

SUMMER 2012

EYE ON ALUMNI

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



NORTHEASTERN
STATE UNIVERSITY



NSU OCO

NSUOCO Awards 27 O.D. Degrees



Twenty-seven students were awarded Doctor of Optometry degrees at NSU on Saturday, May 12, 2012. This class included 11 females and 16 males. Four students finished optometry school with a 4.0 grade point average. The average GPA of the class was 3.53. Three are embarking upon careers with the U.S. Air Force. Four will undertake a one-year residency.

Undergraduate majors included Biology, Biochemistry, Molecular Biology, Cellular Biology, Medical Sciences, Zoology-Biomedical

Sciences, Chemistry, Organismic Biology, Allied Health, Psychology, Business Administration and Spanish.

Congratulations to the Class of 2012!

ODs and their hometowns are:

Lindsey A. Bull, Bentonville, AR
Savanah J. Burch, Wilson, OK
Christopher A. Copp, Tulsa, OK
Drew A. Crawford, Hominy, OK
Angela B. Eagle, Stilwell, OK
Jordan S. Ewert, Seminole, OK
Michael W. Gaydos, Skiatook, OK
Rosita Ghazanfari, Oklahoma City, OK
Nicholas J. Hardgrave, Henryetta, OK

Jonathan M. Hatley, Tahlequah, OK
Jill M. Huelskamp, Andover, KS
Travis R. Kliewer, Fairview, OK
Ben J. Lundeen, Ponca City, OK
Scott A. McSpadden, Winfield, KS
Jaclyn A. Munson, Sandwich, IL
Jason M. Myers, Mustang, OK
Daniel D. Owen, Muskogee, OK
Gregory A. Ramer, West Memphis, AR
Colby Dale Roberts, Altus, OK
Andrea Lynn Sis, Atwood, KS
Tiffany E. Spencer, Miami, OK
Jennifer E. Stafford, Tahlequah, OK
Heath D. Stotts, Enid, OK
Anthony J. Taylor, Ellis, KS
Kristin R. Vandervoort, Tulsa, OK
Meimey Wong, Oklahoma City, OK
Charles Neal Whittle, Springdale, AR

A posthumous degree was granted to Preston L. Smith. His wife Dara was present with other family members to accept this diploma.

Come Home in the Fall!

Whether you are a graduate of the O.D. program or one of our residency programs, ALL alumni of NSUOCO are cordially invited to participate in the excitement and fun at our annual Fall Primary Eye Care Update on Saturday and Sunday, September 8 and 9, 2012. See the full schedule (10 hours available) and get your registration form at <http://optometry.nsuok.edu/ContinuingEducation/ScheduleofEvents.aspx> We are pleased to be able to offer you participation in the student-sponsored Optic Cup Golf Tournament on Saturday. The tournament begins with an OSA luncheon for registered teams at noon. Tee off at 1 p.m. For those of you who aren't golfers, two hours of CME is available at the same time - Dr. Spencer Johnson presenting Health Care Reform.

Celebrate with us by attending a reception and dinner to be held Saturday night in the Jazz Lab. Bring your families and friends and join us for an exciting evening. Your CME registration fee includes one reception/dinner ticket.

If you are a 1987, 1992, or 2002 graduate of NSUOCO, you qualify for an alumni CME discount of 50%. If you are a brand new NSUOCO graduate (2012), your registration is FREE! Please mark your calendars and contact the CME Office for further information at 918-444-4033 or 918-444-4009 or email us at beason01@nsuok.edu and stratton@nsuok.edu We know you won't want to miss an important announcement and status report regarding the Walls Center!

EMBRACE
the VISION

THE CAMPAIGN FOR THE NSU OKLAHOMA COLLEGE OF OPTOMETRY

Graduates Comment on the NSUOCO Experience



Tiffany Spencer

From a young age, I knew I wanted to become an eye doctor. I became enamored with optometry in third grade when I received my first pair of glasses. My hometown optometrists, Dr. McQuigg and Dr. Wade Walls ('97), always took time to answer my never-ending questions at my yearly exams, and I admired their passion for optometry. I loved the idea of going to work to help people and changing their lives through vision. I remember being 12 years old, looking up optometry schools to find that the top optometry school in the country was less than two

hours away from my hometown of Miami, Oklahoma. From then on, I wanted to attend Northeastern State University for my undergraduate degree. If everything went according to plan, I would continue my education toward my doctorate just up the hill at NSUOCO.

