

FEBRUARY
2020

EYE ON ALUMNI

The official newsletter of the Northeastern State University Oklahoma College of Optometry



NORTHEASTERN
STATE UNIVERSITY





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Upcoming Events

PRK Certification Course

nJoy Vision in Oklahoma City, OK

February 10, 2020

27th Annual Ocular Disease Update

Big Cedar Lodge in Branson, MO

June 6-8, 2020

Please help us welcome national renowned speakers Dr. Doug Devries, Dr. Justin Schweitzer, and Dr. Spencer Johnson to the 27th Annual Ocular Disease Update at Big Cedar Lodge in Branson, MO on June 6-8, 2020! To view the whole schedule, see page 4.

We hope to see you in June!

For more information about this event, as well as other upcoming events, please visit our website: optometry.nsuok.edu/ContinuingEducation, or contact Callie McAtee at nsuoco_ce@nsuok.edu.

July Advanced Procedures

NSUOCO Academic Wing in Tahlequah, OK

July 9-12, 2020

Primary Eye Care Update

NSU Event Center in Tahlequah, OK

September 12-13, 2020

6th Annual Tulsa Winter Weekend

Renaissance Hotel in Tulsa, OK

December 4-5, 2020

27th Annual Ocular Disease Update Schedule

June 6-8, 2020

16 COPE approved hours, including Oklahoma Judicious Prescribing
Big Cedar Lodge in Branson, Missouri

Saturday, June 6, 2020

7:00-7:50 AM	Breakfast & Registration		
8:00-9:40 AM	Presbyopia Correction Premium IOL's	Doug Devries, OD	2 CR
9:40-10:10 AM	Exhibit Hall Break		
10:10-11:00 AM	IPL	Doug Devries, OD	1 CR
11:00-11:20	Exhibit Hall Break		
11:20-1:00 PM	Updates on MGD and DED	Doug Devries, OD	2 CR
1:10-2:00 PM	Judicious Prescribing	Spencer Johnson, OD	1CR

Sunday, June 7, 2020

7:00-7:50 AM	Breakfast/Industry Presentations		
8:00-9:40 AM	Managing Your Patient Cases Glaucoma from Classic Case to Conundrum	Justin Schweitzer, OD	2 CR
9:40-10:10 AM	Exhibit Hall Break		
10:10-11:00 AM	Mastering the Management of MIGS	Justin Schweitzer, OD	1 CR
11:00-11:20 AM	Exhibit Hall Break		
11:20-12:10 PM	Corneal Hysteresis an Indicator of Glaucoma Progression	Justin Schweitzer, OD	1 CR
12:10-1:00 PM	Stuck in a Rut Corneal Ulcers and CL's	Justin Schweitzer, OD	1 CR

Monday, June 8, 2020

7:00-7:50 AM	Breakfast/Industry Presentations		
8:00-8:50 AM	Neuroimaging 101	Spencer Johnson, OD	1 CR
8:50-9:40 AM	Headache Management	Spencer Johnson, OD	1 CR
9:40-10:10 AM	Exhibit Hall Break		
10:10-11:00 AM	ABC's of Dry Eye and Omega 3's	Spencer Johnson, OD	1 CR
11:10-12:00 PM	Viral Conjunctivitis	Spencer Johnson, OD	1 CR
12:10-1:00 PM	Health Care Update	Spencer Johnson, OD	1 CR

Cherokee Nation Outpatient Health Center Now Open

On October 7, 2019, the optometry clinic in the Cherokee Nation Outpatient Health Center (CNOHC) in Tahlequah, OK opened its doors to begin seeing patients in a new location. The optometry clinic is located on the third floor of the 469,000 square foot building. The clinic has twenty exam lanes in addition to four testing rooms, all boasting brand new, state-of-the-art equipment. This is double the size of the previous optometry clinic in the W. W. Hastings hospital.

Groundbreaking for CNOHC took place in February 2017. The overall project cost \$200 million.

