

NO.56 FALL 2000
BENE LEGERE
 NEWSLETTER OF THE
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The Library Associates

Join more than 6,000 other friends, book lovers, alumni, and faculty who recognize that the influence of a great research library reaches beyond the university it serves to the many communities of which it is a part.

Library Associates receive complimentary copies of the quarterly newsletter *Bene Legere*, as well as invitations to special occasions at the Library. For more information on the Library Associates program, please write or telephone: The Library Development Office, Room 188 Doe Library, University of California, Berkeley, CA 94720-6000; telephone (510) 642-9377. Or, [check our website](#).

OPTOMETRY LIBRARY RECEIVES MAJOR GIFT

Bette Anton, Optometry Librarian

Citing their appreciation of the University, **Drs. Pamela P. (Optometry '77) and Kenneth Fong** have recently made an important gift to help Cal's Optometry Library prepare for its role in the twenty-first century. A complete redesign and renovation of the library is planned for summer 2001.



School of Optometry Dean Anthony Adams welcomes Pam and Ken Fong at the Dean's Brunch on graduation day.

To recognize their extraordinary generosity, the library will be renamed the *Fong Optometry and Health Sciences Library*.

This gift marks a significant opportunity for the Optometry Library to upgrade its facility to include the technology that will integrate research activities with the clinical experience in which all optometric students participate. The library will be electronically networked to the lecture theater and informatics teaching laboratory, where students can be taught how to retrieve valuable information, and to point-of-care clinics, where that information can be used to direct care to individual patients. Additionally, a portion of the Fongs' gift will be used to establish an endowed fund for expansion of the Optometry Library holdings, and also to create a resource for Asian health issues.

According to Anthony J. Adams, dean of the School of Optometry, "This is a most generous investment from a loyal Cal optometry graduate and her husband. Knowledge is so powerful in all of our life's endeavors, and this modern digital library created by the Fongs is unquestionably at the heart of the knowledge enterprise! We are most thankful to Pam and Ken for their wisdom and generosity."

With a collection of 12,000 volumes, Cal's Optometry Library is the largest publicly supported vision science research library west of the Rockies. In addition to being the core information repository for Cal's optometry students, faculty, alumni, and clinic patients, the Optometry Library is also an important resource for practitioners throughout the region.

Cal's optometry curriculum emphasizes a solid training in the basic sciences and the development of clinical thinking and sensitive patient management skills, all of which help to ensure the ability of graduating optometrists to provide state-of-the art eye care. This educational approach depends on well developed information retrieval skills and access to the finest and most current information to guide individual decisions for patient care training and delivery. The Optometry Library staff work closely with the school's faculty to integrate library and other information resources at the very heart of the academic curriculum and clinical experience.

In addition to teaching and research, Cal's School of Optometry has long been involved with providing public health education and eye care to the community at the grassroots level. Students help to run the all-volunteer Suitcase Clinic, where vision screening, health care, prescription medicines, legal advice, and other services are offered free to the public. Seventy percent of the clinic's clients are homeless. Mobile clinics also go to the community to provide on-site care to young children, the elderly, and Native Americans in Northern California.

We are delighted and most appreciative of the Fongs' strong support for Cal's School of Optometry Library.

How can new methods for prevention and treatment of age-related vision problems, such as macular degeneration, cataracts, and glaucoma be developed? Why and how does myopia progress in children? These and other questions face today's optometrists as they search for answers to the complexities of human vision. Like all professionals, they turn to their libraries for research tools.

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