

JUNE  
2018

# EYE ON ALUMNI

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



**NORTHEASTERN**  
STATE UNIVERSITY







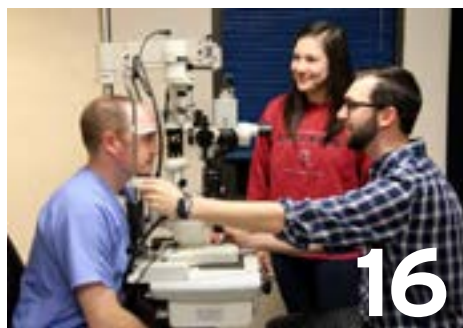


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The official newsletter of the Northeastern State University Oklahoma College of Optometry



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# Upcoming Events

## Continuing Education

**July 12-15, 2018:  
July Advanced Procedures**

NSUOCO  
Tahlequah, Oklahoma

**Sept. 8-9, 2018:  
Primary Eye Care Update**

NSU Event Center  
Tahlequah, Oklahoma

**Nov. 30 - Dec. 1, 2018:  
4th Annual Tulsa Winter  
Weekend at the Renaissance**

Renaissance Hotel  
Tulsa, Oklahoma



## Alumni Events

**Sept. 8, 2018: NSUOCO  
Optic Cup Golf Tournament**

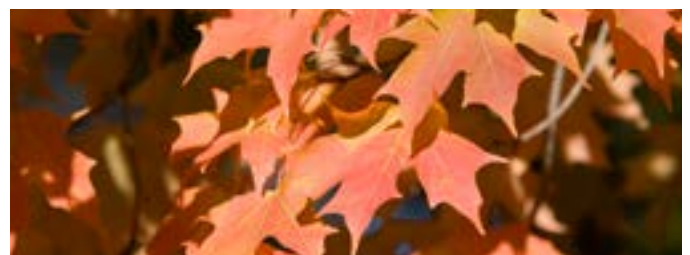
Cherokee Springs Golf Course  
Tahlequah, Oklahoma



## OAOP Events

**Sept. 20-22, 2018:  
OAOP Fall Conference**

Tulsa, Oklahoma





# 4th Annual Tulsa Winter Weekend

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Join us for a getaway before the holidays! This year we will hold our Fourth Annual Tulsa Winter Weekend at the Renaissance Hotel in Tulsa, Oklahoma on Nov. 30 - Dec. 1. Our 2018 year's speakers will feature Dr. Nathan Lighthizer, Dr. Jeff Miller and Dr. Neal Whittle. Receive 10 hours of COPE approved CE and finish your holiday shopping all in one weekend!

Please check our website for further details and updates, or contact Callie McAtee at **918-316-3602** or **mcateec@nsuok.edu** for information. We look forward to seeing you!!

<https://optometry.nsuok.edu/ContinuingEducation/ScheduleofEvents/TulsaWinterWeekend.aspx>



# Don't Miss the 2018 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 31st annual golf tournament—the Optic Cup—on Sept. 8 at the Cherokee Springs Golf Club in Tahlequah, Oklahoma. The student-organized tournament is held annually to help assist students attending the 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 fees, 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 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. The deadline to register or sponsor is Aug. 31, 2018.

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,

Bradley Daniel, Class of 2019  
Golf Tournament Chair  
214-208-9363  
[daniel04@nsuok.edu](mailto:daniel04@nsuok.edu)

Brock Helfrich, Class of 2020  
Golf Tournament Chair-elect  
620-682-5726  
[helfrich@nsuok.edu](mailto:helfrich@nsuok.edu)





**Many teams participated in last year's Optic Cup. Shown above, Krystal Rogge ('18), Doug Rogers (HOYA Representative), Kristen Harris ('18), and John Choate (OSIV) formed a team for the competition.**



# Eye Ball 2018

Northeastern State University Oklahoma College of Optometry's 39th annual Eye Ball Spring Awards banquet was held at the University of Arkansas Bowl in Fayetteville, Arkansas on April 21 with a Great Gatsby theme. Many students were awarded scholarship monies for academic excellence, clinical achievement, leadership initiative, dedication to the profession and acts of service.

If you are interested in establishing a scholarship, please contact Sandy Patrick, Director of Student and Alumni Affairs, at [medearis@nsuok.edu](mailto:medearis@nsuok.edu), or Peggy Glenn, Director of Development, at [glennsum@nsuok.edu](mailto: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, EyeCare Associates of South Tulsa, OMEG, Triad Eye Institute, Vision Care Direct, Harrel Eyecare, Kenmark and Essilor.







