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STATE UNIVERSITY

OKLAHOMA COLLEGE OF OPTOMETRY  
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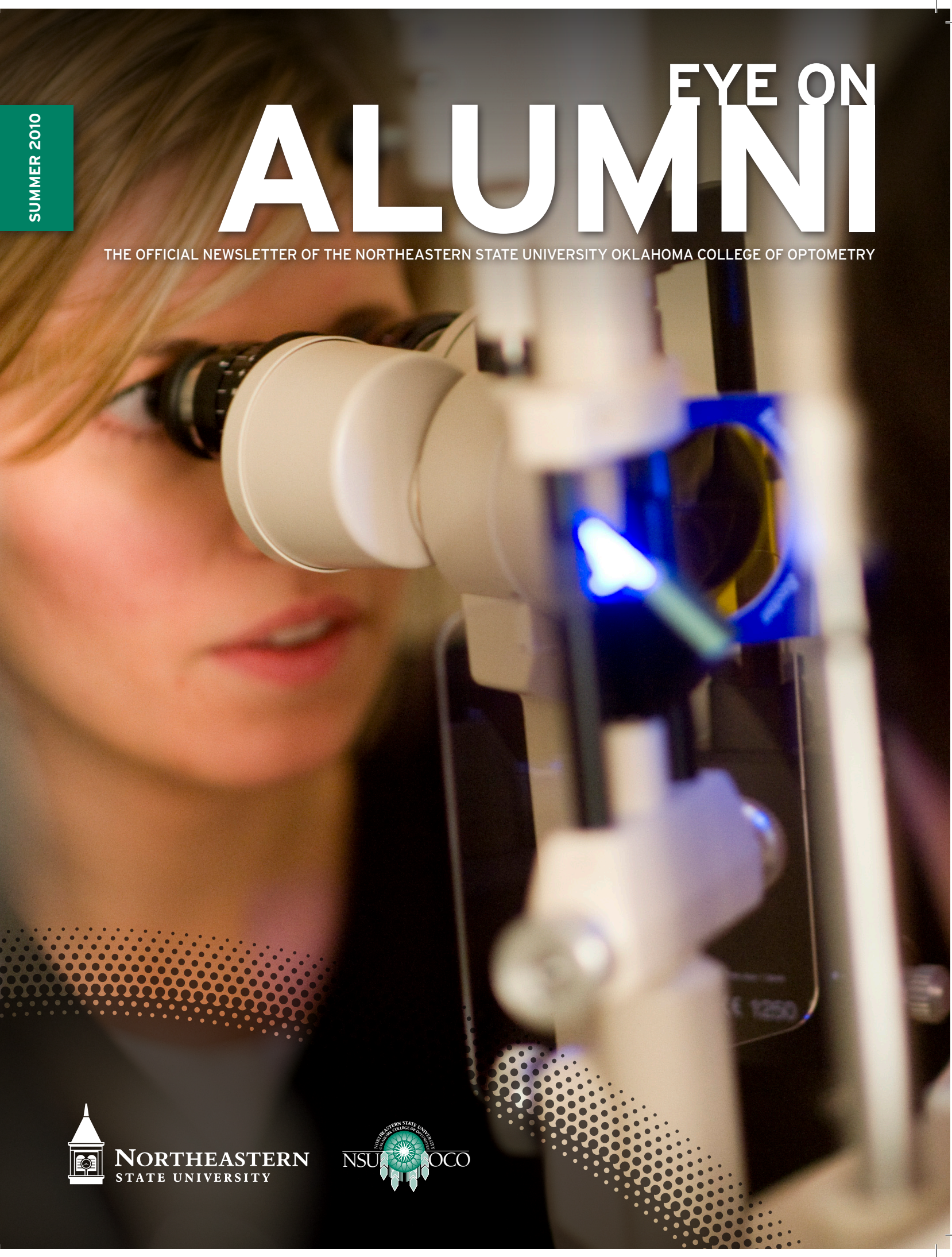
NSU Foundation    812 N Cedar Ave.    Tahlequah, OK 74464    (918) 458-2143



SUMMER 2010

# EYE ON ALUMNI

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE NORTHEASTERN STATE UNIVERSITY OKLAHOMA COLLEGE OF OPTOMETRY



**NORTHEASTERN**  
STATE UNIVERSITY





## NSUOCO Supports Special Olympics

NSUOCO ODs, staff and students, in conjunction with Lions Club members, provided free vision screenings to the athletes at the Special Olympics Oklahoma Summer games held at Oklahoma State University on Thursday May 13, 2010. The event was sponsored by Oklahoma Association of Optometric Physicians, American Optometric Association, Oklahoma College of Optometry, various Oklahoma Lions Clubs and Special Olympics Lions Clubs International Opening Eyes (SOLCIOE). SOLCIOE is an international visual health effort created to improve the visual health of individuals with special needs. Athletes who failed vision screening were refracted and fitted with a free pair of prescription glasses and/or sport safety goggles, while others were provided with a free pair of sunglasses.