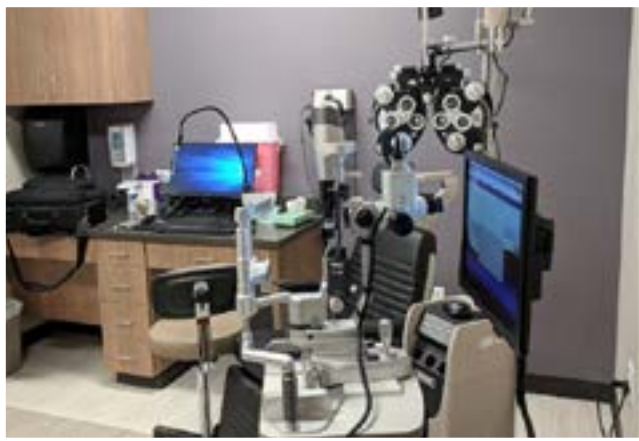
The dispensary in the new clinic offers a display of 850 frames, making it the largest optical of all clinic locations. In the previous clinic, approximately 8,500 patients were seen each year. With the increased size of the new clinic, upwards of 12,000 patients are expected to be seen this year. With all eleven clinic locations combined, an estimated 50-60,000 patients are seen each year.



Cherokee Nation Outpatient Health Center



Optometry Clinic Dispensary



Exam Room



Main Lobby Staircase



32nd Annual Optic Cup a Success

NSUOCO's Optometric Student Association hosted its 32nd annual Optic Cup golf tournament September 7th at the Cherokee Springs Golf Course in Tahlequah. The tournament consisted of 10 four-member teams for a total of 40 participants. Many of the participants attended the weekend's continuing education events as well.

Golfers paid a \$90 registration fee for green fees, a cart, beverages, lunch, a T-shirt, and prizes. Each player received a free sleeve of Pro V1 golf balls, tees, and water bottles before starting. Hole sponsorships were also available. The tournament began at 9:00 a.m. and was played in a four-player scramble format.

Teams that placed received cash prizes. The first place team was awarded \$150 per player, second place received \$100 per player, and third place was given \$50 per player. Competition and raffle winners were also awarded prize items. Prizes included various golf clubs, balls, and accessories in addition to an iPad, gift cards to local restaurants, and certificates to the pro-shop. Congratulations to first place team members (pictured above) Shemarr Thompson, Keith Heckenkemper, Eddie Jones, and Jacob Bellamy ('21). The second place team consisted of Brent Bridges, Brad Bridges, Wayne Jones, and Ron Stewart. The third place team members were fourth-year students Sahab Astani, Ryan Swindell, Colton Cheek, and Jesse Wald.

There were many competition winners at this year's Optic Cup. Brock Helfrich, current fourth-year NSUOCO student and coordinator of the tournament said, "*Optic Cup was another success this year. Players reported positive feedback regarding the tournament and course conditions. We are always continually working to improve the success of previous years' tournaments with implementation of new ideas for mulligans and side competitions.*"

All funds raised through the tournament will assist students in attending Optometry's Meeting in 2020. Be watching for more details about the upcoming 33rd annual Optic Cup golf tournament in 2020.

Feel free to email us at nsuopt@nsuok.edu with questions or for more information. Thank you to all who participated!

AOA House of Delegates Recognizes NSUOCO

On June 20, 2019, the American Optometric Association House of Delegates recognized Northeastern State University Oklahoma College of Optometry, having been the first optometry program to develop a course training doctors in laser procedures, for its work in the scope expansion in other states, reading "the AOA applauds Northeastern State University Oklahoma College of Optometry in Tahlequah, Oklahoma, for its pioneering efforts to increase the body of knowledge within the profession, as well as its support of AOA state affiliate association efforts to expand the scope of practice in their respective states." This resolution was read by Chris Wolfe, OD ('08) who serves as the AOA State Government Relations Committee Chair.