*Judson Chevalier*

Judson Chevalier is the recipient for the 2018 Golden Retinoscope Award, given to one deserving student of the graduating class for academic and clinical excellence. He also received the Northeastern State University Graduate Academic Achievement Award as the top graduate in the College of Optometry.



*Judson Chevalier*



*Kalyn Fuchs*



*Melanie Newcomer*



*Travis Partin*



*Stephanie Uchida*

This year, NSUOCO had five exemplary students graduate with a 4.0 GPA, earning the highest honor from Beta Sigma Kappa: the Beta Sigma Kappa silver medal.



*Cassie Le*



*Melanie Newcomer*



*Myranda Partin*



*Travis Partin*



*Seth Rich*



*Kiri Rutledge*



*Katie West*

Seven students were recognized and awarded the NSUOCO Clinical Excellence award for demonstrating outstanding clinical skills in patient care. These awards are determined by a faculty vote.

# Alumni News



## **Dawn Holsted, O.D.**

Congratulations to Dr. Dawn Holsted on her new role as the Oklahoma Association of Optometric Physicians (OAOP) Treasurer. Holsted is a 1991 NSUOCO graduate and recipient of the 1997 OAOP Young Optometrist of the Year award.



## **Jeff Miller, O.D.**

Congratulations to Dr. Jeff Miller for receiving the 2018 Oklahoma Association of Optometric Physicians (OAOP) Distinguished Service Award. Each year, this award is given to an Optometric Physician who has shown exemplary leadership within the optometry profession.

"[Dr. Miller] has worked to improve eye care both locally and nationally, having served on several OAOP committees and been formerly recognized as Optometric Physician of the Year. 'Dr. Miller is highly respected amongst his peers...He deserves all accolades, he is a great man, doctor and member of our profession'" (Dr. Jamie Bennett quoted in OAOP's "Distinguished Service" Webpage). Miller is a 1988 graduate of NSUOCO.



## **Jason Ellen, O.D.**

1999 NSUOCO graduate Dr. Jason Ellen is currently serving as the new Oklahoma Association of Optometric Physicians (OAOP) President for 2018, taking over for past President, Dr. Michelle Welch. Ellen works with the Oklahoma Medical Eye

Group in Tulsa. He was also the recipient of the 2005 OAOP Young Optometrist of the Year award. Congratulations, Dr. Ellen, on your new role!



## **Ryan Parker, O.D.**

Congratulations to 2004 NSUOCO alumnus Ryan Parker on his new role on the professional relations team at Essilor of America. "His dynamic style, keen clinical and management insights along with a successful history of growing a thriving

independent practice in Oklahoma are only a few of the many skills Parker brings to the team" (Essilor News).

***WE NEED YOUR UPDATED CONTACT INFORMATION!***

In order to better maintain our records, please consider updating your contact information using the following Google form: <https://goo.gl/m1sHrU>. Thank you!



# Alumni News



## Scott Mendell, O.D.

Congratulations to Dr. Scott Mendell on receiving the Oklahoma Association of Optometric Physician's 2018 Young Optometrist of the Year award. Each year, this award is given to a young Oklahoma optometric physician who demonstrates

exceptional leadership within the optometry profession and his/her community and has practiced for less than ten years.

Mendell, working alongside his wife in their two practices, Pauls Valley Eye Clinic and Purcell Vision Source—is a 2010 graduate of NSUOCO. "Dr. Mendell demonstrates remarkable leadership within our profession. He puts his patients at ease with his great attitude and is very thorough at explaining diagnosis and treatment options. Dr. Mendell's primary objective is positive outcomes for his patients - it's obvious he cares greatly for their quality of life. Dr. Mendell is relatively new to our profession and he will, no doubt, continue to make his impact on optometry and inspire his colleagues for years to come" (Past OAOP President quoted in OAOP's "2018 Young O.D. of the Year" Webpage). Great work, Dr. Mendell!



## Selina McGee, O.D., FAAO

Congratulations to Dr. Selina McGee on her new role as the Oklahoma Association of Optometric Physicians (OAOP) President Elect! Currently working for Precision Vision in both Edmond and Midwest City, she is a 2002 graduate

of NSUOCO and recipient of the 2012 OAOP Young Optometrist of the Year award.



## Todd Wright, O.D.

Congratulations to Dr. Todd Wright for receiving the 2018 Oklahoma Optometric Physician of the Year award, the OAOP's most prestigious honor. Each year, this award goes to an Oklahoma optometric physician who demonstrates professional

excellence in the workplace as well as leadership in advancing vision health across the state.