A total of 346 athletes were provided care; 200 athletes received prescription eyewear, 22 received sports goggles and 58 athletes were referred to optometrists in their community for further care. Frames were donated by Safilo, lenses were donated by Essilor, and Santinelli provided equipment and personnel to fabricate glasses on site. Dunlaw Optical completed all jobs that could not be completed on site.

The athletes received their care from 115 volunteers including 34 Oklahoma optometrists, 25 optometry students, 27 optometric technicians and 29 lay volunteers. All volunteers were treated well as TLC provided dinner the evening before the event and onsite breakfast the morning of the event. BVA donated lunch for all volunteers during the event.

NSU's Wes DeRosier, OD, and Heidi Thoden, OD, have served as Clinical Directors of the event since 2003. In that first year, 226 athletes received care; 147 received new glasses; and 71 were referred for additional care. The number of volunteers has also grown – from 74 in 2003 to this year's 115.

Fourth-year student and Arkansas resident Julie Dolven volunteered her time not only at Stillwater on May 12, but at Opening Eyes on the Harding campus in Searcy, AR, on Friday, May 21.

The next Oklahoma Special Olympics Lions Clubs International Opening Eyes event will be held during the Summer Games at OSU on May 12, 2011. Contact Dr. Wes DeRosier (918-444-4027 or [derosier@nsuok.edu](mailto:derosier@nsuok.edu)) if you are interested in participating in this wonderful opportunity.

## Class of 2010 Confirmations

NSUOCO proudly conferred the degree of Doctor of Optometry to the following twenty-six students on May 15, 2010.

Candace D. Acord, Chandler, OK  
Tyson N. Allard, Altus, OK  
Lori L. Barton, Newton, KS  
Elizabeth R. Batchelor, Tulsa, OK  
Jackie L. Burress, Muskogee, OK  
Kelly C. Campbell, Elk City, OK  
Jacoby J. Dewald, Mooreland, OK  
Navrin J. Dhamani, Oklahoma City, OK  
Tory L. Dotson, Tahlequah, OK  
Jamie D. Dunn, Roswell, NM  
Ryan C. Emrick, Oklahoma City, OK  
Chloe L. Fielding, Cushing, OK  
Sarah E. Gallagher, Jenks, OK

Tyler W. Glaze, Chickasha, OK  
Amanda D. Gonzales, Brownfield, TX  
Celina C. Hall, Sherwood, AR  
Matthew D. Krein, Stillwater, OK  
Christopher M. McDaniels, Owasso, OK  
Scott B. Mendell, Loyal, OK  
Stephanie D. Clay Mendell, Durant, OK  
Claire Fielding Moore, Cushing, OK  
Saunya M. Smith, Tulsa, OK  
Phillip C. Tabor, Ardmore, OK  
Kristen D. Teague, Prescott, AR  
Sarah M. Wade, Achille, OK  
Mackenzie Hill Weir, Amarillo, TX

## Notable Facts about the Class of 2010

**8** entered one year residencies throughout the U.S.

**1** active duty U.S. Navy

**1** active duty U.S. Airforce

**3** completed the 4-yr curriculum with a 4.0 GPA

**3.658** average GPA

## Invitation to the Optic Cup to be held August 28, 2010

Dear Alumni,

Greetings! The Northeastern State University Oklahoma College of Optometry (NSUOCO) Chapter of the American Optometric Student Association (AOSA) will be holding our 23rd annual golf tournament, the Optic Cup, on **Saturday, August 28th, at the Cherry Springs Golf Course in Tahlequah, OK**. The student golf tournament is held every fall to help raise funds to assist students attending the AOA/AOSA national optometry conference, which will be held in Salt Lake City, UT, in 2011. The conference is an excellent opportunity for students to hear nationally renowned speakers, interact with other students from across the nation, meet with vendors of optometric equipment and services, and possibly discuss practice opportunities.

The golf tournament is open to alumni, optometry students, faculty members of NSUOCO, optometric physicians, company representatives, family members and friends of those previously listed. We would like to invite you to participate in this great event. The \$85 registration includes green fee, cart, beverages, lunch, and prizes for your team. We do ask that you reserve a place for your team in advance as we are limited to 100 participants. Registration will begin at **11:00 a.m.** on the day of the tournament. Lunch will be provided at noon, and the tournament will start at **1:00 p.m.** It will be played in a 4 person scramble format, and we will gladly place you on a team if needed.

