

EYE on EDUCATION

April 2014



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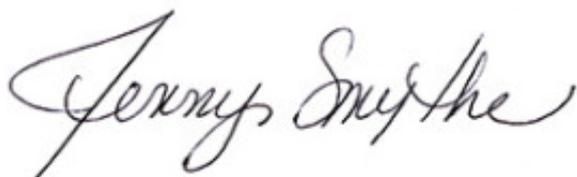
Welcome to the Profession Class of 2014!



The spring cycle of academia is back and once again we are all encountering the March Madness and April Anxieties that ultimately lead to my favorite time of year — Ceremony Season! The stress level of our students rises dramatically as they face national boards, pre-clinic proficiency checkouts, final projects and exams, preparation for residencies and ultimately major decisions about their optometric careers. Out-of-the-ordinary events and unusual reactions escalate at a similar pace. Just as we think “we have seen it all,” a new frantic scenario presents itself. I realized early in my administrative career that it is human nature to become distracted by things that at other times of the year may not even register as a blip on the radar. These distractions during times of extreme stress are natural deflections from what is really bothering us, which is the intense pressure to succeed.

How do we help our students to be successful beyond providing the curricula, not just during times of overload but throughout their optometric education? We put ourselves in their shoes. I recognize that on the surface it may seem overly simplistic, but recently I experienced some of their reality: a distracting, constant digital bombardment of information and communication reality. It was a time of enlightenment that also was comparable to a sledgehammer to the head. In January, I took the ABO Board Certification examination. It was the first time in decades I had been challenged to study so purposefully. It was such an amazing opportunity for me as an educator and administrator because I was tasked with concentrating on learning under their conditions. As I tried to read the electronic textbooks and study the PowerPoints, I was constantly distracted by email, text messages, social media updates, etc. I also recognized that I had the advantage of already possessing the foundational knowledge and I wasn't learning all new concepts and material. Technology has brought information right to our fingertips, but it has also greatly added to the list of potential stressors and distractors.

I have a renewed respect for the ability of this generation of students to focus and learn in this digital world, and I look forward to formally recognizing their achievements, placing those hoods over their shoulders at Commencement and welcoming them to our profession as doctors of optometry. And ... yes, I passed!



Three Receive ASCO Special Recognition Awards



Dr. Barbara Fink

ASCO announced the recipients of three 2014 Special Recognition Awards. Dr. Barbara Fink, Associate Professor of Optometry and Vision Science and Chair of the Diversity Enhancement Committee, The Ohio State University College of Optometry, won the Dr. Jack Bennett Innovation in Optometric Education Award. Dr. Yi Pang, Assistant Dean for Research and Associate Professor, Illinois College of Optometry, won the Rising Star Award, and Ryan Anderson, Midwestern University - Arizona College of Optometry, won the Student Award in Clinical Ethics.

Dr. Fink received the Bennett award in recognition of her outstanding work to facilitate the implementation of the ASCO Cultural Competency Curriculum Guidelines at the schools and colleges of optometry. She has served for several years as Chair of ASCO's Cultural Competency Curriculum Guidelines Subcommittee, of the Diversity and Cultural Competency Committee. In this role she worked to produce the customizable Cultural Competency Guidelines Implementation Workshops that are held on the campuses of member institutions.



Dr. Yi Pang

Dr. Pang is the first winner of the ASCO Rising Star Award, which is sponsored by Oculus and given to an exceptional faculty

member or administrator with less than 10 years of service. She was recognized for her outstanding contributions to ASCO, most notably in the area of international optometric education, and her important contributions to the Illinois College of Optometry through teaching, scholarship, administration and professional service.

Anderson won the Student Award in Clinical Ethics, which is sponsored by International Vision Expo, based on his essay [“Tough Talks and Patient Privacy.”](#) A fourth-year student, he plans to complete a post-doctoral residency in Primary Eye Care with the Veterans Affairs San Diego Health Care System in California.

In 2013, ASCO initiated a more unified nominations process for its Special Recognition Awards, which honor and thank the educators and practitioners who give of their time in partnership with the Association, supporting and furthering its efforts to advance optometric education. Check [here](#) for more information or e-mail [Telethia R. Owens](#), Manager, Administrative & Board Services.



Ryan Anderson

ASCO recently established an additional award competition, the ASCO Cultural Competency Case Study Competition for Optometry Students and Residents. Detailed information about the new award, which is sponsored by Walmart, can be found [here](#). The current window for submissions is closed; winners will be announced soon.

Strategic Communications Efforts Continue to Expand



ASCO now has its own YouTube channel.

ASCO continues to take steps to fulfill its strategic communications plan, most recently creating its own YouTube channel and launching a blog for prospective optometry students.

