

EYE on EDUCATION

Monthly Newsletter

ASCO ASSOCIATION of
SCHOOLS and COLLEGES
of OPTOMETRY

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December/Year In Review

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Meet Dr. Alicia Feis, ASCO President



A Short Conversation with Dr. Alicia Feis, ASCO President

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Best-in-Class Eyecare Technology from Topcon



Topcon is the leading source for best-in-class eyecare technology backed by the nation's premier customer care team. By choosing Topcon, doctors gain access to a direct sales and service organization that is committed to their success, helping them practice smarter, work more efficiently, and enhance patient care.

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ASCO NEWS



ASCO Launches Eye Opener Sessions, a Shadowing/Mentorship Opportunity and Matching Service for Potential Optometry Students and Practicing Doctors of Optometry



The Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry (ASCO) announces *Eye Opener Sessions*, a complement to ASCO's public awareness campaign, *Optometry Gives Me Life*.

[Learn More...](#)

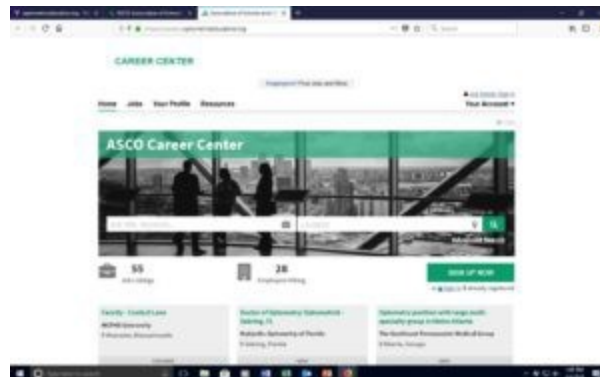
ASCO's 10th Spring Institute for Faculty Development: A Milestone in Academic Advancement



This April, the Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry (ASCO) held its 10th Spring Institute for Faculty Development (SIFD) in Rochester, New York. It was a three-day immersive experience dedicated to equipping early- (two-year) to mid-career (ten-year) faculty with the tools and strategies needed to thrive in optometric academia.

[Learn More...](#)

ASCO Online Career Center



The Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry offers a [Career Center](#) resource, hosted by Boxwood.

[Learn More...](#)

ASCO Welcomes Mollie Mills to the Team



Mollie Mills has joined ASCO's team as the Program Associate for Member Engagement. Mollie graduated from Michigan State University with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Theatre Management and a minor in Arts and Cultural Management in Spring 2021.

[Learn More...](#)

Data Trends in Optometric Education Available on ASCO Website



Did you know that the number of female applicants to schools and colleges of optometry has increased by 26% since 2010-2011? And that the number of female students enrolled over roughly the same period of time has increased 37%? Or that the average GPA of both admitted applicants and of the entering class has risen over those same years?

[Learn More...](#)

Call for Applications: ASCO Student Award in Clinical Ethics



Deadline to submit essays is February 18, 2025

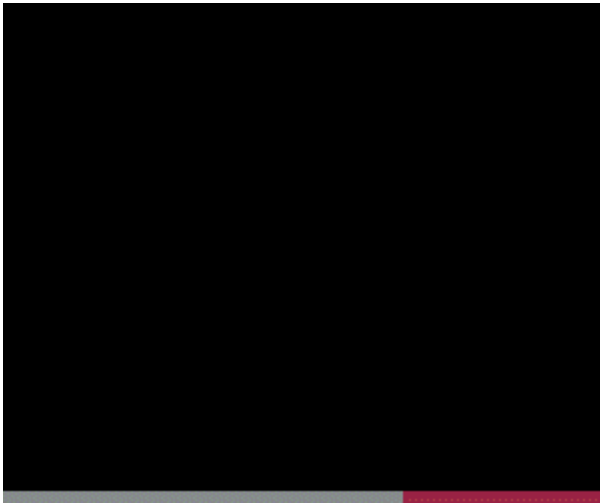
[Learn More...](#)

ASCO Announces Another Year of Record Setting Applicants to Optometry Institutions for the 2024-2025 Application Cycle



ASCO is happy to report optometry schools and colleges received the most applicants ever for the 2024-2025 OptomCAS application cycle.

