



Volume 16, Number 3

September, 2016

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President's Letter

Dear ARA Members,

I hope you had a great summer and that everyone is doing well. As we progress into the autumn months, it's time for planning our remaining 2016 ARA activities. Please be sure to mark your calendars for the dates shown below.

The next quarterly ARA luncheon is **Monday, September 19th**, in the Crossroads Cafe on the Alcon Fort Worth campus. We have a great program lined-up entitled *Medicare and Medicaid Basics* to be presented by Jamie Harwell, MSW. She is the Community Living Program Manager for the Tarrant County Area Agency on Aging at the United Way. As a much requested topic -- many of us are reaching the point of signing-up for Medicare or recently done so -- her talk will share some very important information for us all. The ARA website — www.alcon-ara.com — has more details and Jamie's bio. Click on the link to take you there.

The annual ARA Christmas Lupper will be **Monday, December 5th**, on the Fort Worth campus. It is a fun afternoon of fellowship and Christmas cheer. Once again, we look forward to having a member of Alcon's Executive Leadership Team for our guest speaker.

Your retiree news and photos are always welcome for our *In Hindsight* newsletters. Please be sure to contact Pat Cappelletti (patc2765@gmail.com), our Editor, with your stories. Pat is eager to hear from you and very glad to lend assistance. My thanks to Pat for her wonderful efforts to compile the newsletter.

I look forward to seeing all ARA members and guests at our September luncheon. Please join us and enjoy catching-up with your colleagues and friends.

Warmest regards,
Brad



Alcon Family Picnic

This year's picnic will be held again at Six Flags Over Texas in Arlington, TX on Friday evening, September 16th. There is a new requirement that Alcon retirees must purchase tickets for the event — retirees, family members, and accompanying friends. The ARA website — www.alcon-ara.com — has all the details for the picnic package and the web-link for direct online ticket purchases. Please check it out. Enjoy a fun evening at this Alcon private event with other Alcon associates / retirees and their families!

Photo Gallery

Photos from recent ARA events are posted on the ARA website. Please login to the Members Section and click on the News tab to find the link to the Gallery.

ARA Website

Want to see more? Go to this website: <http://www.alcon-ara.com> for all the latest information.

The site is updated between newsletters, so you might want to bookmark it and check from time to time.

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2016 ARA Luncheons

September 19th

ARA luncheon on the Alcon Fort Worth campus.

December 5th

The annual ARA Christmas Lupper on the Alcon Fort Worth campus.

Note: ARA luncheons are held in the Crossroads Café on the Fort Worth campus. All ARA members, spouses, and guests are welcome to attend. Lunch is complimentary for retirees, whereas others pay at the cafeteria cashier. Lunch starts around 12:30 pm and the speaker program begins by 1:00 pm.

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Sadguru-Alcon Learning Center Opens in India



Due to its growing and aging population, India needs to add 300 ophthalmologists per year by 2020. However, India's existing training system cannot fully meet the urgency of its current situation, potentially leaving an ever-growing backlog in the future. In response to these challenges, the eye care wing of *Shri Sadguru Seva Sangh Trust (SSSST)* has been trying a number of ways to make a difference. SSSST is one of the largest NGOs in the field of eradication of preventable blindness in India. The Trust has state-of-the-art eye hospitals in rural locations to provide high quality, high volume, affordable and sustainable eye care services. This is in addition to its broader role of creating a sustainable, integrated community encompassing agriculture, education, health and social care needs.

In June, SSSST, together with Alcon, opened the Sadguru-Alcon Learning Center to provide ophthalmic surgery training, particularly for cataract surgery. The Sadguru-Alcon Learning Center is based in one of the SSST's eye hospitals at Chitrakoot, Madhya Pradesh, and is one of the largest eye hospitals in the world, performing 116,000 cataract surgeries per year. Alcon is providing the surgical equipment to the Center, such as phaco systems, microscopes with video cameras, and other surgical instrumentation. In addition, Alcon's Phaco Development (PD) team will work long term with the instructors and Fellows to facilitate the learning through, for example, wet-lab practice coaching, surgical observations, surgical video review, post-op result analysis and feedback from mentors.