NSUOCO News

Current Faculty

- » **Dr. Louis Blowers**
Clinical Assistant Professor
- » **Dr. Saunya Burkhart**
Clinical Assistant Professor
- » **Dr. Richard Castillo**
Assistant Dean for Surgical Training & Education, Clinical Professor
- » **Dr. Caitlin Chevalier**
Clinical Assistant Professor
- » **Dr. Ryan Fenska**
Clinical Associate Professor, REP Clinic Director
- » **Dr. Jari Frazier**
Assistant Professor
- » **Dr. Jonathan Hatley**
Associate Professor
- » **Dr. Jonathan Janzen**
Assistant Professor
- » **Dr. Spencer Johnson**
Associate Professor, NSUOCO Clinic Chief
- » **Dr. Matthew Krein**
Assistant Professor
- » **Dr. Sarah Krein**
Associate Professor, Vision Therapy Services Clinic Chief
- » **Dr. Jenna Lighthizer**
Associate Professor
- » **Dr. Nathan Lighthizer**
Associate Dean, CME Director, Associate Professor
- » **Dr. John Lindsay**
Clinical Assistant Professor
- » **Dr. Carolyn Majcher**
Associate Professor, Residency Director
- » **Dr. Alan McKee**
Professor, Dispensaries/Spec Fab Services Chief
- » **Dr. Earlena McKee**
Assistant Dean of Clinical Affairs, CNOHC Clinic Chief, Professor
- » **Dr. Jeff Miller**
Assistant Dean of Academic Affairs, Co-Coordinator of Clinical Grading, Professor
- » **Dr. Latricia Pack**
Professor, Contact Lens Clinic Services Chief
- » **Dr. April Parker**
Associate Professor, Externship Director
- » **Dr. Doug Penisten**
Dean, Professor
- » **Dr. Dawn Pewitt**
Clinical Assistant Professor
- » **Dr. Alissa Proctor**
Professor, Pediatric Services Clinic Chief
- » **Dr. Seth Rich**
Clinical Assistant Professor
- » **Dr. Bret Seamons**
Clinical Assistant Professor
- » **Dr. David Simpson**
Assistant Professor, Low Vision Services Clinic Chief
- » **Dr. Nicole Stout**
Assistant Professor
- » **Dr. Heidi Thoden**
Clinical Associate Professor
- » **Dr. Jessica White**
Clinical Assistant Professor
- » **Dr. Neal Whittle**
Associate Professor, Co-Coordinator of Clinical Grading
- » **Dr. Andrew Young**
Clinical Assistant Professor
- » **Dr. Bryan Young**
Clinical Assistant Professor

NSUOCO News

New Faculty



Dr. Louis Blowers

Louis Blowers II, OD is new to the NSUOCO faculty this spring, joining us as a Clinical Assistant Professor at our Sallisaw REP clinic after finishing his previous employment with the Veterans Health Care System of the Ozarks, Gene Taylor Community Based Outpatient Clinic in Springfield, MO. Dr. Blowers also completed his residency in Primary Care and Ocular Disease at this facility in June 2019. He is a 2018 graduate of NSUOCO and received his Bachelor of Science in Health Sciences from Southwestern Oklahoma State University.



Dr. Carolyn Majcher

Carolyn Majcher, OD, FAAO joined the NSUOCO faculty in Fall 2019 as an Associate Professor and Co-Residency Director. She now assumes the position of Associate Professor and Residency Director. Before her employment at NSUOCO, Dr. Majcher worked as an Assistant Professor and Chief of the Retina Disease Clinic at the University of the Incarnate Word Rosenberg School of Optometry. Dr. Majcher is a 2011 graduate of the Pennsylvania College of Optometry.



Dr. Dawn Pewitt

Dawn Pewitt, OD, FAAO joins us as a Clinical Assistant Professor at the Jay REP clinic. Dr. Pewitt is a 1997 graduate of NSUOCO and completed a hospital-based residency at the VA Medical Center in Fayetteville, AR in 1998. She then worked and resided in California until 2016 when she returned to Oklahoma and worked for Triad Eye Institute before joining NSUOCO in January 2020.

NSUOCO News

In Remembrance of Earl P. Schmitt



Dr. Earl P. Schmitt

On February 6, 2020, Earl P. Schmitt passed away. Dr. Schmitt served as a faculty member at Northeastern State University Oklahoma College of Optometry from August 1982 until December 1996 when he retired. Upon his retirement, he was given the honorary title of Emeritus Professor of Optometry from the Board of Regents of Oklahoma. He continued to work as an adjunct professor for NSUOCO from 1997 to 2010.

Titles he held during his time here were Professor of Optometry, Director of Clinics, and Director of Externships. Prior to his time at NSUOCO, he served as the Clinic Director, Dean of Students, and Professor of Optometry at the Southern College of Optometry in Memphis, TN for fifteen years. The Southern College of Optometry awarded him the honorary degree of Doctor of Optometric Science.

Dr. Schmitt was a 1961 graduate of Pacific University College of Optometry in Forrest Grove, OR. Prior to his Doctorate of Optometry, he earned his A.B. in Biological Science and his M.A. in Secondary Education from Stanford University. After completing his Doctorate of Optometry degree, he earned an M.S. in Physiological Optics from Pacific University and an Ed. D. in Educational Administration and Supervision (Higher Education) in 1977 from Memphis State University.

