

JUNE
2017

EYE ON ALUMNI

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



NORTHEASTERN
STATE UNIVERSITY



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Upcoming Events

Alumni Events

September 9, 2017

NSUOCO Optic Cup Golf Tournament and Alumni & Friends Reception and Dinner

December 1, 2017

Reception and Dinner
Held at the Hard Rock Hotel and Casino in Tulsa

CE Events

July 6-9, 2017

July Advanced Procedures
Held at NSUOCO

December 1-2, 2017

A Terrific Tulsa Winter Weekend
Held at Hard Rock Hotel & Casino
*In the non-smoking section

September 9-10, 2017

Primary Eye Care Update

January 4-7, 2018

January Advanced Procedures
Held at NSUOCO
*Contingent upon enrollment

OAOP Events

June 21-25, 2017

Optometry's Meeting
Washington D.C.
American Optometry Association's annual conference

September 28-30, 2017

OAOP Fall Conference
Tulsa



Preserve our Past, ENSUre our Future

In fall 2010, the Northeastern State University Oklahoma College of Optometry (NSUOCO) launched its first dedicated fundraising campaign. Centered around projects identified as the College's most pressing needs and led by a steering committee co-chaired by Michael Bennett ('85) and Robert Zoellner ('90), the "Embrace the Vision" campaign raised \$1,421,405.

Among several priorities, the campaign targeted initial funds for planning and designing a new NSUOCO building on the Tahlequah campus. Although not fully funded at the end of the campaign, NSUOCO was able to supplement private donations to hire an architectural firm to lead the college through these important steps.

As the Embrace the Vision campaign was wrapping up in December 2014, NSU and President Steve Turner were preparing for a university-wide campaign. A feasibility study was conducted by the J.F. Smith Group, based in Auburn, AL, and included 99 personal interviews, three focus groups and over 1,350 online survey responses. When all of these respondents were asked to determine priorities for new construction from a list of six options, over 70 percent chose a new NSUOCO complex as a top priority.

April 2017 marks a milestone as Northeastern State University launches the public phase of its eNSUre our Future campaign. Based on success and enthusiasm generated by the initial "quiet" phases of the effort, President Turner is

lifting our campaign goal to the \$25 million level. Optometry is pleased to be included in both initial and long-term additional planning.

NSU's Oklahoma College of Optometry's sister institutions and competitors have recently—and are continuing to—substantially upgrade their facilities and clinics. First and subsequent impressions are important to recruiting top students, faculty and staff. The battle for support from industry and philanthropy, as well as the competition for grants, is also greater than it's ever been.

After 35 years of examining patients in a retrofitted residence hall (Wyly Hall) and a 1930s health care building (old W.W. Hastings Indian Health Service Hospital), the time has come to design a new Oklahoma College of Optometry facility. A new building is essential for NSUOCO to remain a leader in its field. By expanding the volume and nature of its clinical and educational services, NSUOCO will be able to provide an even stronger learning experience for its students.

According to NSU President Steve Turner, "NSU has and will continue to be an active community member with an interest in the needs and impact the university can have on individuals, our communities, our region and state. NSU will continue to embrace the vision of a university whose impact goes well beyond the borders of our campuses."

Benefits and features of the new Oklahoma College of Optometry facility include:

- Added appeal to the NSU campus and prospective students, residents, faculty, alumni and patients
- Strategically planned and appropriately sized facilities that are uniform, functional, and designed to support patient flow
- State-of-the-art technologies, incorporated throughout examination and training areas
- Telemedicine and conferencing capabilities for both on- campus and off-campus forums
- State-of-the-art medical records utilization and data storage
- Outpatient Surgery Center
- Modern and efficient heat, ventilation and air conditioning systems

NSUOCO is dedicated to innovative approaches and constantly examines how to improve the outcomes for graduates and the communities and patients served. The College also ensures that students receive an ever-higher level of learning. New facilities for NSUOCO will be dedicated to these goals and will bring new opportunities for innovation and creativity.

As Jordyn Barnwell, NSUOCO Class of 2016, says, "Last August, one of the new residents who came to us from a different Optometry program told a group of my classmates that she felt like we were better doctors as beginning third-year students than she was as a graduated doctor beginning her residency. I think that that statement speaks for itself."

To learn more, contact Peggy Glenn, NSU Director of Development, at glennsum@nsuok.edu or 918-444-4207.

EMBRACE
the **VISION**

THE CAMPAIGN FOR THE NSU OKLAHOMA COLLEGE OF OPTOMETRY

Preserve our past.
ENSURE
OUR FUTURE.



The Campaign for Northeastern State University

Continued Growth for Continuing Education

The past few years have been very busy for NSUOCO's Continuing Education Department. We are very proud of the caliber of CE that our program provides to optometrists throughout the United States and Canada. Last year we had the pleasure of hosting neuro-ophthalmologist, Dr. Leo Skorin from the Mayo Clinic to speak to our attendees at the Ocular Disease Update.

In addition to the annual Advanced Procedures course that is held in Tahlequah, the CE program has been invited to numerous states to educate optometrists on Laser and Surgical Procedures. This certification course allows optometrists to be informed, updated, and educated on the continuously expanding scope of practice.

In April, our team also traveled to Calgary, Alberta, for the third time in the

Continuing Education Requirements: All Oklahoma licensed optometrists are required to obtain twenty-five (25) hours of continuing education annually. Included in the twenty-five (25) hours are a maximum of three (3) Practice Management hours, a maximum of six (6) Remote Learning hours (which includes internet hours), and a minimum of one (1) Judicious Prescribing hour.

If you have any questions regarding past or future CE events, please contact Callie McAtee at 918-444-4033 or mcateec@nsuok.edu.

past two and a half years where we will certify optometrists in Oral Therapeutics, Glaucoma Management and Neuroimaging. The NSUOCO CE team has now certified nearly every optometrist in Alberta, totaling over 700 optometrists.

We are very excited to have had our 24th annual Ocular Disease Update this year on June 9-11 at Big Cedar Lodge. We welcomed the 2016 AOA Young OD of the year (and 2008 NSUOCO graduate), Dr. Christopher Wolfe, along with Dr. Spencer Johnson and Dr. Jason Ellen.

We hope to see you at the Primary Eye Care Update on September 9-10, 2017 where we will be honoring classes 1992, 1997 and 2007. As always, we appreciate your continued support of NSUOCO and the Continuing Education program.



New Scholarships

Dr. Tim Jones Memorial Scholarship

A new scholarship in memory of Dr. Tim Jones has been made available for optometry students years one, two and three. This scholarship awards \$200 to each the Fall and Spring tuition for a total of \$400 and seeks and gives preference to students recognized as a minority who are in good academic standing.

HOYA Vision Care Heritage Scholarship

Established in 2015, this scholarship has been created by HOYA Vision Care to recognize students with Cherokee or other Native American heritage who attend NSUOCO. Students must also have at least a 3.0 grade point average to receive this award.

Interested in starting a scholarship? Contact Sandy Medearis, Director of Student and Alumni Affairs at medearis@nsuok.edu.