If you are interested in sponsorship, each of the eighteen holes on the golf course will be available for sponsorship. **Platinum, Gold, or Silver Sponsorship** of a hole entitles the organiza-

tion to a sign honoring their contribution at the hole and their logo on the back of the tournament T-shirt. **Platinum Sponsorship**, available at a cost of **\$700**, includes entry for two representatives to play in the tournament. **Gold Sponsorship**, available at a cost of **\$500**, includes entry for one representative to play in the tournament. **Silver Sponsorship**, available at a cost of **\$300**, includes a sign displaying the organizations logo on the tee box of a hole and the tournament T-Shirt. **Bronze Sponsorship**, available at a cost of **\$150**, includes the organizations name will be recognized on a sign displayed at the registration table. Also, any lesser monetary donation or donation of a product would be greatly appreciated and recognized at the registration.

We expect this year to be the largest and best tournament ever. Please support our college and come participate in a great event. Please feel free to contact us to answer any questions. We hope to see you in August.

Sincerely,

Heath Coleman, Optometry Student IV  
Golf Tournament Chairman  
(580) 336-1909  
[HeathC60@aol.com](mailto:HeathC60@aol.com)

Travis Kliewer, Optometry Student III  
Golf Tournament Co-Chairman  
(580) 747-8070  
[kliewert@nsuok.edu](mailto:kliewert@nsuok.edu)

## Current Full-Time Faculty

Douglas K. Penisten, O.D., Ph.D., Dean  
Leland W. Carr, O.D., Assistant Dean for Development  
Richard Castillo, O.D., D. O. (1987)  
Wes DeRosier, M.Sc., O.D.  
Tory Dotson, O.D. (2010)  
Rebecca A. Enloe, O.D., (2008)  
Ryan Fenska, O.D. (2008)  
Sarah Gallagher, O.D. (2010)  
Spencer Johnson, O.D.  
David Lewerenz, O.D.  
Jenna Lighthizer, O.D.  
Nate Lighthizer, O.D.  
Chris McDaniels, O.D. (2010)  
Alan McKee, M.S., O.D. (1996)

Earlena McKee, M.A.S., O.D. (1996)  
Jeff Miller, O.D. (1996)  
Sherl Moore, O.D. (2007)  
Armin Namazizadeh, O.D.  
Laticia Pack, O.D., (1998)  
F. John Pembroke, O.D., M.B.A.  
Alissa Proctor, O.D.  
Tom Salmon, Ph.D., O.D.  
Heidi Thoden, O.D.  
Michelle Welch, O.D., Associate Dean for Clinical Care Service  
Roger West, Ph.D., O.D.  
Kippi Wyatt, O.D. (1986), Assistant Dean for Academic Affairs  
Bryan Young, O.D. (1998)



## News Items

**Dr. Jo'el Sturm** (1994) has been named President of the Oklahoma Association of Optometric Physicians (OAOP). She was inducted by outgoing President Dr. Russell Hopkins (1991). Sturm practices at TLC in Tulsa.

**Dr. Steven A. Bryant** (1994) is the current President of the Kansas Optometric Association. Bryant practices optometry in Concordia, KS.

**\*\*Dr. Alissa Proctor**, Assistant Professor, recently received a Fellowship in the American Academy of Optometry. A graduate of Michigan College of Optometry, Proctor completed a Family Practice Residency at NSUOCO before joining the faculty in 2006. She teaches Optometric Clinical Methods III, Introduction to Clinic I and II and Vision Therapy II.



Third year optometry student, Ben Lundeen received the oath of office from classmate, Michael Gaydos, a U.S. Air Force 2nd Lt., in a ceremony attended by students, faculty and staff in June. Only seven USAF optometric scholarships were awarded this academic year - three to NSU students. Gaydos and third recipient Nick Hardgrave, both NSU alumni, received their commission in January. All will continue their military careers upon their graduation in 2012. Also pictured are, *L to R, Msgr Larry Moore, Tsgt Michael McWhorter and Tsgt Heather Poff. 2nd Lts. Summer Hilton and Brian Sixkiller are also attending NSUOCO on an Air Force Scholarship and are service-bound following their 2011 graduation.*

**\*\*The 2010 Optometry's Meeting** in Orlando, Florida, was well attended by NSUOCO students. 16% of our student population attended the three day event. Fourth year student James Raupe was our representative in the Student Bowl and made it

to the final round. The national meeting helps to increase the student's awareness of national optometric issues and the value of organized optometry.

