



The JSEI Affiliates

100 Stein Plaza - UCLA
Los Angeles, CA 90095-7000

Phone: 310.825.4148
Fax: 310.794.7781
Email: closson@jsei.ucla.edu

THE JSEI AFFILIATES IS A BROAD-BASED VOLUNTEER NETWORK CREATED TO SUPPORT THE FACULTY, STAFF AND PROGRAMS OF THE JULES STEIN EYE INSTITUTE. THE AFFILIATES PROVIDE OUTREACH TO THE GREATER LOS ANGELES COMMUNITY THROUGH VISION SCIENCE EDUCATION AND PATIENT SERVICES. FOR MORE INFORMATION ON JOINING THE AFFILIATES OR VOLUNTEERING FOR OUR COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROGRAMS, CONTACT TERESA CLOSSON AT 310.825.4148.

Supporting the programs of the Jules Stein Eye Institute through vision science education and patient services

We're on the Web!

www.jseiiaffiliates.com



JSEI Affiliates enjoy a private docent tour hosted by the fabulous botanical garden docent Julie Raskoff.

Affiliates Discover UCLA's Hidden Jewel

JSEI Affiliates Board members were recently treated to a special tour of the Mildred E. Mathias Botanical Garden on campus near the Institute at UCLA. A campus treasure, the garden boasts an impressive array of tropical and subtropical plants from around the world - bromeliads, native Hawaiian plants, and varieties of ferns and palms. There is also a stream, a waterfall and an interesting pathway that winds through the garden and provides visitors and UCLA employees a place to escape for lunch or some quiet time.

Affiliates Board member Marcia Lloyd, in addition to

volunteering her time to support the Affiliates' community outreach programs, is a Botanical Garden Docent. Marcia and fellow docent Julie Raskoff led the group through an informative tour of the garden, stopping along the way to allow the group to ask questions and point out special species and points of interest.

Since the board tour was so well received, we hope to arrange a tour in the fall to accommodate JSEI general members and friends. If you have an interest in attending future garden tours, please contact the Affiliates office at 310.825.4148.

THE SPECTRUM

THE JSEI AFFILIATES

FALL 2004

VISION In-School Wraps Up It's Eighth Season and Bids a Fond Farewell to program director Patti Thayer

Thanks to our team of enthusiastic VISION In-School (VIS) volunteers, the program ended its eighth season by completing 34 community presentations and teaching 957 students about the importance of eye safety this past academic year! This year's statistics bring our cumulative totals to 318 presentations which have included over 10,000 fourth to sixth grade children, and their teachers, since the inception of the program.

Outgoing program director Patti Thayer noted that "I have been privileged to coordinate this program for the last seven seasons with support that enabled JSEI to be the only eye facility in the country to implement eye safety curriculum into a solid community outreach program." Unfortunately, Patti is leaving JSEI and California this fall to join her husband Dennis who

recently accepted a position at the Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences at the University of Wisconsin in Madison. "I am sad to leave valued friends at JSEI, but am also excited to begin this new adventure that awaits us. Although my locale will change my commitment to educating children and others about eye health and safety will not."

Patti went on to acknowledge that the program would not have been possible without the dedication of its many program volunteers who teach students practical information about how their eyes work and eye safety. Patti noted, "Those that have volunteered over the years know the reason for our commitment to this program...that eye injuries are the leading cause of blindness in kids in the U.S., and that 90% of eye injuries can be prevented. Eye injuries, not eye disease!"

"This program is a 'win-win' - the program, the purpose, the process, the kids, and especially all of our wonderful volunteers who keep this program alive! I will miss my friends at JSEI, but leave knowing that the program is ready for the next season, and will continue to provide a valuable service to the children of our community!"



Patti Thayer recently visited the sixth grade class at Portola Middle School in Tarzana. Student Chantelle Ghiam assisted Patti with the VIS presentation and did a great job presenting the eye anatomy vocabulary. Chantelle's mother, Mehmoosh, is a pre-doctoral fellow in Dr. Debora Farber's lab at JSEI.

Through VISION In-School, dedicated volunteer teachers give their time to guide the students through an hour of fun, education and practical information that not only inspires them to not only learn about science, but also provides them with tangible safety information that will go on to be shared with their families. Thank you to our 2004 Vision In-School Volunteers:

Ruth Altenbach
Julio Alvarez
Paula Armstrong
Cherie Hubbell
Shiow-Hwa Hwang
Michael Kapamajian
Marcia Lloyd
Larry Miller
Shirley Oga
Roxana Radu
Marc Shomer
Mina Soroosh
Ned Van Eps
Way Yu
Arthi Vijayaraghavan

Interested in becoming a volunteer? Contact Teresa Closson at 310-825-4148 for more information or visit our website at www.jseiiaffiliates.com.

Chair Chat! By Cherie Hubbell

Vision disorders are one of the most prevalent health problems in pre-school-aged children, but a majority go undetected. If left untreated, these disorders often lead to amblyopia (lazy eye) and tragically, a life time of visual impairment. Luckily, visual loss from amblyopia can be minimized or reversed with treatment in early childhood. Thus, early detection is essential, and is the primary objective of the JSEI Affiliates' Pre-school Vision Screening (PSVS) program. Established in November. Through her persistence and financial support, program benefactor, Glorya Kaufman, pushed the effort forward and Dr. Leonard Apt presented the project to the Affiliates' Board. Affiliates members enthusiastically embraced the program and readily contributed their time. Of course, without the commitment and professionalism of program coordinator Pamela Berg, the PSVS program would still be a fledgling idea. 2002, statistics illustrate the program's success:

Pre-School classroom visits:**72**
 Number of children screened:**2,003**
 Children referred for comprehensive exam:**117**
 Value of healthy vision:**priceless**
A lost MasterCard can be replaced.
Undeveloped vision cannot.