Currently practicing at Stonebridge Eye Care in Edmond, Oklahoma, Wright is a 1988 graduate of NSUOCO. His work within eye care has reached local, national and international levels. Amongst his many accomplishments, Wright served as the OAOP President in 2004-2005, has been inducted into the Pioneers of Optometry Hall of Fame, and has found time to train for and compete in the 15K Tulsa Run twenty-five times, as well as several other marathons.

According to Past OAOP President Dr. Michelle Welch, "Dr. Wright's unwavering commitment to optometry and his continued service to the public makes him someone we can all look up to, whether you are a neighbor or a fellow optometric physician. I can think of no one more deserving to win Optometric Physician of the Year" (OAOP's "2018 Optometric Physician of the Year"). Great work, Dr. Wright!

## SHARE YOUR NEWS!

Share your news! We would love to feature your news in the "Eye on Alumni" newsletter. Contact Brooke Johnson at [johns283@nsuok.edu](mailto:johns283@nsuok.edu) with story ideas or alumni news items.

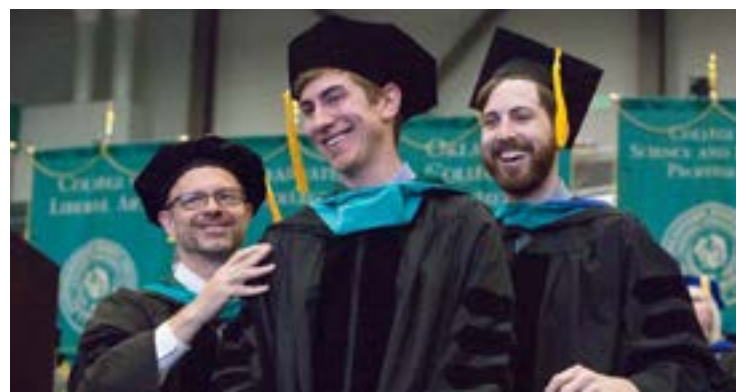
# Congrats to our Class of 2018 graduates!



*Each year, the incoming class recites the Optometric Oath during Orientation in the fall. The next time they recite the oath is at their Convocation ceremony, nearly four years later. Congratulations on your accomplishments and good luck to all as you go forth on new adventures to practice and enhance optometric care!*



*Dr. Selina McGee, President Elect for the Oklahoma Association of Optometric Physicians and 2002 NSUOCO alumna, offering OAOP greetings to the graduates.*





# 2018 NSUOCO Graduates

Britton Adams, O.D.

Louis Blowers, O.D.

Austin Byrum, O.D.

Nicole Chaney, O.D.

Caitlin Chevalier, O.D.

Judson Chevalier, O.D.

Randy Cox, O.D.

Jacqueline Duong, O.D.

Maygen  
Enochs-Wilson, O.D.

Kalyn Fuchs, O.D.

Connor Gallentine, O.D.

Kristen Harris, O.D.

Emma Hendricks, O.D.

Alfonso  
Hernandez Jr. , O.D.

Cassie Le, O.D.

Jordan Mayhew, O.D.

Natalie McCord, O.D.

Melanie Newcomer, O.D.

Hanh Nguyen, O.D.

Audrie Ousley, O.D.

Myranda Partin, O.D.

Travis Partin, O.D.

Seth Rich, O.D.

Krystal Rogge, O.D.

Kiri Rutledge, O.D.

Stephanie Uchida, O.D.

Katherine West, O.D.



*Dr. Christopher Quinn, current president of the American Optometric Association, gave the main address for the Convocation ceremony.*