Eye Ball

NSUOCO celebrated its 38th annual Eye Ball Spring Awards Banquet, held this year at the Hard Rock Hotel in Tulsa, OK, on April 8, 2017. Numerous scholarships are awarded every year to students in each class. We were also privileged to be joined by several special presenters from a host of different organizations.

If you are interested in starting a scholarship, contact Peggy Glenn, Director of Development, at glennsum@nsuok.edu. If you already sponsor a scholarship, we want to thank you for your continued support of our students and our school. We also want to extend a warm appreciation to this year's sponsors, including HOYA, Harrel Eyecare, Allergan, Essilor, RXO Tulsa, Kenmark, Vision Care Direct, NSU Alumni Association, Triad Eye Institute and EyeCare Associates of South Tulsa.



First Year Class and Spouses



Second Year Class



Third Year Class



Fourth Year Class

Special Olympics Lions Club International Opening Eyes

In May, NSUOCO students, faculty, staff, and alumni, along with other Oklahoma optometrists, once again participated in the annual Healthy Athletes program, specifically the Special Olympics Lions Club International Opening Eyes.

The Healthy Athletes program focuses on several aspects of health care, including Fit Feet (podiatry), FUNfitness (physical therapy), Healthy Hearing (audiology), Special Smiles (dentistry), Health Promotion (fitness and health), Medfest (physical exams) and Opening Eyes (vision).

The main initiatives of this program are to improve health care in all areas, refer athletes to necessary health care professions, train students and health care professionals in how to care for people with disabilities, collect and analyze data pertaining to intellectual disabilities, and continue to advocate for health policies and programs for those with intellectual disabilities.

Part of this program is Opening Eyes, designed to provide eye care to an increasing number of adults and children participating in the Special Olympics. Opening Eyes has performed over 200,000

eye assessments in 80 different countries around the world, prescribing and giving away more than 100,000 sunglasses, 90,000 prescription glasses and 20,000 sport goggles. Its contributions are improving the eye health of those with intellectual disabilities. Participating athletes receive a complete visual exam that focuses on five main areas: visual acuity, eye movement, eye health, prescribed glasses and on-site dispensed glasses.

Each year, Oklahoma has had an impressive turnout for a day's worth of work. However, with this success also comes a great need

for volunteers of various backgrounds, including optometrists, optometry students, technicians and opticians and others. Also, thanks to many donors, no athlete is charged a fee for the services and materials received.

We are proud to help sponsor this program and are grateful for the numerous volunteers and donors it takes to make Opening Eyes a reality. If you are looking for an opportunity to donate your time to a rewarding cause, consider volunteering for this program. Healthy Athletes is truly making a difference in the lives of many people.



Congrats to our Class of 2016 graduates!



2016 NSUOCO Graduates

2016 Graduates

Dr. Hillary Anderson
Dr. Brian Ayres
Dr. Jordyn Barnwell
Dr. Cecilia Billings
Dr. Daniel Blanco
Dr. Allison Brewer
Dr. Brent Cole
Dr. Sarah Cook
Dr. Alichia Cox
Dr. Evan Dunn
Dr. Katherine Galbraith
Dr. Jessica Greene
Dr. Marc Harrie
Dr. Lana Fisher Hess

Dr. Nerissa Klingelhofer
Dr. Anthony Giovanni Luongo
Dr. Laura Medlin
Dr. Nancy Molinar
Dr. Bao-Tran Pham
Dr. Chase Ratzlaff
Dr. Megan Schmoker
Dr. Scott Simon
Dr. Kevin Tomasu
Dr. Kevin Voigt
Dr. Mandi Whisenhunt
Dr. Kari Wilkerson
Dr. Ashley Zinser
Dr. Ashley Zodrow

2015-16 Postdoctoral Residents

Dr. Reuben Arunasalem
Dr. Nirav Bhatt
Dr. Ryan Bunch
Dr. Jennifer Chang
Dr. Lauren Eaton
Dr. Utang Ekpo
Dr. Phillip Ford
Dr. Samantha Giang
Dr. Steven Gutierrez
Dr. Abby Gillogly
Dr. Amie Marsh

Dr. Amasa Mecham
Dr. Adam Mueller
Dr. Justin Pao
Dr. Amy Philip
Dr. Jo Pongsatien
Dr. Jennifer Ramey
Dr. Jessica Robinson
Dr. Bret Seamons
Dr. Rozaliya Shimonova
Dr. Nicole Stout
Dr. Charles Tille

Congrats to our Class of 2017 graduates!



Dr. Isabel Baker, Professor Emeritus at Northeastern State University, was a guest speaker at this year's Convocation ceremony.



2017 NSUOCO Graduates

Dr. Tazia Cook	Dr. Laura Langford
Dr. Timothy Dalley	Dr. Pamela Martin
Dr. Cale Fulps	Dr. Bryce Mayes
Dr. Bryce Geiger	Dr. Reed McAtee
Dr. Seth Geiger	Dr. Kristin Patrick
Dr. Shaun Hajjari	Dr. Charles Philpy
Dr. Lacie Hale	Dr. Brent Roberts
Dr. Amy Haugeberg	Dr. Melissa Roetzer
Dr. Rebecca Heath	Dr. Rhiannon Sherrill
Dr. Lauren Hendrickson	Dr. Cameron Sikes
Dr. Kacy Henley	Dr. Sarah Stueder
Dr. Chad Hollifield	Dr. Jessica White
Dr. Jonathan Janzen	Dr. Kristen Worthen
Dr. Cassidy Kesler	Dr. Andrew Young
Dr. Priscilla Kier	



Dr. David Hall, Immediate Past President of the Oklahoma Association of Optometric Physicians, joined us this year to speak to the graduating doctors about the importance of being involved in state optometric associations.



Residency Program

Over the last 22 years, NSUOCO's Residency Program has expanded dramatically. Beginning with just one resident in 1995 when the program was started, we are now proudly offering a total of 22 seats each year.

In order to complete a residency through our program, applicants must have graduated from an accredited college of optometry in good standing and submit an application, cover letter, curriculum vitae or resume, three recommendation letters, optometry school transcripts, and an unofficial copy of their current NBEO scores. After this, an interview can be scheduled.

There are currently eleven areas of emphasis for optometric residencies, of which an applicant can choose to combine two, including:

- Family Practice Optometry
- Geriatric Optometry
- Vision Therapy and Rehabilitation
- Community Health Optometry
- Primary Eye Care
- Pediatric Optometry
- Ocular Disease
- Brain Injury Vision Rehabilitation
- Cornea and Contact Lenses
- Low Vision Rehabilitation
- Refractive and Ocular Surgery

NSUOCO offers residencies in various locations across the United States depending on the area of emphasis the resident chooses. These include NSUOCO clinics located in Tahlequah and Broken Arrow, optometric practices in Edmond, Oklahoma City, Tulsa, Elk City, the Womack Army Medical Center and Veteran Affairs Medical Center clinics located in Amarillo, TX; Fayetteville, AR; Mt. Vernon, MO; and Muskogee, OK. Residents are offered a stipend and other benefits for their work in these clinics.