The creation of the [YouTube channel](#) coincided with the release of a new video titled “Be a Doctor of Optometry: Put Your Future in Focus.” It is the latest marketing tool developed for the ASCO/American Optometric Association Joint Project Team on Further Developing a Robust, Diverse, and Highly Qualified National Applicant Pool for the 21 schools and colleges of optometry in the 50 states and Puerto Rico. The video, which is partially funded through a contribution from Luxottica, can be viewed on YouTube and accessed through [ASCO’s website](#). The video reinforces the value of a career in optometry and complements ASCO’s booklet “[True Stories - What Do Doctors of Optometry Do?](#)”.

The new blog, [Eye on Optometry](#), provides timely and useful information for individuals who are interested in applying to optometry school. Recent posts include “What Makes a Competitive Applicant to Optometry School?” and “Are You Ready for the OAT?”

ASCO President Dr. Jennifer Smythe also helped spread the word about optometry as a career with a recent appearance on the LocalJobNetwork.com radio show “I Want to Be a [...]”. She spoke with the show’s host about why she loves optometry as a career, the variety of employment options it offers, and how doctors of optometry can make a real difference in the lives of their patients. Hear the whole interview [here](#).

Send us your videos for YouTube

Schools and colleges of optometry are invited to send their videos for inclusion on ASCO’s YouTube channel. For details, contact Director of Communications [Kimberly O’Sullivan](#).

Range of Issues Discussed During ASCO-AOA Joint Meeting



American Optometric
Association

On March 21, the Boards of Directors of ASCO and the American Optometric Association (AOA) held a daylong joint meeting, their second joint meeting in two years. To start this year's meeting, which was held in Fernandina Beach, Fla., each organization reviewed its current challenges and initiatives. ASCO President Dr. Jennifer Smythe highlighted ongoing communications successes, including the Association's presence across media, including radio, digital and social ([see accompanying article](#)). Dr. Elizabeth Hoppe, Founding Dean of the Western University of Health Sciences College of Optometry, outlined interprofessional education initiatives at her institution and how ASCO and AOA can contribute to the national dialogue on improving patient outcomes, access to care and collaborative patient-centered care. Healthcare policy consultant Dr. Henry Desmarais reviewed the Affordable Care Act's impact on optometry and clinical practice, and the group discussed new payment models as well as the need to be vigilant with advocacy surrounding proposed changes to the Medicare program.

ASCO Secretary/Treasurer Dr. Richard Phillips moderated the afternoon session, which focused on post-graduate education and included a presentation by ASCO Immediate Past-President Dr. David Heath covering challenges and opportunities in residency education and subspecialization. AOA Trustee Dr. Christopher Quinn and Dr. David Damari, Dean of the Michigan College of Optometry at Ferris State University, spoke on the topics of continuing education evaluation and models for assessing continued competency in health professions.

Commenting on the importance of the joint meeting, AOA President Dr. Mitch Munson said "It is essential for the future success of our profession that there exists an ongoing collaboration between the AOA and ASCO. While the AOA stewards the advancement of optometric scope, ASCO must take the lead on providing an optometric curriculum which is commensurate with our advancing scope. Suffice it to say, one cannot happen without the other."

The meeting participants outlined next steps to include ongoing inter-organizational communication and collaboration, working together on developing coordinated responses for state affiliates requesting curriculum content and statistics, and continued joint dialog on subspecialization issues.

Latest Annual Survey Data Now Available

ASCO recently completed its annual Faculty Data, Research Funding and Student Data reports. According to the Faculty Data Report for Academic Year 2013-2014, the total number of 1.0 FTE faculty at the 21 ASCO member institutions increased 1.6% compared with the previous year, from 682 to 693. In addition, 49.5% of 1.0 FTE faculty members are male and 50.5% are female. The number of male 1.0 FTE faculty members increased 1.5%, and the number of 1.0 FTE female faculty members increased 1.7%. The report was made available to the deans and presidents of ASCO's member schools and colleges in February. More information, including ethnicity by academic rank and gender, degrees earned by academic rank and gender, recruitment sources, and percentage of full-time salary contributed for a standard employee benefits package, can be found [here](#).

The 2012-2013 Research Funding Report, which was distributed to the ASCO Board of Directors in February, shows that the amount of externally funded research at ASCO member institutions during the report period (Oct. 1, 2012 - Sept. 30, 2013) exceeded \$48.9 million. The National Eye Institute of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) was the single largest funding source, providing more than \$26 million. Other major funding sources (excluding industry) were NASA, the Department of Defense, the National Science Foundation and other institutes of the NIH. The report includes research facilities information, a list of research funding by school, NEI funding by school and top funding sources. A list of the top funding sources can be found [here](#).

