

WINTER
2021 - 2022

EYE ON ALUMNI

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



NORTHEASTERN
STATE UNIVERSITY





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Upcoming Events

Mark your Calendars!

January Ophthalmic Procedures

NSUOCO in Tahlequah, OK

January 6-9, 2022

5 State Student Symposium

NSUOCO in Tahlequah, OK

February 5, 2022

29th Annual Ocular Disease Update

Big Cedar Lodge in Branson, MO

June 4-6, 2022

July Ophthalmic Procedures Course

NSUOCO in Tahlequah, OK

July 7-10, 2022

Don't miss out on your opportunity to take part in each of these events!

29th Annual Ocular Disease Update Information

Receive 16 hours of COPE approved CE and join us for the 29th Annual Ocular Disease Update featuring Dr. Mile Brujic, Dr. Justin Schweitzer, and Dr. Ryan Fenska.

The Ocular Disease Update will be held at Branson's premier family resort, Big Cedar Lodge. This year's conference will be live in person.



Lodging at Big Cedar Lodge fills up very quickly. If you are interested

in attending in person and staying at Big Cedar, please secure your hotel arrangements as soon as possible!

Please check our website for further details and updates, or contact Callie McAtee for information. We look forward to seeing you!!

<https://optometry.nsuok.edu/continuingeducation/default.aspx>

Callie McAtee - 918.316.3602 - mcateec@nsuok.edu

NSUOCO News

NSUOCO New Building Update!



The NSUOCO administration is continuing to work with senators and representatives from the state of Oklahoma on the ARPA (American Recovery Plan Act) Committee to secure funding for our new school building. Conversations happening with other entities are also showing progress. We are looking forward to the next couple

of months as we finalize the donor and fundraising portion of this process and continue to move forward. Great developments are being made in terms of the new building with the hope and plan to break ground sometime in the second half of 2022!

Vision Therapy Clinic Donation!



NSUOCO is thrilled to announce the Vision Therapy & Neuro-visual Rehabilitation Clinic has been given a \$250,000 donation from the Masonic Charitable Foundation of Oklahoma! The Masonic Charitable Foundation of Oklahoma is dedicated to supporting their community through charitable services, and donations, but they have always had a

special interest in supporting children as they pursue an education. Both organizations, the Masons and NSUOCO, are committed to investing in the people within their community, and strive to improve their quality of life. This donation is a symbol of their support and belief in the NSUOCO Vision Therapy Clinic and our ability to change the lives of those within our community. Although the official name is not confirmed, the new Vision Therapy and Rehabilitation Clinic space will be named after our new partner, the Oklahoma Masonic Foundation.

NSUOCO News

NSUOCO Interprofessional Education with OSU-College of Medicine



Collaboration between health professions is extremely important and it is vital for optometry students to learn how to prepare for interprofessional communication. This September, our fourth year students were fortunate to have a collaboration lab day with the Oklahoma State University College of Medicine (OSU-COM) students. NSUOCO fourth year students, residents, and Dr. Carolyn Majcher and Dr. April Parker met with the second year OSU-COM students to assist in their eye exam lab. The lab was organized into three stations that the OSU-COM students rotated through:

- 1). direct and panoptic
- 2). eye vital signs
- 3). slit lamp with fluorescein

The NSUOCO students took the lead in teaching and assisting with these skills. This experience allowed our students to network with another health professional while providing valuable information about the importance of eye exams.

(Photo credit: Matt Barnard - OSU Center for Health Sciences)

NSUOCO and OAOP Converge

NSUOCO was super excited to host, in partnership with the OAOP, the first combined event with the Oklahoma College of Optometry and the state association. This Converge Meeting occurred November 18-20th in Tulsa, Oklahoma. This tremendous conference included the White Coat Ceremony for our Class of 2024, as well as national speakers like Eric Schmidt, Ron Melton, and Randall Thomas. It was a true honor to have some of the biggest names in the profession come to Oklahoma to educate our doctors, faculty, residents, and students. This very successful event provided the opportunity to see how a top-notch Continuing Education conference is done.



NSUOCO News

Current Faculty

We are proud of our exemplary faculty here at NSUOCO!