My childhood dream only grew stronger as I completed my Bachelor of Science degree from NSU. In 2008, I began the most challenging and rewarding four years of my life. The family atmosphere at NSUOCO made it the perfect school for me. The professors and staff take a personal interest in every student, providing constant encouragement and support at every step along the way. From class to clinic, it is evident how much each professor cares and wants us to graduate as the best optometrists and caregivers possible.

As the Optometric Student Association President, I have had the privilege to travel to national optometry meetings and meet with students from around the country. I am always proud to learn how other optometry students hold our college in such high regard. I have heard numerous stories of students saying their top choice in colleges was NSUOCO. I am profoundly grateful for the world-class education and high caliber clinical experience that I received during my time at NSUOCO. I am proud to graduate from the premier college of optometry and to practice in the state with the widest scope of practice in the country.



Andrea Sis

Attending optometry school at NSUOCO with a class size of 28 students made me feel right at home, as I graduated from high school with a class size of 36 students. The small class size was one of the key reasons why I chose to attend NSUOCO. I feel that the attention we students received from our professors in class and in clinic was extremely valuable, as every instructor knew each student on a personal level. The small class size also allowed us students to develop strong friendships that will last

a lifetime. I am thankful that I attended NSUOCO, as I feel that I got a fantastic clinical experience, allowing me to grow into a confident optometric physician. I especially enjoyed performing laser procedures in specialty care clinic, visiting the Parkview School for the Blind in low vision clinic and working with children in the pediatrics and vision therapy clinics. The latter experiences have inspired me to specialize in pediatrics and vision therapy, and I will be pursuing a residency in these fields upon graduation. I am extremely proud to say that I am a graduate of NSUOCO, as I truly believe this is the best optometry school in the country.



Nick Hardgrave

My experience at NSUOCO has taken me to places I never would have imagined, both literally and figuratively. The top notch faculty has ensured that our optometric education has been taken to new heights both in clinic and in the classroom. The clinical experience at NSUOCO is second to none. My optometric education has taken me to Guatemala, where I helped those in need of eye care through a volunteer organization called SVOSH. Thanks to the Air Force's Health Professional Scholarship Program, I am now preparing to start my career providing eye care

to our military personnel in Guam at Anderson Air Force Base. Throughout my four years at NSUOCO I feel like I have been part of a close knit family with a common goal of graduating exceptional doctors of optometry. NSU's slogan "Gather Here. Go Far." could not be more true than for the students at the College of Optometry.



Drew Crawford

One of the main reasons I chose NSUOCO is because Tahlequah was where I first got the inclination of becoming an Optometrist. I was on a football recruiting trip to NSU and while being shown around campus, the recruiter mentioned NSUOCO. Before that visit, optometry had not been a profession I thought about. The fact that a football coach mentioned OCO must mean this place is outstanding. I asked local ODs where they went to optometry school and if they would recommend that school to

a future optometry student. Most graduated from NSU and would definitely do it again or knew that NSU was a great program and recommended that I attend. The most memorable experience for me in optometry school was when the text book education and clinical teachings came together to help me serve patients. That feeling is something special. It gave me reassurance that this is a great profession and that I could definitely be an optometric doctor. What I feel is most valuable to my education is the variety of clinical experiences I received. I feel like I am equipped with the fundamentals and tools to handle whatever walks through the door.

For information about NSUOCO, please find our website at www.optometry.nsuok.edu. Sandy Medearis, the Optometry Program Representative, can be reached at 918-444-4006 or medearis@nsuok.edu. She will be more than happy to visit with prospective students and their families, answer any questions and provide a tour of our facilities.