The Student Data Report for Academic Year 2013-2014 indicates that the total number of full-time students enrolled in the 21 Doctor of Optometry degree programs in the 50 states and Puerto Rico is 6,676, an increase of 1.8% compared with last year and 19.3% compared with enrollment at the 17 member schools in 2008-2009. The number of full-time first-year students increased by 3.3% over last year and by 22.3% over the past five years. Only one school reported more full-time male students than female students. The report also notes that the total number of graduates from the schools and colleges of optometry, both regular and special programs, increased 11.6% from 2012 (1,404) to 2013 (1,567).

Also in 2013-2014, the average tuition for a first-year resident student enrolled in the professional O.D. program is \$20,532 at a public school and \$32,035 at a private school. The cost for all direct expenses (tuition, fees, books and instruments) for a first-year resident student is \$27,867 for a public school and \$37,579 for a private school. First-year non-residents are paying an average of \$37,644 for tuition and \$44,978 for all direct expenses at a public school, and \$33,149 for tuition and \$38,693 for all direct expenses at a private school.

The full Annual Student Data Report, which includes several more categories of information, was made available to the deans and presidents of member schools and colleges in April and can be found [here](#).

Dr. Smythe Helps Educate the Presbyopic Public



Dr. Jennifer Smythe

ASCO President Dr. Jennifer Smythe was among several eyecare experts interviewed for a *Ladies' Home Journal* article, "Better Vision After 35: Your Eyesight Questions, Answered." She responded to queries such as "I've worn contacts for distance correction since I was a teenager, and now that I'm over 40, I think I need reading glasses, too. What are my options?" She discussed the various vision correction choices for people struggling with presbyopia, including reading glasses, progressive spectacle lenses, bifocal and multifocal contact lenses, monovision, and glasses specifically for computer use.

Read the full article [here](#).

Diversity Grant Program Undergoes Changes

ASCO continues to offer a diversity-related mini-grant program, although some changes are taking effect this year. For 2014, the program focuses specifically on the development of a more diverse optometric applicant pool. The grant program's new name — Developing a Diverse Applicant Pool in Optometric Education Mini-Grant Program — reflects the new focus. Schools and colleges of optometry can receive up to \$5,000 in seed money to implement qualified projects/programs.

This year's due date for grant applications has passed, but for future reference the new program guidelines can be found [here](#). Questions can be directed to [Carol Brubaker](#), Manager, Professional Affairs.

This is the tenth year in which ASCO has offered a diversity mini-grant program. Alcon, The Vision Care Institute, LLC, and Luxottica Retail have generously supported the program throughout its existence.

ASCO Welcomes New Sponsor for Newsletter



ASCO is pleased to announce that Essilor, a leading manufacturer of optical lenses, has signed on to sponsor the Association's online newsletter, *Eye on Education*. Essilor designs, manufactures and markets a wide range of lenses for improving and protecting eyesight. It is a pioneer in the design and production of progressive, high-index and anti-reflective-coated eyeglass lenses, which include its Varilux, Crizal, Xperio, Definity and Thin&Lite brand names.

The company is featured in this issue's [Industry Spotlight](#). For more information, visit [Essilor's website](#).

ASCO to be Represented at Second IOM Global Forum Workshop



On behalf of ASCO, Dr. Linda Casser, Professor, Pennsylvania College of Optometry at Salus University, has submitted abstracts for a webcast and poster presentation to the Institute of Medicine's Global Forum on Innovation in Health Professional Education. The abstracts have been accepted and will be published components of the Forum's next workshop, *Scaling Up Best Practices in Community-Based Health Professional Education*, which takes place May 1-2 in Washington, D.C. The abstracts highlight examples of community-based interprofessional initiatives by two ASCO member institutions:

- Timpone C, Smythe J. The Pacific University Interprofessional Diabetes Clinic: A Community-Based Health Care Initiative Involving a Member Institution of the Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry. Webcast presenter: Casser L.
- Casser L, Vitek M, Pendley V. Family Medicine Residents, Optometry Students, and Faculty Members Engaged in Health Professions Education and Collaborative Patient Care: An Example of a Community-Based Interprofessional Initiative by a Member Institution of the Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry.

In 2013, ASCO became a member/sponsor of the Forum, which aims to apply an ongoing, multinational, multidisciplinary approach to exploring promising innovations in health education. Dr. Casser represented ASCO at the Forum's October 2013 workshop as well. The Forum's emphasis on interprofessional education (IPE) is consistent with ASCO's focus on IPE, which President Dr. Jennifer Smythe set as a 2013-2014 priority.

ASCO Signs Letter in Support of High-Quality Healthcare Workforce



ASCO joined the nearly 200 organizations aligned with Friends of HRSA (Health Resources and Services Administration) in signing a funding request letter sent in March to leaders of the Appropriations Committees and Subcommittees in the U.S. House and Senate. Friends of HRSA, led by the American Public Health Association, is dedicated to improving health through supporting a workforce well-prepared to deliver high-quality health services. The programs administered by HRSA serve the health needs of people in every state and U.S. territory who are medically underserved, low-income and geographically isolated.