- » **Dr. Louis Blowers**
Clinical Assistant Professor
- » **Dr. Tara Brown**
Clinical Assistant Professor
- » **Dr. Kelsey Buford**
Clinical Assistant Professor
- » **Dr. Christian Bussey**
Clinical Assistant Professor
- » **Dr. Richard Castillo**
Ophthalmologist & Assistant Dean for Surgical Training and Education
- » **Dr. Caitlin Chevalier**
Clinical Assistant Professor
- » **Dr. Ryan Fenska**
Associate Professor & Rural Eye Clinics Director
- » **Dr. Jonathan Hatley**
Associate Professor
- » **Dr. Jonathan Janzen**
Assistant Professor
- » **Dr. Spencer Johnson**
Associate Professor & NSUOCO Clinic Chief
- » **Dr. Matthew Krein**
Associate Professor
- » **Dr. Sarah Krein**
Associate Professor & Vision Therapy Services Clinic Chief
- » **Dr. Jenna Lighthizer**
Professor
- » **Dr. Nathan Lighthizer**
Associate Dean & Director of Continuing Medical Education
- » **Dr. John Lindsay**
Clinical Assistant Professor
- » **Dr. Carolyn Majcher**
Associate Professor & Director of Residencies
- » **Dr. Alan McKee**
Professor & Dispensaries/Spectacle Fabrication Services Chief
- » **Dr. Earlena McKee**
Assistant Dean for Clinical Affairs & CNOHC Clinic Chief & Professor
- » **Dr. Jeffrey Miller**
Assistant Dean for Academic Affairs & Professor
- » **Dr. Latricia Pack**
Professor & Contact Lens Clinic Services Chief
- » **Dr. April Parker**
Associate Professor & Externship Director
- » **Dr. Douglas Penisten**
Dean of the College & 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. Joseph Shetler**
Associate Professor
- » **Dr. Paige Taylor**
Clinical Assistant Professor
- » **Dr. Heidi Thoden**
Clinical Associate Professor
- » **Dr. Jessica White**
Clinical Assistant Professor
- » **Dr. Neal Whittle**
Associate Professor
- » **Dr. Andrew Young**
Clinical Assistant Professor
- » **Dr. Bryan Young**
Clinical Assistant Professor

NSUOCO News

Spotlight on NSUOCO Faculty!

In April of 2021, **Dr. Alissa Proctor** earned her Fellowship in the College of Optometrists in Vision Development (COVD). The College of Optometrists in Vision Development welcomed 42 Fellows (FCOVD) of the College of Optometrists in Vision Development. The newly certified participated in a formal induction ceremony in conjunction with the 51st Annual Meeting of the College of Optometrists in Vision Development, April 5-9, in Columbus, Ohio. To become a Fellow (FCOVD), the doctor must have graduated from an Accreditation Council for Optometric Education (ACOE)-accredited institution; been in active clinical practice for at least three years, at least two of which have included the direct diagnosis and management of vision therapy patients; completed 100 hours of relevant CE or a relevant residency program; successfully completed the guided study portion of the process set forth by International Examination and Certification Board (IECB) which includes 3 case reports and 6 open book questions as prescribed by the Fellowship Candidate Guide; and successfully completed the oral and written examinations according to the established criteria of the IECB. For more information about certification, please visit <https://www.covd.org/page/certification>.



Dr. Proctor was also the recipient of the 2021 Circle of Excellence Award. Northeastern State University faculty members were nominated by their peers in one of the three categories: teaching, research, and service. A selection committee of past honorees chose the best in each category for this recognition. Dr. Proctor was selected for teaching. Congratulations Dr. Proctor!

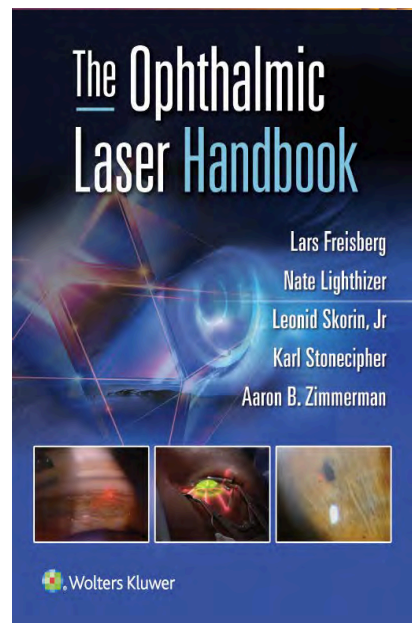
On October 6, 2021, The Ophthalmic Laser Handbook was published by Wolters Kluwer, serving as an all-in-one clinical reference guide for ophthalmic laser procedures that covers everything from indications and procedural techniques to contraindications and potential adverse events. Several NSUOCO faculty and alumni contributed to the book, including:

