



*Scholarships and Awards*

**2020 - 2021**

## Academic & Clinic Awards

**Beta Sigma Kappa** is the international honor society of optometry. BSK is dedicated to stimulate scientific attainment and profound ethical practice, to support financially worthy research projects in vision science and to recognize academic achievement. Membership in BSK is based on academic criteria. Eligibility begins in a student's second year.

Those students are **Ameerah Al-Sadi, Brianna Albers, Kaylee Bobbitt, Jenna Dougherty, Matthew Endres, Paige Fielden, William Grovenburg, Aaron Meyer, Morgan Newton, Tiffanie Nguyen, Jadica Piela, Madeline Smith, Kevin Struble, Aubry Tackett, & Taylor Vincent.**

Third year class members are **Macy Arp, Ryann Barnes, Brett Beasley, Caleb Francis, Stephanie Fulton, Claire Keating, Jessica Livermont, Baylee Moles, Claire Moore, Katherine Nguyen, Heather Polson, Emily Rawlings & Anna Venizelos.**

Fourth year class members are **Hayden Black, Payden Cloud, Kayla Cook, Kristina Flaig, Camille Friday, John Gray, Derek Gurley, Christine McCracken, Tarah O'Neal, Joana Pantoja, Hannah Sanders, Ann Marie Sparacino, Paige Taylor, Brianna Weber, Karli Weise, & Curtis Zachry.**

The highest honor to receive is the BSK Silver Medal. The silver medal is indicative of the highest GPA in the class. Congratulations **Hayden Black, Kayla Cook & Ann Marie Sparacino.** They each maintained a 4.0 throughout Optometry school.

The NSU Clinical Excellence Awards are an acknowledgement to a small number of graduating students that have been selected by the clinical faculty as the most outstanding clinicians. The winners are **Kayla Cook, John Gray, Christine McCracken, Tarah O'Neal, & Karlie Weise.**

The Golden Retinoscope is NSUOCO's most prestigious award. It is selected by the clinical faculty. OAOP has graciously helped to sponsor this award. The graduating student who has demonstrated the most outstanding clinical skills is the winner and will receive a plaque and \$2,000. Congratulations **Hannah Sanders.**

**The NSU Honor Society Awards** are presented to students who demonstrate excellence in academic achievement, citizenship, leadership, group participation, moral and social development. All members hold a GPA of 3.5 or above. Recognition begins at the end of second year.

They are **Ameerah Al-Sadi, Brianna Albers, Macy Arp, Ryann Barnes, Brett Beasley, Hayden Black, Kaylee Bobbitt, Payden Cloud, Alex Coburn, Kayla Cook, Jenna Dougherty, Matthew Endres, Paige Fielden, Kristina Flaig, Caleb Francis, Brett Freeman, Camille Friday, Stephanie Fulton, John Gray, William Grovenburg, Derek Gurley, Will Hardgraves, Claire Keating, Nathan Kuykendall, Cindy Le, Jessica Livermont, Christine McCracken, Bryce McIntosh, Sarah Meinders, Aaron Meyer, Baylee Moles, Claire Moore, Morgan Newton, Katherine Nguyen,**

**Tiffanie Nguyen, Joey Nugent, Jadica Piela, Tarah O’Neal, Brooke Pankhurst, Joana Pantoja, Heather Polson, Emily Rawlings, Wesley Rushing, Hannah Sanders, Kelli Schaedel, Madeline Smith, Ann Marie Sparacino, Kevin Struble, Aubry Tackett, Paige Taylor, Anna Venizelos, Taylor Vincent, Brianna Weber, Karli Weise, and Curtis Zachry.**

**Kayla Cook** will be honored and receive the **NSU Graduate Academic Achievement Award** as the top graduate in the College of Optometry.

### **Scholarships & Awards**

**5-State Student Symposium** – The Case Presentation Awards went to the top 4 presenters who gave their presentation at the Symposium. They were:

First Place – **Kayla Cook** - \$500

Second Place – **Payden Cloud** - \$250

Third Place – **Hayden Black** - \$125

Fourth Place – **Bailey Burnett** - \$75

**Alcon Case Report Award** of \$1,000 is given to **John Gray** for the best, case report on successful contact lens wear and the impact of a healthy ocular surface.

**American Optometric Foundation (AOF) – J. Pat Cummings Award** - \$500 for a student demonstrating the ideal eye care standards of practice achievement in both academic performance and extra-curricular activities went to **Heather Polson**.

**American Foundation of Vision Awareness** created a scholarship for a second- or third-year student who exemplifies the values of the profession and whose spouse has played an important role in the support of the profession, \$1,300 to **Jenna Dougherty**.

**Award of Excellence in CL Patient Care** – fourth year student who demonstrates overall knowledge in the contact lens field, as well as, skillful, considerate and professional care of patients. \$500 to **Karli Weise**.