2012 OD of the Year Dr. Denise Roddy



Dr. Denise Spears Roddy ('88) was recently named the 2012 Optometrist of the Year by the more than 600 members of the Oklahoma Association of Optometric Physicians (OAOP). Dr. Roddy has been in private practice in Tulsa since 1989 and for the past 12 years has built a successful specialty in medically necessary contacts lens treatment. She is currently the president of Advanced Eye Care, Inc., and was on the executive committee of Physician's Eye Laser Center, where she was a founding member.

She is an active member of the OAOP having served on the Board of Directors since 2007. According to Sandra Naifeh, executive director of OAOP, "Dr. Roddy exemplifies the kind of physician we look for when considering the recipient of this award. She provides clinical excellence to patients, support to her profession and service to her community. Dr. Roddy is a valued member of the Oklahoma Association of Optometric Physicians and an asset to the city of Tulsa."

Dr. Roddy is a proud alumnus

of both NSU and NSUOCO. While attending Northeastern State University as an undergraduate student, Dr. Roddy excelled both in and out of the classroom. She was a member of the President's Leadership Class, served in the Student Senate for four years, participated in Model United Nations, the Oklahoma Intercollegiate Legislature and Pre-Med Club. Dr. Roddy also served as a student leader while at NSUOCO. She served two years in the Student Senate, received the award for Outstanding Contact Lens Clinician and the Bausch and Lomb Award for Academic Achievement.

Dr. Roddy has served on the Northeastern State University Alumni Board and in 2005 was the Alumni Association President. She currently serves on the NSU Foundation and the Oklahoma College of Optometry Embrace the Vision Steering Committee.

"One of the verses I try to live according to is Luke 12:48 'To whom much is given, much shall be required.' I think God has graced me with many blessings, and it is my job to give back. My parents, so many educators, and NSU have invested a lot in my life to help me achieve this honor, and I am humbled by and grateful for this recognition," she said.

Dr. Roddy is the proud mother of two young adults: Grant Roddy, who is pursuing a career as a firefighter/paramedic, and Kate Roddy, who just graduated as valedictorian of Bixby High School and will be attending TU in the fall.

"First of all, I have to say there is no one more deserving of being named OAOP Optometrist of the Year than Dr. Denise Roddy. I am very blessed to know and to have had the opportunity to learn from truly one of the best in the optometry business. Dr. Denise Roddy provided me with an opportunity, an opportunity to pursue a dream I had for a long time. Dr. Roddy took me under her wing and helped me to achieve my dream of becoming an optometry student at NSUOCO by allowing me to gain experience working in the optometric field. While having the opportunity to work for Dr. Roddy, I realized the true meaning of using the skills God has blessed you with to have a positive impact on someone else's life. Dr. Roddy does this on a daily basis." Colby Ricks, OSII and former Roddy employee

"Dr. Roddy, a graduate of our College, is a phenomenal champion for her patients, our University, and our profession. She is, quite simply, a "go to person" who leads and gets things accomplished. I am extremely pleased this honor is being bestowed on her. We are all fortunate to reap the benefits of Dr. Roddy's extraordinary talents and work." Dean Doug Penisten

"Dr. Roddy received this prestigious recognition due to her tireless work on behalf of the OAOP. Her leadership at the District level, in addition to her hard work on the Board, on the P.R. Committee, and especially on the InfantSee program demonstrate her willingness to give of herself. Not only has Denise worked at the highest level on the state association's highest priority projects, she has also found time to assist with other important projects including the Embrace the Vision Campaign effort at the Oklahoma College of Optometry. In the final analysis, we on the Board could not possibly have come up with a more deserving doctor than Denise Roddy, for OAOP Optometrist of the Year." Dr. Lee Carr, OCO Professor & OAOP President

NSUOCO Alumni recognized as one of state's top young professionals

Oklahoma Magazine has announced the members of its 40 Under 40 Class of 2012. Among those honored as part of this year's class is NSUOCO graduate, Brett Howell ('08). Each year, Oklahoma Magazine presents its annual survey recognizing 40 Oklahomans under the age of 40 who are making the state a better, richer and more exciting place to live. This year's class represents a wide variety of careers and professions, from doctors and specialists to accountants, attorneys and architects to artists and entertainers.