NSUOCO Faculty:

- Dr. Rich Castillo**
- Dr. Nate Lighthizer**
- Dr. Jeff Miller**
- Dr. Neal Whittle**

NSUOCO Alumni:

- Dr. Jason Ellen**
- Dr. Sophia Leung**
- Dr. Selina McGee**
- Dr. Myranda Partin**
- Dr. Andy Whitely**



NSUOCO News

Spotlight on Current Students!

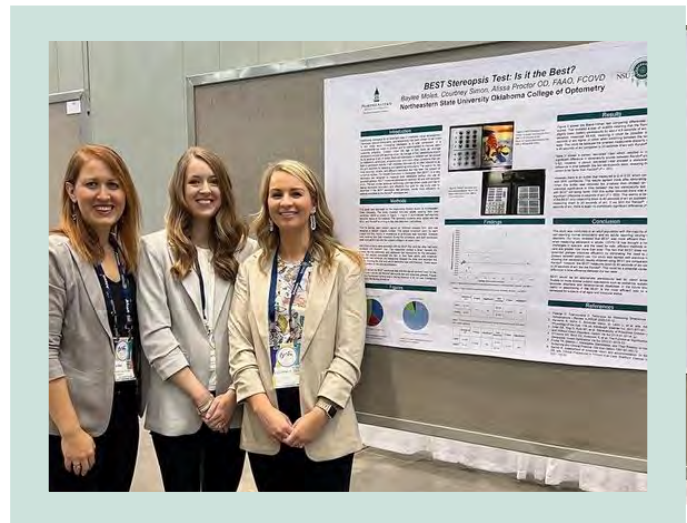


Please join us in congratulating two of our Fourth year students, **Claire Burbee** and **Alex Kinsinger** for winning the **2021 VSP AAOF Practice Excellence Scholarship!**

This award is bestowed annually by The American Academy of Optometry Foundation and VSP Global to two fourth year optometry students who have a commitment to enter independent practice and demonstrate excellence in both clinical performance and academics.

Thank you for representing NSUOCO well, Claire and Alex!

Dr. Alissa Proctor, Professor, presented alongside fourth-year optometry students and co-researchers **Baylee Moles** and **Courtney Simon** at the American Academy of Optometry Meeting in Boston, MA in November. Their research poster was titled *BEST Stereopsis: Is it the Best?* We are very proud of all our students, residents, and faculty who presented their research at the American Academy of Optometry in Boston in November of 2021!





NSUOCO News

White Coat Ceremony 2021

On November 19, 2021, NSUOCO held its 17th annual White Coat Ceremony for the current second year class. This year, the White Coat Ceremony was hosted by NSUOCO in partnership with the OAOP at the Marriott Tulsa Hotel Southern Hills as a part of the Converge Meeting.

The White Coat Ceremony is held in order to recognize the students who are progressing their optometric education from classroom to clinic. The presentation of the clinical coat signifies the beginning of the students' clinical education.

The coats, which were embroidered with each student's name, were presented to the students by Dr. Latricia Pack and Dr. Jeff Miller. The white coats were sponsored by Essilor.

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

- | | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| » Bryley Banks | » Dylan Hance | » David Ross |
| » Logan Blowers | » Jeremy Hutchinson | » Kendra Scott |
| » Drew Breedlove | » Amanda Idell | » Jackson Shetlar |
| » Jazmine Casias | » Marisa Jonas | » Christina Thompson |
| » Rebecca Clover | » Emily Laub | » RD Veracruz |
| » Dalton Cunningham | » Sabrina Le | » Kevin Walp |
| » Karlee Dearman | » Rachael Lockhart | » Hunter Wood |
| » Abbie Etter | » Carter Morrison | » Mackenzie Zora |
| » Kylie Feightner | » Stacie Newton | |
| » Blayke Haggard | » Cole Powlison | |

Congratulations to all of the second-year students. We are so proud of you!