According to the discussion between Sadguru and Alcon, in the next five years, there will be more than 200 Fellows benefiting from this partnership. "Partnering with Sadguru gives us a powerful resource to support the development needs of India's interior, such as, Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh," explains Larry Fay, Area Director Surgical Business Development, Alcon Asia & Russia. Training at the center also extends to international Fellows and to ophthalmic nurses and technicians, who play an essential role in the eye care system.

"We are deeply committed to supporting eye care institutions and ophthalmologists to improve surgical capabilities so sight can be restored to more people," continues Fay. "It is an honor to work with Sadguru, and Alcon is pleased to contribute equipment and more importantly, our expertise. We will have dedicated team members working with Sadguru mentors to support the ophthalmologists undergoing training."

PD is a specialized team in Alcon Asia & Russia that works with ophthalmologists and their hospitals. The team helps ophthalmologists integrate phacoemulsification into their practice, providing better cataract care to more patients, especially in underserved areas. PD is actively working in China, India, Vietnam, Russia, Nepal and Bangladesh, and has successfully helped over 1,800 ophthalmologists perform more than 1.4 million quality phacoemulsification procedures since inception in 2008. A unique aspect of PD approach is the dedicated long term follow-up with the participating doctors, providing continuous support to improve the quality of patient care along their career development.



LACAR Stars in Fort Worth



This summer, our Latin America and the Caribbean's Surgical team is hosting two STARS programs at Alcon's Customer Center at our global headquarters in Fort Worth. The main objective is to help prepare surgeons for LACAR's upcoming launch of *AcrySof IQ PanOptix*, *AcrySof IQ with UltraSert* and *ORA VerifEye+* in our region. More than 40 key opinion leaders from Argentina, Chile, Ecuador, Peru, Colombia, Mexico and Central America and the Caribbean attended one of the seminars. As we launch *PanOptix* and *UltraSert* throughout the region, these 2-day programs help surgeons become familiar with using the latest technology in equipment and comfortable implanting the new IOLs.

"These programs are another example of our commitment to support eye care professionals as they fight one of the leading causes of treatable blindness in the world, cataracts," Camila Finzi, LACAR President, said. "As leaders in cataract treatment, we are honored to partner with surgeons in LACAR to help enhance the sight of people in our communities and improve their lives."

STARS stands for Scientific and Technical Advisors and Regional Speakers and is a 2-day scientifically-based overview of new Advancements in Cataract Surgery technologies and techniques that will contribute to a positive patient outcome, today and in the future. During the seminar, experts who have already worked with these new technologies and equipment provide insights, based on their own experience. Others summarize published studies or literature and discuss research results and methodology. Some presentations on the technology's development and function are provided by Alcon's own experts. "Then the students become the teachers," Giorgio Milo, Surgical Franchise Head, said. "STARS participants in Fort Worth return home and, in turn, share their experience and knowledge with more doctors, in their own countries."

Participants also have the opportunity to tour the Alcon Experience Center, including our eye health training and education center, which represents Alcon's commitment to innovation and eye care professionals' continuous education. One participant wrote that the program was "Very well-organized. It is a big opportunity to know the new products and see the Alcon Experience Center." Dr. Takashi Hida, from Brazil, said this was, "The best Alcon meeting in my life!"

Announcements – continued

We need news!

Inquiring Minds Want to Know!

As you can see, we have little retiree news in this edition. What are you doing with your lives? Where are you traveling? Why aren't you sharing your fun with us?

We really like featuring your activities, so please sit down right now, think about the fun you've been having and send us some interesting stories and photos to share.

You can send them to Pat Cappelletti.

Editor, at: patc2765@gmail.com

Don't worry about not being a good writer. We promise to spiff up your prose so you make your former colleagues envious of your exciting life.

Message from Alcon Corporate Security!