While completing a residency is not a requirement, current Director of Residencies, Dr. Tara Brown, strongly encourages students to consider a residency upon graduating. Those who have completed residencies are more likely to receive better job opportunities and receive preference over those who have not completed a residency. The Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry (ASCO) also emphasizes the importance of a residency: "Completing a residency in optometry is a unique and invaluable experience! The rich rewards gained from the year of advanced clinical training under an experienced mentor serve to enhance career opportunities and add to the level of confidence the resident has when beginning his/her post-residency career."

For more information about the residencies we offer, feel free to visit our website: <https://optometry.nsuok.edu/ResidencyProgram.aspx>.



2016-17 Postdoctoral Residents

Dr. Daniel Blanco
Northeastern State University Oklahoma
College of Optometry

Dr. Alex Conley
Inter American University of Puerto Rico
School of Optometry

Dr. Nghiem Duong
University of Houston College of
Optometry

Dr. Janelle Engel
Salus University Pennsylvania College of
Optometry

Dr. Nicole Ethridge
University of Missouri-St. Louis College of
Optometry

Dr. Steven Gutierrez
Illinois College of Optometry

Dr. Riyad Khamis
University of Waterloo School of
Optometry and Vision Science

Dr. Tyler Kitzman
Southern College of Optometry

Dr. Nerissa Klingelhofer
Northeastern State University Oklahoma
College of Optometry

Dr. Benjamin Konig
University of Alabama at Birmingham
School of Optometry

Dr. Kimberly Kwong
Western University of Health Sciences
College of Optometry

Dr. Frank Mai
Salus University Pennsylvania College of
Optometry

Dr. Virginia Martin
University of Alabama at Birmingham
School of Optometry

Dr. Ashley Norum
Pacific University Oregon College of
Optometry

Dr. Clement Nwadozi
University of Waterloo School of
Optometry and Vision Science

Dr. Kyle Ohman
Ferris State University Michigan College of
Optometry

Dr. Bao-Tran Pham
Northeastern State University Oklahoma
College of Optometry

Dr. Brittany Phillips
University of Missouri-St. Louis College of
Optometry

Dr. Ashley Pylant
University of Incarnate Word Rosenberg
School of Optometry

Dr. Megan Shirey
Southern College of Optometry

Dr. Nicholas Taylor
University of Incarnate Word Rosenberg
School of Optometry

Dr. Ken Wan
University of Waterloo School of
Optometry and Vision Science

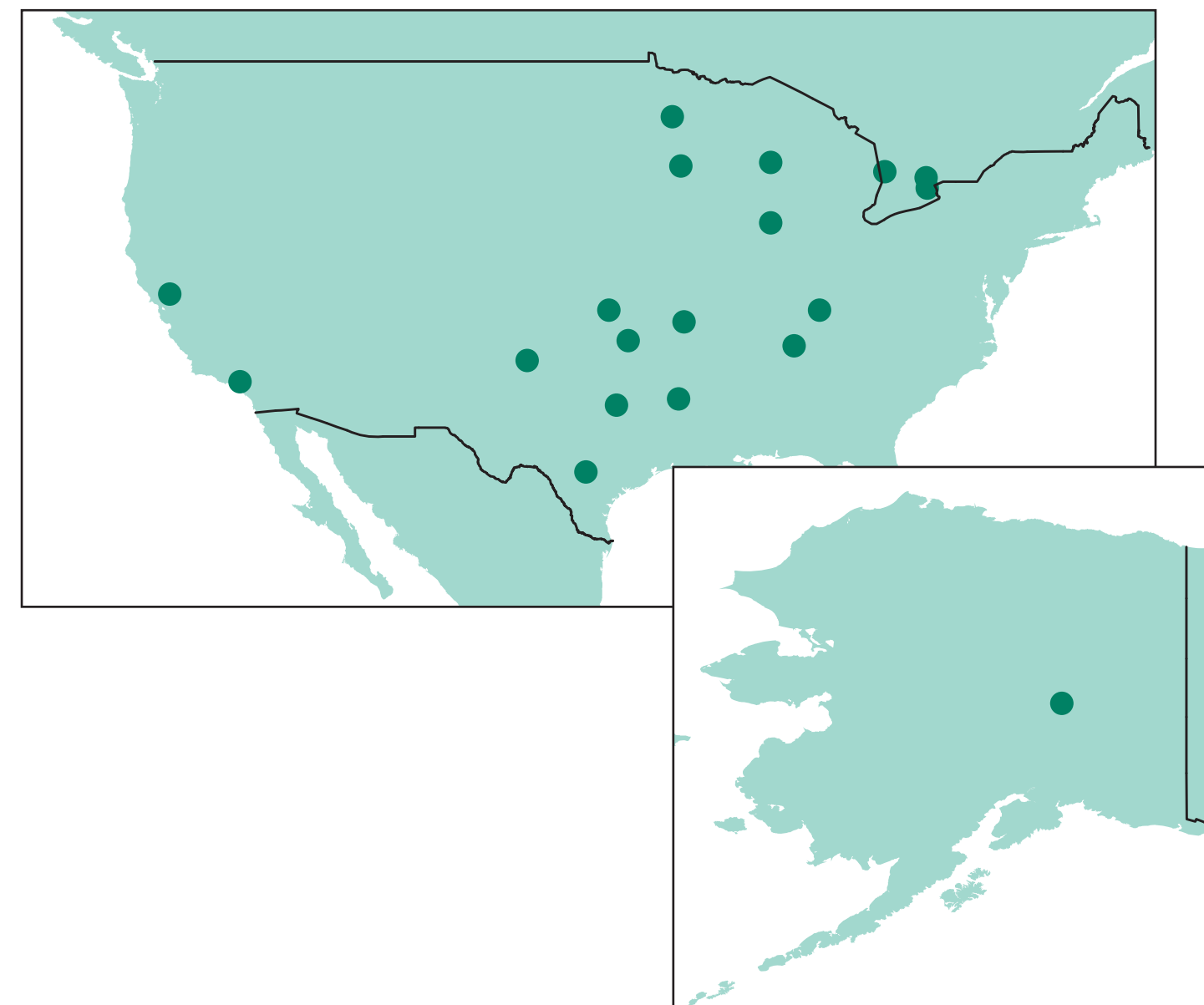
2016-17 Postdoctoral Residents Map

Carol Stream, IL
Fairfield, CA
Brentwood, TN
Richardson, TX
Northfield, MN
Rogersville, MO

Toronto, Ontario,
Canada
Bardstown, KY
Wichita, KS
Magnolia, AR
Aitkin, MN

Alhambra, CA
Amarillo, TX
Wichita, KS
Tulsa, OK
Tulsa, OK

Markham, Ontario,
Canada
Fairbanks, AK
Green Bay, WI
San Antonio, TX
Kincardine,
Ontario, Canada





Dr. Richard Castillo was this year's OAOP Distinguished Service Award recipient. This award goes to an Optometric Physician who has demonstrated leadership within the optometric profession. Since joining the NSUOCO team in 1996, Dr. Castillo has served as a clinical professor and surgeon and is currently serving as the Assistant Dean for Surgical Training and Education.

According to OAOP President Dr. David Hall, "Richard Castillo has literally changed the way optometry is practiced, not just in Oklahoma, but everywhere...He has helped increase NSUOCO's reputation as a prestigious location for eye health research, raised the bar for the entire profession, and, most importantly, helped implement new procedures that will improve the health of countless patients. I am proud to call him a colleague and a fellow member of the OAOP."

