

In Memoriam • Joe Sullivan

It is with a heavy heart that we report that our Optometric Extension Program Foundation family has lost Dr. Joe Sullivan of Wichita, who passed away on Friday, April 23, 2021. Many of you know that Dr. Sullivan graduated from the Illinois College of Optometry in 1976 with a Certificate in Vision Therapy and then continued to pursue his passion for vision therapy by becoming a Fellow in the College of Optometrists in Vision Development (FCOVD). He dedicated 14 years to the Optometric Extension Program Board, culminating his years of service as President. He committed additional time and effort to optometry by also serving on the Kansas Optometric Association Special Olympics Committee; the Kansas State Board of Optometry Board of Directors; ARBO's OE Tracker Committee (where he also served as chair of their National Board Exam Committee); the American Optometric Association's Pediatric, Binocular Vision, and Perception Committee; and the Envision Board of Directors.

In 1993, Dr. Sullivan received the KOA's Distinguished Service Award for his part in the formation of the See to Learn program; he received the award again in 1999 for his work on children's vision research. He was a guest lecturer on vision therapy at several optometry schools and lectured at optometric meetings in the United States, England, Australia, and Europe. Dr. Sullivan co-authored several articles about vision development and vision therapy.

Dedications

I am grateful to have personally known Dr. Sullivan since being involved with OEFP. He gave so much to our profession through his examples of caring for patients, his sharing of his clinical knowledge and experiences, and his leadership. In the times we have talked, I have admired his wonderful sense of caring, sharing, and humility. He has been a colleague and friend that we should all aspire to become, and he will be missed.

Eric T. Ikeda, OD; President, OEFP

I succeeded Joe as President of OEFP. He always had a calming presence at the meetings. Joe continued the efforts of Jim Cox in restoring confidence in all aspects of the Foundation, which followed the period where Skeffington and Alexander were no longer a part of OEFP. For so long, everyone had depended on those

two, and when they passed away, so many seemed lost. Joe was involved in promoting the new *Journal of Behavioral Optometry*, and he was a factor in the Joint Conference of Theoretical and Clinical Optometry and the Heart of America OEP Congress. May Joe rest in the peace that he so deserves.

Glen Steele, OD; Past President, OEFP

I first met Joe at an OEP Leadership Development meeting in the 1980's. The meeting had over 100 people present, and we spent a full day doing an exercise that began with us splitting into groups based on our "styles." Well, Joe ended up in a group with only 3 others, and they were called "controllers." Joe, probably most known by his patients as the doctor with the model trains and a love of dogs and tennis, as well as an amazing clinician, was always in control in all the good ways one thinks of control. He led by example through all of his volunteerism. He was one to admire and to emulate. He also shared his knowledge and insights in all facets of life, from understanding the inner workings of ARBO and the state boards to sharing VT procedures that he learned from his father and others along the way. The world will miss Joe, but his spirit lives on in so many people that he touched.

Paul Harris, OD; Past President, OEFP

Joe was devoted to his family and his profession, in that order...and he was a friend. We shared the loss of our life partners far sooner than should have been, and we knew how the other felt without saying a word.

The world is a better place because Joe was among us and a bit sadder now that he is gone. Thanks, Joe!

Bob Williams; Past Executive Director, OEFP

I got to know Joe at many CCVC meetings and always enjoyed his stories of optometry and family. I was amazed at all he had done for OEFP and optometry in his home state of Kansas. I really got to know Joe on one of my first trips for an ACOE site visit to evaluate a residency program for accreditation. He was so go-with-the-flow and easy to work with, and he made the trip go so smoothly. Joe was an optometric rock, and I know that OEFP benefited from his years of leadership and dedication. He will be missed by so many, especially me.

Marc B. Taub, OD, MS; Editor-in-Chief, OVP