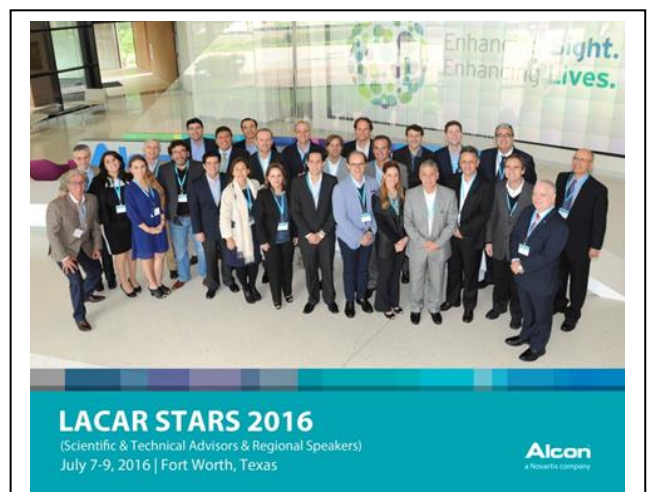
Alcon Security prides itself on keeping the safety of retirees, current associates and the campus a priority. As a reminder, the Gold Card only provides you access to the campus for use of the Company store, credit union, café and fitness center during business hours Monday – Friday 8:00 am to 5:00 pm.

If you are trying to gain access afterhours, on weekends or have not received your Gold Card, you must be entered into the Passage Point Visitors Management system and escorted by an active associate.

Events - ARA Luncheons - continued

Please remember to bring your Alcon Retiree Gold Card for access to the Fort Worth campus.

Alcon Corporate Security will reserve parking spaces with the orange street cones.



Alcon marks 30th anniversary of partnership delivering education and training to optometry students and residents



Since 1986, more than 10,000 students and residents have completed the Academy for Eyecare Excellence program, receiving training related to Alcon products.

"I participated in the program in 2010. What I expected might be a standard training experience turned out to be a very memorable, hands-on program, with a focus on innovation and the complexities behind the development of a medical device and the best ways to use those products with patients," said Lindsay A. Sicks, OD, FAAO, Assistant Professor, Illinois College of Optometry. "My experience at Alcon as a student augmented what I was learning in optometry school and helped me to better understand how industry can partner with practitioners to drive better patient outcomes."

The Academy for Eyecare Excellence participants in 2016 will learn about Alcon's broad portfolio of medical devices and practice hands-on training at the Alcon Experience Center, the state-of-the-art 36,000-square-foot facility in Fort Worth, Texas. The center features a fully equipped optometric exam lane, an enhanced wet lab, and a variety of interactive technologies to create a world-class training experience in eye care.

"We are proud of our 30-year legacy of educating future optometrists and residents," said Rick Weisbarth, OD, FAAO, Vice President, Vision Care Professional Affairs, US. "We know the time spent here at Alcon is really important for students and residents to understand the way Alcon operates, innovates and delivers high-quality products as part of our shared passion for helping people see, look and feel their best."



US Procurement Forum creates dialogue around the Importance of Supplier Diversity

Representatives of 40 businesses recently joined US Procurement and three local external associations in Fort Worth for the first of a series of forums focused on the value that a diverse team of suppliers can bring to Alcon's supply chain. These businesses are all owned by Veterans, Women, Minorities and LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bi-sexual and Transgender) suppliers.

This was the first formal event designed for Alcon leaders, qualified diverse suppliers, external organizations, category managers and the company's primary large suppliers - Novitex & JLL – to discuss the benefits of working with diverse businesses. Participating external associations among the 90 attendees included the Dallas-Fort Worth Minority Business Development Council, the Women's Business Council Southwest and the Disabled Veteran Alliance.

The forum included presentations from:

- **Francois Rousselot**, Global Head of Procurement Alcon & Corporate Spend, who focused on the importance of diversity to the supply chain as well as for customer satisfaction;
- **Jonathan Beane**, Alcon Head of Diversity and Inclusion, who detailed the progress of Novartis' Diversity and Inclusion initiative and how it will support cross-divisional supplier diversity; and
- **Christine Lotze**, Partner from Philosophy IB, a certified woman-owned supplier to Novartis Pharmaceuticals, Sandoz and Alcon, who shared insights into successfully collaborating with Novartis stakeholders.

