



**DICK WHITNEY**  
CARL ZEISS VISION

Dick Whitney graduated from the University of Massachusetts (Amherst) in 1973, where he earned his BS degree in Astronomy. The following year he began his optical career at American Optical and will celebrate his 42nd year of continuous service on September 19. Dick is currently the Manager of Industry Standards for Carl Zeiss Vision. He Chairs The Vision Council's Lens Technical committee, a role he has held since 1997, is Chair of ANSI Z80.1 and has been involved in ANSI, ISO, and The Vision Council's committee work for 25 years.

Dick is also the Executive Director of the Zeiss sponsored Optical Heritage Museum in Southbridge. He has worked to preserve items from the original AO optical museum (founded in 1983) and to increase the collection. Due to his efforts as well as numerous volunteers, the Museum opened three years ago and expanded to seven rooms. Thanks to Zeiss and Karen Roberts who had the vision to support this project, OHM continues to expand and can even be "walked thru" via Google and is online at [www.opticalheritagemuseum.com](http://www.opticalheritagemuseum.com).

Dick began his career at American Optical in its Central Testing lab, conducting physical and optical testing. At that time, he worked with John Young conducting many tests, including the Young Tumble test.

Dick had the good fortune to work with Dr. John Winthrop, AO's designer of its progressive lenses, and was involved in many aspects of their development including Truvision, OMNI, AO Pro, AO Compact and Pro Easy. Dick and John first worked together when he helped implement a 1.7 index glass Truvision progressive design in 1981.

He was also fortunate to have been mentored by his father, Don Whitney, who was an American Optical Scientist/Lens Designer and expert in Standards. Coincidentally, his father Don chaired the Lens Technical committee in the 1970s, started the US involvement in ISO TC172 Standards work in 1979, and was an active ANSI Z80.1 committee member.

Don and AO Scientist Dave LaMarre were great mentors, and the three worked in the late 1980's on Aspheric single Vision lens design software development. Using the tools developed by this team, Dick designed AO's single vision aspheric lens series ASPHERLITE and AO 55 designs in the early 1990s. Dick and Dr. Winthrop were awarded a patent in 1990 for Aspheric spectacle lens surfaces.

Dick lives in Southbridge with his wife Peg Whitney, who he married in 1977. They have two grown children, Christopher and Erica, a son-in-law Luke, and one-year-old grandson Nolan, who all live in town.



**JOHN M. YOUNG**  
FOUNDER, COLTS LABORATORIES

John M. Young is an engineer and optician. He has been active in many disciplines of the optical industry including engineering, research and development, and quality, and has a number of patents for the design of optical lenses, devices and FDA drop ball testing protocol. John has been lecturing for several decades to advance education in the optical industry, authored more than 100 published articles and papers, and has been a member of 16 National and International Standards Committees and Association Committees. He has chaired committees for both ANSI and ISO.

John received the 1992 Man of the Year Award from the National Academy of Opticianry, and the first President's Award from the Opticians Association of America in 1994 for his dedication to the advancement of education. He was given the "Lifetime Achievement Award" by the American Optometric Association, Schools and Colleges in 2005. In 2002, the AR Council recognized him for his visionary leadership and support.

John's career and dedication to the optical industry began in 1969 when he began his tenure at American Optical. There he worked in both research and development and ran their in-house testing lab. He received several patents while at American Optical.

In 1990, John took the position of Director of Quality at Essilor where he oversaw quality for North American Operations. He was later promoted to VP of New Product Development. He represented Essilor on numerous standards and technical committees worldwide. He oversaw Essilor College, continuing education for opticians on the subject of optics.

In 1997, John started the optical industries' first independent testing facility. At Colts, John continued developing industry tests. Under his direction, Colts has been dedicated to overall quality in the industry. Colts continues to partner with the optical community towards this goal, with programs like Colts College, which shares Colts testing knowledge with people in the industry.