# 2017-18 Postdoctoral Residents

**Zachery Baumfalk, O.D.**

Southern College of Optometry

**Andrew Benedict, O.D.**

Indiana University School of Optometry

**Andrea N. Briggs, O.D.**

MCPHS University College of Optometry

**Allison K. Coleman, O.D.**

University of Missouri at St. Louis College of Optometry

**Curtis A. DuBois, O.D.**

University of Missouri at St. Louis College of Optometry

**Elizabeth Escobedo, O.D.**

Midwestern University - Arizona College of Optometry

**Erelda Gene, O.D.**

MCPHS University College of Optometry

**Nicholas R. Green, O.D.**

Ohio State University College of Optometry

**Jeremy J. Hauptman, O.D.**

Midwestern University - Arizona College of Optometry

**Rebecca A. Heath, O.D.**

Northeastern State University Oklahoma College of Optometry

**Kelsey B. Hensen, O.D.**

University of Missouri at St. Louis College of Optometry

**Mattiew K. Hoogland, O.D.**

Pacific University College of Optometry

**Anita M. Jacob, O.D.**

University of Houston College of Optometry

**Pamela A. Martin, O.D.**

Northeastern State University Oklahoma College of Optometry

**Charles E. Ronan, O.D.**

Indiana University School of Optometry

**Kaitlin Spikes, O.D.**

Southern College of Optometry

**Stephanie M. Stanley, O.D.**

Southern College of Optometry

**Casey J. Wilgenbusch, O.D.**

Illinois College of Optometry



*2017 NSUOCO alumna, Dr. Rebecca Heath (left) and Dr. Pamela Martin (far right) celebrating their nearly completed residencies through our program at the Convocation ceremony.*



# 2017-18 Postdoctoral Residents' Hometowns Map

Tucson, Arizona

Orange City, Iowa

Bellflower, California

Blue Gap, Arizona

Danville, Arkansas

Fremont, Nebraska

Dallas, Texas

Meriden, Connecticut

Broken Arrow, Oklahoma

Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

Lincoln, Nebraska

Tulsa, Oklahoma

Fort Collins, Colorado

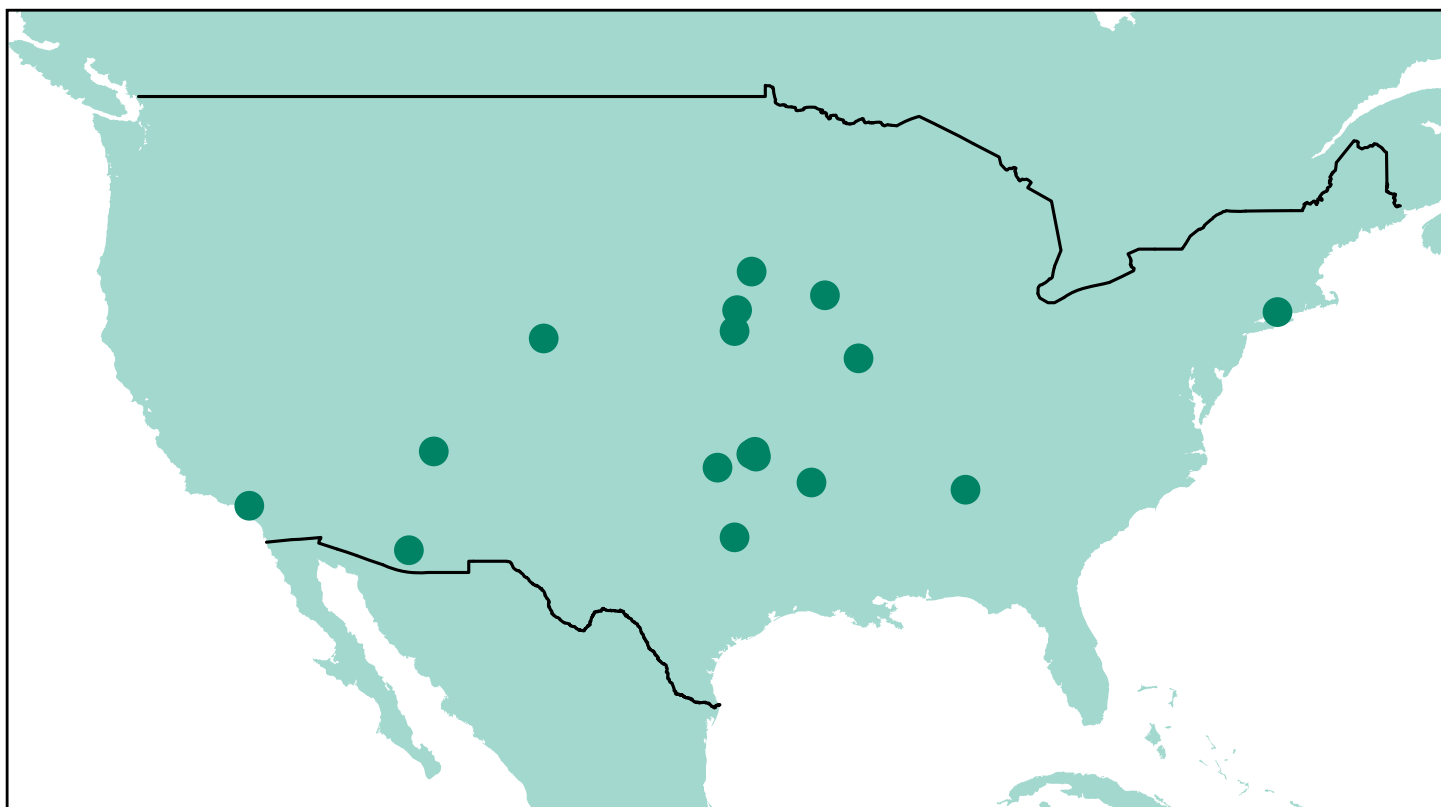
Huntsville, Alabama

Owasso, Oklahoma

Dallas, Texas

Hannibal, Missouri

Vienna, Iowa



*11 of the 18 residents participated in the Convocation ceremony, receiving a pin for their year of work.*