Howell was chosen as a member of this year's 40 Under 40 class because of his professional and volunteer commitments. Howell and the 39 other

members of this year's class represent the cream of the crop in their respective industries and are great examples of young Oklahoma professionals that are making the Sooner State a great place to live.

"It is an honor to be recognized with such an outstanding group of professionals from all different walks of life. It is a blessing to get to do what I love every day. I am thankful for my loyal patients that have helped



me build a successful practice," said Howell.

Howell opened Howell Family EyeCare in Pryor in July 2009. Prior to that, he served as the Optometry Chief for the AMO Cherokee Salina Hospital and the Wilma P. Mankiller Health Center in Stilwell. Now that he has his own practice, Howell has given up clinical teaching full time, but still presents guest lectures at NSUOCO and fills in at the Salina or Muskogee clinics when available.

Whether it's selling a pair of designer eyeglasses, performing a first eye exam on an infant, treating a patient for glaucoma, conducting a follow-up visit on an elderly patient's cataract surgery or removing a piece of metal from an industrial park employee's eye, it's all in a day's work for Howell.

"I consider my day a success when I know I have made someone's life better or more fulfilling through improved vision." -Brett Howell

See a video interview with Dr. Howell at <http://www.okmag.com/April-2012/Brett-Howell-OD/>

*Photo by Jeremy Charles

Join the NSU Alumni Association on <http://www.nsualumni.com/join>

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West Receives NSU Circle of Excellence Award

Dr. Roger West was presented the 2010-11 Circle of Excellence Award for Research at a May ceremony. The Circle of Excellence Award, NSU's top faculty award, recognizes outstanding accomplishments and commitment to educating students. Honorees are selected by their peers, from among many who are nominated by students and/or colleagues. West was one of three professors honored. Other categories were Teaching and Service.

In addition to securing a permanent place in NSU history, honorees will receive a brick bearing their name and award to be placed within the Circle of Excellence in front of Seminary Hall. They will be included in a formal display in the Administration Building and will receive their choice of a new computer or \$2,500 to use toward professional development.

West has been on the faculty of the Oklahoma College of Optometry since 1982. He teaches Geometric and Physical Optics and Vision Science I: Optics and also serves as a clinical instructor. West has served as chairman or member of the Curriculum Committee for many years.

West completed his BA and MA degrees at Western Washington State University and his Ph.D. at the University of Illinois, where he majored in Experimental Psychology and minored in Physiology. In 1981 he received his Doctor of Optometry degree from the New England College of Optometry in Boston. Prior to joining the faculty at NSU, West taught at Memorial University of Newfoundland, and was a research associate in the Department of Biology at Harvard University. He also completed post-doctoral fellowships



L to R: Dr. Doug Penisten, Dean, Dr. Roger West, Dr. Denise Deason-Toyne, Faculty Council President, and NSU President Dr. Steve Turner.

at Harvard University and the Wilmer Ophthalmological Institute at the Johns Hopkins Hospital. A brief review of a list of his many publications reveals a broad diversity of the types of research West has undertaken. As a result of his numerous grants, fellowships, and research positions, he has published in a variety of prestigious scientific journals and has presented posters on his research activities at professional conferences.

"My current research has been to uncover the cues that we use to determine the direction of gaze," West said. "This has been particularly rewarding since it uses my background in both psychology and optics."

Dean Penisten commented, "Dr. West is a gifted and multi-faceted researcher. He has collaborated on many research projects and he has conducted and completed many projects solo. Where most researchers must rely on others to perform or assist in methods protocols, apparatus design and set-up, and the statistical analysis of results --- Roger has the phenomenal skills to be a one-person operation."

Colleague Dr. Tom Salmon shared this, "Dr. West is, without doubt,

the most outstanding researcher in the College of Optometry, so this award is well deserved. Anyone who has worked with him knows that Dr. West is extremely intelligent, and has an exceptional talent for research. In addition, he inspires students to do high-quality research that gets published in the top eye research journals. It would be a great honor for any member of the NSUOCO faculty to publish just one such paper, but Dr. West himself has published over 30 papers in the past 30 years! We are very fortunate to have Dr. West at our college."