Dr. Castillo was also honored with a special citation from the Oklahoma House of Representatives for Outstanding Contributions to the Advancement of Surgical Optometric Care in Oklahoma in 2016. Congratulations, Dr. Castillo, on your achievements!



NSUOCO's **Dr. Nathan Lighthizer** was the recipient of the OAOP's 2016 Young Optometric Physician of the Year award. This award goes to an optometric physician who exhibits leadership in both the profession and his or her community. Dr. Lighthizer is our current Assistant Dean for Clinical Care Services and Director of Continuing Education, in addition to prominent speaker and lecturer at various optometric conventions across the nation.

As OAOP Executive Director Joel Robison states, "Dr. Lighthizer is one of our most knowledgeable, accomplished young Optometric Physicians...He is an internationally-known expert who has committed himself to ensuring that his peers are knowledgeable in cutting-edge vision care procedures. His work has helped to elevate optometry in Oklahoma and across the country" (qtd. in Tahlequah Daily Press).

Congratulations, Dr. Lighthizer, on your achievements!

In 2016, **Dr. Joseph Shetler** finished a literary project he had been working on for 20 years. Optometry has not been his only passion in life, spending many summer nights and weekends coaching Little League baseball. After the games, win or lose, he enjoyed documenting what lesson had been taught to the young ball players by his own expectations, passion and competitive nature during the game. After arriving at NSUOCO in 2013, Dr. Shetler compiled those short devotional notes into a book entitled *A Diamond in the Rough*. Written with the purpose of helping young fathers and coaches remember the impact their words and actions have in the lives of the players they mentor, the overall theme is to be intentional about the life lessons you are conveying and remember the eternal impressions of what you say and do may leave.



Dr. Salmon to Retire

After 21 years of service to our school, Dr. Thomas Salmon is retiring October 1. Dr. Salmon received his Bachelor of Science degree from Indiana University in 1977 and his Optometry Degree, also from Indiana University, in 1979. Upon finishing his residency at NSUOCO in 1992, he then returned to Indiana University to complete his PhD in 1999.

Before joining our faculty in 1997, Dr. Salmon served as an Army optometry officer in Japan from 1979-1983. During the next two years, he worked in a Japanese contact lens clinic in Tokyo while also attending language school, and then taught optometry in Japan for five years after that. In 1990, he returned to active duty to attend the US Army Command and General Staff College in Ft. Leavenworth, KS, and then moved to Tahlequah in 1991 to complete his residency.

When he left Japan in 1990, his ultimate goal was to become a professor at an American optometry college. Fortunately for us, that goal was met. While working here, his primary responsibilities have included teaching the courses Vision Science I, II and III; Research Methodology; Optometry Project I, II, and III; and Environmental Vision in addition to supervising some undergraduate research for the NSU Biology Department.

Dr. Salmon has been actively involved in the research aspects of the career. He has published three book chapters and a total of 32 journal articles, some published in the *Journal of Cataract and Refractive Surgery*, *Optometry and Vision Science*,

Journal of the Optical Society of America, *Clinical and Experimental Optometry*, *Journal of the American Optometric Association*, *International Contact Lens Clinics* and the *Journal of the Japan Contact Lens Society*. He has also written 99 online newsletters for CooperVision-Japan.

While we have been grateful to Dr. Salmon for his work in our school, he also, in his humble, appreciative way, has shown



his gratitude toward the school: "I am so thankful for the wonderful times I've had with the students, faculty and staff at NSUOCO...NSUOCO accepted me and provided me with such a wonderful experience both professionally and for my family."

He has won several awards during his teaching career, but according to him, the most precious awards he's received are the four OSII Outstanding Professor Plaques. Recently, at the 2017 Eye Ball Awards Banquet, he received the Outstanding Dedication and Commitment Award from the OSA. He has also been awarded the Vision Service Award by the Heart of America Contact Lens Society in 2016 and the Circle of Excellence for Research Award from NSU in 2003. In 2006, the student organization he supervised, JNSU (NSU-Japan), was inducted into the NSU Hall of Fame.

Teaching at 'OCO has created many memorable moments for Dr. Salmon: "Every day I've worked with students and colleagues at the college has been a blessing. I've been especially happy to celebrate milestones and achievements in the lives of my students, such as White Coat Ceremonies, Eye Balls, convocations and graduations. I've enjoyed non-academic fun with students also, such as intramural soccer, 5K races or eating out at restaurants." Dr. Salmon is known among the students to offer extra credit points if they can beat him in the annual Dr. Preston Smith Memorial Optometric 5K Classic—a fun goal many strive to achieve.

We will miss Dr. Salmon greatly, but we know he's looking forward to having more time to pursue his interests in optics, languages and firearms training as well as fix things around his house. Thank you, Dr. Salmon, for your contributions to both our school and the optometric profession!

New Faculty



Dr. Tara Brown, our new Director of Residencies, began working with NSUOCO during the summer of 2016 after retiring from the Department of Veteran Affairs, where she worked for 32 years. She completed both her bachelor and doctorate degrees with NSU, graduating from NSUOCO in 1984. When faced with the decision of what to do after her retirement, she was drawn to our school when remembering her experiences working with externs and residents earlier in her career. She knew then that she wanted to be a part of clinical education once again. Along with her responsibilities as Director of Residencies, she also works in our northern REP clinics two days a week, giving her a chance to do what she loves: educate students in clinical settings, helping them become not only better clinicians, but better people as well. When not working, she enjoys

writing for her scrapbooking blog, designing for a paper craft company, spending time with her nine grandchildren and learning Hebrew.

Dr. Jari Frazier joined our staff full-time in August 2016 after working part-time as an adjunct the previous year. An NSUOCO alumna and graduate of the class of 1987, Dr. Frazier spent 26 years working in a private practice in Hobart, OK. After selling her practice with the intention to retire, she decided to fill in for doctors in need around the area. Thanks to several doctors at NSUOCO, Dr. Frazier was then recruited to work for us, quickly becoming a student favorite with her pleasant personality and sweet treats. She loves working with the students, especially in clinic settings, and in her spare time, she enjoys making care packages for the students, cooking, and serving on OAOP committees. She is currently team-teaching Vision Science III with Dr. Hatley and working in Rural Eye Program clinics. She also serves as the chairman of the Federal Legislative Committee for the OAOP. NSUOCO is very fortunate to have her on our team!



Dr. Matthew Krein joined the NSUOCO faculty in January 2016 as an assistant professor after selling his practice in Elizabethtown, KY. He received his Bachelor of Science in Biology from OSU and his Optometry Degree from NSUOCO. He was drawn back to the school, saying, "After selling my practice, the College provided an excellent opportunity to share my practical and clinical experience with students...[and is a] rewarding way to practice full scope Optometry." He also appreciates the flexible schedule teaching gives him, allowing him to be involved in other aspects of the profession, including the OAOP's leadership optometry group. Dr. Krein teaches Anatomy and Physiology; works primarily in the cataract, specialty care, adult walk in and general clinics; and participates in the research project and peer review committees. Aside from his work, Dr. Krein enjoys spending time with his young family and keeping up with college football (when time allows).