*2017-18 Postdoctoral Residents*

# Cherokees have used NSU optometry clinic for 39 years

*Printed with permission of the Cherokee Phoenix. Article and Picture by Lindsey Bark of the Cherokee Phoenix. Published in the Cherokee Phoenix on 4/20/2018.*

TAHLEQUAH - Northeastern State University's Oklahoma College of Optometry goes back 39 years in its relationship with the Cherokee Nation and in providing Cherokees eye care.

NSUOCO works with nine CN clinics, also known as Rural Eye Programs, in Tahlequah, Sallisaw, Stilwell, Jay, Salina, Vinita, Nowata, Muskogee and Ochelata and services 40,000 to 60,000 patients annually.

Its first graduating class was in 1983 and has since averaged 28 graduates annually from its four-year doctorate program.

The NSU campus clinic contains 20 exam rooms and specialty clinics for dry eye, contact lenses, low vision, vision therapy and infant vision clinic. If a REP is unable to provide a type of eye care, patients are sent to the NSU clinic for further evaluation and treatment.

Nate Lighthizer, NSUOCO Continuing Medical Education director and doctor of optometry, said the college has seen patients from 2 months old to 102 years old.

"We all have different vision needs. That's one of the beauties of having a

college is we have 35 faculty members that are either here, in (W.W.) Hastings (Hospital) or in the REPs, and a lot them have different interests. We have doctors that specialize in infant vision and vision therapy. They're the expert in the 6-month-old and the 2-, 3-, 4-, 5-year-old. Other doctors, they're the expert in the 80-year-olds," Lighthizer said.

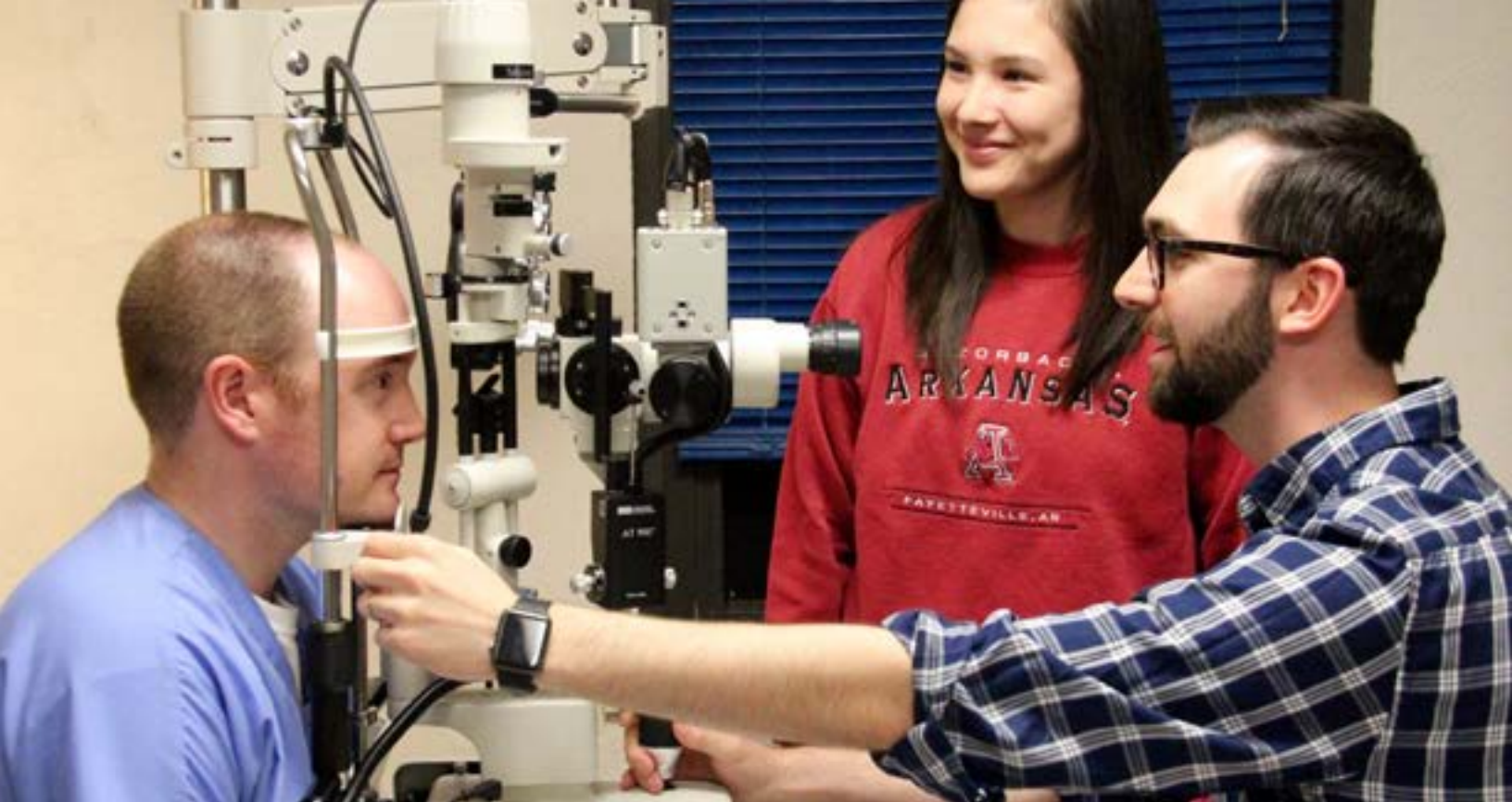
He said students begin in "didactically heavy" classes, building foundations and learning about systemic diseases, eye diseases, procedures when giving primary care, looking at the eye with microscopes and other program aspects.