West joins the following current and/or former optometry faculty in receiving this prestigious award.

George Fulk, Research, 1991-92
 Gary Wickham, Research, 1992-93
 W.C. Maples, Research, 1993-94
 Lynn Cyert, Research, 1995-96
 Joseph Fleming, Teaching, 1996-97
 Bill Edmondson, Teaching, 1998-99
 Doug Penisten, Service, 2001-02
 Thomas Salmon, Research, 2002-0
 Kippi Wyatt ('86), Teaching, 2004-05
 Wesley DeRosier, Service, 2005-06
 Heidi Thoden, Service, 2008-09
 Michelle Welch ('95), Service, 2009-2010

Embrace the Vision Alumni Class Giving

The Embrace the Vision campaign for NSUOCO has launched an alumni class fundraising drive for the Lesley L Walls Low Vision Center to be located at the NSU Broken Arrow campus. This will be a state-of-the-art low vision center for all of eastern Oklahoma, with particular interest in serving military veterans with traumatic brain injury, as well as the increasing number of macular degeneration patients.

Each graduating class has a few leaders who have been identified to the campaign and who contact their classmates with opportunities for their class to raise funds for naming rights to some of the exam and therapy rooms.

NSU has allocated space for the clinic directly above the acclaimed Reading Clinic on the BA campus, where students from both disciplines can be involved. The complete buildout, including a new elevator and the equipment and furnishings of the center, is estimated at \$1.3 million. This will include an operational endowment to sustain the level of excellence for years to come.

Why Is it so Important?

- » Embrace the Vision is the Oklahoma College of Optometry's first ever campaign asking graduates to give back the value of their education.
- » The Walls Clinic will provide low vision and rehabilitation services to children, veterans, and the elderly living in eastern Oklahoma.
- » 3% of Oklahomans over age 40 are visually impaired. 23% of those over 80, the fastest growing segment of our population, are visually impaired.
- » The Walls Clinic will provide NSUOCO with a visible and credible presence in the Tulsa market, which enhances the stature of the program and allows for partnerships with other healthcare professions.
- » To recognize and honor the impact that Dr. Les Walls has had on the entire profession, but especially to NSUOCO.



Dr. Jay LaValley participated in a recent Class Leaders Council meeting

Class Leaders Council

Joe Phillips 1983
Daniel Bintz 1984
Jim Dunn 1985
Candace Stewart 1986
Jari Frazier 1987
Todd Wright 1988
Lisa Walker 1989
Michael Geiger 1990
Brian Shewey 1991
Jay LaValley 1992
David Hall 1993 – Co-Chair
James Ward 1993 – Co-Chair
Jo'el Sturm 1994
Mack Johnson 1995
John Smay 1996
Jennifer Jones and Andrea Dudley 1997

Jeffrey Elliott 1998
Jason Ellen 1999
Monte Harrel 2000
Amy Cheatham 2001
Selina McGee 2002
Stephanie Rice 2003
Ryan Parker 2004
Megan & Skye Petty 2005
Zeddie Cantrell 2006
Lynsey Bigheart 2007
Ryan Fenska 2008
Brandon & Amber (2008)
Mayes 2009
Scott & Stephanie Mendell 2010
Chris & Natalie Butcher 2011

"I appreciate the opportunity to serve on the committee because I want to support the University and the College of Optometry since they have given so much to me and my family. I met my wife, who is also the mother of my children, developed many life long friendships and earned the degrees I use to support my family while attending NSU." -*Dr. Justin Lindsey ('95)*

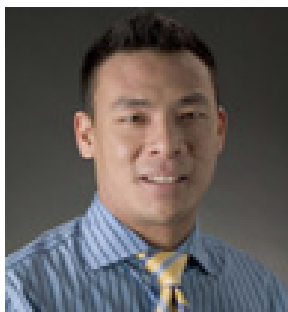
"Being a member of the NSUOCO steering committee allows me an opportunity to give back to both my university and profession that have enriched my life in so many ways. I am grateful for the opportunities I have each day in my practice to make a difference in someone else's life. I have those opportunities because earlier leaders at NSU and in Oklahoma optometry had a vision of excellence." -*Dr. Denise Roddy ('88)*



LtoR: Dr. Dan Bintz, Dr. Mack Johnson and Dr. Justin Lindsey

Know someone interested in optometry? Contact Sandy Medearis at 918 444-4006 or medearis@nsuok.edu to receive information or schedule a tour.