Our program heroes are many.

Benefactor:**1**
 Program Director:**1**
 Professional screener:**1**
 Volunteer assistant screeners:**10**
 Value of program:**priceless**
A stolen MasterCard can be replaced.
Our volunteers cannot.

Together, Pam and Dr. Apt fine-tuned the program with Pam making school contacts, arranging screenings,



Pam Berg and Dr. Leonard Apt explain the screening process to pre-school children. After training in England at the Oxford Eye Hospital and Moorfields, Pam spent 40 years in Los Angeles balancing part-time positions and a private practice specializing in orthoptics.

organizing volunteers, and providing essential orthoptic skills at every session. Most importantly, Pam followed-up on the dozens of referrals to encourage parents to obtain further evaluation by a pediatrician or eye healthcare professional for their children. After all, the PSVS program is only a screening for visual acuity and eye alignment problems, not a comprehensive eye exam. Pam's efforts have restored the promise of healthy vision to many pre-school children, thus, ensuring normal learning and development.

Unfortunately, Pam announced this August that she had accepted a position at the Casey Eye Institute, a part of the Oregon Health and Science University in Portland. Pam, a certified orthoptist (CO) and ophthalmic medical technologist (COMT), will, in her new position, teach residents and fellows, and run her own orthoptic clinic.



Before leaving, Pre-School Vision Screening volunteers and Program Director, Dr. Leonard Apt, feted Pam at a farewell luncheon.

Shared Vision Update

Shared Vision, the patient services program coordinated by Affiliates' volunteers, collects and recycles donated eyeglasses for those in need. The program was created to help people who require vision correction but who cannot afford to purchase eyeglasses.

Leslie Small, daughter of Dr. Kent Small, former JSEI faculty member and retina specialist, and Francis Small, JSEI Affiliates Board Member, recently organized a collection drive with several classmates from Oaks Christian High School in Westlake Village. The team of students collected several hundred pairs of both adult and children's eyeglasses.

Leslie noted "I was first made aware of the need while helping my dad in an eye clinic in Bali, Indonesia. The clinic was distributing refurbished eyeglasses to the impoverished natives who otherwise could not afford glasses. They were so excited to receive glasses that Americans would consider outdated. With this inspiration I coordinated a collection drive. Through the collection of these glasses, we feel we helped those less fortunate to see the world, read a book and make a better living with glasses that would otherwise be discarded or collecting dust." After collection, the used spectacles were sent to be refurbished and distributed to various health clinics including JSEI's Mobile Eye Clinic, and homeless shelters in the southland.

To date this year, the Affiliates and its volunteers have collected over 3,500 pairs of glasses. If you are



Leslie Small (bottom right) and her Oaks Christian High School classmates coordinate a successful eyeglass collection drive.

interested in donating a pair of eyeglasses, please mail them to the JSEI Affiliates' Shared Vision Program, 100 Stein Plaza, UCLA, Los Angeles, California, 90095, or look for one of our collection bins located in patient suites throughout the Institute. Children's frames are especially needed, so if your child has outgrown a pair of glasses, we can give them a second life! For further information regarding the program contact us at 310-825-4148 or visit us on our website at www.jseiassociates.com.

JSEI Affiliates Celebrate Mother's Day 2004

The JSEI Affiliates celebrated Mothers Day 2004 by hosting their first annual Make Surgery Bearable Ice Cream Social at the UCLA Medical Center's Café Med on May 3, 2004. Over 200 individuals stopped by the Affiliates booth to sponsor a Dr. Teddy MD in honor of their mother, grandmother or special someone, and received a free ice cream in exchange.

The JSEI Affiliates then sent a special Mothers Day tribute card to "Mom" and the Dr. Teddy, MD was given to a child undergoing surgery at the Jules Stein Eye Institute in this person's honor. Dr. Teddy stands 8 inches tall and wears green surgical scrubs. The bear's hang tag is inscribed with the donor's name so the child who receives the gift knows someone special is thinking of him or her.

All proceeds from the event benefited the Make Surgery Bearable program and ensured that future bears would be available for children having surgery at JSEI. To learn more about the JSEI Affiliates and our Make Surgery Bearable program, please visit our web site at www.jseiassociates.com or contact us at 310.825.4148.



13 Year Old Madelyn Ross Raises Money for Make Surgery Bearable

JSEI patient Madelyn Ross, 13, made a special effort this past spring to raise funds for the Affiliates Make Surgery Bearable program. The following, in Madelyn's words, is how she chose to make a difference and help other young patients undergoing eye surgery at JSEI.

"I started to wear contact lenses when I was only ten years old. When I would go to my visits with Dr. Weissman at the Jules Stein Eye Institute, I would often see babies and young children who had eye surgery or eye diseases. I found out about Make Surgery Bearable from a flyer in Dr. Weissman's waiting room. As part of my Bat Mitzvah, I chose to raise money for Make Surgery Bearable. When I saw that UCLA was having an ice cream party in order to raise money, I decided to have one of my own. I invited my friends and family to bring a donation and have an ice cream sundae at my house. I was able to raise enough money to donate 22 bears to Make Surgery Bearable."