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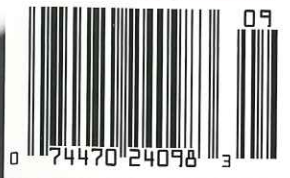
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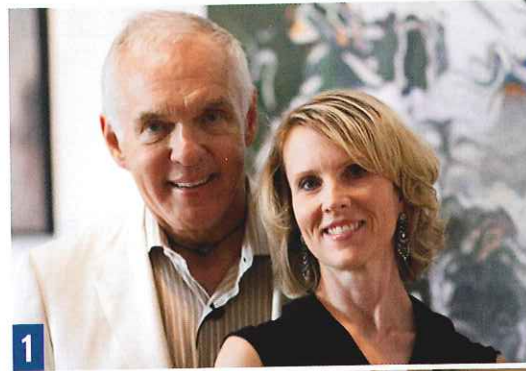
Integrating Hillside

As Told to Matt Dees

Forty years ago
this month, Hillside High
stepped into the future.
Four students who
were there tell us how
integration shaped them
and transformed our city.

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1 Joseph Rowand, director of Somerhill Gallery, with Teresa Anile, co-owner of Revolution.

2 Durham Magazine Publisher Dan Shannon, Mayor Bill Bell and his daughter, Anjanée.

3 Dr. Brian Coan of CARE Plastic Surgery, ADF Development Director Tica Lema and Chuck Weinraub.

4 Mark Day of Mark Day Catering & Event Planning addresses the crowd. He co-hosted the event attended by 100 VIPs.

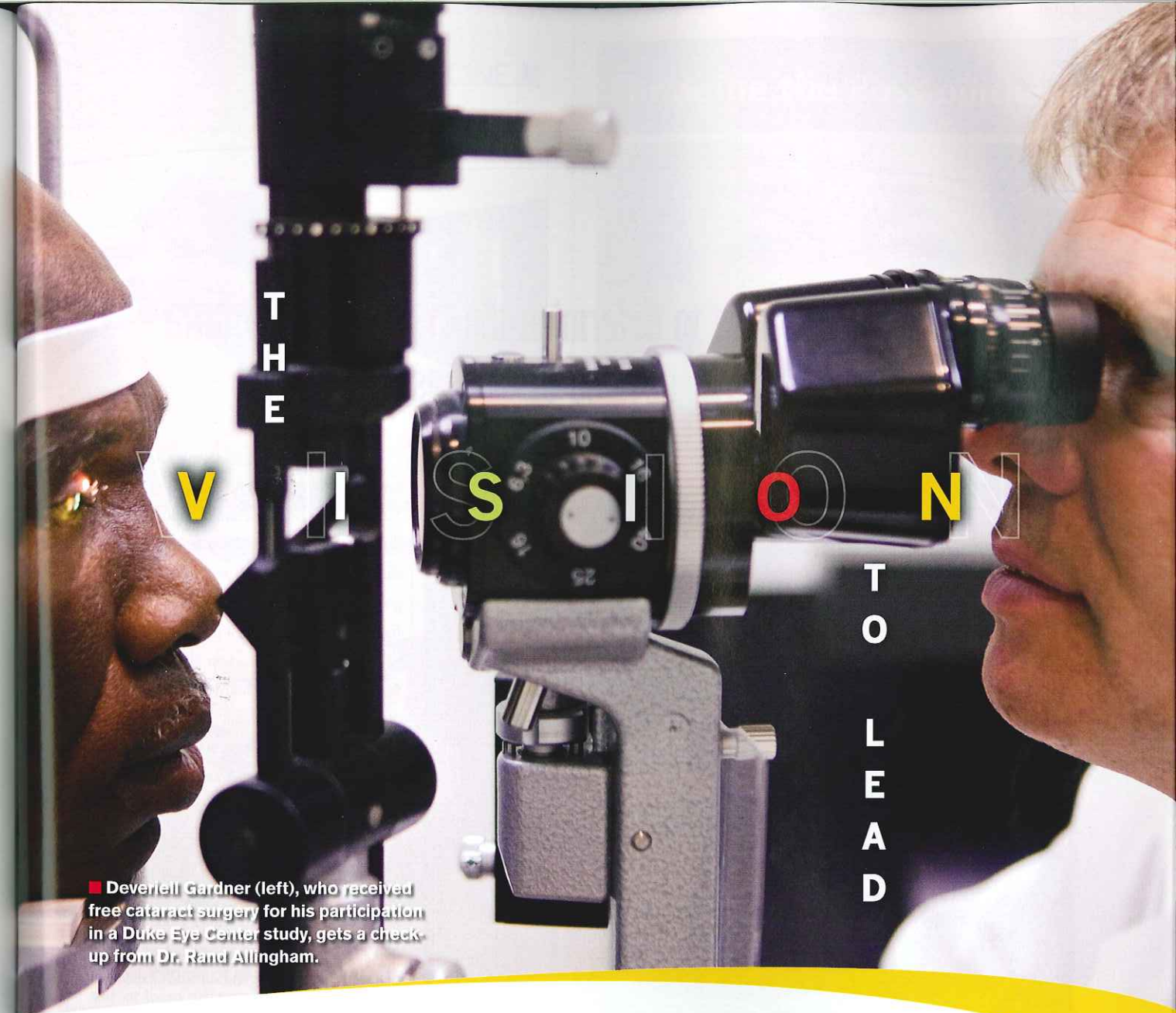
5 Jodee Nimerichter, ADF's co-director, is all smiles.