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US Procurement Forum continued

While the presentations set the tone for the day, the “networking and matchmaking” sessions that followed were the highlight. During these discussions, suppliers and category managers talked about future procurement activity, potential opportunities and longer-term subcontracting arrangements. Suppliers also met with representatives of the external associations to discuss how they might participate in their programs.

“It was a very productive day,” said Francois Rousselot. “The networking opportunities were an extremely important step in building positive relationships. They enabled each party to better understand each other’s goals, capabilities and needs and how they might support mutual success.”

“We’re very pleased with the outcomes from our Alcon session,” explained Sheri Shafir, Associate Director for Supplier Diversity. “It was a terrific opportunity to educate our Alcon colleagues and these diverse suppliers on the opportunities at Alcon, while building new relationships that could develop into lasting partnerships.”



Chika Chukwuogo and Adam Featherston from TechOps Procurement speak with a potential supplier.

Alcon achieves US approval for CyPass® Micro-Stent, a micro invasive surgical device to treat glaucoma

- **US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) grants approval for CyPass Micro-Stent for sale in the US, expanding Alcon’s surgical presence to treat glaucoma**
- **The CyPass Micro-Stent is designed to reduce intraocular pressure in patients with mild to moderate primary open-angle glaucoma**
- **More than 60 million people worldwide are affected by glaucoma which may lead to progressive vision loss**

Alcon, the global leader in eye care and a division of Novartis, announced August 2, 2016, that it has achieved FDA approval for the CyPass® Micro-Stent, a micro invasive glaucoma surgical (MIGS) device to treat patients with mild to moderate primary open-angle glaucoma in conjunction with cataract surgery.

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Improving the Customer Experience through Innovative eCommerce Platform

"This is the first time in Alcon's history that we will have a true eCommerce platform that allows our surgical customers to order our products online," says Julie Collins, Director, Global Digital Team. "This significant change saves time for our customers and makes it easier for them to do business with Alcon by replacing fax, email and phone orders. "When customers order products by fax, email or phone, it could take more than five minutes. In the *myAlcon* eCommerce platform, they can place an order in a matter of seconds. Ordering online also helps to increase the accuracy of orders, eliminating manual errors.

The complex eCommerce system, which cost \$15 million to develop, was custom-designed to manage Alcon's intricate pricing system, which varies based on pricing agreements. "Buying surgical products isn't like shopping for a dress on Amazon.com, where everyone pays the same price," Collins said. "The site had to be customized to handle the hundreds of SKUs, or stock keeping units and thousands of customers with different pricing structures, based on volume, which equipment they use and other factors. "The online store also helps customers keep track of their inventory of Alcon products, reducing the chance of expired products.

It's these customized innovations that set the Alcon site apart from competitors' online stores, said Collins. "The investment we've made in simplifying the way customers will order surgical products from Alcon is just one example of the many efforts we have underway to re-invigorate the customer experience."

The positive feedback from the initial customers in the Brazil pilot phase has been great, said Flavia Gameiro, Marketing and Sales Operations Head, Brazil. "User-friendly," "time-saving," "fast" and "no more calls or faxes" is what she is hearing from satisfied customers. "They love the simplicity they found when entering orders into the system and the speed of product deliveries," Gameiro said.

After the pilot phase, the Alcon Brazil team will be focused on promoting it and driving adoption. Although the online store is very intuitive, Alcon associates will introduce it to customers so they become comfortable with its many benefits.

Collins anticipates launching *myAlcon* in the U.S. in Q4 2016, with other markets to be determined following the U.S. launch. "Building *myAlcon* was a long process, involving assistance from Alcon leadership, cross-functional teams and Novartis," she says. "This is the first step in what will eventually become a very robust eCommerce system for Alcon."