He said students begin seeing patients at the end of the second year and into the third year.

CN citizen and fourth-year student Seth Rich said he applied for the NSU program because of the experience it would give him treating patients by the time he graduates.

"I'm from this area, so I wanted to serve basically in the population that I grew up in. Here at NSU we see more patients compared to any other optometry school by the time we graduate. We have more patient interactions that any other optometry school is going to have and more clinical experience because we start seeing patients a year early than most other schools," he said.





Rich said he also has experience using the REPs and seeing the eye care needs among Cherokees.

“We deal with a lot of diabetic patients here at Cherokee Nation, and that has a really large effect on the eyes. Being able to be in this area and serve a population that has a huge need for us is a big deal because I personally have a lot of family ties to this area want to be in a community where I feel like I’m going to be contributing and giving back and helping the overall health of the population with health and exams,” he said.

Rich said the program prepares students to “go out into the real world” and treat patients of any need. “I feel very confident going out into the population and serving basically anybody that walks in the door.”

CN citizen Tara Comingdeer Fields, who is in her first year at NSUOCO, said she

chose the program because of her area ties. “It’s not specifically just Cherokee Indians that I want to serve, but overall Native Americans. My background is I grew up in a traditional family, so the medicines and traditions that we did just kind of stuck with me, and now I want to help people.”

Comingdeer Fields and Rich are recipients of Indian Health Services scholarships for optometry and will work under an IHS contract upon graduation.

Lighthizer said CN citizens make up between 10 to 15 percent of the NSUOCO’s students and that it’s usually rewarding for a Cherokee to grow up using CN eye care services and then go through the program and become a provider. “It’s just a very mutually beneficial relationship between Cherokee Nation to be able to have all of these patients seen and then obviously for the education for students to be able to see patients and hone their skills.”



## Dr. Allen McKee

Each year, two Northeastern State University faculty and two staff members, campus-wide, are awarded the President's Model the Way award. These individuals "exemplify service above self, tireless effort to promote the mission of the University, and a sense of community and collegiality among their fellow employees." One of those faculty awards went to NSUOCO's Dr. Allen McKee (Class of '96).

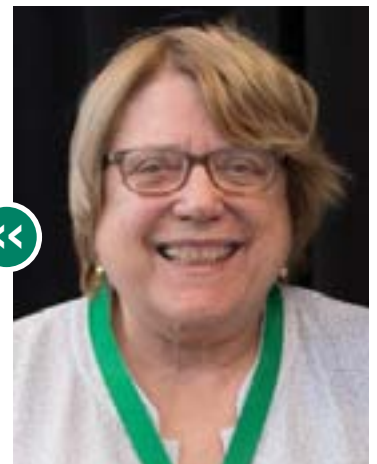
Dr. McKee has served the college through many roles. His teaching performance, specifically in Contact Lenses III, was recognized for its immersive learning style. He also serves as the Director of Optical Services for NSUOCO and has spent many hours helping with renovating areas in the basement, including the ophthalmic optics teaching laboratory, ophthalmic optics edging laboratory, anatomy and physiology laboratory, cadaver laboratory and restrooms. He played a significant role during the transition to our electronic health records system, Revolution, and serves on many college committees, in addition to several other roles.

