Dr. Ted Fisher Awarded Professor Emeritus Title

On June 3, 1986, Dr. Edward (Ted) Fisher of the School of Optometry, University of Waterloo, was awarded the title “Professor Emeritus” by the Board of Governors of the University of Waterloo in recognition of his long and distinguished record of service and contribution to the University.

The fact that the School of Optometry is today a world vision research centre and clinical facility is testament to Professor Fisher . . .

In advising the CJO of this announcement, Associate Dean of Science and Director of the School of Optometry, Dr. Jacob Sivak, forwarded a copy of his own correspondence with the Dean of Science which led to the recommendation to the University’s Board of Governors. In it, Dr. Sivak stated: “Throughout his career, Professor Fisher fostered and encouraged Optometry graduates to pursue academic careers in Physiological Optics, the Science upon which the profession of Optometry is based. The fact that the School of Optometry is today a world vision research centre and clinical facility is testament to Professor Fisher’s success in faculty development.”

The nomination to award the title “Professor Emeritus” was a unanimous recommendation from the present faculty of the School.

Dr. Fisher’s list of achievements and accomplishments in service of the University and, particularly, the profession and the School of Optometry, are many. He spearheaded the expansion of the professional programme from three to four years; oversaw the relocation of the programme from Toronto to the University and was directly involved in the campaign to include Optometry as an insured service under Ontario’s Health Insurance Program. With Optometry’s move to the University of Waterloo on July 1, 1967, he became the first Director of the School, a position he held until 1975 when he was succeeded by Dr. Emerson Woodruff.

Always a selfless individual, Dr. Fisher also was instrumental in establishing several unique programmes through which optometrists in Canada could share their professional skills to the advantage of third world practitioners and patients. From 1970 to 75, for example, the School operated the Caribbean Aid Programme and, as a visiting Professor, Dr. Fisher himself participated in the development of the Optometry programme at the University of Benin in Benin City, Nigeria.

Although officially retired as a professor of Optometry, Dr. Fisher remains active in the School as Curator of the Museum of Optometry and is presently working on a book documenting the history of the profession in Canada.

Effective immediately, the formal acknowledgement and presentation of Dr. Fisher’s “Professor Emeritus” title will take place in conjunction with the School’s 20th anniversary convocation ceremonies in the Spring next year.

The Editors and staff at The Canadian Journal of Optometry join with the School, the University and the profession at large in offering our sincere congratulations to Dr. Fisher for this latest in a long list of well-deserved awards and honours.