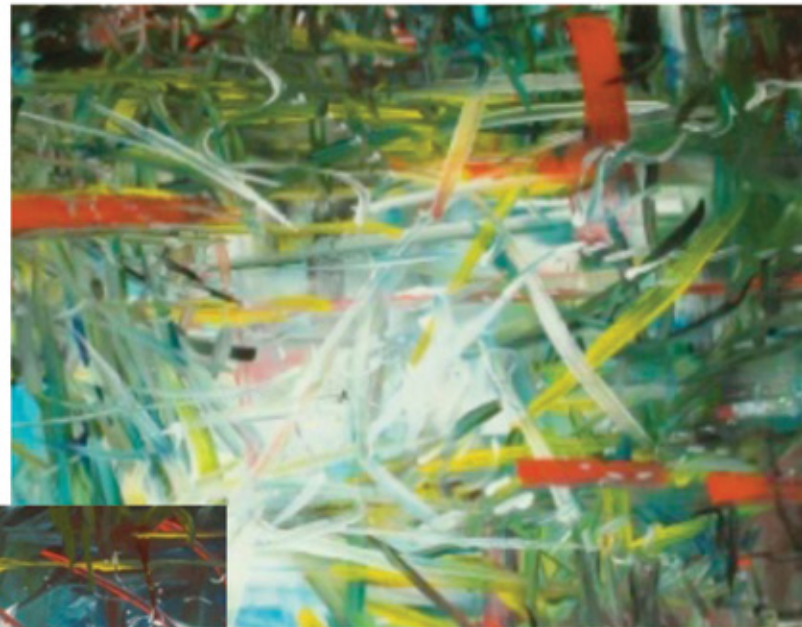


Color Release
Acrylic on canvas, 24" x 24"

Beating On The Green
Acrylic on canvas, 36" x 41"



Landscape Presence
Acrylic on canvas, 36" x 41"



A Light Among Branches
Acrylic on canvass, 24" x 24"



At The Shore
Acrylic on canvas, 24" x 24"



Finding Light In The Deep
Acrylic on canvas, 24" x 24"



The Inter American Eye Institute



The patient care program of the Inter American University of Puerto Rico is delivered through the Inter American Eye Institute. The main clinic offers primary eye care as well as specialized care in the areas of advanced contact lenses, pediatrics and vision therapy, rehabilitative vision (low vision), prosthetic eyes, and electrodiagnosis. The clinic has advanced equipment for optical coherence photography, ocular fundus photography, ultra-widefield retinal imaging, computerized visual fields, and ultrasonography among others.

The School has five satellite clinics in Hato Rey, Santurce, Río Piedras, Caguas and Juana Díaz. The last four are within hospital settings. These clinics offer students the most diverse clinical experiences in systemic and ocular disease. They also provide first-rate eye care to thousands of patients annually. ■



Inter American Eye Institute

Bayamón Clinic

500 Ave John Will Harris
Bayamón, PR 00957
(787) 765-1915 ext. 1101,1102
(787) 765-9854 Fax
Hours: 8:00AM-5:00PM

Hato Rey Clinic

118 Eleonor Roosevelt St.
Hato Rey, PR 00919
(787) 765-1989 (Tel/fax)
Hours: 7:00AM-4:00PM
Director: Dr. Neisha Rodríguez



Santurce Clinic

Dr. Gualberto Rabell Hospital
Hoare Metro Clínic
900 Hoare Street
Santurce, PR 00907
(787) 977-9542 (Tel/fax)
Hours: 7:00AM-4:00PM
Director: Dr. Vassillios Boulougouris

Dr. Javier Antón Hospital

1 Piñeiro Street, Corner Vallejo
Río Piedras, PR 00923
Tel (787) 765-1991
Hours: 7:00AM-4:00PM
Director: Dr. Jacqueline Deval



Caguas Clinic

End Rafael Cordero Street
Caguas, PR 00725
(787) 746-6555 (Tel/fax)
Hours: 7:00AM-4:00PM
Director: Dr. Nilda Lorente

Juana Díaz Clinic

San Cristóbal Hospital Center
Calle 6 La Cruz Street
Juana Díaz, PR 00797
(787) 837-2225 (Tel/fax)
Hours: 8:00AM-4:00PM
Director: Dr. Zulmaris Torres