**Bob Thomason Memorial Scholarship** - \$1,125 applied to 2021/2022 tuition to a student from a single parent family with financial need. – **Angela Thampi**.

**BVA** - \$1,000 and a plaque is presented to a third-year student who demonstrates outstanding patient care skills voted on by faculty – **Macy Arp**.

**College of Optometrists in Vision Development (COVD)** – presents a plaque to an OS4 demonstrating outstanding clinical skills in Vision Therapy. The winner is **Ann Marie Sparacino**.

**Denise Spears-Roddy Award for Leadership** is given to a 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> year student who has been a leader within OOSA & AOSA, involved in service projects and has a good GPA. This year’s winner of \$3,350 is **Nathan Kuykendall**.

**Dr. Alison Lindorfer Memorial Scholarship** – based upon GPA and outstanding volunteer and community service. \$1,037 to be applied to Fall 2021 and \$1,037 to Spring 2022 tuition goes to **Aubry Tackett**.

**Dr. Debra Bezan Geriatric Scholarship** – to an OS3 who shows an interest and aptitude in working with geriatric patients. \$575 scholarship to **Jessica Livermont**.

**Dr. Hank Van Veen Scholarship** –Dr. Van Veen was the first faculty member hired at NSUOCO. This scholarship goes to one of the most outstanding OS3 students who exemplifies the value of the profession. \$1,000 (\$500 each semester) to **Courtney Simon**.

**Dr. Justin and Jennifer Lindsey Practice Management Scholarship** – to an OS3 in good academic standing with strong practice management skills. \$675 is awarded in the Fall 2021. The winner is **Baylee Moles**.

**Dr. Preston L. Smith Memorial Scholarship** - \$1,125 is awarded to a non-Oklahoma resident who exemplifies professionalism, kindness and has a willingness to serve. The winner is **Emily Rawlings**.

**Dr. Rick Darlington Memorial Scholarship** - of \$1,000 goes to a student with a combination of civic and college activities that promotes professionalism, dedication and integrity. The winner is **Nathan Kuykendall**.

**Dr. Sally Bodenhamer Memorial Scholarship** - is awarded to a third- or fourth-year student who plans to open a private practice and has been active in optometric student organizations. The award of \$1,000 goes to **Jessica Livermont**.

**Dr. Tim Jones Memorial Scholarship** – is awarded to a qualified applicant who is a member of a recognized minority. **Ameerah Al-Sadi** is awarded \$425 for the 2021/2022 school year.

**Elvin W. Fenton OD Scholarship** of \$375 goes to a third-year student with a promising career in private practice. **Heather Polson** is the winner.

**Eschenbach Award for Excellence** – A tray of Illuminated Hand-held Magnifiers for interest and aptitude in the field of low vision. Low Vision faculty selected **Brianna Weber**.

**Essilor Labs of America Student Award** - \$1,000 for outstanding skills and work ethic in spectacle fabrication goes to **Tara Comingdeer Fields**.

**Good-Lite Award** – Equipment valued at \$1,180 awarded to an OS3 with vision of incorporating pediatrics in their practice – **Baylee Moles**.

**GP Lens Institute Clinical Excellence Award** goes to a 4<sup>th</sup> year student who exhibits clinical excellence in the field of GP contact lens. Winner **John Gray** will receive a GP diagnostic fitting set.

**HOYA Vision Care Heritage Scholarship** was created to provide monies to a first-year Native American optometry student who excelled. **Blayke Haggard** was awarded \$1,150 for the 2020-2021 school year.

**HOYA Vision Care/Wilma Mankiller Scholarship** of \$1,350 for a Native American student recognized for outstanding GPA and service to the Native American population goes to **Dalton Cunningham** for the 2021/2022 school year.

**Jordan Twins Scholarship** was awarded to a first-year optometry student with leadership, volunteer activities and work experience with a demonstrated financial need. **RD Veracruz** was awarded \$3,375 for 2020/2021.

**Lynn A. Cyert Excellence in Pediatrics Scholarship** – Dr. Lynn Cyert was a faculty member for 29 years and twice served as Interim Dean. In her honor, a \$425 scholarship is awarded to **Christine McCracken**, for showing the most promise in pediatrics.

**Lynn A. Cyert Optometry Service Scholarship** – This scholarship goes to a student in good academic standing, a demonstrated financial need and a history of service activities. **Jessica Livermont** will be awarded \$650 in the Spring of 2021 and Fall of 2022.

**Marjory Bright Scholarship** - \$1,125 awarded to a student that will utilize the optometric profession to benefit their community – winner is **Aubry Tackett**.

**Mary Stratton Optometry Scholarship** – This is the inaugural award for this scholarship. It is to be awarded to an optometry student with one or more children living at home **Stacie Newton** will receive \$1,025.