Dr. Sarah Krein, after working as an REP doctor and clinical professor for NSUOCO and then owning and selling a private practice with her husband, Matt, in Elizabethtown, KY, returned to NSUOCO in 2016 as an assistant professor. Feeling strongly that this is where she's meant to be, Dr. Krein states, "The best thing about working here is the students...I love watching them work hard and develop into clinicians and then push themselves to think and manage patients like doctors...Working in academia is a unique and unconventional way to practice optometry, but for me it's perfect." Her current responsibilities include Vision Therapy Clinic Chief, professor for both Binocular and Perceptual Disorders and Ocular Anatomy, faculty mentor/provider for elementary school screenings, and research faculty advisor to some third- and fourth-year clinicians. "I

really enjoy being at an institution that is leading the nation in our optometric education. We practice full scope optometry, and we teach full scope optometric care." Dr. Krein is also a busy mother of two, and loves spending her extra time with her young kids.

NSUOCO Faculty

Dr. Nirav Bhatt
Clinical Assistant Professor

Dr. Tara Brown
Assistant Professor / Director of Residencies

Dr. Emily Bruce
Assistant Professor

Dr. Saunya Burkhart
Clinical Assistant Professor

Dr. Leland Carr
Assistant Dean of Development / Professor

Dr. Richard Castillo
Ophthalmologist / Assistant Dean for
Surgical Training and Education

Dr. Wesley DeRosier
Professor

Dr. Ryan Fenska
Clinical Assistant Professor /
Clinical Administrator

Dr. Jari Frazier
Assistant Professor

Dr. Jonathan Hatley
Assistant Professor

Dr. Spencer Johnson
Associate Professor

Dr. Matthew Krein
Assistant Professor

Dr. Sarah Krein
Assistant Professor

Dr. Jenna Lighthizer
Associate Professor

Dr. Nathan Lighthizer
Associate Professor /
Assistant Dean for Clinical Care Services /
Director of Continuing Education