6 Anjanée Bell, her mother, Judith Bell, and interior designer Naomi Mann kick up their heels.

A Fête for Fine Art

Mark Day Catering & Event Planning, Somerhill Gallery and Revolution joined forces to host **A Fête To Remember** for 100 guests at Somerhill. It celebrated the **American Dance Festival's** 33rd year in Durham and the inaugural performance by **Shen Wei Dance Arts** and the **Dendy Dancetheater**. Guests mingled amidst amazing works of art while enjoying an incredible eight-course menu. The group then walked to the **Durham Performing Arts Center** to enjoy the critically acclaimed Shen Wei performance. The night ended with dessert at Revolution, where guests met the 26 members of Shen Wei. **DM**

PHOTOGRAPHY BY YORK WILSON



■ Deverell Gardner (left), who received free cataract surgery for his participation in a Duke Eye Center study, gets a check-up from Dr. Rand Allingham.

The Duke Eye Center, already one of the nation's top eye hospitals, is concluding research that could help cure glaucoma and set the center head and shoulders above its peers.

By Samiha Khanna
Photography by Briana Brough

After 15 years of hunting for the genes linked to a common form of glaucoma, researchers at the **Duke University Eye Center** say they're on the verge of a ground-breaking discovery that could lead to a cure.

They're so close.

"If we were looking for a light bulb somewhere in the U.S., it's like we know it's at the Home Depot on Mt. Moriah Road," says Dr. **Cecilia Santiago-Turla**, the project's manager.

In their quest, the researchers have scoped thousands of pairs of eyes. They have traveled as far as Ghana and remote islands in the Philippines in hopes of finding genetic clues to the disease, which often affects the elderly and stems from improper drainage of the fluids that flow through the eye.

The Duke doctors race not only against a disease that affects 70 million people worldwide — robbing 10% of their sight — but also against other top eye hospitals who are hoping to put their name behind the discovery. **▶▶▶▶▶**

“Now we'll be able to determine the **risk for glaucoma** before people even develop the disease.”

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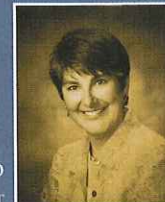
Ida Martinez
Registered
Dental Hygienist



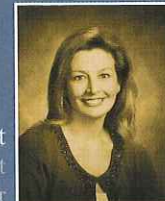
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Dental Assistant



Annette Branco
Practice Administrator



Jeanna List
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Two different national surveys have ranked Duke among the country's top 10 eye hospitals. The center's reputation draws patients and students from around the world, and as much as \$25 million in government and private money each year. In addition to boasting a department for genetics research, the center also is home to several pediatric ophthalmologists, which often are hard to find.

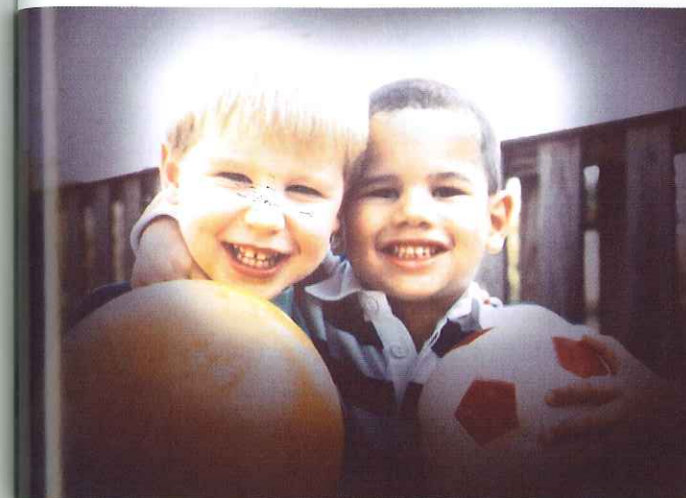
Over the past 10 years, researchers around the world have drawn significant conclusions on the genes that cause different types of glaucoma. But there is much more work to be done.