Honorees receive a monetary award in addition to an engraved plaque to be displayed in the Administration Building on the NSU Tahlequah campus.

Congratulations, Dr. McKee, on this prestigious award!

## Dr. Lynn Cyert

Professor Emeritus Lynn Cyert, Ph.D., O.D., FAAO was inducted as a Northeastern State University Centurion in the spring of 2018. Cyert joined the NSU faculty in 1981—teaching Vision Systems III and IV, Pediatric Optometry, Public Health and Community Optometry, Environmental Vision and Optometric Clinical Methods I; serving as interim dean both in 1986-87 and 2009; and receiving multiple research awards, in addition to receiving the NSU Faculty of the Year Research Award in 1995-96—before retiring in 2010.





# NSUOCO News

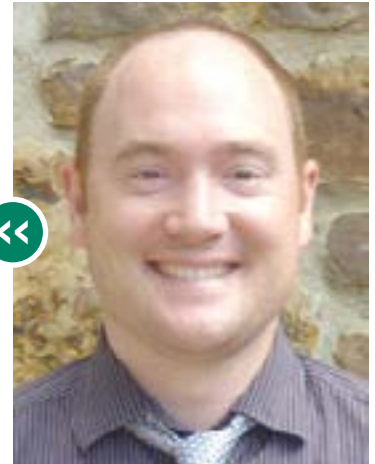


## Dr. Douglas Penisten

Dr. Douglas Penisten, Dean of College, was presented the Indiana University School of Optometry 2017 Foley House Distinguished Alumni Award for his “significant time dedicated to excellence in optometry, representing the school well throughout his career, and reaching preeminent status in the field of optometry.” Penisten, a 1979 graduate of IUSO, began his career at NSUOCO as an Assistant Professor in 1988. In 2009, he began serving as Dean of the College of Optometry. Congratulations, Dr. Penisten!

## Dr. Nathan Lighthizer

Dr. Nathan Lighthizer - Associate Professor, Assistant Dean of Clinical Care Services, and Director of Continuing Education - recently published his article “Contradictory Test Results Make Diagnosis Challenging” in Healio’s Primary Care Optometry News in April 2018. To read his full article, go online to <https://goo.gl/reJhPZ>.



## Jerry Adsit

Each year, Northeastern State University awards one staff member campus-wide with the STAR Award, given to someone who “consistently demonstrates commitment and excellence in job performance and dedication to the core values of our institution.”

This year, NSUOCO’s Jerry Adsit received this award. During the award’s ceremony, he was described as “caring, humble and devoted... known for placing others’ needs above his own. He is often found doing extra to lighten the workload of fellow employees. He speaks highly of others and his words of encouragement are a constant spring of refreshment. His love of people allows him to be the same with all, whether a student or dean, he treats them all with the same respect.” Adsit serves as the Facilities Technician for NSUOCO.

Congratulations, Jerry, and great work!

# NSUOCO News



## Dr. Preston Smith Memorial 5K Classic

Not even the cold and dreary weather stopped NSUOCO students, faculty, alumni, family and community members from gathering to participate in the 27th Annual Dr. Preston Smith Memorial 5K Classic on April 14 in remembrance of Preston Smith, an NSUOCO student who tragically passed away during his fourth year in 2011. Once again, this event was a success! Thank you to all who came!

## Student Day at the Capital

Student Day at the Capital is one of the most highly anticipated events held each year. Often referred to as Capital Day, students are given the opportunity to experience the legislative side of optometry. On March 7, 2018 more than half of the NSUOCO student body met with current legislators and members of the Oklahoma Association of Optometric Physicians (OAOP) to discuss some of the most pressing issues that threaten the state of the profession. Currently, optometrists are preparing to challenge a Walmart-Backed Constitutional change. Students rallied to protect vision health and medical standards in Oklahoma.



## David Hurd

As per tradition, students from the first-third year classes met for our annual Student Bowl competition, this year's theme being March Madness. David Hurd (OSIV) arose the champion and NSUOCO student representative for the National Student Bowl held at the Optometry's Meeting in Denver. Great job, David!