NSUOCO News



Class of 2025



Jacob Allred



Derek Bryant



Tate Buster



Calvin Chandler



Karis Cheek



Cori Dorrell



Zachary Foree



Grant Gamble



Madison Gerk



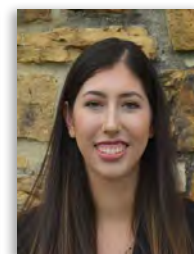
Brianna Germany



Frankie Goforth



Morgandy Haggard



Hayden Harness



Lorrin Hooten



Clint Kelley



Amy Lanzendorf



Travis Larson



Charlea Leonard



Chelsea Leonard



Amanda Liske



Maral Moradi



Ashley Oakley



Nathan Patron



Jennifer Perez



Jayton Salmans



Emma Strunks



Conner Swift



Haylee VanDeventer

NSUOCO News

Welcome Class of 2025!

We are so glad that you have joined the NSUOCO family.

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| » Jacob Allred
<i>Jenks, Oklahoma</i> | » Frankie Goforth
<i>Joplin, Missouri</i> | » Maral Moradi
<i>Lindale, Texas</i> |
| » Derek Bryant
<i>Winfield, Kansas</i> | » Morgandy Haggard
<i>Mustang, Oklahoma</i> | » Ashley Oakley
<i>Fayette, Missouri</i> |
| » Tate Buster
<i>Carnegie, Oklahoma</i> | » Hayden Harness
<i>Conway, Arkansas</i> | » Nathan Patron
<i>North Newton, Kansas</i> |
| » Calvin Chandler
<i>Reno, Nevada</i> | » Lorrin Hooten
<i>Harrison, Arkansas</i> | » Jennifer Perez
<i>Edmond, Oklahoma</i> |
| » Karis Cheek
<i>Fayetteville, Arkansas</i> | » Clint Kelley
<i>Tahlequah, Oklahoma</i> | » Jayton Salmans
<i>Dodge City, Kansas</i> |
| » Cori Dorrell
<i>Highland, Kansas</i> | » Amy Lanzendorf
<i>Belgrade, Montana</i> | » Emma Strunks
<i>Fort Smith, Arkansas</i> |
| » Zachary Foree
<i>Owasso, Oklahoma</i> | » Travis Larson
<i>Norfolk, Nebraska</i> | » Conner Swift
<i>Coweta, Oklahoma</i> |
| » James, Gamble
<i>Lenexa, Kansas</i> | » Charlea Leonard
<i>Allen, Oklahoma</i> | » Haylee VanDeventer
<i>Pawnee, Oklahoma</i> |
| » Madison Gerk
<i>Muskogee, Oklahoma</i> | » Chelsea Leonard
<i>Chelsea, Oklahoma</i> | |
| » Brianna Germany
<i>Afton, Oklahoma</i> | » Amanda Liske
<i>Pauls Valley, Oklahoma</i> | |



NSUOCO News

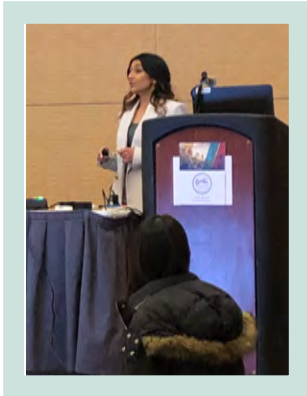
Welcome 2021-2022 Residents!

- » **Kory Allen**
Southern College of Optometry
- » **Nicole Auble**
The Ohio State University
- » **Kayla Cook**
NSUOCO
- » **Sweta Das**
Salus University
- » **Jennifer Eng**
Southern College of Optometry
- » **Hunter Grey**
Nova Southeastern University
- » **Michael Hall**
UC Berkeley College of Optometry
- » **Riley Laster**
Southern College of Optometry
- » **Hannah Munyan**
Midwestern University
- » **Khushbu Patel**
Western University of Health Sciences
- » **Komal Patel**
University of Waterloo
- » **Elaine Petry**
Midwestern University
- » **Hannah Sanders**
NSUOCO
- » **Cindy Shan**
University of Waterloo
- » **Victoria Soto**
University of Incarnate Word
- » **Chenyang Yang**
Illinois College of Optometry
- » **Michael Young**
University of Houston