The letter is in response to the 19% cut (25% when adjusted for inflation) in HRSA's discretionary budget authority that has taken place since 2010. It urges restoration of funding for discretionary HRSA programs to the 2010 level of \$7.48 billion in the FY 2015 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill. For more information, visit the Friends of [HRSA website](#).

ASCO Board Bestows Honors, Hones Initiatives at Spring Meeting

ASCO Student Award in Clinical Ethics (Sponsored by International Vision Expo)

Tough Talks and Patient Privacy

By Dr. Ryan Anderson



Dr. Ryan Anderson

Decisions are made every day in regard to patient care in optometry. Most are easy, but some require a bit more deliberation involving ethical considerations and ultimately the patient's best interest. During my rotation at Midwestern University Eye Institute, I encountered a patient who was a relative of another optometry student in my program. The patient was a 26-year-old healthy, white male with no significant ocular history other than LASIK surgery years prior; he reported compliance with yearly routine eye examinations. He presented with the complaint of acute onset scotoma in the left eye status post a "cold" two weeks prior. His systemic health was unremarkable. He was able to locate his blind spot and felt this was a new area of vision loss. Upon examination, he was 20/20 in each eye distance and near. Preliminary testing was normal; there was no afferent pupillary defect. Refraction was deferred. Anterior segment examination revealed no abnormal findings, but the patient did note that the slit lamp light was partially missing when I held it just temporal to his visual axis. After dilating, I found a single cotton wool spot (CWS) temporal to his macula (about equidistant between the fovea and optic nerve in the left eye). It was approximately 0.5 mm in size with distinct margins and round. Additional testing to further investigate this spot, including macular OCT, central visual field, fundus photo, Amsler grid and Watzke-Allen tests, was completed. All tests indicated a definite and well-defined area of visual field loss temporal to his visual axis consistent with his chief complaint. Fundus photos and OCT documented the CWS, which was correspondent in location with the area of field loss. The spot was affecting the sensory retina all the way into the deeper layers, which was slightly different in the appearance of a typical CWS. My preceptor and I advised him to pursue serology to evaluate for a systemic etiology. A complete blood cell count with differential for gross hematologic abnormality or cancer, fasting blood glucose for diabetes, and a complete metabolic panel for other systemic problems was obtained. We did not expect any of these tests to come back positive for any disease but it was our responsibility to at least rule out potential systemic causes. There are other causes worth ruling out including HIV/AIDS or sexually transmitted diseases. These diseases can also be transmitted via intravenous drug use. However, our patient was of Mormon faith and known to not associate with these activities. It was still a conversation we, as health professionals, were obligated to have regarding whether he had engaged in any of these activities to warrant testing for these diseases. He denied participation so we educated him on the importance of ruling out those diseases should there be any possibility he could have contracted them, but we were comfortable not including them in our battery of initial tests.

We had a discussion with the patient pertaining to how far we wanted to take the testing. Since it presented as a single isolated spot, it was likely to be a rare complication of the recent viral infection from a common cold that had since resolved. If that

was the case, further testing would come back negative. We also considered the financial burden to the patient as these tests are costly. On the other hand, if this patient was really concerned about narrowing it down at the very least, it wouldn't be unnecessary to test for as many potential causes as the lab had to offer. The patient expressed understanding and left the clinic to obtain the testing immediately. He was scheduled to return in six weeks, which is the approximate amount of time it should take for a CWS to disappear completely helping to confirm our diagnosis.

After he left the clinic, I was contacted by his relative in my optometry class who was understandably eager to see the photos and OCT images. I had not thought to have our patient sign a release before he left so I may divulge all the information we had acquired in the exam. I was at a dilemma of simply talking to him about the exam since I am good friends with him. I knew my patient wouldn't mind and might even prefer we discussed it with his relative; however, I decided it was best to have the patient return to sign a release for his records before I discussed any exam information. It was definitely an inconvenience, but I decided no matter how much you think you know about a situation, it only takes one misreading of someone's personality to violate HIPAA laws and seriously harm your career because of it. All in all, I feel it was the right decision and both the patient and his relative understood.

At his follow-up appointment, my patient still had the loss of vision, but his CWS was gone. All of his lab testing was negative, and we ultimately left it up to him to decide on further testing. We discussed with him our thoughts on the situation regarding his lifestyle and explained his problem was likely due to a rare opportunistic infectious process as he was sick two weeks prior to noticing the blind spot. We reinforced that if he wanted to pursue further testing, we would be happy to order the tests and direct him where to go. After everything, he decided he was fine without the additional testing and just monitoring it. It was an interesting case that brought up some tough conversations, but, all in all, patient safety and patient information laws were accurately followed.