Of his numerous accomplishments, Dr. Schmitt was the author of *The Skeffington Perspective of the Behavioral Model of Optometric Data Analysis and Vision Care*. He was a member of several organizations, including the American Optometric Association, Optometric Extension Program, Southern Council of Optometrists, a fellow with the American Academy of Optometry, Armed Forces Optometric Society, Tennessee State Optometric Association, Oregon State Optometric Association, and past President and Secretary-Treasurer of the Eastern Oregon Optometric Association. He also served on the Board of Directors of the National Board of Examiners in Optometry from 1981 to 1991.

From November 1952-1954, Dr. Schmitt served as a Corporal with the United States Army as a Surgical Technician and Medical Laboratory Technician. He worked in a MASH unit in Korea for sixteen months during the Korean War.

Dr. Schmitt also enjoyed several hobbies, including photography, gardening, and woodworking. He and his wife, Dicksie, also both enjoyed purchasing and fixing up old homes. He is survived by Dicksie.

NSUOCO News

Dr. Kippi Wyatt Retires

After 25 years at NSUOCO, Dr. Kippi Wyatt has retired. During her years here, she served as Associate/Assistant Dean for Academic Affairs for ten years, served as past Clinical Education Coordinator and Mobile Eye Clinic Director, and served as a Professor. She taught Human Anatomy & Physiology, The Human Nervous System, General Pathology, and Clinical Methods II.

Dr. Wyatt was named an American Academy of Optometry Fellow in 1996 and a DaVinci Fellow in 2006, received the NSU Circle of Excellence in Teaching Award in 2005, and was awarded the Excellence in Teaching Award at the Oklahoma Higher Education Conference in 2006. She was also given several Instructor of the Year awards from first year classes.

In addition to her teaching commitments, she served on several committees, including the NSUOCO Admissions and Curriculum Committees; the NSU Retention, Tenure and Promotion Task Force; the NSU Library Committee chair; the Center for Teaching and Learning Advisory Committee; and the Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry Chief Academic Officers Committee.

The Regional University System of Oklahoma has recognized Dr. Wyatt for her accomplishments and years of service, giving her the honorary title of Professor Emeritus of Optometry.

Dr. Wyatt's years of dedication and commitment to NSUOCO students, residents, faculty, staff, and patients are appreciated. She will be greatly missed, but we wish her all the best as she embarks on her new journey.



Dr. Wyatt with her retirement cake made by NSUOCO Administrative Secretary, Callista Verver



NSUOCO News

White Coat Ceremony 2019

On November 22, 2019 NSUOCO held its 15th annual White Coat Ceremony for the current second year class in the Webb Auditorium on the Northeastern State University, Tahlequah campus. The White Coat Ceremony is held in recognition of the students progressing in their four-year optometric education from classroom to clinic. The presentation of the clinical coat officially welcomes the students into their clinical education, which they began in January.

The coats, which are embroidered with each student's name, were presented to students by two faculty members, Dr. April Parker and Dr. Jonathan Janzen. Approximately 250 friends, family members, and faculty members attended the ceremony.

The following second-year students were recognized at the ceremony:

- » **Macy Arp**
- » **Ryann Barnes**
- » **Brett Beasley**
- » **Alex Butcher**
- » **Sarah Cruz**
- » **Caleb Francis**
- » **Stephanie Fulton**
- » **Will Hardgraves**
- » **Hailey Heister**
- » **Peyton Isbell**
- » **Alexander Kass**
- » **Claire Keating**
- » **Alex Kinsinger**
- » **Cindy Le**
- » **Jessica Livermont**
- » **Bryce McIntosh**
- » **Sarah Meinders**
- » **Baylee Moles**
- » **Claire Moore**
- » **Brooke Pankhurst**
- » **Heather Polson**
- » **Sarah Rawlings**
- » **Angela Thampi**
- » **Rachel Thompson**
- » **Anna Venizelos**
- » **Cody Ward**
- » **Courney Willis**
- » **Jarrett Wingfield**

NSUOCO News



Welcome, Class of 2023!

