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Bruce said to stop by after my evening class because two professors from Pacific University would be attending the research meeting. (Dr. Bruce Wolff was hosting the Optometric Extension Program (OEP)-sponsored, invitational meeting which had moved from Ohio State University to Cincinnati when Professor Renshaw stepped down.) I was considering applying to the Pacific University, College of Optometry and welcomed an opportunity to hear about the school and the program from members of the faculty.

When I arrived, the hallway and lounge were empty. I tried to quietly open the door and poke my head into the meeting room to make sure I had the right place and that the session hadn't ended early. The speaker stopped abruptly and the expressions on the unfamiliar faces made it obvious that I was intruding. As those with their backs to the door turned to identify the cause of this intrusion, one of them jumped up quickly, grasped my arm, and pulled me into the room.

Skeff's familiar smile set me at ease as he motioned for a chair to be positioned beside his at the table. He seated me and turned his attention to the speaker as a sign to continue. I scanned the faces of those seated around the table. There were a few smiles and nods as we turned to hear George Crow continue his presentation. There had been no introductions or explanations. If Skeff sat me down there, then I must belong there and nobody would question it.

I always saw Skeff as this gracious gentleman who seemed to attract respect with his very presence. Several times, when he stopped in Cincinnati to visit Bruce, we had the opportunity to sit and chat. I knew very little of the technical specifics in optometry at that point and couldn't ask the detailed questions that would arise later with more experience. Still, these encounters helped to form a framework for my understanding of optometry. Later, as I read the many OEP chapters he authored, I appreciated them in the context of his familiar face and unique personality.

One of Skeffington's most obvious characteristics was his appreciation of and commitment to optometry. He felt that optometry's potential for understanding and improving human performance were unbounded. The only limits he did see were those created by the boundaries of his own comprehension of the visual process. To remove these obstacles he constantly searched for information from other disciplines. He presented these ideas to his colleagues and challenged them to integrate the information into their vision of clinical optometry.

In his monthly chapters, Skeffington shared the insights that his Clinical Associates were able to generate from the direction he provided. He used individual cases these Associates provided in order to highlight observations of behavior and performance with optometric findings. The resulting sketch had the



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smell and feel and look of a real person, but that sketch now had a context. That context was always the individual's utilization of the visual process.

The context provided two key ingredients. The first was a framework within which the performance and behavior were reasonable and appropriate. The second was a direction to guide growth and development. Skeff furnished the rationale which provided a bridge between the specifics and general principles. The general principles were the qualities of the visual process and the value of lenses.

The basic orientation which I took from Skeffington continues to guide my developing understanding of optometry. Primary in that is my responsibility to create an impression of an individual's

private, visual world. That insight emerges from a resolution of similarities and differences between objective elements provided by lenses and the subjective experiences of the person. It is in this process that I see the continuous development of Skeff's appreciation for the role of the visual process in human behavior.

Skeff became ill and passed away while I was still in school. He was, for me, a grand figure who inspired pride in optometry. His contribution to me was not in the specifics of a case typing, or syndrome, or test sequence, but in the direction he established to discover optometry's unique contributions to human progress.

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