Dr. Ryan Anderson graduated from the Midwestern University Arizona College of Optometry this spring. He is currently completing a residency in Primary Eye Care with the Veterans Affairs San Diego Health Care System in California.

CL Line Expands with Torics and Multifocals



Alcon has added toric and multifocal designs to its family of Dailies AquaComfort Plus one-day contact lenses. “The daily disposable modality is the fastest growing contact lens segment,” said Jim Murphy, Vice President and General Manager for U.S. Vision Care at Alcon. “Patients with astigmatism or presbyopia are part of that segment and the Dailies AquaComfort Plus family provides them with a new option for a one-day contact lens.” Visit www.dailies.com for more information.

Company Collaborates with Student Association



CooperVision Inc. is collaborating with the American Optometric Student Association (AOSA) to raise awareness of the company's Adopt-a-Patient program. The initiative gives optometry students across the United States an opportunity to develop clinical experience while helping people who need vision correction and care in communities near participating universities. The Adopt-a-Patient program, which started in 2007, allows primarily third- and fourth-year optometry students to gain clinical experience by examining and fitting eligible patients in CooperVision contact lenses and providing them with follow-up care. Patients receive a complimentary year's supply of their prescribed lenses from CooperVision. Vision Service Plan subsidizes the cost of the exam.

AOSA will feature the program on its [website](#), publish an article about it in its national magazine, Foresight, give the program presence on its Facebook page, and offer program administrative support.

Also: CooperVision has announced the availability of the current round of Science and Technology Awards, which are dedicated to improving the performance, enhancing the functionality, and/or broadening the use of contact lenses. To learn how to submit a research proposal, visit coopervision.com/research-awards.

Company Launches Online Training Resource



Topcon Medical Systems launched the Topcon Online University training system with a module featuring its CV-5000S Automated Vision Tester. Through a combination of narrated videos, graphics and step-by-step instructions, the module highlights the key features and operating procedures of the CV-5000S.

The module is the first in a series of interactive training tools that will be available at www.topcononlineuniversity.com.

Diversity Advisory Board Set for 2014



Transitions Optical Inc. renewed all nine members of its Diversity Advisory Board for 2014. The following eye health and cultural experts, who have a vast knowledge of the largest and fastest-growing demographic groups in the United States, will continue to help guide the company's Transitions Cultural Connections initiative: Allert Brown-Gort, Dr. Brian Chou, Dr. Edwin Marshall, Drake McLean, Charlotte Parniawski, Dr. Kirk Smick, Dr. Madeline L. Romeu, Dr. David K. Yoo, and Dr. Vincent K. Young.

Throughout the year, they will contribute to a number of new initiatives planned by Transitions Optical, including increased efforts to raise eye health awareness among at-risk populations through partnerships with community- and health-based organizations. To learn more about the Transitions Cultural Connections program, including the My Multicultural Toolkit for eyecare providers, click [here](#).

Expo Breaks Attendance Records



The recently concluded International Vision Expo & Conference East hosted the largest number of attendees in its history, an increase of more than 6% percent compared with 2013. Student pre-registration also broke a record. The number of pre-registered optometry students was 691, a 70% increase over last year. According to organizers, all of the student programs, including the interactive course led by Dr. Ryan Parker and the networking lunch program, were crowded with enthusiastic participants.

In addition, International Vision Expo officially launched an alumni program at the New York meeting, which benefitted optometry school and college alumni by offering free registration and discounts on CE. For more news, visit www.VisionExpoEast.com.

Institute Has Educated 100,000



The Vision Care Institute, LLC, an affiliate of Johnson & Johnson Vision Care Inc., has reached the milestone of 100,000 eyecare professionals attending courses through its network of 14 sites worldwide. Launched in 2004, the institute was a first-of-its-kind learning destination and has remained the only institution of such magnitude sponsored by a vision care company.

Through lectures and hands-on training, the institute aims to help practitioners improve technical skills, expand clinical knowledge, and gain new communication skills and management techniques in order to improve their practices and patient outcomes. For more information, visit www.thevisioncareinstitute.com.

Also: Johnson & Johnson Vision Care Inc. is now accepting research proposals related to meibography and tear film stability with contact lens wear. For details, click [here](#).

New Leadership at Accutome



Joelle Vega, who has more than 20 years of experience working in the medical device industry, has been appointed President of Accutome. Most recently, Vega was General Manager of Global Vascular Therapies at Edwards Lifesciences. She had also held the positions of VP of U.S. Sales and VP of Sales, Global Marketing and Strategy for Edwards. Prior to her time there, she worked for the Johnson & Johnson family of companies in sales operations and information technology positions supporting innovative growth within the general surgery, gynecology and urology markets.