- » **Brianna Albers**
Garden Plain, KS
- » **Ameerah Al-Sadi**
Broken Arrow, OK
- » **Kaylee Bobbitt**
Hominy, OK
- » **Taylor Collins**
Claremore, OK
- » **Crosby Cooper**
Tahlequah, OK
- » **Matthew Endres**
Bolivar, MO
- » **Paige Fielden**
Kansas, OK
- » **Brett Freeman**
Miami, OK
- » **Abigail Goodding**
Monticello, AR
- » **Jackson Graham**
Tahlequah, OK
- » **William Grovenburg**
Tahlequah, OK
- » **Nathan Kuykendall**
Claremore, OK
- » **Jenna McKaig**
Wichita, KS
- » **Cole McKnight**
Cushing, OK
- » **Aaron Meyer**
Andale, KS
- » **Jacob Musto**
Tulsa, OK
- » **Morgan Newton**
Cabot, AR
- » **Tiffany Nguyen**
Rogers, AR
- » **Joey Nugent**
Sheridan, AR
- » **Jadica Piela**
Muskogee, OK
- » **Wesley Rushing**
Springfield, MO
- » **Kelli Schaedel**
Big Spring, TX
- » **Madeline Smith**
Shawnee, KS
- » **Lauren Stoffel**
Valley Center, KS
- » **Aubry Tackett**
Tahlequah, OK
- » **Kevin Struble**
Bixby, OK
- » **Peyton Turner**
Catoosa, OK
- » **Story Whitson**
Fort Smith, AR

NSUOCO News

Upcoming Preston Smith 5K Memorial Run

For the past several years, NSUOCO has hosted its annual Dr. Preston Smith 5K Memorial Run in remembrance of Preston Smith, a fourth-year student who passed away in an automobile accident in 2011.

Preston was born in Joplin, Missouri in 1985 and graduated from Baxter Springs High School in Kansas in 2004 as Valedictorian of his class. He attended Missouri Southern State University and graduated Summa Cum Laude in May of 2008 with a biology major and chemistry minor. While at NSUOCO, he served as president of the Fellowship of Christian Optometrists and Practice Management clubs.

The upcoming 5K will be held March 28, 2020. The race is a friendly competition to run or walk and is open to all.

All proceeds go toward a scholarship in his name, awarded to an NSUOCO student who is going above and beyond academically, clinically, and spiritually.

We invite all to come out, have fun, and help us celebrate the life of Preston Smith, someone who was and is still very dear to all of our hearts here at NSUOCO. If you have questions about this event, feel free to contact Courtney Willis at willis02@nsuok.edu or nsuopt@nsuok.edu.



Several people braved the cold weather to participate in the race. The race started and ended in the NSUOCO parking lot.

NSUOCO News

New Associate and Assistant Deans at NSUOCO

Following former Associate Dean Dr. Kippi Wyatt's retirement in January 2020, several NSUOCO faculty members have been appointed as associate and assistant deans.

Dr. Nate Lighthizer (top left) now serves as the new Associate Dean. He is also the Director of Continuing Medical Education and an Associate Professor.

Dr. Jeff Miller (top right, Class of '96) is now the Assistant Dean for Academic Affairs and also serves as the Coordinator of Clinical Grading and a Professor.

Dr. Earlena McKee (bottom, Class of '96) is the new Assistant Dean for Clinical Affairs while also serving as the Cherokee Nation Outpatient Health Center Clinic Chief and a Professor.

Congratulations to everyone on these new roles!





NSUOCO News

SVOSH Trip to Roatan, Honduras

On July 27, 2019, a team of 16 NSUOCO students, NSUOCO faculty member Dr. David Simpson, and Drs. Doug and Victoria Weiss and their two sons from Virginia traveled to Roatan, Honduras for NSUOCO's SVOSH annual medical mission trip. During their time there, they provided care to approximately 900 patients, of which at least 170 were children. The team served four days in two locations on the island and returned on Saturday, August 3, 2019.

Students attending were Brock Cherry (OSIV), John Gray (OSIII), Hannah Sanders (OSIII), Sawyer Lee (OSIV), Elizabeth McCrackin (OSIV), Bibin Cherian (OSIV), Kayla Cook (OSIII), Joana Pantoja (OSIII), Peyton Isbell (OSII), Karli Weise (OSIII), Macy Arp (OSII), Ann Marie Sparacino (OSIII), Brianna Weber (OSIII), Lisa Tomasu (OSIV), Lauren Rowland (OSIV), and Emily McBee (OSIV).

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