**\*\* Oscar Corredor** (2003), currently practicing optometry in Des Moines, Iowa, is returning to active duty status as a Major with the U. S. Air Force. An assignment at Edwards Air Force Base, California, is anticipated to begin in late summer. Corredor is an 11 year active duty veteran, with a one year deployment to Afghanistan and an 11 month deployment to Kosovo. Since the completion of his last tour of duty, he has been a member of the USAF Reserves. In the U.S. he has been stationed at Grand Forks AFB, North Dakota, Dyess AFB, Texas, and most recently, Fort Leonard Wood in Missouri.

**\*\*Earl Schmitt**, O.D., Ph.D., and wife Dicksie have relocated to Tennessee. Dr. Schmitt came to NSU in 1982 as a professor of optometry and retired from full-time teaching in 1986. Since that time, he has been with NSUOCO as an Adjunct Assistant Professor. Schmitt taught many classes in the program, was integral in Primary Care and Electrodiagnostics Clinics as well as many other clinics throughout his many years of service to the college and the profession.



Several families from the Class of 2008 reunited for a visit at the Kansas City Zoo. Pictured, *L to R, are Scott Ackerman (Garden City, KS) and wife Angie, sons Ethan and Austin; Chris Wolfe (Omaha, NE) and wife Jaime, daughters Ryan and Paityn, and son Lincoln; Adam Schluterman (Fort Smith, AR) and wife Rachael, daughter Katie and son Carter; Jeff Edwards (Duncan, OK) with wife Jennifer and son Cooper; and Ryan Fenska (Tahlequah) with wife Kristen, daughter Kate and son Landon.*

## Welch Receives NSU Circle of Excellence Award

Dr. Michelle Welch (1995) was presented the 2009-10 Circle of Excellence Award for Service for service during a ceremony April 29, 2010. The Circle of Excellence awards recognize faculty for their outstanding accomplishments and commitment to educating students. The Circle of Excellence is the top honor NSU awards its faculty. Welch was one of three professors honored. Others categories were Teaching and Research. In honor of each recipient, a brick bearing their

Medical Center and the campus eye clinics. Welch has maintained membership in the Oklahoma Association of Optometric Physicians and the American Optometric Association since 1995. She has also served on the OAOP Board of Directors as a District Director. In 1999, she became a member of the Cherokee Nation Medical Executive Committee and has served as the Optometry Chief since that time.



*L to R: Dr. Don Betz, NSU President; R. Michelle Welch, O.D., Doug Penisten, O.D., Dean*

name and award will be placed within the Circle of Excellence in front of Seminary Hall. In addition to securing a permanent place in NSU history, recipients receive a substantial award for their selection (their choice of a new computer or \$2,500 to use toward professional development). Honorees are selected by their peers (from among many who are nominated by students and/or colleagues).

Welch currently serves the college as Associate Dean and Professor. She teaches Clinical Methods IV which includes injection and minor surgical procedure techniques. She also teaches Ocular Disease II: Cornea and External Disease, as well as the Anterior Segment Laser Therapy course. Welch is responsible for eye clinics within the Cherokee Nation Health Division located in Salina, Sallisaw, Jay, Muskogee and Stilwell as well as the eye clinics at Hastings Indian

"I am very humbled to have been nominated and chosen for the Circle of Excellence award," Welch said. "I work with fantastic faculty, staff and students who make my job much easier, enjoyable and highly rewarding."

NSUOCO Dean Doug Penisten made the following comment about Welch. "As an extremely gifted optometric physician, Dr. Welch has, for over fifteen years, provided sight giving care to many tens of thousands of patients, and as an exemplary teacher, has passed her skills and her passion for giving to our doctors in training. The vision care she has provided has not only changed lives, it has improved the quality of life for all she has touched. What a phenomenal thing to be able say about someone."

Welch joins the following current and/or former optometry faculty in receiving this prestigious award are:

George Fulk, Research, 1991-92  
Kippi Wyatt, Teaching, 2004-05 (Class of 1986)  
Gary Wickham, Research, 1992-93  
Wesley DeRosier, Service, 2005-06  
W.C. Maples, Research, 1993-94  
Heidi Thoden, Service, 2008-09  
Lynn Cyert, Research, 1995-96  
Joseph Fleming, Teaching, 1996-97  
Bill Edmondson, Teaching, 1998-99  
Doug Penisten, Service, 2001-02  
Thomas Salmon, Research, 2002-03