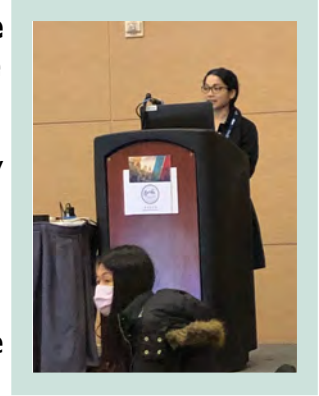
NSUOCO News

2021-2022 Residency Program Update



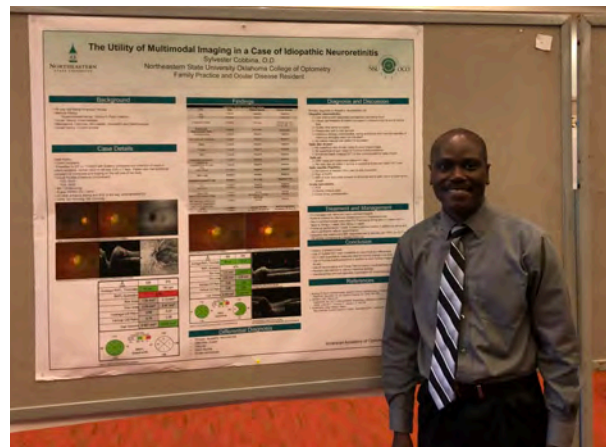
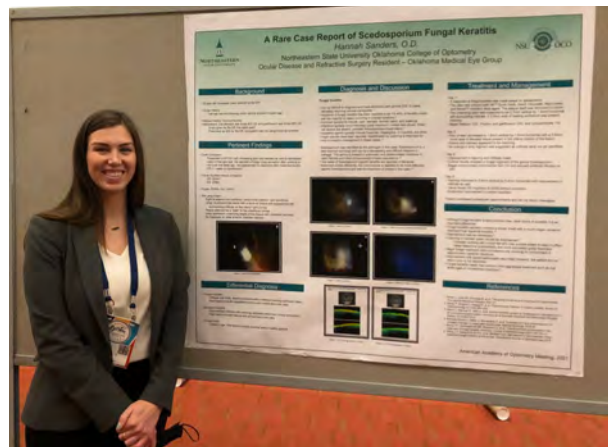
At the Annual 2021 Academy Meeting, we had two NSUOCO affiliated residents give paper presentations:

- Dr. Komal Patel- "Bilateral Panuveitis Secondary to Neurosyphilis"
- Dr. Sweta Das- "Drastic Improvement in Vision Following Surgical Excision of Juvenile Nasopharyngeal Angiofibroma with Compressive Optic Neuropathy"



At the Annual 2021 Academy Meeting, we had eight residents present posters:

- Dr. Hannah Sanders- "A Rare Case Report of Scedosporium Fungal Keratitis"
- Dr. Sylvester Cobbina- "The Utility of Multimodal Imaging in a Case of Idiopathic Neuroretinitis"
- Dr. Kory Allen- "A Not So Straightforward Case of Pigment Dispersion Syndrome"
- Dr. Kayla Cook- "Atypical Presentation of Sequential Optic Neuritis"
- Dr. Nicole Auble- "Managing Phacomorphic Glaucoma Secondary to Acute Angle Closure"
- Dr. Jade Brunsvold- "Unilateral Panuveitis with Associated Disc Edema and Serous Macular Detachment"
- Dr. Michael Hall- "Utilization of Scleral Lens to Maximize Visual Acuity After Open Globe Injury"
- Dr. Cindy Shan- "Management of Soft and Miniscleral Contact Lenses in a Young Adult with High Hyperopia"



NSUOCO News

Callie (Jordan) and Clyde Stinson Optometric Student Equipment Fund

On your road to becoming an optometrist, you undoubtedly overcame obstacles. The long hours of school, late night studying for exams, and of course the cost of tuition and equipment. You persevered and achieved a goal; something the late Callie (Jordan) Stinson knew plenty about. Born in 1910, Callie was rendered blind shortly after birth when a doctor administered improperly formulated eye drops. In spite of this, she thrived and achieved accomplishments that might have seemed impossible in a similar situation.