# NSUOCO News



## NOSA

On Jan. 15, 2018, the National Optometric Student Association (NOSA) partnered with Northeastern State University's Department of Diversity and Inclusion to celebrate the life of Martin Luther King, Jr. In conjunction with Glaucoma Awareness Month, NOSA members volunteered to perform vision screening exams on students and community members on campus. More than 50 percent screened were referred for comprehensive eye exams. Also, everyone screened received information to help raise awareness on the "silent thief of sight."



## Opening Eyes 2018

On May 17, many NSUOCO faculty, staff, and students, in addition to many other volunteers, traveled to Stillwater to participate in the 2018 Special Olympics Opening Eyes as part of the Healthy Athletes Initiative. Together they examined patients and provided both glasses and rec specs on site to those in need.

# New Look for the Ophthalmic Optics Lab

This last summer, several areas in the basement – including the Ophthalmic Optics Lab, Anatomy and Physiology Lab, and restrooms – went through renovations and cosmetic updates, made possible by a HOYA Vision Care grant provided through a program for ophthalmic optics labs it has with schools and colleges of optometry across the nation. This program focuses on one optometry school a year. Though originally intended for just the ophthalmic optics lab, additional funds were provided to update the restrooms and Anatomy and Physiology lab as well.

Renovations made in the ophthalmic Optics Lab included creating workspaces for the students; improving lighting; and purchasing teaching equipment and tools, including a smart board and big screen displays throughout the room. This space is also shared for contact lens labs.

The Anatomy and Physiology lab received updated lighting and fresh paint, and the restrooms new lighting, paint and partitions. Thanks to these renovations, these rooms are looking better than ever!

**BEFORE**





**AFTER**



**AFTER**



**AFTER**



# Graduate Plans

Bright futures are in store for our graduating Class of 2018. Among the class are four feature students who have shared with us their future plans. As a fun side note, both of these couples met and were married during their four years here at NSUOCO.



Travis and Myranda Partin are both planning to complete residencies at Eye Care of South Tulsa. Upon completion of his residency, Travis plans to work with his father, Dr. Glenn Partin (NSUOCO alumnus of '86) in Mustang, Oklahoma. He completed his undergraduate degree at Oklahoma Christian University in Edmond, Oklahoma. Myranda, alumna of the University of Oklahoma, plans to work for an MD/OD clinic after completion of her residency. Both have the desire to continue to help expand optometry's scope of practice.

Travis and Myranda met during the annual float trip of the Illinois River our students go on each fall soon after the semester begins. However, they did not start dating until later in their first semester at Northeastern State University. The two tied the knot in August 2016 before beginning their third year in our program.

It has been a joy watching their two personalities come together during their years at NSU. We wish you the best in both your optometric endeavors and life together!

## **SHARE YOUR NEWS!**

We would love to feature your news in the "Eye on Alumni" newsletter. Contact Brooke Johnson at [johns283@nsuok.edu](mailto:johns283@nsuok.edu) with story ideas or alumni news items.





Judson and Caitlin Chevalier actually began correspondence in March before school started. Judson reached out to Caitlyn wishing her safety on an upcoming mission trip to Mexico. According to Caitlin, "We exchanged messages for a few weeks on Facebook but merely said hello at Welcome Day. On the first day of classes, I sat in the back row and he sat in the front row (our usual seats from undergrad). Needless to say, on the second day of classes we were both sitting in the back row and never moved again!" Judson, however, has a few more details to add: "I often tell people the very simple 'we sat next to each other on the first day of class and fell in love' story, but that wouldn't be very true. In fact, Caitlin was a back row student and I was a front row student... I became a back row student to get to sit next to the pretty lady I had my eye on! After that, it was all smiles and happiness down the road!" The two married in 2016 during Winter Break of their third year and are now expecting their first child in November.

Judson graduated from Angelo State University with a Bachelor of Science in Biology. After completing his residency in ocular disease and refractive surgery at The Triad Eye Institute in Tulsa, he plans to work in a private practice setting with the long-term goal of owning his own practice in the Tulsa area with Caitlin. Judson would also like to start a yearly optometric mission trip to Mexico with Caitlin with the hopes of continuing it for years to come.

Caitlin, a Northeastern State University Broken Arrow graduate with a Bachelor of Science in Biology, plans to work for a tribe affiliated with the Indian Health Service in Northeastern Oklahoma. She, too, shares a goal of eventually buying into or owning a private practice with Judson and traveling to Mexico for the mission trip.

Judlin, as the optometry students lovingly referred to them, we wish you all the best in your futures!