[Learn More...](#)



INDUSTRY SPOTLIGHT

Industry Spotlight -- MyEyeDr



Seeing Clearly: A Baby's First Glimpse of the World

[Learn More...](#)

CORPORATE CONTRIBUTOR NEWS

AbbVie News

Allergan is now AbbVie—Your Vision. Our Mission.

[Learn More...](#)

Alcon News

Bringing Sight to Underserved Communities: Alcon's Support for Medical Missions

[Learn More...](#)

Bausch + Lomb News

BAUSCH + LOMB

Bausch + Lomb Launches Arise™ Orthokeratology Lens System in the United States, Hosts Speaker Events at Colleges and Universities

[Learn More...](#)

Clasp News

clasp

Clasp Expands Employer-Sponsored Loan Repayment Programs to Support the Full Eye Care Spectrum

[Learn More...](#)

CooperVision News



Empowering Tomorrow's Optometrists: CooperVision's Commitment to Student Growth

[Learn More...](#)

Corza News



Corza Supports Educational Wet Lab for Ohio State Optometry Students

[Learn More...](#)

FYidoctors News



FYidoctors Summer Student Program Offers Early Exposure to Clinical Optometry

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Glaukos News



You Might Be Surprised by the Attitudes and Behaviors of your Glaucoma Patients

[Learn More...](#)

Haag-Streit News



Haag-Streit USA Supports SUNY College of Optometry's New, State-of-the-Art Facility with Customized 3D Imaging Solutions

[Learn More...](#)

iCare News



iCare ST500™: A New Era in Slit Lamp Tonometry

[Learn More...](#)

Johnson & Johnson News

Johnson & Johnson

Sight For Millions: Connecting Communities Around the World to Quality Eye Care

[Learn More...](#)

NIDEK News



NIDEK Inc. Completes Relocation of U.S. Headquarters

[Learn More...](#)

Oculus News



Why Clinics Love the OCULUS Myopia Master®

[Learn More...](#)

RevolutionEHR News



Why NSUOCO Chose RevolutionEHR – And Why You Should Watch This

[Learn More...](#)

Specsavers News



Specsavers Launches New Programs to Support Academic Success

Free access to exam prep with OptoPrep

[Learn More...](#)

Topcon News



Expanding Access to Diabetic Retinopathy Screening in Rwanda: Topcon Joins Forces with Orbis International and Rwanda International Institute to Combat Diabetic Retinopathy

[Learn More...](#)

Transitions News



New Digital Toolkit Available: Varilux® XR Series™ x Transitions® Lenses

[Learn More...](#)

Volk News



Volk Optical Celebrates Excellence at Nova Southeastern and Offers Board Prep Tips for Optometry Students

[Learn More...](#)

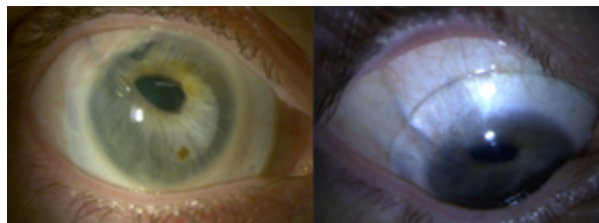
VSP Vision News



From Aspiration to Optometry: Serving My Appalachian Community

[Learn More...](#)

Wave Eye Care News



Advancing Customization in Contact Lens Care: EyePrint Prosthetics at the GPLI Resident Symposium

[Learn More...](#)

MEMBER NEWS

University of Detroit Mercy Launches a New School of Optometry



UDM takes a bold step forward to help train the next generation of optometry professionals and fill the regional need for optometrists throughout the country

[Learn More...](#)

Midwestern University Appoints Dr. Brianne Hobbs as Dean of the Chicago College of Optometry



Experienced Educator and Leader Returns to Midwestern to Guide CCO

[Learn More...](#)

A Vision Realized: Northeastern State University Oklahoma College of Optometry Opens Doors on Nearly \$40M Milestone Facility



On July 29, Northeastern State University (NSU) leaders, tribal dignitaries, city and county leadership, state legislators, donors, students, and community members gathered to celebrate a vision—in every sense of the word.