Alcon achieves US Approval for CyPass, continued

CyPass Micro-Stent is the latest addition to Alcon's surgical portfolio providing an additional option to meet the needs of millions of glaucoma patients.

The FDA approval is based on the landmark COMPASS Study, the largest MIGS study to date with a two-year follow-up for over 500 mild to moderate glaucoma patients undergoing cataract surgery. The primary effectiveness endpoint was met, with 73% in the CyPass Micro-Stent study group achieving a statistically significant decrease ($\geq 20\%$) in intraocular pressure (IOP). The secondary effectiveness endpoint was also met, with 61% of patients in the CyPass study group achieving a target IOP (between 6 and 18 mmHg) at the 24-month postoperative examination without medication, which is a statistically significant difference.

"We are pleased by the FDA's decision to approve our CyPass Micro-Stent which establishes Alcon's presence in this emerging surgical category to treat mild to moderate glaucoma," said Mike Ball, CEO of Alcon. "It will provide a less invasive means of lowering IOP than traditional glaucoma surgery, with the goal of lowering the patient's dependence on topical glaucoma medication. We are excited to offer this new option to surgeons and the patients they serve."

Acquired in February 2016 by Alcon, Transcend Medical, Inc. developed the CyPass Micro-Stent to treat mild to moderate primary open-angle glaucoma. The MIGS device is implanted just below the surface of the eye in conjunction with cataract surgery. It is designed to treat less severe glaucoma by enhancing part of the natural drainage pathways of the eye with minimal tissue disruption. This allows the excess fluid in the eye to drain with the goal of reducing intraocular pressure levels.

About Glaucoma

More than 60 million people globally are affected by glaucoma that can lead to progressive damage of the optic nerve. Early diagnosis of glaucoma is critical to manage the disease, as it is often asymptomatic and therefore can go undetected until it is at an advanced stage. As the disease progresses, patients may experience loss of peripheral (side) vision, tunnel vision or eye spots. Glaucoma can eventually result in gradual, irreversible loss of vision and blindness. The exact cause of glaucoma is unknown. However, elevated pressure in the eye (intraocular pressure, or IOP) is generally present with glaucoma and is the only known modifiable risk factor. As a chronic disease, patients can be treated with eye drops, oral medications, laser surgery, traditional surgery or a combination of these methods.

About the CyPass Micro-Stent

The CyPass Micro-Stent is a prescription medical device that is indicated for use in conjunction with cataract surgery for the reduction of IOP in adult patients with mild to moderate primary open-angle glaucoma. The use of the CyPass Micro-Stent is contra-indicated in eyes

with angle closure glaucoma and eyes with traumatic, malignant, uveitic or neovascular glaucoma or discernible congenital anomalies of the anterior chamber angle. If IOP is not adequately maintained after implantation of a CyPass Micro-Stent, additional therapy may be needed for IOP control.

In a randomized, multicenter clinical trial comparing cataract surgery with CyPass to cataract surgery alone, the most common post-operative adverse events included: Best Corrected Visual Acuity (BCVA) loss of 10 or more letters at 3 months after surgery (8.8% for CyPass vs. 15.3% for cataract surgery only); anterior chamber cell and flare requiring steroid treatment 30 or more days after surgery (8.6% vs. 3.8%); worsening of visual field mean deviation by 2.5 or more decibels (6.7% vs. 9.9%); IOP increase of 10 or more mmHg 30 or more days after surgery (4.3% vs. 2.3%); and corneal edema 30 or more days after surgery, or severe in nature (3.5% vs. 1.5%). Please refer to the Instructions for Use for the CyPass Micro-Stent for a complete list of contraindications, warnings, precautions and adverse events.

Alcon Partners with Cheryl Ladd to Open Americans' Eyes about the Importance of Knowing Your Cataract Eye-Q

- New survey shows many adults do not fully understand the condition or treatment options
- Survey results showcase a critical gap in education and awareness and aim to inspire patients to make informed decisions about their cataract treatment

Alcon, the global leader in eye care and a division of Novartis, has partnered with actress Cheryl Ladd to launch the Know Your Cataract EYE-Q campaign, which sheds light on the general lack of understanding about the condition and challenges Americans to test their Cataract EYE-Q, and learn about cataracts and their treatment options.

