Raymond Areaux, Jr., MD, (pictured below), taught his annual orbital dissection workshop to the UMN medical school class of 2019. The students were enthusiastic and inquisitive and particularly enjoyed the demonstrations of extraocular muscle hooking and nasolacrimal duct probing.

Sandra Montezuma, MD, presented the Distinguished Vision Lecture, “The Argus II retinal prosthesis results at the University of Minnesota,” at the official opening of the University of Minnesota’s Center for Applied and Translational Sensory Science (CATSS) on October 30, 2015.


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On October 31, Lions Club members and guests attended Thanksgiving for Vision at the Earle Brown Center in Brooklyn Center. Presenters included Minnesota Lions Eye Bank Executive Director Raylene Streed, corneal recipient Paige (Thompson) Halfmann, donor family members Ron and Ruth Laumer, along with department faculty Joshua Hou, MD, Ali Mokhtarzadeh, MD, Sandra Montezuma, MD, Michael Nolan, MD (Pediatric Ophthalmology Fellow), and Erik van Kuijk, MD, PhD. Erick Bothun, MD, carved and donated a trio of pumpkins (pictured below) that raised $2,000 at the live auction. Minnesota Lions Vision Foundation Chair, Dave Moen, also presented Bothun with a ceramic pumpkin in appreciation for his annual pumpkin carvings.

Kathy Goode and Sung Lee (pictured below with Goldy Gopher) represented the University of Minnesota at the Minnesota Medtech convention, a joint production of LifeScience Alley and Medical Design & Manufacturing (MD&M) Minneapolis, November 4-5. The convention highlighted the latest generation of medical devices discovered by companies within Minnesota and across the globe. Minnesota Lions Eye Bank, with the help of the Office of University Economic Development, offered its research services to the biotech community.

The American Academy of Ophthalmology (AAO) annual meeting was held November 14-17 in Las Vegas, Nevada. A number of department faculty, fellows, residents, and staff were actively involved in meeting activities.

Presenters included Erick Bothun, MD, Jessica Gomez, MD, Alana Grajewski, MD, Andrew Harrison, MD, Joshua Hou, MD, Dara Koozekanani, MD, PhD, Michael Lee, MD, Collin McClelland, MD, Ali Mokhtarzadeh, MD, Sandra Montezuma, MD, Phillip Radke, MD, Erik van Kuijk, MD, PhD, and Martha Wright, MD. Topics included strabismus surgery outcomes in infant aphakia treatment, surgical management of pediatric glaucoma, punctal plugs, corneal ocular surface disease, intravitreal injections, isolated eye pain, and visual field interpretation - with an emphasis on fields in glaucoma.

Bothun won Best in Show honors for his poster on strabismus after infant cataract surgery.

Harrison served as program chair for the 46th annual American Society of Ophthalmic Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery (ASOPRS) November 12-13. Mokhtarzadeh presented a paper, “The bleph and the brain: the effect of upper eyelid surgery on headache related quality of life.” Radke presented two papers, “A case of cocaine-induced pyoderma gangrenosum resulting in severe cicatricial ectropion,” with Jill Melicher-Larson, MD, which was awarded the Bartley R. Frueh Award for Best YASOPRS (Young ASOPRS) presentation and “A 9 year observation of tube extrusion and symptomatic relief of tearing in patients treated with frosted and non-frosted Jones tubes.”

Lee directed and organized Neuro-Ophthalmology Subspecialty Day on November 14. He was the Senior Instructor for a course, Case-Based Approach to Isolated Eye Pain on November 15. McClelland chaired a session on test interpretation made ridiculously simple.

The annual reception for alumni of the department’s residency and fellowship training programs was held on November 14. Mark your calendars for Saturday, October 15, 2016, for next year’s alumni reception.

On November 15, the department graciously hosted the annual meeting of the Childhood Glaucoma Research Network (CGRN), an international organization of ophthalmologists who share a mutual interest in childhood glaucoma. Over 30 members representing eight countries were in attendance.