Vega commented in a press release, “I look forward to expanding and building upon Accutome’s trusted partnerships with physicians that will enable us to introduce highly differentiated products that fulfill current unmet clinical and surgical needs in niche segments within the ophthalmic world.”

To learn more, visit www.accutome.com, e-mail info@accutome.com, or call (800) 979-2020.

New Perimeter Combines Capabilities



A newly reconfigured response button designed for a more comfortable patient experience is now part of the Octopus 600 perimeter from Haag-Streit USA. The new instrument combines early detection and progression monitoring of glaucoma in one compact unit. In addition to standard white-on-white perimetry, the Octopus 600 features Pulsar, a patented flicker stimulus designed to detect glaucoma early. It also features large trial lenses and built-in correction for presbyopia.

The perimeter operates via touchscreen, keyboard or mouse and functions as a standalone unit or as part of a network. For more information, visit www.haag-streit-usa.com.

Portable Exam Tool Enables Key Measurements



Volk Optical now offers Eye Check, an electronic handheld ocular measurement device, which helps practitioners screen, diagnosis and document ocular characteristics for contact lens fitting and general diagnostic purposes. Eye check is capable of a number of key measurements including pupil diameter, horizontal visible iris diameter, interpupillary distance, margin reflex distance, pupil eccentricity and strabismus angle.

Its user interface is designed to be intuitive and easily navigated. Results can be output to electronic records management systems with WiFi connectivity. For more information, visit www.volk.com, call (440) 942-6161, or contact an authorized Volk distributor.



Vision Foundation Sets Aggressive Goals



Since 2008, the Essilor Vision Foundation, the non-profit arm of Essilor of America, has provided 193,000 vision screenings, dispensed 58,000 pairs of glasses and performed more than 65,000 eye exams for youth across the country. In its sixth year of operation, the foundation aims to screen an additional 75,000 children and dispense more than 37,000 pairs of new eyeglasses through programs such as employee engagement and Kids Vision for Life, where mobile vision clinics, school vision days and Kids Vision Fests provide no-cost vision services to students in need across the country.

To meet this goal, the foundation recently dispatched a new mobile clinic in Central Texas and is gearing up to host Kids Vision Fests in Orange County, Calif., and Dallas later this year. Kids Vision for Life also expanded programming to Louisville, Ky., and Washington D.C. The foundation has also launched a new website to accept online donations and provide volunteers with a simple way to sign up to help with various events across the country:

www.essilorvisionfoundation.org/myevf.

In addition, the foundation is continuing its partnership with Alcon's THEeyeSOLUTION to spread the national reach of Kids Vision for Life. It has created new a partnership with the Fundación Volver in Colombia and additional partnerships in Canada, Brazil, Argentina and Mexico. The foundation will provide guidance and support to vision health programs in these countries.

To learn more about the Essilor Vision Foundation and its programs, visit essilorvisionfoundation.org or the Essilor Vision Foundation Facebook page.

Also: Essilor of America has presented the State University of New York State College of Optometry (SUNY) with a \$250,000 gift. The donation, to be made over a period of five years, will help to ensure the SUNY dispensary remains an innovative, state-of-the-art facility for patients and students.

AZCOPT Contributes Time, Expertise to Local HopeFest



Members of the AZCOPT community who participated in HopeFest Phoenix.

Faculty, staff and students from the Midwestern University Arizona College of Optometry (AZCOPT) carried out vision screenings for socially and economically challenged people at HopeFest Phoenix, which was held in April at the city's Chase Field. More than 300 people received screenings, and 212 attendees received Vision Service Plan gift certificates for comprehensive eye exams and optical materials.

Dr. Buzzelli Named Kentucky College of Optometry's Founding Dean

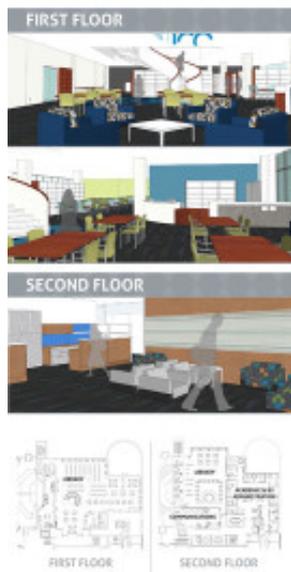


Dr. Andrew Buzzelli welcomes attendees of the Women's Global Connection Future Leaders of San Antonio 2014 Girls Global Summit, which was held at RSO in March.