## Double Vision

### CHLOE FIELDING BUTTS

Optometry is a way of life for my family in Oklahoma. My father, Dr. Jeffrey Fielding of Cushing, my uncles Dr. Greg Fielding of Cleveland and Dr. Brad Fielding of Edmond, my sister Dr. Jessica Fielding Zwanziger of Ponca City, and brother-in-law Dr. Brian Zwanziger of Ponca City. My twin sister Claire and I both had a passion to pursue optometry after graduating from Oklahoma State University with degrees in Biological sciences. We knew NSUOCO was the optometry school we wanted to attend to pursue our goals of becoming an optometrist. With the small class size and encouraging faculty, NSUOCO was the perfect fit. I cannot imagine going through this experience without my sisters. We encouraged each other, studied together, and had a best friend who was going through the same situations. Being able to attend NSUOCO has been

an honoring and rewarding experience. I am excited to have graduated from such a highly esteemed college. Over the past two years the AOSA has played an instrumental role in the development, discussion, and initiation of this model. This began with the extraordinary commitment and tireless efforts of our JBCPT representatives, Dr. Mary Phillips (MCO '08) and Dr. Chris Wolfe (NSUOCO '08). In addition the AOSA Board of Trustees, consisting of one voting representative from each school, worked closely with their student delegates to shape the discussion and debate within the House of Delegates and to cast AOSA's votes in favor of the proposed Board Certification model.

### CLAIRE FIELDING MOORE

Having the opportunity to attend such a prestigious optometry school has been an amazing experience. Being able to provide health care to the Indian Health Service has allowed me to see many ocular diseases and has enhanced my optometry learning experience. The clinical experience and learning environment Northeastern State University Oklahoma College of Optometry has provided has fully prepared me for my optometric career. I am excited to be able to do what I love to do and make an impact on people's lives through optometry.



## Celina Hall

As an Arkansas resident, I already knew that I would have to travel across state lines to attend optometry school. I applied to a few schools and interviewed at each one. I made the choice to attend NSUOCO after interviewing here. Everyone I encountered

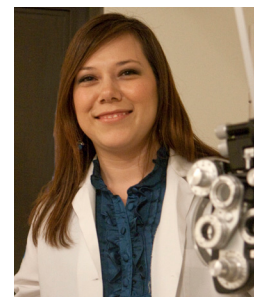
during my visit was kind and friendly - characteristics which were gladly welcomed on that extremely stressful interview day. While other schools seemed to be concerned solely with academics and what kind of student I would be, NSUOCO seemed to care about my personality and the kind of doctor I would become. After my experiences with the faculty and staff that day and all that I had heard about the clinical program, my decision was made; I was headed to Tahlequah.

My experiences here at NSUOCO have been invaluable. In the span of four years, I feel like I've learned so much about myself and how to be a good doctor. The classroom is a lively place, and our faculty is filled with wonderful academic instructors who go out of their way to help each of us learn. Our clinical program is

exceptional as well. Through our connection with the Cherokee Nation, we are able to serve a large number of patients in the northeastern Oklahoma area. Through our variety of specialty clinics, we are able to become more comfortable diagnosing and managing an array of ocular conditions and diseases. This multitude of experience during school provides us with the confidence to continue to handle complex cases on our own after graduation.

## Amanda Gonzalez

I shadowed a handful of optometrists from my hometown, Lubbock, TX, and I asked each one the same question. "If you were in my shoes, would you go to your alma mater or NSUOCO?" All of them said they would choose NSUOCO. I knew I made the right choice when each instructor knew my name even before I had them in class. The last four years have tested my strength, motivation, and will power, but through it all, I gained knowledge and made friends that I will keep for a lifetime.



## OAOP's Optometric Physician of the Year 2010 Dr. Michael Bennett (1985)

"Dr. Bennett's dedication to his patients and leadership within his community are all reasons why OAOP chose him for this prestigious award," said Association President Dr. Russell Hopkins. "Not only does Dr. Bennett personify leadership as an optometric physician within our organization, but he does so in his hometown and across the state, as well. His fervent endeavors to make vision health a priority for Oklahomans have benefited our organization as well as the patients who trust him with their eye healthcare."

A native of Perryton, Texas, Dr. Bennett graduated from Borger High School, where he was the valedictorian of the class of 1977. He received his bachelor's at Southwestern Oklahoma State University in Weatherford and went on to pursue his doctorate in optometry at Northeastern State University College of Optometry. Dr. Bennett was a member of the class of 1985, the third graduating class at NSUOCO. Shortly after graduation, Dr. Bennett became active in the Oklahoma Association of Optometric Physicians. He served as president of the Central District in 1987 and then as the Medicare liaison. Dr. Bennett, who purchased the practice of Dr. Rex Bechenhour and Dr. Dave Franke in Guthrie, was named Young Optometric Physician of the Year by the OAOP in 1991 and the Alumnus of the Year for NSUOCO in 1992. He served on the Oklahoma Medicare Carrier Advisory Committee as a Board member for 13 years.