Alcon, the global leader in eye care and a division of Novartis, has partnered with actress Cheryl Ladd to launch the Know Your Cataract EYE-Q campaign, which sheds light on the general lack of understanding about the condition and challenges Americans to test their Cataract EYE-Q, and learn about cataracts and their treatment options.

In a 2016 US survey of approximately 1,000 adults aged 60 and over who have been diagnosed with cataracts, only 25 percent of respondents said they had a full understanding of the condition. Almost one in five (20 percent) thought there are other options besides surgery to treat the condition. Nearly half (45 percent) of respondents did not know whether cataracts are preventable

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Cheryl Ladd continued

or not. Additionally, the survey demonstrated that three in four (75 percent) respondents did not realize cataract surgery can also correct other vision conditions such as astigmatism, which is a common, treatable imperfection in the curvature of the eye causing blurred vision.

"Cataract surgery is one of the safest and most frequently performed procedures each year, requiring little recovery time or inconvenience to patients' daily lives," Edward Holland, M.D., director of cornea services at Cincinnati Eye Institute. "In fact, recent advances in lens technology and treatment options make it possible to correct cataracts as well as other vision conditions and can help reduce the need for corrective glasses or contact lenses following surgery."

During the month of June, which is nationally recognized as Cataract Awareness Month by Prevent Blindness, one can visit www.CataractEYEQ.com to take the Cataract EYE-Quiz, or share with a loved one.

About Cataracts

A cataract is a clouding of the natural lens of the eye that affects vision. As a cataract develops, the eye's lens gradually becomes hard and cloudy which scatters light rays and allows less light to pass through, which makes it more difficult to see. The vast majority of cataracts happen as a result of normal aging but radiation exposure, taking steroids, diabetes, and eye trauma can accelerate the development of cataracts. Additionally, cataracts can be hereditary and congenital and can present shortly after birth. Cataracts are the most common age-related eye condition and the leading cause of preventable blindness in adults 55 and older in the US. Approximately 25 million Americans age 40 and older have cataracts, and this number is expected to double to about 50 million by 2050. Cataracts are treated by surgically removing the eye's cloudy natural lens and replacing it with an intraocular lens (IOL), which can also address other vision conditions including astigmatism and presbyopia. More than 98 percent of cataract surgeries are considered successful and patients can usually return to their normal routines within 24 hours.

Close Encounters of the First Kind

In the painting, a Caucasian man pulls back a curtain exposing a miniature George Washington pointing to the ax he used to chop down the legendary cherry tree, as the broken tree rests in his father's hand. Everyone is finger-pointing. In the distance, two African-Americans – a man and a woman – are picking cherries from another tree; the sky tells of an impending storm. The Grant Wood original, Parson Weems' Fable, is part of the permanent collection at the [Amon Carter Museum of American Art](http://www.AmonCarterMuseum.org), in Fort Worth, seen by tens of thousands of visitors every year. This year, thanks to a grant from the [Alcon Foundation](http://www.AlconFoundation.org), hundreds of low- or no-sight visitors can "see" it too.

Peggy Sell, interpretation manager, Amon Carter Museum of American Art, is the inspiration behind the Close Encounters program, designed to remove barriers that prevent people with impaired vision from enjoying the visual arts. Standing in front of a small group of people, just a few feet away from the originals, Peggy presents two-dimensional tactile versions of the paintings under study. She begins describing the paintings, one-at-a-time, in extreme detail, starting with the frame. She describes scenery, action, mood and emotion, as patrons – some with service dogs resting at their feet – quietly run their fingers along the Braille cues inside the plastic version of the painting. These cues allow them to "feel" and understand the important features of the artwork: an object, texture or color. Peggy totes a canvas bag that holds other tactile aids such as a sample of velvet fabric with pom-poms to describe the curtains in the painting. She passes each item around as she describes that particular aspect of the piece.