The University of Pikeville announced that it has chosen Dr. Andrew Buzzelli to be the Founding Dean of the Kentucky College of Optometry. Dr. Buzzelli, a member of the ASCO Board of Directors, is currently a Professor and Dean of the University of the Incarnate Word Rosenberg School of Optometry (RSO). According to a press release from the University of Pikeville, he will assume his new position in July. University of Pikeville President James Hurley stated, "After conducting a highly competitive national search we concluded that Dr. Andrew Buzzelli is the perfect fit and has all the values that we expect in our founding Dean. Dr. Buzzelli has the experience, knowledge and passion to build the University of Pikeville-Kentucky College of Optometry into a national leader in optometric education."

Plans to build a new educational facility to house the Kentucky College of Optometry are under way. The university expects to welcome the first class in the fall of 2016.

ICO Renovations Progress



Architect's rendering of ICO library renovations.

Over the past several years, the Illinois College of Optometry (ICO) has commissioned leading architects and designers to renovate areas of the college, including the Eyepod and the main lecture center, with a contemporary aesthetic and flow. The college's latest renovation began in late March and includes an overhaul of the two-story library (Phase I), which will ultimately make room for much-needed clinic space in the Illinois Eye Institute and the Alfred and Sarah Rosenbloom Center on Vision and Aging (Phase II). Chicago-based architectural and interior design firm Jensen & Halstead is implementing the renovation.

The Phase II renovation of the Illinois Eye Institute to build out the Rosenbloom Center is expected to begin this summer after Phase I is complete. The Rosenbloom Center will be a new facility devoted to the vision care needs of the aging population.

NSU Officially Opens Lesley L. Walls Vision Center



At the grand opening ceremony for the Lesley L. Walls Vision Center, from left to right: Dr. Steve Turner, President of Northeastern State University; Dr. Doug Penisten, Dean, Oklahoma College of Optometry; Richard Ogden, Chair of the Board of Regents of Oklahoma Colleges; Dr. Lesley Walls; and Dr. Mary Ann Walls.

Northeastern State University's (NSU) Broken Arrow campus hosted the grand opening of the Lesley L. Walls Vision Center in March. The 7,000-square-foot clinic is a state-of-the-art facility that provides low-vision and neuro-optometric services for clients in the greater Tulsa area. It is named for Dr. Lesley L. Walls, who served as Dean of NSU's Oklahoma College of Optometry from 1987 to 1992 and is a long-time contributor to the university, the profession and optometric education, including serving as ASCO President in 1994/1995, as Dean of the Pacific University College of Optometry, and as President of the Southern California Colleges of Optometry.

The clinic is the culmination of three years of efforts and contributions from NSU, Dr. Walls, Doctors Hospital Foundation, Dr. Robert Zoellner and other supporters who would like to improve access to vision services in the community. The clinic will also provide real-world experience for learning and research for NSU optometry students and adjunct staff.

Salus University Announces Appointments

SCCO Class Excels on Part II of Board Exam

The Class of 2014 at the Southern California College of Optometry at Marshall B. Ketchum University (SCCO) achieved a 100% pass rate on Part II of the National Board of Examiners in Optometry exam. The high score was 803 (on the 100-900 point scale).

“We are incredibly proud of the members of the Class of 2014 for this achievement,” SCCO’s Dean Dr. Stanley Woo commented in a press release. “This is an outstanding accomplishment and a reflection of the fine effort and preparation by our students. Supporting their preparation and training, faculty and staff are proud to have played a part in their success.”

SUNY Secures Vision Research Funding



SUNY's CVRC has secured funding for several new studies.

The State University of New York (SUNY) Research Foundation recently signed agreements with several industry partners that will enable the SUNY College of Optometry to move ahead on a series of clinical research projects. The total combined funding for the studies is approaching \$1.5 million.

The projects will be run through the college's Clinical Vision Research Center (CVRC). They include a long-term study to examine the effectiveness of spectacles and contact lenses in slowing the progression of myopia in children and a study to test a newly developed drug designed to treat inflammation associated with dry eye disease. Agreements for two additional studies, one to evaluate new designs of progressive addition spectacle lenses and another to evaluate limbal ring contact lenses, have also been finalized.

Commenting in a press release, CVRC Founding Director Dr. Kathryn Richdale said "These collaborations allow us to offer treatment options not otherwise available to our patients. I'm proud of the role that SUNY Optometry and the CVRC are playing in the important process of ophthalmic device and drug development and look forward to continued expansion of our industry partnerships."

Three to Receive Honorary SCO Degrees



Left to right: U.S. Sen. John Boozman, Dr. Dori Carlson, Dr. Ralph Stone.

Three individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the profession of optometry have been selected to receive honorary degrees at the Southern College of Optometry (SCO) 2014 commencement ceremony in May. U.S. Sen. John Boozman (R-Ark.), a 1977 SCO graduate, will receive SCO's honorary Doctor of Ocular Science degree and deliver the commencement address. Former President of the American Optometric Association, the group's first female president, Dr. Dori Carlson will receive the honorary Doctor of Ocular Science degree. Dr. Ralph Stone, a retired Alcon executive who led the development of the company's Opti-Free contact lens solutions and Systane dry-eye treatments, will receive the Doctor of Humane Letters degree.