Callie was a fixture in the Tahlequah community, volunteering with the First United Methodist Church, organizing blood drives for the Red Cross and campaigning for Governor Nigh, amongst her other activities. She and her husband Clyde always gave back. Now her family strives to honor their memories by donating to another fixture of the Tahlequah community—Northeastern State University.

The family's ultimate goal is to provide equipment to all first-year optometry students at NSU free of charge, in perpetuity. Earlier this year, they established the Callie (Jordan) and Clyde Stinson Optometric Student Equipment Fund towards that goal. They ask that you join them, and please donate, whatever amount you can, to help foster the next generation of optometrists at Northeastern State. From now until June 2021, an anonymous donor will match your gift dollar for dollar up to \$25,000. Callie (Jordan) Stinson and her husband will be remembered as those who never let obstacles stand in their way; we look forward to continuing to honor them through this endowment.

For more information on the fund, please contact Jennifer Thurman by email at jthurman@cfok.org or by phone at 405-488-1450. To donate now, visit www.cfok.org/stinsonmatch. You can also mail checks with "Stinson Match" in the memo line to Communities Foundation of Oklahoma, PO Box 21210, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73156. Remember, if you give now, your gift will be matched.

Leslie Bennett Bell Optometry Scholarship Endowment

Established August 2021

Leslie Bell was born in Independence, Missouri in 1956. After obtaining degrees in elementary and special education, Leslie found that she was a student more than a teacher. She then asked to join and learn the family business as a fourth generation member.

Leslie's great granddad, Robert Elmer Bennett, founded Bennett's Jewelry and Optical Incorporated in 1909, then earned his CD by a 6-month correspondence course. Granddad Howard Andy Bennett was a jeweler and watch maker. Leslie's dad, Howard Andy Jr., was a journeyman optician who managed two labs in Kansas City, Missouri, before joining the family business. Leslie's brother, David Scott Bennett, earned his Doctor of Optometry degree from University of Missouri - Saint Louis College of Optometry and grew the business into Bennett Eyecare Midwest LLC.

Leslie is proud of being a fourth-generation optician, but is no less proud of her two successful, caring children and her wonderful husband of 37 years, Ron Bell.

NSUOCO News

The final chapter and proud achievement in Leslie's life was working in the NSU Oklahoma College of Optometry (NSUOCO) Spectacle Fabrication Lab ("Spec Fab Lab"). With the much-appreciated tutelage of supervisor Larry Johnsey, in addition to co-worker Scott Brewer and Dr. Alan McKee, Leslie has passed the Master's in Opticianry exam. Working with the students and faculty at NSUOCO has been most gratifying and instructive. As Leslie says, "I love learning!" This scholarship was established by Leslie and Ron with that motto in mind, to allow others to continue their studies in optometry at NSUOCO.

Awarding of the Scholarship

Required Qualifications of the Scholars

This scholarship has been created to provide annual scholarship monies to one or more full-time students at Northeastern State University. Qualified applicants must meet the following criteria:

- Be a student pursuing an OD at NSUOCO (may be any class year)
- Have financial need that is not met by family resources, tribal assistance, or governmental assistance such as Indian Health Services.
- Be passionate about learning

Application Process

This scholarship will be advertised by NSU's Scholarship Office. The application process will be managed by the NSU Oklahoma College of Optometry. The selection recommendation will be made by a committee composed of individuals selected by the Dean of the NSU Oklahoma College of Optometry.

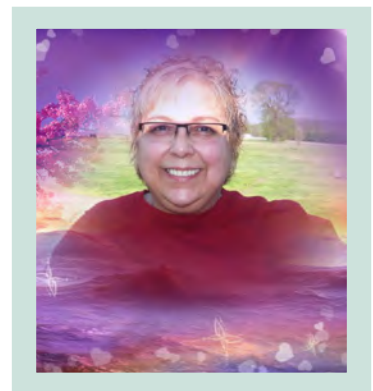
Amount of the Scholarship

The actual dollar amount of each scholarship awarded will be determined by the Executive Director of the NSU Foundation after a review of the money available in this scholarship fund. One-half of the annual award will be made for the fall semester. The second half of the annual award will be made for the ensuing spring semester if the scholar maintains at least a 3.0 GPA (4.0 scale). The scholarship is a one-year award. Previous scholarship recipients may apply and receive the award in consecutive years.