Dr. **Rand Allingham**, a lead researcher at the center, hopes his team's work will identify the genes that cause a type of primary open-angle glaucoma, and show how those genes work differently when comparing American patients of European heritage to those of African descent.

The study will show that different genes cause the same type of glaucoma in both populations, but Americans of West African descent often are hit harder. They develop glaucoma as many as three to four times more frequently, and with greater severity, Allingham says.

Narrowing in on why this happens will be a key to prevention, reaching patients early, diagnosing their risk factors and saving their sight. One day, Allingham says hopefully, it could lead to a cure.

"If you take care of people with glaucoma, you realize how important vision is," he says. "What's frustrating is the



■ **The bottom photo shows how glaucoma affects vision. People of all ages – including children – may suffer from different forms of glaucoma. The risk is much greater for African-Americans over age 40, and others over age 60. Symptoms include eye pain, blurry vision or spots and seeing rainbow-colored halos around lights.**

Photos courtesy of the National Eye Institute

Imagine the Possibilities



Do you want to look younger? If so, experienced laser surgeons **Julie Woodward, MD**, and **Michael Richard, MD**, can rejuvenate your eyes, face, neck, and hands with the use of a laser instead of a knife. These highly specialized surgeons offer unique skills in laser rejuvenation surgery. Visit us online at dukeeye.org or call 1.888.ASK.DUKE for more information.



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Board Certified Ophthalmologist
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JEFF BRIGHT, LDO

FOCUSED ON YOU

How long have you lived in Durham?

I have lived in Durham all my life and love calling Durham home. My family still lives here and most of us live in the same neighborhood we grew up in. Family and friends first, I always say.

When did you first open EyeCareCenter SuperOptics?

EyeCenter/SuperOptics opened its first location and the first "super store" in Durham on Feb. 2, 1988, at Northgate Mall. We were the first "super store" in Durham and still offer the largest selection in Durham.

What type of selection and services do you offer?

Glasses and frames for everyone. We offer the largest selection of frames in Durham with the latest styles, colors and sizes. We also carry sunglasses and sport glasses from leading designers such as Coach, Calvin Klein, Gucci, Michael Kors, Prada, Maui Jim, Oakley and more. We also fill prescriptions from any physician, fit contact lenses and perform eye exams.

How would describe your relationship with your patients?

Being a Durhamite, I enjoy helping all the friends I have known all my life and my new friends. I pride my service with a personal and friendly focus, and we form a bond with our patients and their family members, assisting them with all their eye care needs. With optometrists in all our offices, we can just about handle anything.

Where are you located?

We decided to locate our facilities centrally so that we are convenient to the north and south sides of town. Our north location is in Northgate Mall, and our south location is at 14 Consultant Place (corner of MLK and Shannon). We are also honored to be the exclusive service provider for frames and filling prescriptions at the Duke Eye Center at Duke University Hospital.

Is the EyeCareCenter locally owned and operated?

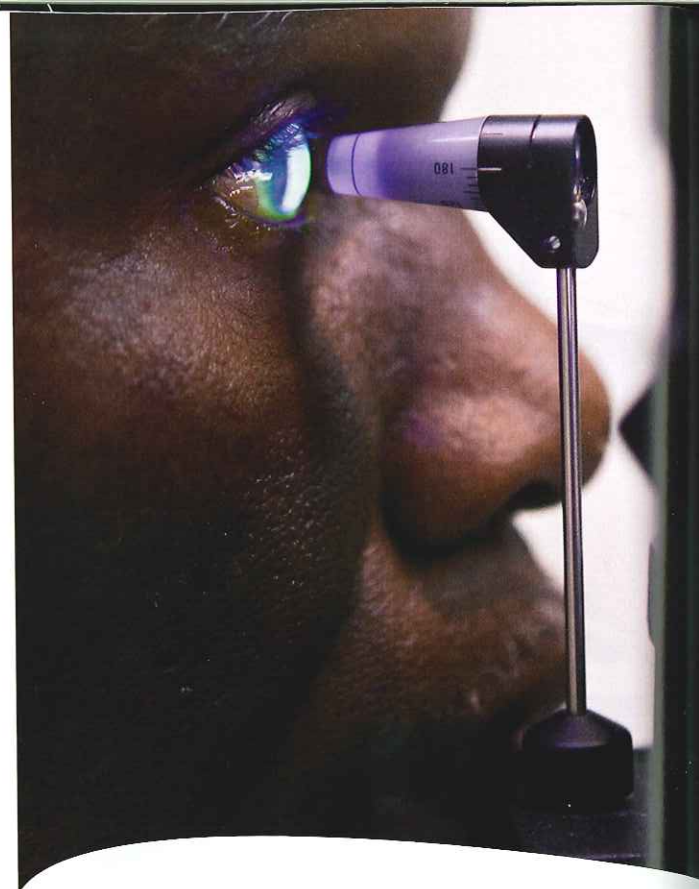
We are locally owned and operated since 1988.