Dr. John Lindsay
Clinical Assistant Professor

Dr. Alan McKee
Professor

Dr. Earlena McKee
Professor

Dr. Jeffrey Miller
Professor

Dr. Latricia Pack
Professor

Dr. April Parker
Clinical Assistant Professor

Dr. Douglas Penisten
Dean of College

Dr. Alissa Proctor
Associate Professor

Dr. Thomas Salmon
Professor

Dr. Bret Seamons
Clinical Assistant Professor

Dr. Joseph Shetler
Assistant Professor

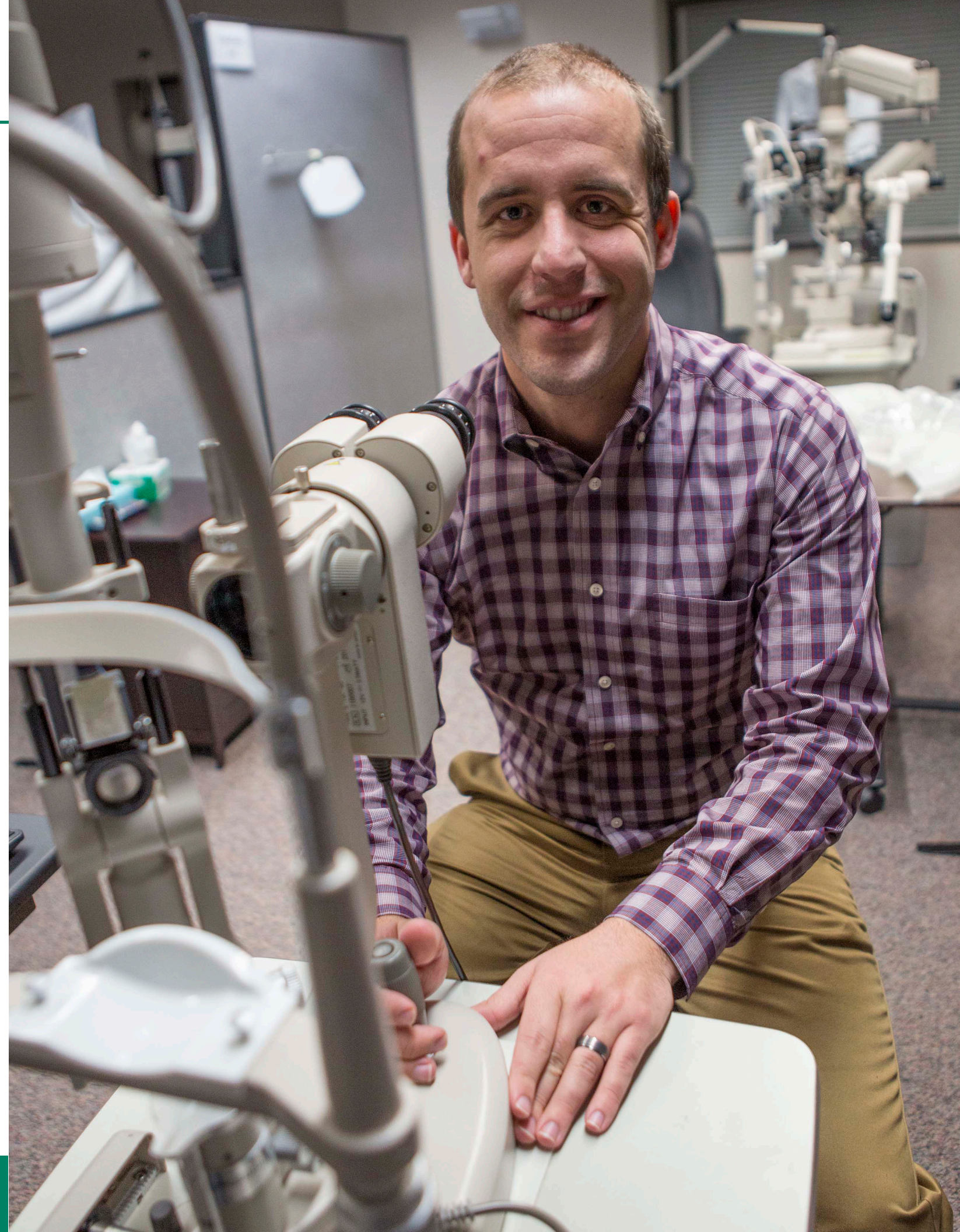
Dr. David Simpson
Assistant Professor

Dr. Heidi Thoden
Clinical Associate Professor

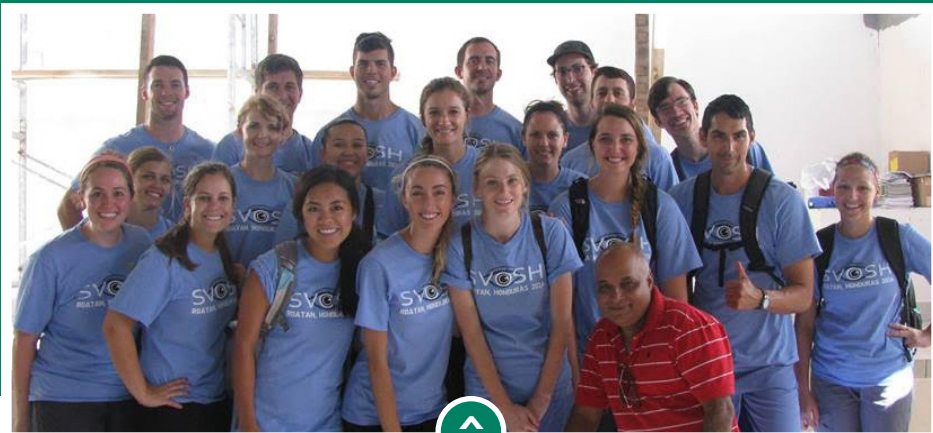
Dr. Neal Whittle
Assistant Professor

Dr. Kippi Wyatt
Associate Dean

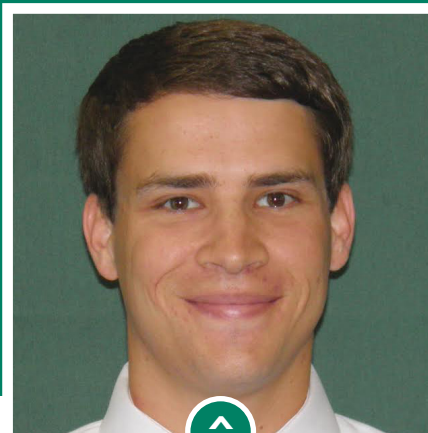
Dr. Bryan Young
Clinical Assistant Professor



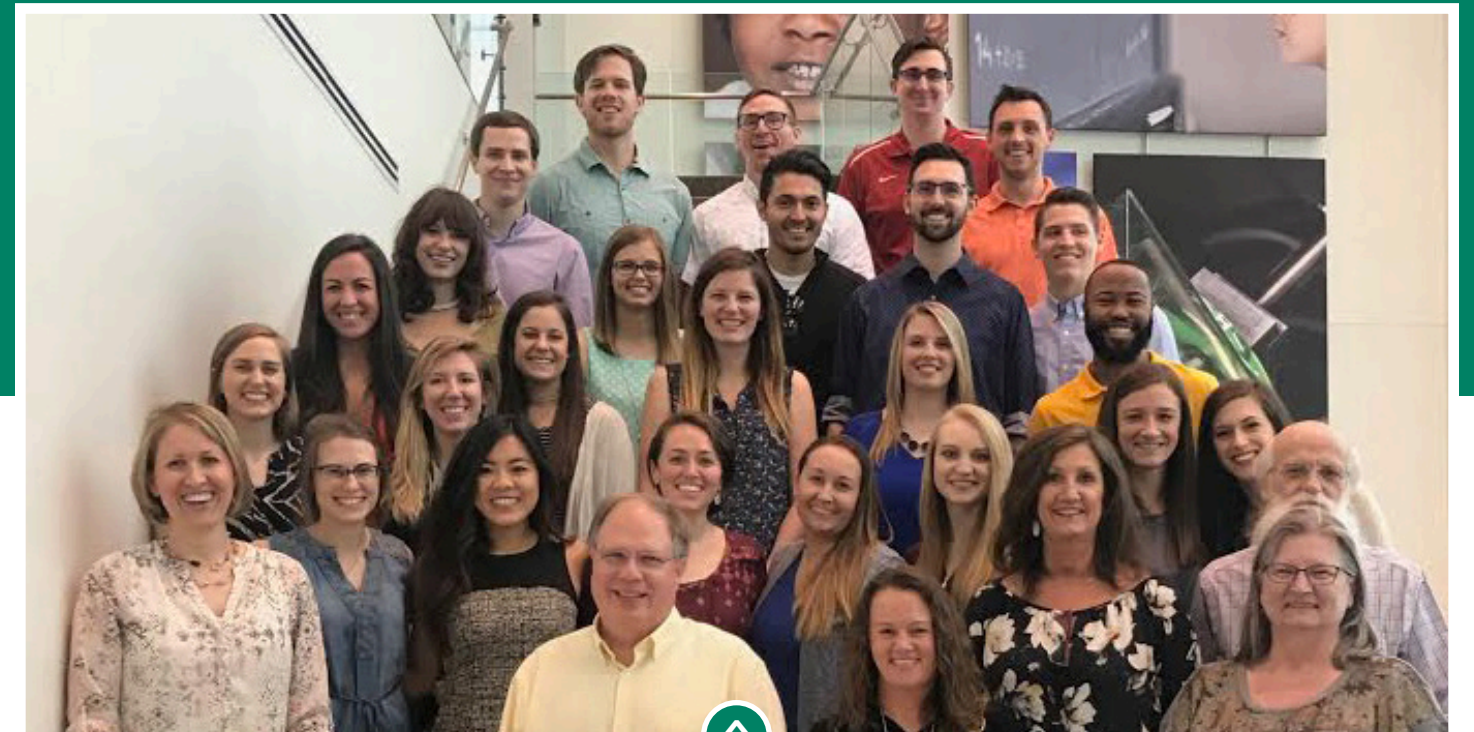
Student Success



Student Volunteer Optometric Services to Humanity (SVOSH) at NSUOCO is growing and thriving. Since the first trip to Roatan, Honduras in 2009, our group has grown to over 60 student members and has served over 7,000 patients. Last year, our group returned to Roatan with 15 students, four doctors and one spouse/staff member. This summer, a team of 20 plan to return to island life July 22-29, 2017. We love having alumni doctors join our team and serve alongside us. If you have any interest in joining a team in the future, have a donation (monetary, equipment or glasses/frames/lenses), or just want to know more, please contact Dr. Alissa Proctor at proctor1@nsuok.edu. Thank you for your support.



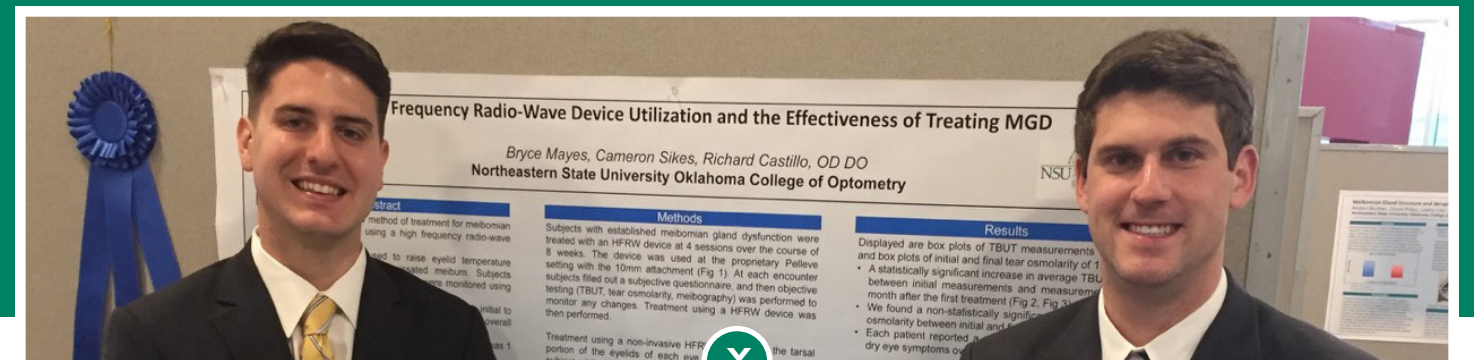
Once again NSUOCO students attended our annual Student Bowl to cheer on their classmates for their chance to be this year's 'OCO student representative at the Optometry's Meeting in Washington, D.C. this June. Sporting his "Santa" costume in lieu of the "Seasons" theme and the OSIII's choice of Winter, Judson Chevalier rose to the top in this fun-filled competition. Other seasons represented were Fall (OSI) and Summer (OSII).