NSUOCO Olga Hoenes Scholarship

NSUOCO is proud to announce the Olga Hoenes scholarship which has been started thanks to contributions from alumni. Olga was a long-time administrative assistant whose wonderful spirit, warmth, and generosity impacted decades of students, staff, and faculty at NSUOCO. Her legacy will remain at NSUOCO for years to come. Ataloea "Olga" Hoenes departed this life in June of 2020 at the age of 64.

If you are interested in contributing to this scholarship, please contact the NSU Foundation at 918-444-4200 or foundation@nsuok.edu.



Alumni News

Spotlight On Alumni!



Dr. Michelle Welch

Congratulations are in order for Dr. Michelle Welch, recently named the American Optometric Association's "Distinguished Service Award" winner. Dr. Welch won the award for "her unusually significant contributions to the profession of optometry," which we have all been lucky enough to witness first-hand. This is a wonderful recognition of Dr. Welch's skill and dedication to optometry, as well as a national acknowledgment of the wonderful work being done in Oklahoma.

She is currently one of the staff optometrists for the Idabel Choctaw Nation Health Clinic. Prior to her start there in 2014, she worked at the Northeastern State University (NSU) College of Optometry for 19 years, serving as a professor, an associate dean, and the director of clinical care services. In addition to being a 1995 graduate of NSUOCO, she is a former

president of the Oklahoma Association of Optometric Physicians and a former member of several committees overseen by the Cherokee Nation governing standards of care in health care. She was honored with the NSU Circle of Excellence Award for Service in 2010 and was named the OAOP's Oklahoma Optometrist of the Year in 2013. She has taught dozens of continuing medical education courses that advance the profession of optometry and help to elevate the work of her colleagues.

Congratulations are also in order for OAOP member Dr. Denise Roddy, recently selected by the AOA Contact Lens and Cornea Section (CLCS) Council as the recipient of the 2021 Dr. Rodger Kame Award.

The Dr. Rodger Kame Award is given by the AOA CLCS in recognition of a section member who has been a true innovator and leader in the field of contact lenses and anterior segment disease.

The recipient of this award has demonstrated the following:

- Has unselfishly given service to the section during the past year(s) above what is normally expected.
- Has made a positive impact on fellow practitioners in the eye care field.

A 1988 graduate of NSUOCO, Dr. Roddy is an excellent choice, and her selection reflects well on the Oklahoma Optometry community.



Dr. Denise Roddy

Alumni News

Class of 1991 30th Reunion

Members of the NSUOCO Class of 1991 met for a 30-year reunion on the weekend of October 23-24, 2021. 16 out of the 24 classmates met at the Shangri La Resort on Grand Lake near Grove, Oklahoma. This was a great turnout for a 30-year class reunion. It was impressive and heartwarming to see how close this class was, and to watch everyone have a great time interacting back and forth. Dr. Nathan Lighthizer provided an overall school update to the class, as well as presented the new building update.



Alumni News

In Remembrance of Dr. Larry Fleck



Dr. Larry Fleck

Dr. Larry Eugene Fleck, Jr. passed from this life on Wednesday, July 21, 2021, in Tulsa, Oklahoma at the age of 56 years. He was married in 1985 to Lynette Sue (Bartels) Fleck. Larry went to Southeast Community College, Doane College and University of Nebraska in Lincoln to further his education. He was in the banking field for many years prior to a decision to pursue a career in optometry. In July of 1997, the family relocated to Tulsa, Oklahoma and then in 1998 moved to Owasso, Oklahoma. He attended Northeastern State University College of Optometry in Tahlequah, OK where he graduated in 2001. He worked as an optometrist in Bartlesville at Bennett Vision for Dr. Jamie Bennett, then obtained a new role in 2008 at Eyecare of Claremore working for Dr. Eric Kuykendall. His most recent place of employment was at Dr. Jeff Long's Children and Family Eyecare in Tulsa, where he worked alongside one of his good friends and optometry school classmates for over 4 years. Full obituary can be found at <https://www.wherrymortuary.com/obituary/Larry-Fleck>

WANT TO STAY IN THE LOOP?

Follow us on all of our social media accounts!





optometry.nsuok.edu