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number of people who go blind who don't have to. Now we'll be able to determine the risk for glaucoma before people even develop the disease."

The finished report will comprise DNA data from 2,000 people with and without glaucoma from around the world. The data will be available to researchers worldwide.

Meanwhile, here in Durham, the \$10 million project already has brought unexpected benefits to hundreds of people who don't even have glaucoma. It has afforded them free eye care, glasses and even free surgery they could not otherwise access.

It started in the spring, when the researchers began gathering a control group for their study. They needed data on people without glaucoma for comparison.

Santiago-Turla and her associates started spreading the word at churches, transitional homes and shelters in Durham. The team enlisted a church volunteer who offered to drive patients to and from the hospital on Erwin Road. They also gathered information on community programs to which they could refer uninsured patients in need of glasses, medications and surgery.

Their efforts were timely. Rates of the unemployed and uninsured in Durham and Chapel Hill have exceeded 8%, almost double what they were the same time last year, according to the federal Bureau of Labor and Statistics.

Patients poured in from all over the city.

One was **Deverieil Gardner**, 56, who heard about the free eye exams from a family friend. When the doctors looked at his right eye, Gardner knew they would find a cataract, a reversible clouding of the eye's lens. It was the dimmed vision in that eye

CITY OF MEDICINE

that last year had crushed his hopes of becoming a school bus driver — a job that promised health insurance, a pension and more than the \$7.90 an hour he made as a part-time stocker at Walmart.

What Gardner didn't expect was that Santiago-Turla, the friendly doctor peering into his eyes, had connected with other resources in the county, and would be able to find him free cataract surgery.

"I am really grateful to all these people who have taken concern and helped me," says Gardner, whose slight accent reveals his Jamaican heritage. "I am happy that my sight has been really taken care of now." Now, there's little stopping him from getting that bus-driving job.

Since they started recruiting patients without glaucoma to add neutral data to their study, Santiago-Turla says, she and her team of researchers have examined more than 300 people in Durham. None have had glaucoma. Gardner and another patient had cataracts and received free surgery through Project Access, a program through which Durham medical specialists volunteer their services. Another 160 people have been referred to New Eyes for the Needy, a nonprofit group that gets glasses for those who can't afford them.

Though helping the uninsured in Durham was never an intention of the long-term study, it ties to the reasons members of the research team are working so hard to find a cure for a debilitating eye disease — to improve the lives of others, both now and in the future. **DM**

FACTS & FIGURES: DUKE EYE CENTER

> Ranked No. 8 among eye hospitals in a 2008 survey by U.S. News & World Report

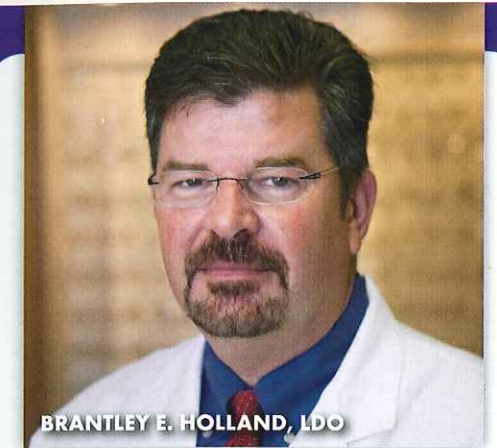
> Ranked No. 4 in the country by Ophthalmology Times

> Employs more than 300 medical doctors, researchers, students and staff

> Has 11 locations in North Carolina and Virginia

> Main location at 2351 Erwin Road, Durham, offers valet parking and a "touchable" art museum for the visually impaired

> Patients went to Duke Eye Center for 136,023 visits last year



BRANTLEY E. HOLLAND, LDO

FOCUSED ON YOU

Filling the needs of one of our nation's leaders in eye care, what are your challenges at Duke SuperOptics?

- Specialty Rx patients
- Pediatric patients
- Research patients
- Keeping up the reputation of the Duke health services community

We have met these challenges by...

- Positioning ourselves with labs that can produce what we need for the special prescriptions we receive
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