Dr. Bennett's work on the OAOP Convention Committee began in 1992 and continued until the fall 2009. He served as chairman of the Convention Committee for five years and was instrumental in developing the Association's fall Convention into Pioneers In Optometry, a regional meeting. Dr. Bennett served as the

100th president of OAOP in 2006. In celebration of the Association's centennial, he helped create the Pioneers in Optometry Hall of Fame, which honored all past OAOP presidents as the first class. He was named to the PIO Hall of Fame in 2007. Dr. Bennett became a trustee of the Southwest Council of Optometry in 2001 and currently serves as president.

In addition to his involvement in Oklahoma and regional optometry, he is currently the Oklahoma representative for the American Optometric Association Political Action Committee and has been a Board member of the Sports Vision Section Council since 2008. Dr. Bennett recently accepted an AOA appointment to the Practice Advancement Committee. Recognizing that involvement in patient education initiatives is important, Dr. Bennett and his staff have participated in the Opening Eyes program at the Special Olympics in Stillwater since its inception. He also takes part in the InfantSEE program, as well as OAOP's iris scanning project.

Dr. Bennett has been active in his community - Historic Guthrie, Okla. He has been a member of the Guthrie Lions Club for the past 20 years, serving on many of the organization's committees. He served as president during Oklahoma's centennial celebration, when the club served as the official host of the Oklahoma Legislature during its historic meeting in Guthrie.

Dr. Bennett is involved in the Guthrie Chamber of Commerce, is a Board member for the Red Cross and is a member of the First Christian Church of Guthrie. He and his wife Kim reside in Guthrie and have two grown children and two grandchildren.

## SVOSH Plans Mission Trip

Student Volunteers in Optometric Service to Humanity (S.V.O.S.H.) at NSUOCO is making a mission trip in December 2010! The students are excited to have this opportunity to use the skills learned at NSUOCO to serve others. Plans will be finalized in early September for the destination. They will go to Guatemala or return to Roatán, Honduras. In August 2009, the SVOSH organization provided care for approximately 460 citizens of Roatán, Honduras. For the trip, they are still looking for tonopen covers, sunglasses, readers and pharmaceutical

products. If you can help, please contact Lindsey Chomiuk-Bull anytime at (479) 381-2248 or chomiuk@nsuok.edu. They also would appreciate any words of advice as they prepare for a great, sight-saving endeavor.

S.V.O.S.H. group has conducted a variety of fundraisers, including bake sales, yard work and a yard sale, lunch fundraisers, and many other activities. Each member must raise \$1,600 to help cover medical supplies and to pay for transportation costs.



## David Jones (2002) Selected as OAOP Young Optometric Physician of the Year

Woodward optometrist David Jones, OD, is the Oklahoma Association of Optometric Physicians Young Optometric Physician of the Year. "Dr. Jones was chosen for this honor because of his unwavering commitment to his profession, patients and family," said OAOP President Dr. Russell Hopkins. "He has aspired to bring excellence to everything he does and has set a shining example of leadership as a young medical professional."

Dr. Jones is a native of Wakita and a graduate of Wakita High School. He attended Northwestern Oklahoma State University, where he earned a degree in Education. He taught high school Science and coached in central Kansas for three years, noticing that many students and athletes exhibited problems with their vision that was translating into poor performance.

He returned to Northwestern and completed the courses he needed to apply to the Northeastern Oklahoma State University College of Optometry in the fall of 1998. While at

NSUOCO, he was a member of the College of Optometry Vision Development program and a student member of OAOP.

After graduating in 2002, Dr. Jones practiced with Dr. Don Diehl in Enid. A year later, he became chief of Optometric Services at the Redbird Smith Health Clinic in Sallisaw. In 2007, Dr. Jones joined Northwest Eye Associates in Woodward and Shattuck. Dr. Jones has been a member of OAOP since 1998. He served as the District 2 director in 2006 and 2007 and the District 8 director beginning in 2009. He has served on the Membership Committee since 2002 and as chair in 2009. In addition, he was a participant in the 2008 class of Leadership Optometry.

Dr. Jones is an active member of the Woodward Chamber of Commerce and First Baptist Church of Woodward, where he is a Sunday School teacher and guitar and bass player.

## NSUOCO Students Compete in ASCO Video Contest

The Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry (ASCO) is committed to educating students and the public about the profession of optometry. As you may remember from being an undergraduate student, many pre-health services focus on medicine, pharmacy, physical therapy, or dentistry.

In November 2009, ASCO announced the 2010 EnVision Video Competition. Students were challenged to create a 3-5 minute video designed to teach people about optometry and to help undergraduate students envision themselves as optometrists. Videos were to be designed to educate watchers about the profession, including: what optometrists do, how you become an optometrist, and why optometry is such a great profession. The prize for the most creative and most inspired video is \$5,000.

Eleven submissions were received. The submissions are being judged by three members of the Student Affairs Committee. Qualities judged include how effectively the videos educated potential applicants and the general public about the profession of optometry, in addition to its creativity, ingenuity, and humor.