Louie Teaching at Casey Eye Institute, Oregon



Derek Louie, MSc, OD, FAAO, a 2005-2006 NSUOCO Cornea & Contact Lenses resident, is now employed at the Casey Eye Institute, Oregon Health & Science University (Portland, OR) as an assistant professor of ophthalmology. Upon completion of his residency, Louie joined Alcon Laboratories Inc where he established a specialty, medical contact lens service

within the department.

At OHSU Louie's responsibilities are centered around providing care to complex irregular corneal pathology patients, including those with keratoconus, post surgical cases and trauma. Lecturing to medical

students, nurse practitioner students, ophthalmology residents and ophthalmology fellows are also regular parts of his responsibilities.

Louie recently established the first optometric fellowship program within the department of ophthalmology, a one year medical contact lens fellowship. As Director, Louie supervises this unique program for new optometrists to learn, manage and care for all manner of complex, referral based cases at this full scope tertiary care ophthalmology center.

In addition to patient care, supervision of ophthalmology residents and the contact lens fellowship, Louie is currently completing the diplomate process of the Cornea, Contact Lenses & Refractive Technology section of the AAO. Louie is married to Ashley McFerron, a 2008 NSUOCO alumnae. Dr. McFerron is owner/O.D. of Canby Eyecare, a primary care practice with six full-time employees.

NSUOCO CME Update

Each year NSUOCO presents the 5-State Student Symposium, the Ocular Disease Update in Branson, MO, the Advanced Procedures Laser & Surgical Courses in July and the Fall Primary Eye Care. In addition, NSUOCO has been invited by numerous state associations to bring the Advanced Procedures program to individual states. We are extremely proud to support other states in their pursuit of advanced scope of practice.

AOA VP Munson Vistis



Dean Doug Penisten, left, and Dr. Mitchell Munson

AOA participation and national leadership. Dr. Munson also spent time with the faculty discussing current AOA activities and initiatives.

Dr. Mitchell Munson, OD, FAAO, AOA Vice President, visited NSUOCO on April 24 to meet with students and faculty. An evening dinner for students included a presentation by Munson on the importance of continuing AOA membership from student to OD. OSA, AOSA and class officers were fortunate to spend time with him earlier in the day and learn more about

Class Field Trip



their visit she teaches the children about vision and eye health and how fun it is to go to the eye doctor. Dr. Tacker practices at Envision Eyecare, in Coriscana, TX.

Dr. Jody LeMarr-Tacker ('03) hosted children from the 4 and 5 year old class at Mexia First United Methodist Preschool for their annual field trip to the eye doctor. While on

Hibbets Meets with Practice Management Club



L to R: Fourth year students Vanessa Williams and James Thirion listen to Ashley Hibbets, Crafton Tull VP, and Dr. Scott Hibbets

Dr. Scott Hibbets ('08) and wife Ashley, Vice President of Interior Design with Crafton Tull, met with the Practice Management Club in March. They shared their experience on Dr. Hibbets' build out for his new office, Stonewood Vision Source, in Broken Arrow. The lunch presentation covered things ODs need to know when building or remodeling an existing space, and the importance of having both an architect and interior designer. Hibbets also practices at TLC. The Hibbets family includes 18-month-old son Hudson.

NSUOCO now accepts students from all 50 states! Accepting applications now for the 2013 entering class! <http://optometry.nsuok.edu>

News Items

» The National Board of Examiners in Optometry Laser and Office Surgery Task Force includes Dr. Richard Castillo ('87), former NSUOCO faculty members Dr. Michael Sullivan-Mee, Dr. Nimesh Patel, Dr. Ben Gaddie and Dr. Kaila Osmotherly. The committee was composed of eight optometrists from across the nation and was charged with reviewing and making recommendations to the NBEO Board of Directors regarding the current use of laser technology and office surgery in optometric practice.

