Inaugural Foley House Awards Dinner

Located at 744 East Third Street, the Foley House served as the IU Optometry Clinic for ten years before the present building was constructed. Beginning with the first award in 1976, a Foley House Basement Key Award has been presented each year to an individual distinguished for his or her role in memorializing the Foley House. Beginning in 2015, there are now two awards available for IU School of Optometry alumni.

Earlier in the year, a committee comprised of faculty, emeriti faculty, alumni, and staff was convened by the School’s Alumni Association Board of Directors. The group reviewed many impressive nominations for the Foley House Distinguished Alumni Award and Foley House Basement Key Award, and two alumni rose to the top: Larry Alexander, OD’71, and Jim Hunter, OD’76.

On Friday, October 16, the IU School of Optometry and Optometry Alumni Association welcomed alumni and friends to the Inaugural Foley House Awards Dinner, hosted at the Indiana Memorial Union in celebration of this year’s honored recipients.
Inaugural Foley House Distinguished Alumni Award:  
**Larry Alexander, OD’71**

The Foley House Distinguished Alumni Award is presented to an alumnus or alumna who has spent significant time dedicated to excellence in optometry, has represented the School well throughout his or her career, and has reached pre-eminent status in the field of optometry.

Dr. Larry Alexander is a 1971 graduate of the Indiana University School of Optometry. From 1971 to 1973 he served as an optometrist in the US Navy. After discharge, Dr. Alexander practiced in Elizabeth City, NC, until he had an opportunity to teach at the University of Alabama Birmingham School of Optometry. While there, he was responsible for the Ocular Disease curriculum and Ocular Disease Clinics.

Dr. Alexander has contributed to literature in the form of multiple articles and textbook chapters. He has published three editions of *Primary Care of the Posterior Segment* and recently published *The Value-Driven Eye Care Game: a Player’s Survival Guide*. Dr. Alexander serves as the Clinical Editor for the American Academy of Optometry journal (*OVS*) and authors eyelessons.com, a free educational website with no industry sponsorship. He is the past-president of the Optometric Retinal Society and is a member of the Optometric Glaucoma Society and the Ocular Nutrition Society.

Dr. Alexander resides in Venice, Florida, and has been happily married to his wife, Lynn, for 46 years. Together, they have two incredible sons and two grandchildren. Dr. Alexander’s primary interests include an active role in increasing awareness of the importance of lifestyle as it impacts diseases of the eye, especially macular degeneration, and developing Socratic methods of delivery of healthcare education. He has presented at more than 800 invited educational lectures over the years and currently consults for industry, ARBO, and COPE.

40th Foley House Basement Key Award:  
**Jim Hunter, OD’76**

The Foley House Basement Key Award is presented to an alumnus or alumna who has demonstrated exceptional dedication and/or service to the IU School of Optometry. This award, unlike the Distinguished Alumni Award, was established in 1976, and has been presented each fall to a deserving alum, whose name has been listed on the original Foley House door, which can be found on display at the School.

Dr. James E. Hunter is a 1976 graduate of the Indiana University School of Optometry. After graduation, Dr. Hunter joined the full time faculty at IUSO and was promoted to Assistant Professor of Optometry in 1977. In 1977, he was then charged with the task of opening the School’s first eye clinic outside of Bloomington and appointed Clinic Director of the Indiana University School of Optometry Clinic – Indianapolis.

In 1981, Dr. Hunter opened an evening-and-Saturday referral only consultative practice limited to ophthalmic disease with an emphasis on glaucoma. The demand for consultation and treatment services grew rapidly, and, in 1984, Dr. Hunter formed American Eye Management, retained a part time ophthalmic surgeon and added laser and intraocular surgery to the available secondary care services. This expansion led to even more professional demand, and in 1987, Dr. Hunter left IUSO to partner with Paul Walton, MD, and establish Eye Specialists of Indiana and the Surgery Centers of Eye Specialists of Indiana.

Dr. Hunter has since reduced his Eye Specialists of Indiana responsibilities and has rejoined IUSO as an Adjunct Professor where he teaches post-operative cataract care in the Applied Ocular Therapeutics course he originated over 30 years ago. He is actively involved with the National Board of Examiners in Optometry as a member of the NBEO Disease/Trauma Examination Committee and also serves as a member of the Indiana Optometry Board, the division of Indiana’s Professional Licensing Agency that regulates the practice of optometry in Indiana. Dr. Hunter is extensively involved as a husband, father, and grandfather of five.