[Learn More...](#)

WesternU College of Optometry White Coat Ceremony Features Inspiration, Advice for New Students



Western University of Health Sciences' College of Optometry held its white coat ceremony on Aug. 9 in Pomona, California. The ceremony capped off Welcome Week for first-year students, who were welcomed into the profession by donning their clinical white coats for the first time.

[Learn More...](#)

Dr. Josephine Ibrinke Named Dean of the Pennsylvania College of Optometry



Josephine O. Ibrinke, OD '03, Resident '04, MPH, FAAO, has been appointed Dean of the Pennsylvania College of Optometry (PCO), Drexel University, following a national search, effective September 15, 2025.

[Learn More...](#)

Midwestern University Board of Trustees Appoints Dr. Joshua Baker as President and Chief Executive Officer



The Board of Trustees of Northwestern University announces that Dr. Joshua Baker has been appointed President and Chief Executive Officer of Northwestern University, effective September 11, 2025.

[Learn More...](#)

UAB's Dr. Kelly Nichols Honored with Endowed Scholarship



An evening of celebration turned into a moment of heartfelt surprise for Dean Kelly Nichols at the UAB School of Optometry's annual Scholarship Dinner when the Alumni Association announced the creation of a new endowed scholarship in her name.

[Learn More...](#)

Labib Named Dean Of Pacific University College of Optometry



Bisant A. Labib OD, FAAO, Diplomat AAO, is the new Dean of the Pacific University College of Optometry, effective July 14.

[Learn More...](#)

UAB Optometry Student, Alumni Build Vision and Community at Health Clinic



Through the collaboration of Malia McDowell, Class of 2026, and dedicated UAB School of Optometry alumni, a vital new service was launched and sustained at the Community of Hope Health Clinic (CHHC). CHHC stands as a beacon of care for residents of Shelby County who live at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines and lack access to insurance. In the summer of 2024, the clinic expanded its offerings to include optometric care, providing fully dilated eye exams to individuals in need.

[Learn More...](#)

PCO Joins Drexel University



The Pennsylvania College of Optometry (PCO) has officially become part of Drexel University, after receiving approval from the U.S. Department of Education.

[Learn More...](#)

An advertisement for the Haag-Streit Imaging Module 910 3D. The top half shows a white slit lamp microscope on a desk with a computer monitor displaying a 3D image of an eye. Below the image is a blue banner with the text 'IMAGING MODULE 910 3D' and 'Innovating the field of slit lamp imaging'. At the bottom, there is a white box with the text 'Because your students deserve the very best. Contact us today.', the phone number '800-787-5426', the website 'us.haag-streit.com', and the Haag-Streit USA logo.

NEWS TO SHARE

University of Houston Professor Featured in AOA News



AOA News recently featured a spotlight story on Meron Fitta, OD, a clinical assistant professor at the University of Houston. Dr. Fitta's story highlights her commitment to public health and how she has coordinated vision screenings at over 40 organizations and served more than 3,500 patients over the past year.

[Learn More...](#)

Alliance for Eye and Vision Research Launches National #SeeWhatMatters Campaign to Protect Vision Research



Vision is on the Line: Proposed NIH Reforms Threaten the National Eye Institute

[Learn More...](#)

National Board of Examiners in Optometry Opens New Optometry Testing Center



The National Center of Clinical Testing in Optometry welcomes optometry candidates from across North America as they take licensure exams

[Learn More...](#)

Optometrists Provide Insight About the Profession to Help Students Learn More About a Career in Optometry



Many factors go into choosing a medical specialty such as Optometry, including personal history, clinical interests, duration of the training involved, career opportunities, and financial and work-life balance considerations. New research now provides individuals who might be considering becoming an optometrist with information about the profession and how it might fit into their interests, skills, career goals, and lifestyle aspirations.

[Learn More...](#)

What You Should Know About AOA+ 2026 in Phoenix



AOA+ 2026 at Optometry's Meeting® is a can't-miss, career-defining opportunity that engages our profession's next generation to lead optometry forward.

[Learn More...](#)



Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry

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