The Class of 2018 traveled to Dallas, Texas to tour the Essilor Labs of America facilities in April. Accompanied with them are faculty members Dr. Alissa Proctor and Dr. Alan McKee and staff members Mindy Latty, Sandy Medearis, Penny Watson, and Larry Johnsey.



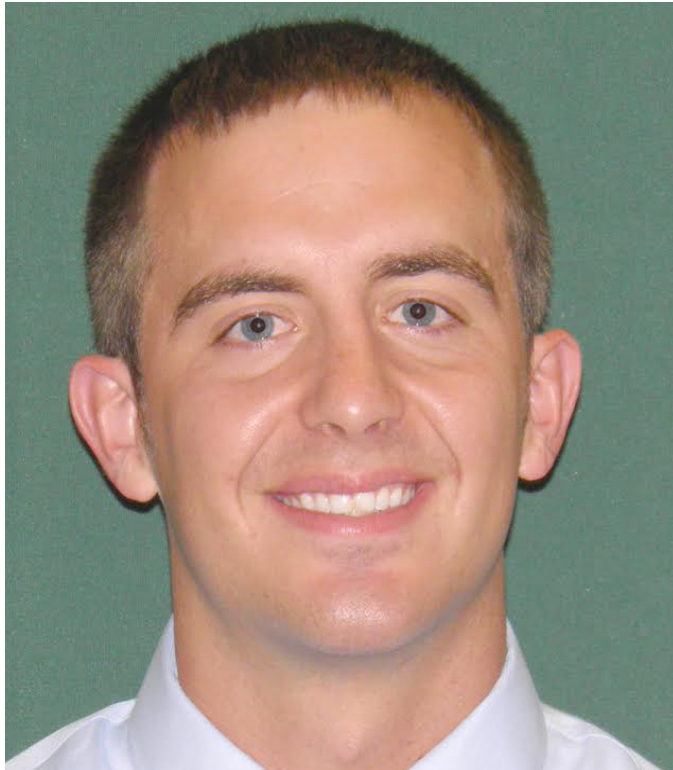
Both this year and last, many students and faculty members attended Capitol Day in Oklahoma City hosted by the OAOP. Each event gave students and faculty members the unique opportunity to view the legislative process and advocate for the profession while having chances to meet several legislative members.



Researchers from the NSU Oklahoma College of Optometry (NSUOCO) presented their findings at the recent Heart of America Contact Lens Society (HOACLS) meeting in Kansas City on February 11. Nearly 1,000 doctors from across the country attended the 3-day meeting, which included a scientific poster session. Of the 36 posters selected for presentation, 20 were from NSU. The HOACLS awarded \$2,000 checks for five outstanding posters, including two awarded to NSUOCO students. Their poster titles were: "MGD Treatment: Comparison of MiboFlo and Bruder Warm Compress" by Reed McAtee, Rebecca Heath and Dr. Nathan Lighthizer; and "High Frequency Radio-Wave Device Utilization and the Effectiveness of Treating MGD" by Bryce Mayes, Cameron Sikes and Dr. Richard Castillo.

Graduate Plans

Bright futures are in store for our graduating Class of 2017! Among the class are three featured students who have shared with us their future plans.



Bryce Geiger plans to move back to his hometown of Snyder, OK to join his father's optometry practice in Altus, OK along with his brother Seth, another 2017 graduate. Their father is Mike Geiger, alumnus of NSUOCO as well. When asked his favorite memory from his time at 'OCO, he responded: "I will always look back and cherish the great friendships my family has made while in Tahlequah. I can't imagine there being a better group of people than the students, faculty and staff that NSUOCO has." Good luck, Bryce!



Priscilla Kier plans move to Texarkana, TX to join Texarkana Eye Associates while pursuing a Master of Business Administration degree. Texarkana Eye Associates is owned by NSUOCO alumnus Dr. Elvin Fenton. She will also be working with Dr. Sean Summers, another alumnus of our school. Priscilla's favorite memory from her time here was the Congressional Advocacy Conference in Washington, D.C. while serving as the OSA President. "The experience drove home for me how important it is that we stay active and vigilant within our profession." She hopes to remain active within her community and home state's optometric association in the future. We wish you luck, Priscilla!



Bryce Mayes will be joining Kid's EyeSite of Oklahoma City and Premier Eyecare of Edmond. There he will be working with his brother, Dr. Brandon Mayes and his wife, Dr. Amber Mayes, both graduates of NSUOCO. His favorite times at 'OCO have been spending time with his class on the annual float trip on the Illinois River along with other various trips over the past four years. We wish you well on your new optometric adventures!



The Lesley L. Walls Vision Center

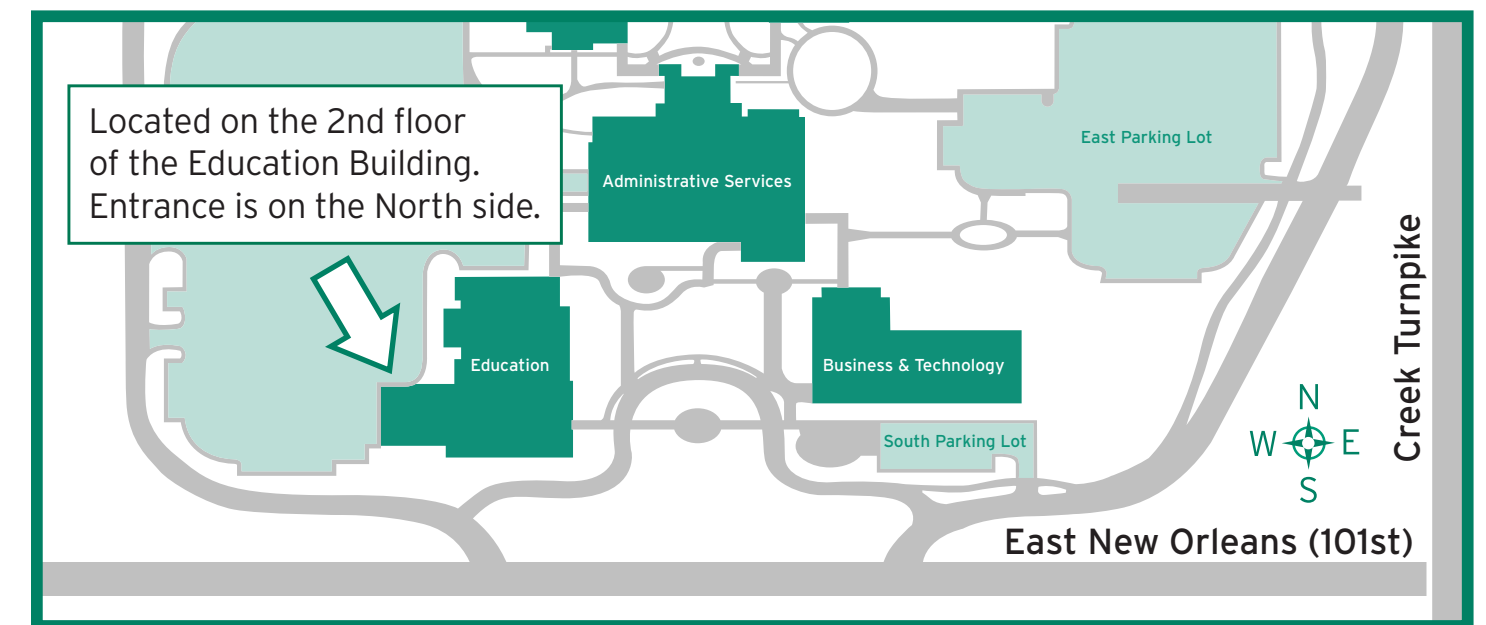
Since opening in January of 2014, The Lesley L. Walls Vision Center at Northeastern State University-Broken Arrow has had the pleasure of serving hundreds of patients experiencing vision loss. The clinic primarily serves the Tulsa metro area, but has even had patients travel from Arkansas, Kansas and Texas for care.