Five second-year students from NSUOCO undertook the task and produced an excellent video, which can be seen at <http://optometry.nsuok.edu/ProspectiveStudent/ConsiderOptometry.aspx> to view. Students involved in the production were Nick Hardgrave, Daniel Owen, Neil Whittle, Angela Eagle and Jennifer O'Neal.



L to R: Dr. Ellis Potter, former Rotary Club District Governor; Dr. Kate Miller (1993), Adjunct Faculty; Dr. Jamie Dunn (2010), SVOSH Co-President 2009-2010; Dr. Les Walls, former Dean; Dr. Alissa Proctor, SVOSH Faculty Advisor.

## Reading Glasses as Easy as 1-2-3

On Tuesday, April 13, Dr. Les Walls, former Dean of the Northeastern State University Oklahoma College of Optometry, coordinated a visit to the school to demonstrate a unique glasses making kit to the students and faculty. Dr. Walls and Dr. Ellis Potter, former Rotary Club District Governor and optometrist from Inola, Kansas, arranged the visit with Dr. Alissa Proctor, SVOSH Faculty Advisor. Over lunch, Dr. Potter was the guest speaker at the Tahlequah Rotary Club meeting and spoke on the importance of vision care in developing countries as well as the humanitarian initiative of Rotary District

6110. The 6110 Vision Quest project provides raw materials and training to help lay people in developing countries test for and make reading glasses. The kit can make a pair of durable reading glasses from +1.00D to +4.00D in +0.25D increments for less than 50 cents a pair. These glasses are made of 1.6mm stainless steel wire, polycarbonate lenses, and PVC plastic tubing to protect the ears. A complete kit, including tools (see picture 2), instructions, test kits, and materials to make over 300 pairs of glasses, can be purchased for \$250.00. The entire kit weighs 26 pounds, can fit inside a small suitcase, and can easily fit in one's luggage while traveling overseas as part of a mission trip. The kit can then be left behind with a trained volunteer if desired or brought back to be used for future mission trips. Replacement materials for 300 more pairs of glasses can be provided for \$140.00.



Northeastern State University Oklahoma College of Optometry's Student Volunteer Optometric Service to Humanity is extremely grateful to Dr. Walls for his generous donation of the kit. Dr. Walls has a vision to donate one kit to every SVOSH at every optometry school in the nation. NSUOCO SVOSH thanks Dr. Walls for his support of optometric mission trips and making NSUOCO the first optometry school to receive a Vision Quest Kit.

## Ryan Emrick (2010) Selected as New-to-Optometry Blogger

THE VISION CARE INSTITUTE™, LLC, is focused on providing objective, innovative education to third and fourth year optometry school students through The Specialty Contact Lens Training Seminar. A new Alumni Program was launched at THE VISION CARE INSTITUTE™ in June, 2010. This program aspires to provide alumni of THE VISION CARE INSTITUTE™ with regular opportunities to connect and learn, empowering new optometrists with education that accelerates their transition into the practice of optometry. One facet of this program includes an online community, and a key feature of the community is the New-to-Optometry Blogger. 2010 NSUOCO graduate, Ryan Emrick, was selected from a host of candidates. Fourth year students from each of the schools and colleges of optometry were encouraged to ap-

ply. Each candidate selected an issue they currently faced as a fourth year optometry student and submitted a sample blog on it, as well as a short essay describing why they should be selected to be the New-to-Optometry Blogger. The selection committee was looking for the ability to connect with other optometrists new to the industry, writing that was clear and articulate, while relevant and engaging. Both essay and sample blog were judged on both content and style. As the New-to-Optometry Blogger, Emrick will compose a monthly blog based on his own professional experiences and collaborate with other eye care professionals to enhance monthly blogs and actively respond to readers' comments to encourage interaction on The Institute's online community.



## Fulltime Faculty Retire



**LYNN A. CYERT, PHD, OD, FAAO**

Cyert received a BA in Experimental Psychology at Reed College in Portland, Oregon. She continued her studies in Experimental Psychology and obtained an MS and PhD from Brown University, Providence, Rhode Island. Her Doctor of Optometry degree was awarded from New England College of Optometry in 1980. Prior to arriving at NSU, Cyert was an assistant professor of psychology at Ithaca College, Ithaca, NY, and assistant professor of Physiological Optics at NEWENCO. In 1981, Cyert joined the NSU faculty as an associate professor of optometry. For many years she taught Vision Systems III and IV, Pediatric Optometry, Public Health and Community Optometry, Environmental Vision, and Optometric Clinical Methods I.