Two OSU Educators Receive Honors



Left to right: Dr. Donald Mutti; Dr. Joseph Alutto, Interim President of The Ohio State University; Dr. Melvin Shipp; and Archie Griffin, President and CEO of The Ohio State University Alumni Association. (Photo by Kevin Fitzsimons, OSU)

Educators from The Ohio State University College of Optometry were recently honored by the National Academies of Practice (NAP) and the Ohio State Alumni Association.

Dr. Melvin Shipp, Professor and Dean of the College of Optometry, received NAP's James A. Boucher Award of Excellence. The award is given to a NAP Optometry Academy member who has made exemplary contributions to health care and the profession of optometry, upholding NAP's mission of advancing science and the concept of interdisciplinary health care.

Dr. Donald Mutti, the Wildermuth Foundation Professor in Optometry, received a 2013-14 Ohio State Alumni Association Award for Distinguished Teaching. Dr. Mutti has been teaching Optics of the Eye since 2001. He also teaches Ophthalmic Optics and advises graduate students in the Graduate Program in Vision Science.

UABSO Names New Dean



Dr. Kelly Nichols

Dr. Kelly Nichols has been named Dean of the University of Alabama at Birmingham School of Optometry. Dr. Nichols had been a Professor at the University of Houston since 2011, where she co-founded The Ocular Surface Institute, a translational research institute focused on bench-to-bedside research in ocular surface conditions. From 2000 to 2011, she was a faculty member at The Ohio State University.

Dr. Nichols has been extensively involved in professional organizations, including the American Optometric Association and the American Academy of Optometry. She is a medical adviser to the Sjögren's Syndrome Foundation, an executive board member for the Tear Film and Ocular Surface Society, and a founding member of Ocular Surface Society of Optometry.

UHCO Remembers Dr. Baldwin



Dr. William Baldwin

The flag at the University of Houston College of Optometry (UHCO) flew at half-staff for a week this February in honor of Dr. William Baldwin, the former longtime Dean who passed away at age 87. Dr. Baldwin served as UHCO Dean from 1979 to 1990.

According to an article written by Lisa Merkl, Office of University Communication, Dr. Baldwin was known as “a consummate academic, a principled individual and a man of high ideals.” His list of accomplishments is lengthy, as reflected by his 2011 induction into the National Optometry Hall of Fame. Dr. Baldwin served on the ASCO Board and as its President from 1974 to 1976. Prior to his time at UHCO, he was Dean of the Pacific University College of Optometry and President of the New England College of Optometry.

Those wishing to make a contribution in his honor may do so to UHCO’s Dr. William R. Baldwin Scholarship.

Also: UHCO Interim Dean and CFO Dr. Roger Boltz was inducted into the University of Houston chapter of The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi. Dr. Pat Segu, UHCO Clinical Associate Professor and Director of the Good Neighbor Eye Clinic, won the 2013-2014 University of Houston Teaching Excellence Award in the category of Community Engagement.

Essilor Builds on Rich History to Continue Moving Forward



For more than 160 years, Essilor has offered eyeglass wearers the benefits of its innovation. Essilor was created from Essel and Silor, the two companies that dominated the French optical eyewear market in the mid-20th century. The new company inherited a priceless tradition from its two predecessors — the entrepreneurial values of mutual trust, respect and building on differences — which make it unique and encourage a spirit of initiative, enabling it to stay consistently ahead of the curve.

The group’s corporate culture is built on the innovation that drives its employees on a daily basis and makes it possible to continue creating life-changing visual solutions. Essilor is credited with the invention of the progressive lens, creation of plastic lenses, high-tech vision measurement tools, customization of visual correction, and premium lens treatments with the highest levels of UV protection and protection against the damaging blue light spectrum so common in our digital world.

For Essilor, “Seeing the World Better” is the result of a rich history, setting the stage for our work in the future. With customers in mind, Essilor works closely with eyecare professionals to provide innovative products that fit their lifestyles. The industry’s most technologically advanced lenses — Varilux, Crizal, Xperio, Definity, Airwear, Thin&Lite, and Transitions — demonstrate the company’s ability to respond to consumer demand for quality eyewear that not only corrects poor vision but also protects vision long-term.

Throughout North America, Essilor has more than 10,000 dedicated employees located in 128 prescription laboratories, four manufacturing facilities, two distribution centers and one research and development center. Essilor of America is a fully owned subsidiary of Paris-based Essilor International and is the largest business unit in the worldwide Essilor Group.

For more information, visit www.essilor.com.

**Information for this Industry Spotlight was supplied by Essilor and not independently verified by Eye on Education.*