Made possible through a grant from the [Alcon Foundation](http://www.AlconFoundation.org), the Amon Carter's Close Encounters program is helping to make visual art more accessible to people with impaired vision.

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Close Encounters continued

"Amon Carter has taken a bold step forward as the only museum in the Fort Worth area to cater to people with low-to-no vision with a museum educator/staff-led verbal description tour, enhancing their enjoyment and appreciation of visual masterpieces," said Melissa Thompson, Director, The Alcon Foundation. "This program is an extension of our mission to improve the quality of life by helping people 'see' better. In this case, it's access to the arts, rather than access to care, that's the means for enhancing sight and enhancing lives. Whether they are blind or losing their sight due to glaucoma, macular degeneration, other diseases or an accident, Close Encounters is an enriching, inclusive experience for vision-impaired museum-goers."

The program has opened a new door for Subie Green. A docent at the Amon Carter, Subie wanted to share her love of art more deeply with her husband, who lost most of his vision in adulthood. The program has helped her develop more descriptive language to help her husband visualize more precisely. "Phil was fascinated by the tactile presentation," she said of her husband's experience. "For him, the scene really came alive with touch. It's a remarkable program for people with vision loss."

Liz Campbell has covered this program as a reporter at the Star-Telegram. She, too, is vision impaired. "This is a great start by Amon Carter to be more inclusive in providing ways for everyone to enjoy the art collection. I hope that the museum will expand the program over time to include more pieces," she said. Currently, only seven paintings in the museum have corresponding aids for the blind.

Amon Carter piloted their program with Lighthouse for the Blind, whose employees and volunteers provided guidance on refining the program. "This is so rich for our community," said Nancy Fisher, community development manager, Lighthouse for the Blind. "People of all ages served by our community can now experience art up close and personal." She points to other

benefits as well. "It is empowering for people living with blindness to go to an art museum without bringing along someone who can interpret for them," she said. "It helps them enjoy the art world in a new way, chipping away at some of the last stigmas and barriers associated with vision impairment."

The program is offered every other month or patrons may contact the museum prior to their visit to request the tactile versions of the paintings. Future plans include creating large print labels for all gallery spaces – permanent exhibition and special exhibitions – and expanding the tactile program to include sculpture. "We want all visitors to experience Amon Carter the same as everyone with vision," said Peggy. "This is the first phase of a multi-year project to bring the finer things in our community closer to all people, regardless of ability."

Editor's Note: Museums around the world, including the Museum of Modern Art and the Guggenheim in New York City; the National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C.; Museo del Prado in Madrid; and Museo Nacional de San Carlos in Mexico City, are helping to increase access to art for blind and low-vision patrons with a variety of verbal description and touch tour programs.

To learn more, visit their sites:

- <http://www.moma.org/learn/disabilities/sight>
 - https://www.guggenheim.org/event/event_series/minds-eye
 - <http://www.nga.gov/content/ngaweb/calendar/guided-tours/accessible-programs/old-master-paintings.html>
 - <https://www.museodelprado.es/en/whats-on/exhibition/touching-the-prado/44b5dd23-464a-4cfc-a6f9-d4f5e8d63015?searchid=aead36dc-67f5-fe3d-6cd2-7588a84748a3>
 - <http://mnsancarlos.com/sereduca.html>
-

Alcon Retiree News**Margaret Kennedy – My Trip to Germany and Italy**

I traveled to Munich, Germany, to meet my son, David Kennedy, who had traveled to Austria from California to attend a meeting. There were farms and small towns scattered across the countryside, which are shown in the photo taken from the airplane prior to landing.



On Sunday morning we flew to Venice, Italy, and were met at the airport by a good friend, Alessandra Fredrigo. Alessandra worked with me in the International Clinical Group and spent two years in Fort Worth. She is now working for Novartis. After dropping our bags at the hotel, we drove to Venice and began walking. We crossed this beautiful bridge to begin our journey.