According to Dr. David Simpson, Low Vision Specialist, the Walls Vision Center manages to make a positive impact on the community in a number of different ways.

“First of all, we’re helping to improve the quality of life of our patients with devices and recommendations. Secondly, the clinic provides our students and residents a foundation of low vision knowledge, so that they can go out and assist patients after they graduate. Local optometrists and ophthalmologists also benefit from being able to offer low vision services to their patients.”

The Walls Vision Center has now provided low vision experience to over 100 optometry students. This June, the clinic will also see its second Low Vision Rehabilitation Resident, Dr. Benjamin Konig, complete his residency.

If you have any questions about the Walls Vision Center, or if you’re interested in referring a patient, please contact the office manager, Wes Smith, at smithwj@nsuok.edu or 918-449-6210.





Optic Cup

Dear NSUOCO Alumni,

Greetings! Northeastern State University Oklahoma College of Optometry's chapter of the American Optometric Student Association (AOSA) will be hosting our 30th annual golf tournament—the Optic Cup—on Saturday, September 8 at the Cherokee Springs Golf Course in Tahlequah, Oklahoma. The student-organized tournament is held annually to help assist students attending at AOA/AOSA national optometry conference. The conference is an excellent opportunity for students to hear from nationally renowned speakers, interact with other students from across the nation, meet with vendors and possibly discuss practice opportunities.

The Optic Cup is open to alumni, faculty, students, optometric physicians and company representatives, as well as family members and friends of those previously listed. We would like to invite you to participate in this great event. The \$90 registration includes green fee, cart, beverages, lunch and prizes. We do ask that you reserve a place for you and/or your team in advance as we are limited to 100 participants. Registration will begin at 7:30 a.m. on the day of the tournament. Tee time will be 8:00 a.m. Lunch will be provided at noon upon completion of the tournament. The tournament will be played in a four-person scramble format and we will gladly place you on a team if needed. You will also have the ability to sponsor students to play in the tournament if you are unable to attend in person.

If you are interested in sponsorship, each of the 18 holes will be available for recognition. Platinum, Gold or Silver Sponsorship of a hole entitles the organization to a sign honoring their contribution at the hole and their logo on the back of the tournament T-shirt. Platinum Sponsorship (\$700+) includes entry for two representatives to play in the tournament. Gold Sponsorship (\$500) includes entry for one representative to play in the tournament. Silver Sponsorship will be available for \$300. Bronze Sponsorship includes the organization's name recognized on a sign displayed at the registration table and is available for \$150. Additionally, any lesser monetary donation or donation of a product would be greatly appreciated and recognized.

We expect this tournament to be the largest and best-represented tournament to date. Please consider supporting NSUOCO and participate in a wonderful event. Feel free to contact us if you have any questions concerning the event or your donation. Thank you so much for your consideration, and we hope to see you all in September!

Sincerely,

Jordan Mayhew, class of 2018

Golf Tournament Chair
405-474-5957
jordan.l.mayhew@gmail.com

Bradley Daniel, class of 2019

Golf Tournament Chair-elect
214-208-9363
daniel04@nsuok.edu

Alumni News



Congratulations to Dr. Jeff Miller for receiving the 2017 Oklahoma OD of the Year Award. Dr. Miller graduated from the University of Oklahoma with a Bachelor of Science in Microbiology

and received his Optometry degree from Northeastern State University Oklahoma College of Optometry in 1988.

Dr. Miller received our Alumni of the Year Award in 1994, along with the Young OD of the Year Award in 1993. Throughout his career, he has served as the past president of the Oklahoma Association of Optometric Physicians and participated in several OAOP committees and community service and leadership programs. Thank you Dr. Miller for your years of service to optometry!



Dr. Tyson Allard is this year's recipient of the Oklahoma Young OD of the Year Award. This award is designated to optometrists who have practiced less than ten years and demonstrate

leadership in both their communities and the optometry profession. Dr. Allard is a 2010 graduate of Northeastern State University Oklahoma College of Optometry.

Before opening Allard Eye Care in Hobart, Dr. Allard served as an optometric physician for three years at Vance Air Force Base. In addition to his involvement with the OAOP, he is also currently a Major in the Oklahoma Air Guard. Congratulations, Dr. Allard, and thank you for your service to the optometric profession!



NSUOCO is proud of Dr. Christopher Wolfe, selected as the American Optometric Association's 2016 Young Optometrist of the Year. After graduating in 2008, Dr. Wolfe has been an active member in the

optometric community, working with his father in their practice Exclusively Eyecare, serving as co-chair of the Nebraska Optometric Association Legislative Committee along with several other NOA projects, participating in the KMK Educational Services program, lecturing across the country at different optometry schools, participating in the Optometry Giving Sight program, volunteering for the InfantSee program, and giving assessments through the See to Learn Program. His significant contributions have not gone unnoticed. Thank you, Dr. Wolfe, for your service to and advancement of the optometric profession!



Congratulations to Dr. Jason Rhynes on receiving the OAOP's 2016 Optometric Physician of the Year award. Dr. Rhynes has served on the Oklahoma Health Care Authority's Medicaid Advisory

Committee and has collaborated with the OAOP and OHCA to create a plan to continue to provide high-quality vision care to those in the Medicaid program. He has also served as past president of the Lions Club and was voted Lion of the Year. Dr. Rhynes is 2002 graduate of NSUOCO. Thank you Dr. Rhynes for your work in serving the Oklahoma population and advancing the optometry profession!



Dr. Glenn Partin of Partin Eyecare was named one of America's Best Physicians this year by the National Consumer Advisory Board. Dr. Partin has been practicing in Mustang, OK since

1984, serving the optometric community for over 30 years. Dr. Partin is a 1984 graduate of NSUOCO. Congratulations, Dr. Partin!

