Professor Arthur Bradley was born in Harlow, on the outskirts of London, England. A natural athlete, he grew up playing sports (which probably accounts for his latent hyperopia) and went on to study psychology at Reading University. Having graduated with honors and anxious for a change in climate, Arthur accepted an invitation to pursue graduate education in Vision Science at the University of California, Berkeley. There he mastered the methods and concepts of empirical research and developed an encyclopedic knowledge of Vision Science in its many manifestations. A prolific author, Arthur published an astonishing 24 papers in the best scientific journals, including Nature (London), based on his graduate school work with many of the best scientists of that era: Freeman, Hess, Applegate, Howarth, Skottun, Adams, Ohzawa, Switkes, Sclar, and DeValois. These formative experiences established key features of Arthur’s academic personality: the ability to work amiably with a multitude of collaborators, always the team player, constructive critic, and expert in the scientific method of conception and experimental testing of hypotheses.

Acting on the advice of his mentors, former IU professor Russell DeValois and alumna Karen DeValois, Arthur chose the Indiana University School of Optometry to be his long-term academic home from 1985 to 2019. At IU Arthur wasted no time in developing an award-winning research laboratory honored by the Garland Clay Award for the most widely cited publication in the journal Optometry & Vision Science from 2002–07. He won personal accolades in the form of the Glenn Fry Award for Vision Science (1991) and two nominations for the highest award in our field, the Charles F. Prentice Medal (2018 and 2019). Nomination letters for the Prentice Medal give testimony to the high regard Arthur has earned from his colleagues. “Arthur has had a long and very distinguished record of advancement of knowledge in large swaths of vision science and in particular in such areas that are particularly optometric in nature. Arthur made major contributions in the areas of contrast perception, amblyopia, understanding peripheral vision, binocular vision and binocular perception, optics, aberrations chromatic and monochromatic and their correction, and many more. This is a particularly wide scope and yet it was covered by Arthur in depth and in elegance that few achieve when focusing on even one of these” (E. Peli, Harvard University). “Dr. Bradley is a world-class vision researcher. His overarching interest in understanding how optics and biology limit normal and pathological visual performance has resulted in important new theories and methods, which in turn may lead to new treatments for clinical abnormalities. I’ve followed Dr. Bradley’s work for almost four decades, since he was a graduate student at Berkeley. What impressed me from the start about Arthur was his breadth of interest, force of intellect, and the way he devoured and assimilated the literature, arriving at his own unique perspectives and new insights on a broad array of issues” (D. Levi, University of California, Berkeley).

In addition to scientific research, Arthur’s equally demanding love is teaching. His broad knowledge of all aspects of vision science has enabled him to teach every topic in the optometric vision science curriculum at some point during his career: optics, anatomy, neurophysiology, perception, color, and binocular vision. He has also taught these same topics at an advanced level to M.S. and Ph.D. students. In many respects, Arthur’s research laboratory is actually a teaching laboratory that he uses to hone the intellectual skills of his numerous research students. Many struggling students have been carried to the finish line of their dissertations on the strong back of Professor Bradley. As if this were not contribution enough, Arthur also took on the challenge of reaching outside the professional School of Optometry to create and teach a popular introductory course in Vision Science to undergraduates entitled Miracle of Sight. At the other end of the experience and age spectrum, Arthur is also a frequent lecturer at continuing education seminars for practicing optometrists on a variety of current topics such as new methods for diagnosing optical imperfections of eyes; novel designs of optical devices to correct those defects; and recent advances in understanding the mechanism of visual disabilities such as myopia, amblyopia, and presbyopia. Somehow Arthur also found time to teach the Ophthalmic Devices Panel of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration about the efficacy of and risks associated with proposed new optical treatments for eyes. Obviously it is going to take more than just one new recruit to fill Arthur’s huge shoes upon his retirement from teaching at the IU School of Optometry!

On behalf of his colleagues at Indiana University and the many students he has taught and mentored, we take this occasion of his retirement to thank Arthur for his long and dedicated service to IU and to the vision science and eye care communities. Although Arthur will be taking on new challenges in the future as he embarks on a new career as industrial consultant, we sincerely hope he stays engaged with IU. We still have some unfinished projects and papers to complete, Arthur!

Larry Thibos
Rowan Candy