The boat going under the bridge is part of a system to transport visitors to various stops in Venice as well as the islands around Venice. An electronic ticket is purchased for one or more days and can be used on any of the boats. There are multiple cafés along the canals where you can sit outside and enjoy a drink or a meal and people watch.



There are lots of old churches, which are usually open and are always of interest. The following are photos of two of these amazing churches.



On Monday morning, we took a 30-minute boat to the island of Murano to see how Murano Glass is made. We saw the glass blowers make several beautiful pieces and visited several shops.



On Tuesday, we rode the train from Venice to Rome, which took about four hours and at one point we were traveling at 300 km/hr. The trip was comfortable and there was plenty of space for suitcases and our possessions. We arrived at the main terminal in Rome and walked to our hotel. While in Rome we did a lot of walking but rode the subway several times a day. There were automated ticket dispensers at each subway stop and it was simple to navigate Rome via the subway.

While in Rome we did a lot of walking but rode the subway several times a day. There were automated ticket dispensers at each subway stop and it was simple to navigate Rome via the subway. While in Rome we visited: The Coliseum, Pantheon, Trevi Fountain, Roman Forum, St. Peter's Basilica, Sistine Chapel, Vatican Museum, Piazza Navona and Castel Sant'Angelo (Castle of the Holy Angel). There are now multiple security checkpoints at many of the tourist sites, which were not there when I visited many years ago.

Pantheon (The Temple of the Roman Gods)

The building was built by the Emperor Hadrian and dedicated about 126 AD. In the VII century the Pantheon was turned into a church dedicated to Mary and the martyrs. It is one of the best preserved of the Roman buildings and very impressive.



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Retiree News - Margaret Kennedy – Germany and Italy, Continued

Castel Sant'Angelo (Castle of the Holy Angel)

Castel Sant'Angelo was built in 123 AD by Emperor Hadrian as a tomb for himself and his family. In 271 AD the city walls were reinforced with extra towers and walls because of the barbarian invasions. During medieval times the most powerful families of Rome fought for control of the fortress. There is a legend that the Archangel Michael appeared atop the castle in 590, giving the castle its present name. Pope Boniface IX turned the castle into his residence and papal fortress. It was used as the papal residence for hundreds of years. In 1901 the castle was converted to a museum.

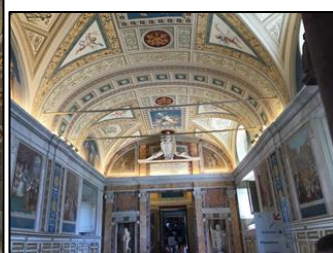


Sistine Chapel

The Sistine Chapel takes its name from the pope that commissioned it, Pope Sixtus IV. In 1508, Michelangelo was granted the freedom to design the entire ceiling of the Chapel. He closed himself in the chapel and worked in solitude. He would let no one enter to see how the work was proceeding, lying on his back doing much of the work by candlelight. In October of 1512 the work was finally finished.



Sistine Chapel



When we were traveling to the airport to return home we were told that the air traffic controllers were going to strike later that day. We were lucky that our flight left prior to the strike taking place.

Community Opportunities

Fort Worth Sister Cities has asked that we let you know about their protocol workshop on **September 29th**.

Contact: Danielle McCown [817-632-7106](tel:817-632-7106).



<http://www.fwsistercities.org/event/protocol-101/>

Senior Citizen Services of Greater Tarrant County

"Senior Citizen Services depends on volunteers from the community to help at our senior centers, within our wellness programs, and at special events. With your help, we can achieve our goal of providing older adults in Tarrant County the knowledge they need to age in place with independence and purpose."

Every year a Thanksgiving meal is provided to participants at each center. We would love for volunteers to come and help serve our seniors and get in the holiday spirit on Friday, **November 18th**.

Details will be available soon.

Contact: Gloria Kuykendall

Office: [817-413-4949](tel:817-413-4949) ext 211

www.Scstc.org