**Optelec Excellence in Low Vision** – awarded to a graduating student who excelled academically and contributed to university service. The low vision starter kit is awarded to **Joana Pantoja**.

The **Overcoming Adversity** scholarship, funded by the Walls Family Trust, was established to assist a fourth-year student who has faced a difficult situation during their time at NSUOCO. Dr. Lesley Walls was Dean of the College of Optometry from 1987 to 1992 and was among the first faculty in 1979. Dr. Maryann Keverline Walls was also a part-time instructor in the College. The winner of this \$1,000 Overcoming Adversity award is **John Gray**.

**Regents Fee Waiver** This scholarship is awarded to graduate students at NSU based on academic performance, and/or financial need. The following students each received \$1000 for the Fall 2020 semester: **Logan Blowers, Emily Laub, Carter Morrison, & Cole Powlison**.

**RXO Tulsa** has established an award for a third or fourth-year student who has shown outstanding skills in the dispensary and spectacle fabrication lab. **Baylee Moles** is the winner of the \$2,500 award.

**Shamir** has created an award for excellence in spectacle fabrication. **Camille Friday** is the winner of the \$500 award.

**Southwest Contact Lens Society** honors students who demonstrated excellence during contact lens clinic. Receiving \$300 each are first place winners **Camille Friday & Christine McCracken**, receiving \$200 each are **Trenton Kellogg & Joana Pantoja**, receiving \$150 each are **Tarah O'Neal & Paige Taylor**, and receiving \$87.50 are **Brianna Weber & Karli Weise**.

**VSP** awards \$3250 to 2 students entering their fourth year, who have demonstrated excellence in primary eye care service, a commitment to enter the independent practice of optometry and an understanding of optometry's role as a primary health profession. The **VSP Class of 2021** award winners were **Kayla Cook & Kristina Flaig**.

**Vision Care Direct** has created an award for a 4<sup>th</sup> year student with skills in practice management techniques to maximize office efficiency. The winner of the \$2,000 award is **Hannah Sanders**.

**William Feinbloom Low Vision Award** of a low vision lens set is awarded to a student who has demonstrated outstanding achievements in low vision. **Ann Marie Sparacino** is the winner.

### **Leadership Awards**

The **NSUOCO Leadership Awards**, honoring our present leaders. Those leaders will receive a monetary appreciation. They are:

**Fourth Year Class:** President/Vice President – **John Gray**, Secretary – **Paige Taylor**, Treasurer – **Derek Gurley**

**Third Year Class:** President/Vice President – **Courtney Simon**, Secretary – **Claire Keating**, Treasurer – **Alex Butcher**

**Second Year Class:** President – **Aubry Tackett**, Vice-President – **Jackson Graham**, Secretary **Kaylee Bobbitt**, Treasurer – **Jadica Piela**

**First Year Class:** President – **Kylie Feightner**, Vice President – **Jazmine Casias**, Secretary/Treasurer – **Karlee Dearman**

**Oklahoma Optometric Student Association Officers**

President – **Ameerah Al-Sadi**, Vice President – **Dalton Cunningham**, Secretary – **Kendra Scott**,  
Treasurer – **Kevin Struble**, Treasurer-Elect – **Kevin Walp**

**American Optometric Student Association Officers**

Trustee – **Nathan Kuykendall**, Trustee-Elect – **Carter Morrison**

**OOSA/AOSA Awards**

**OOSA Outstanding Dedication and Commitment Award: Dr. Nathan Lighthizer**

**OOSA Member of the Year: Claire Keating**

**OOSA Leadership Award: Nathan Kuykendall**

**AOSA Student Involvement Award: Anna Venizelos**

**AOSA Leadership Award: John Gray**

**AOSA Outstanding Service: Madeline Smith**

**Individual Class Awards**

**Class of 2021 Outstanding Student: Paige Taylor**

**Class of 2021 Outstanding Classroom Professor: Dr. Joseph Shetler**

**Class of 2021 Outstanding Clinic Professor: Dr. Ryan Fenska**

**Class of 2021 Outstanding Overall Professor: Dr. Jeff Miller**

**Class of 2021 Outstanding Overall Staff Member: Josh Smith**

**Class of 2022 Outstanding Student: Claire Keating**

**Class of 2022 Outstanding Professor: Dr. Alissa Proctor**

**Class of 2022 Staff Member of the Year: Callista Verver**

**Class of 2023 Outstanding Student: Crosby Cooper**

**Class of 2023 Outstanding Professor: Dr. Jenna Lighthizer**

**Class of 2023 Staff Member of the Year: George McLaughlin**

**Class of 2024 Outstanding Student: Stacie Newton**

**Class of 2024 Outstanding Professor: Dr. Neal Whittle**

**Class of 2024 Staff Member of the Year: Alex Clover**