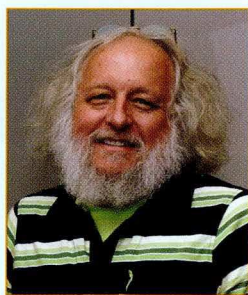


## LOW VISION PROFILES

### DR GRAHAM STRONG

by J. Sivak

Professor Graham Strong is a professor in the School of Optometry, University of Waterloo. He served as Director of the School and the Associate Dean of Science for Optometry from 1999 until 1002. Prior to joining the UW faculty in 1979, Dr Strong operated a successful optometric practice for nine years in a rural Ontario community. Since 1987, he has served as Director of the Centre for Sight Enhancement (CSE), an internationally acclaimed low vision research and clinical facility at the University of Waterloo. The CSE is Canada's only low vision service to be accredited by the National Accreditation Council for Agencies Serving the Blind and Visually Handicapped (NAC). Dr Strong also directs UW's Sight Enhancement Equipment Pool and Assessment Centre (SEEPAC), a provincially sponsored service specializing in the assessment and provision of high technology sight enhancement devices for people with low vision.



Dr Strong is active in local, national and international low vision research forums. Since 1972, he has served as leader of the Vision Research Team for the Ontario Rehabilitation Technology Research Consortium (ORTC). The ORTC is a large government-sponsored research collective, whose mission is "to enhance the lives of persons with disabilities, their families and communities by conducting research and development into technology based products and services". ORTC-sponsored research has led to the development and commercialization of many new award-winning rehabilitation products. In recognition of these achievements, Dr Strong's Sight Enhancement Engineering (WatSEE) lab received a Computerworld Smithsonian Award in 1999 and Dr Strong became invested as Computerworld Smithsonian Laureate.

Dr Strong's research and development initiatives are responsible for the creation of two new spin-off companies, Sight Enhancement Technologies and Sight Enhancement Systems. He has an ongoing research collaboration with the Drs Jeff Jutai and Phil Hooper from University of Western Ontario in conducting a comprehensive "evidence-based" review of key areas of Vision Rehabilitation (to date these have included epidemiology and demography; driving and low vision, age-related macular degeneration and rehabilitation; optimum text printing, etc.).

Strong is also sole PI on four ongoing low vision research and development projects (with funding support from HTX, CITO, and CIHR) to develop new assistive device technologies for people with low vision. He is also co-PI in a 5-year CIHR-funded project looking at Vision Rehabilitation outcomes, a PI on a 5-year NIDRR project researching vision aspects of people who are frail and elderly and how these may influence Universal Design. He is a co-applicant on two EA Baker projects (one researching issues related to deaf-blindness).

Dr Strong is an Adjunct Scientist at Toronto Rehabilitation Institute and is involved as vision consultant on two large facility design and development grants, including the "Intelligent Design for Adaptation, Participation and Technology (IDAPT) and the Innovative Rehabilitation for People in Challenging Environments" project.

In addition, he is a court-recognised Forensic Optometrist who has been consulted in connection with numerous homicide investigations and prosecutions. He also serves as a vision consultant for several police and military tactical shooting teams.

Dr. Strong's many contributions to the field of Low Vision were recognized in 2003 by the CNIB when he presented the inaugural E.A.Baker Lecture in Low Vision at the CAO meeting in Halifax.