

2008 Great Western Council of Optometry

Over 250 optometrists enjoyed a spectacular lunch and had the chance to visit with friends, classmates and former instructors at the annual Pacific University Alumni and Friends Luncheon at the Great Western Council of Optometry (GWCO) 2008 Congress at the Oregon Convention Center. Dean **Jennifer Smythe, OD '93**, approached the podium to greet her former classmates, students and peers. She expressed her honor at introducing the distinguished guests who are part of the lore of the College: Professors Emeriti **Don West** and **Niles Roth**, and crowd favorite, **Mrs. Willie Teeter**. The purpose of the luncheon was to thank the doctors for their support of the College and to keep them abreast of how the College is changing to meet the demands of a dynamic profession.

Dean Smythe unveiled the new University logo and the succinct identity it invokes. She detailed the new programs at the College and introduced the new faculty members. Director of Research **Jim Sheedy** enthused over the new facility for the Vision Performance Institute and the world-class research team assembled at the institute. Exercising considerable restraint by limiting the number of slides in his presentation, Associate Dean **Ken Eakland** gave a rapid fire recitation of the many exciting changes to the College's clinical program, including the recent conversion to all electronic medical records.

*Photos R, top to bottom:
Mrs. T; Dr. Don West; Dr. Shinji Seki*



*Ron Benner, OD'86,
President-Elect of GWCO*

Two scholarship recipients were also honored at the luncheon. The *GWCO Scholarship* was presented by California Trustee, and President-Elect of the California Optometric Association, **Hilary Hawthorne, OD '92**, to second year student **Noriko Ho**. The first *Hamada Diversity Scholarship* was presented to M.S. student **Satomi Torii**. Making this award was **Shinji Seki, OD '79**, President of the Kikuchi College of Optometry in Japan.

Over 800 doctors from the 11 member states of GWCO attended the 2008 Congress at the Oregon Convention Center. With a roster of acclaimed optometric educators, doctors and allied ophthalmic professions were able to

attend four days of continuing education and two days of exhibits. Evenings gave attendees the opportunity to see the Portland sights or attend one of many receptions. Many chose to join the crowd at the GWCO President's Reception, hosted by President-Elect **Ron Benner** and the Montana Optometric Association. Another must-attend function was the Pacific University reception where doctors caught up with classmates and friends to enjoy beverages and succulent roast beef and time with Pacific faculty and staff.



Dean Smythe samples the healthy fare

College of Optometry students also had an active involvement with GWCO as event volunteers and attending educational programs. One program was held on Saturday and featured noted practice consultant, **Gary Gerber, OD**; who dazzled the audience with his practical pearls and his amazing magic tricks. Following the education, students met with representatives from the GWCO member states and Canadian provinces to discuss their professional futures in those areas.

Pacific University is well represented on the Board of GWCO by **President Douglas Devries, OD '89**; and President-Elect **Ron Benner, OD '86**. Trustees included: **Boyd Walker, OD '73**; **Hilary Hawthorne, OD '92**; **Stan Matsuura, OD '83**; **Scott Nehring, OD '83**; **Lori Youngman, OD '94**; **Sue Lowe, OD '80**; and Ad Hoc Member **Ken Eakland, OD '84**.



Sue Farmer, OD'92, Jacqueline Horn, OD'9, and Hilary Hawthorne, OD '92

Mark your calendar for next year's GWCO meeting: October 22 – 25, 2009.



*Top: Jim Ogden, OD '72
Bottom: David Masihdas, O.D, and Carol Marusich, OD*