Cyert has the distinction of being the only female and the only person to twice have served NSUOCO as interim dean, 1986-1987 and 2009. She also served as Chief of the Pediatric Clinics. In addition Cyert co-authored a research proposal funded by the National Eye Institute of the National Institutes of

Health and served as one of the principal investigators of the multi-institutional Vision in Preschoolers grant. She also was co-principal investigator on the Myopia Progress Study for the NEI from 1996-2002. She has been published more than 30 times in peer-reviewed publications.

In 1997, Cyert became a Fellow of the American Academy of Optometry and receive the NSU Faculty of the Year Research Award for 1995-1996. Her dedication and service to the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma was demonstrated by her service as a member and chair of the Early Childhood Unit Head Start program and Health Advisory Committee.

In 1981 she helped establish the Women In Optometry organization at NSU and has continued to serve as its advisor. The Lynn Cyert Women in Optometry Scholarship awards funding to two NSUOCO students per year.

Through the generous donations of Cyert's former students and colleagues the Lynn A. Cyert Award for Excellence in Pediatric Optometry was established. As an endowed scholarship, funds will be distributed once a year to a student who has demonstrated excellence in the field of pediatrics.

### DEBRA J. BEZAN, OD, FAAO

Bezan received a BS in Psychology and M.Ed. in Educational Psychology/Counseling from University of Illinois-Urbana. A member of the Charter Class, she graduated from NSU College of Optometry in 1983. Bezan has worked with Eye Care Associates, Inc., in Muskogee, Oklahoma, until 1985, at which time she became an Assistant Professor of Optometry. 1987-1989 Bezan taught optometry at Southern California College of Optometry (SCCO). She returned to Oklahoma and NSU in 1989 joining the faculty and has been with us in full or part-time capacities since. Bezan has served as Director of Clinics, Director of Residencies, Director of Externships and Chief of Retinal Service. She helped organize and served as Chief of Nursing Home Clinics and helped charter the College of Optometry Alumni Association. Some of the courses she taught include Gerontology/Geriatrics of Optometrists, Posterior Segment Pathology, Clini-

cal Methods III, Visual System III: Sensory Aspects Laboratory, Advanced Optometric Procedures, Environmental Vision, and Vision Development: Genetic and Preventative. In 1988 Bezan became a Fellow of the American Academy of Optometry and in 1989 was named the NSU College of Optometry Alumnus of the Year.

In 1997, Bezan opened a solo practice limited to primary eye care for nursing home residents. From 2002 to the present, her practice has been limited to primary eye care for the home-bound.

The Bezans established the Ken and Debra Bezan Scholarship to assist optometry students with the cost of books and equipment. Through their generous sponsorship many first and second year students have received a monetary stipend.

## Hoya Laboratories of America Awards Grant to NSU Optometry



*L to R, Iggy Fernandez, HOYA Regional Vice President; Mike Elton, HOYA Director of Professional Services; College of Optometry Dean Dr. Doug Penisten; Doug Rogers, HOYA Territory Sales Manager; and Brent Foxworth, HOYA Regional Sales Manager*

Hoya Laboratories of America awarded on April 15 a \$10,000 unrestricted grant to Northeastern State University Oklahoma College of Optometry.

The grant, one of five Hoya will award to optometry schools, is made possible through The Hoya Laboratories of America Grant Program.

"Hoya Laboratories recognizes that our schools are impacted by these challenging economic times," said Barney Dougher, president of Hoya North America. "We appreciate the Oklahoma College of Optometry's support of Hoya products and laboratories. This grant program enables Hoya Laboratories to give back and

further our commitment to support the schools of optometry that are developing tomorrow's independent eye care professionals."

College of Optometry dean Doug Penisten said, "We greatly appreciate Hoya's support of our program and the excellent Hoya products that we provide to our patients."

About Hoya: HOYA Vision Care, North America manufactures and supplies ophthalmic lenses to eye care professionals in the U.S., Canada and South America. HOYA manufactures a range of high quality lens designs, coatings and materials under brand names like HOYALUX Summit ecp, SUPER HiVision, HOYA Phoenix and others.

## NSUOCO Student Profiled on University Recruitment Video Series



Third year student Lindsey (Chomik) Bull is one of three NSU students profiled as part of the University promotional campaign. Bull is a graduate of the University Arkansas with a degree in Spanish, pre-optometry. She was employed at Arkansas EyeCare prior to beginning optometry school. Currently Bull serves as the vice president for Student Volunteer Optometric Services to Humanity (SVOSH) and as the student representative to the AOA - Political Action Committee.

See Lindsey's video on the NSUOCO homepage under Prospective Students, Seeing Clearly - Student Experience (<http://optometry.nsuok.edu/ProspectiveStudent/SeeingClearlyStudent-Experience.aspx>).