» Dr. Keith Bravenec recently was awarded the Fellowship in the American Academy of Optometry. Bravenec completed an NSUOCO Residency in Ocular Disease at BVA Elk City in 2006-2007. A University of Houston College of Optometry graduate, May 2007, he is stationed at Naval Hospital Camp Pendleton, CA. "I can honestly say that the experience gained from residency gave me the confidence to take on that challenge," Bravenec said.

» Dr. Dave Macarty ('91) is now in practice with Choctaw Nation Health in Idabel. Also providing optometric care at the Idabel clinic is Dr. Nikki Newton Mazzare ('09).

» Dr. Alissa Proctor was recently promoted to Associate Professor at NSUOCO. Proctor, a 2005 graduate of the Michigan College of Optometry, completed a Family Practice residency at NSUOCO in 2006. She joined the faculty at the end of that residency. Proctor teaches Introduction to Clinic, Vision Therapy II, Clinical Methods III and co-teaches Pediatrics. Proctor serves as faculty advisor to SVOSH (Student Volunteer Optometric Services to Humanity) and accompanied them on the 2009 mission trip to Roatan, Honduras.

» Dr. Rodney Bendure ('05) recently received a Fellowship from the American Academy of Optometry. Bendure practices at the Earnest Childers VA Clinic in Tulsa.

» Dr. Clint Sproul ('11) celebrated the opening of Enid

Vision Care in early June in Enid, OK.

» Dr. Nimesh Patel was awarded the Doctor of Philosophy degree at the University of Houston College of Optometry in May. Upon completion of an NSUOCO Family Practice residency in 2002-2003, Patel was an assistant professor at the school from 2003 – 2007.

» Dr. Bret Lehman, 2010-2011 Womack Army Medical Center Resident, earned his FAAO in 2011. Lehman is serving as Captain, Officer in Charge at Clark Optometry Clinic at Fort Bragg, NC. He recently attended an army sponsored CE event in San Antonio, TX, with a focus in Traumatic Brain Injury and vision rehabilitation. Lehman was part of a team which created the Carolina Federal Optometric Society (CFOS), a local CE organization and part of the Armed Forces Optometric Society. Lehman has also given a presentation to NC State pre-optometry club about a life as an optometrist in the military.

» Dr. Melissa Turner, Veterans Affairs Medical Center Resident in 2008-2009, completed her Fellowship in the American Academy of Optometry, October 2011. Turner practices at the Jack C. Montgomery VAMC in Muskogee, OK.

» The Chester H. Pheiffer clinic is relocating to a new building at W. W. Hastings Hospital. Photos and details coming soon!

» On April 24, 28 third year and 13 fourth year students visited the Oklahoma State Capitol. Saundra Naifeh and the OAOP staff scheduled a very educational program to help students to understand the legislative process. Students took the opportunity to talk with their hometown elected officials. Students were accompanied by Dean Doug Penisten, Associate Dean Michelle Welch and Asst. Dean for Administration Mary Stratton.

For information about NSUOCO, please contact Sandy Medearis, Optometry Program Representative, at 918-444-4006 or medearis@nsuok.edu. She will be happy to visit with prospective students and their families and provide a tour of our school and clinic. Also, check out our website at <http://www.optometry.nsuok.edu>.

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<http://www.nsuogiving.com/ocogiving/faq.php>

Residents 2011-2012 Complete Program

On June 31, 2012, fifteen ODs successfully completed a one-year residency with NSUOCO.



L to R: Dr. Jordan Jones, Dr. Aaron McNulty, Drs. Brittany and Chris Nannini

Residency, location, OD and alma mater are:

Family Practice Optometry Residency – NSUOCO, Tahlequah
Aaron McNulty, Indiana University
Brittany Nannini, Pacific University College of Optometry
Chris Nannini, Pacific University College of Optometry

Cornea and Contact Lenses Residency, NSUOCO, Tahlequah
Jordan Jones, University of Missouri St. Louis

Ocular Disease Residency at BVA and TLC, Edmond, OK
Laura England, Southern College of Optometry

Ocular Disease Residency at EyeCare Associates of South Tulsa
Kyle Tate, NSUOCO 2011

Ocular Disease Residency at BVA and TLC, Tulsa, OK
Stephanie Cooper, NSUOCO 2011

Ocular Disease Residency at BVA West, Elk City, OK
Brett Wagner, Southern College of Optometry
Primary Eye Care at Jack C. Montgomery Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Muskogee, OK
Jordan Hagler, NSUOCO 2011

Jenny Stevens, Southern College of Optometry

Primary Eye Care at Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Amarillo, TX
Jacobi Clever, Pacific University College of Optometry

Primary Eye Care at Veterans Health Care Systems of the Ozarks, Mt. Vernon, MO
Christopher Boschen, University of Missouri St. Louis

Primary Eye Care at Brooke Army Medical Center, Fort Sam Houston, Texas
Lee Johnson, New England College of Optometry
Stevan Kochis, University of Houston

Womack Army Medical Center, Fort Bragg, North Carolina
Frances Silva, University of Houston

OCO Receives Frederic Rosemore Low Vision Grant

Dr. David Lewerenz and OCO have been announced as one of the first recipients of the Frederic Rosemore Low Vision Educational Grant. The American Optometric Foundation, in collaboration with the Frederic and Marion Rosemore Family Foundation, selected three recipients. The \$2,000 grant is to be used for projects intended to increase interest and reward excellence in the field of low vision at North American schools and colleges of optometry. The grants are designed to enable institutions to provide care, support personnel or provide equipment directly related to the field of low vision.

Dr. Lewerenz's project is Preparing Student Interns for the Low Vision Rehabilitation Clinical Experience.

Other schools receiving grants were Southern College of Optometry and Southern California College of Optometry. Recipients will be recognized at the AOF Celebration Luncheon during the American Academy of Optometry's Annual Meeting to be held in Phoenix, AZ, Oct. 24 – 27.

Stop by the OCO booth in the Exhibit Hall – OAOP Pioneers in Optometry – Oct. 12 –14, 2012

Nineteen Schools Vote to Award the First Recipient of the Preston Cup



Pictured L to R: Dana Beards (VSP), Benjamin Lynch (NSUOCO Practice Management Vice-President), and Kelly Kerksick-Frisella (Vision Source)

The Student Optometric Leadership Network (SOLN) is proud to announce the Practice Management Club of Northeastern State University Oklahoma College of Optometry (NSUOCO) as the first recipients of the Preston Cup, as voted for by club representatives from nineteen schools of optometry.

The Preston Cup was created in honor of Preston Smith, a 4th year student at NSUOCO, and one of the founding members of SOLN during the first annual Student Private Practice Symposium and Leadership Conference held in

April 2011. Tragically, Preston was killed in an automobile accident on November 1, 2011.

Preston played an integral role in the formation of SOLN's mission to promote leadership in private practice optometry across the nation. It is in part due to his hard work and dedication to the NSUOCO Practice Management Club that this organization has been successful in connecting students representing every optometry school in the United States.

The Preston Cup is to be awarded each year to the most deserving SOLN private practice or practice management club. Each SOLN member attending the annual conference votes on which of their fellow organizations has gone above and beyond over the past year. It was with outstanding support that the Practice Management Club of NSUOCO was voted to be the first recipients of this honor.

Fellow SOLN founding member and State University of New York College of Optometry (SUNY) Private Practice Club President, Charles Bong, said "I am glad Oklahoma won this year. I think we all voted for them out of respect for Preston and the job his successors did with the club despite the tragedy. I truly believe Oklahoma deserved every bit of that award."

The Preston Cup was voted on and presented to NSUOCO club representatives at the 2nd annual SOLN National Leadership Meeting sponsored by Vision Source! and VSP® Vision Care. Thirty four club officers attended the three-day conference representing nineteen schools of optometry. The Preston Cup trophy was donated to SOLN by VSP.

To learn more about SOLN and the Preston Cup, email info.SOLN@gmail.com.

"first appeared in the Tahlequah Daily Press." - Natalie

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- Embrace the Vision
- Lesley L. Walls Vision Center

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