

SUMMER 2013

EYE ON ALUMNI

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



NORTHEASTERN
STATE UNIVERSITY



2013 Graduates

Elise R. Bolay, O.D.
 Sarah M. Boone, O.D.
 Emily L. Bruce, O.D.
 Jessica M. Colpitt, O.D.
 Mindi D. Combs, O.D.
 Russell J. Crotty, O.D.
 Kaylaen R. Dittmer, O.D.
 Elizabeth A. Fieser, O.D.
 Randolph Chip Fincher, O.D.
 Lauren R. Frost, O.D1
 Joshua M. Golden, O.D.
 Kelsey D. Grounds, O.D.
 Megan N. Kirkpatrick, O.D.
 Jason C. Koschmeder, O.D.
 Chad S. Mies, O.D.
 Nicholas E. Mondero, O.D.
 Sarah E. Mulliniks, O.D.
 April J. Parker, O. D.
 Linda L. Ray, O.D.
 Richard A. Reinert, O.D.
 Erin C. Ridder, O.D.
 Bonnie J. Rigney, O.D.
 Randall Scott Sauer, O.D.
 Owen A. Setter, O.D.
 James D. Thirion, O.D .
 Nat Wernick, O.D.
 Andrew S. Whitley, O.D.
 Vanessa E. Williams., O.D.

2013 Residents

Antione D. Barnett, O.D.
 Lindsey Anne Bull, O.D.
 .Gurpreet Kaur Chadha, O.D.
 Youykhram Chanthavilay, O.D., M.B.A.
 Marcus Cooke, O.D
 Arash Ali Eslami, O.D.
 Jasmin Isabel Filpo, O.D.
 Patricia M. Fulmer, O.D.
 Jamie Nicole Kuhn, O.D.
 Suzanne Renee Lakamp, O.D.
 Jaclyn A. Munson, O.D.
 Cassidy Danelle Obermark, O.D.
 Amy Elizabeth Slama, O.D.
 Patrick J. Stark, O.D.
 Ashley A. Thill, O.D.
 Gregory M. Valle, O.D.
 Charles Neal Whittle, O.D.
 Kathleen Yang, O.D.

Vitreo-Retinal Fellow

Stephanie Cooper, O.D., F.A.A.O.

Pictured on the cover is Owen Setter, O.D Dr. Setter will complete a one-year residency at the Bob Dole Veteran's Administration Center in Wichita, Kansas. This photo was taken during the May 11, 2013, commencement ceremony at NSUOCO.

FOCUS ON ALUMNI

Captain Kaylaen Dittmer, O.D.



Growing up on a farm outside of Tribune, Kansas, I always had an interest in medicine and knew I wanted to grow up helping people. In addition to our general physician, my family seemed to spend a lot of time at the eye doctor. My dad and grandpa both had retinal detachments and my older brother suffered a corneal laceration while

performing an Army exercise when I was a freshman in college. All of those trips to the optometrist paid off. After helping take care of my brother, I decided to shadow my personal optometrist, NSUOCO alumni Dr. Gaila Austin, and soon decided that I wanted to help others see.

I am a very thorough person, and after extensive research, I decided to apply to only a few optometry schools. After my interview at NSU, however, I knew that I had found

my optometry school home. I quickly realized that NSU offered the best clinical experience and its small town and class size made me feel right at home after coming from the plains of Kansas. Thanks to the exceptional faculty and staff at NSUOCO my optometric education has far exceeded my expectations.

After starting optometry school, an Air Force recruiter came to speak about the Health Professional Scholarship Program available to optometry students. My family has a long history of serving in the U.S. Armed Forces, and I found myself wondering if the Air Force would be the right fit for me. My late grandfather Dittmer was a POW for 32 months in the Korean War and my older brother has served 12 months in Afghanistan. The sacrifices they made inspired me to serve my country in honor of them. The HPSP scholarship offered the perfect opportunity to not only serve my country but do a job that I am passionate about.

I was recently given my orders and am proud to say that I will be stationed at Moody AFB in Valdosta, Georgia, following optometry school. I am excited to begin putting into practice all that I have learned at NSUOCO.

Kelsey Grounds, O.D.

I am extremely blessed to have received my optometric education from NSUOCO. Although optometry school provided an amazing education, lots of fun events, and lasting friendships, it was also very stressful at times. One of the ways I managed my stress was through running. The physical activity and change of scenery provided the perfect distraction from school, while also boosting my mood. Running allowed me to get outside, clear my mind, and spend time with friends outside of studying. Throughout the four years at NSUOCO I finished three full marathons (26.2 mi), two half marathons, a full marathon relay, and about 25 other shorter distance races. The stress relief from running definitely made my educational goals much more achievable. I am incredibly grateful for the first-rate education and outstanding clinical experience I received during my time at NSUOCO. I am excited to continue doing what I love and making an impact on people's lives during my residency.



James Thirion, O.D.

Unlike some of my classmates I did not know what profession I wanted to pursue straight out of High School. I had been recruited to play football for the Air Force Academy, but after completion of basic training and the subsequent couple weeks of college and football training, I decided military life was not something I wanted. So, I started working 40-50 hours a week and enrolled full-time at a local community college. I changed majors pretty regularly the first year of college until I talked to a friend of the family, Dr. Larry Fleck Jr. Dr. Fleck and I discussed my likes, dislikes, strengths, and weaknesses. He encouraged me to shadow him in clinic and see what I thought of Optometry. I shadowed him a couple weeks later and fell in love with the profession. I quickly changed my major to focus on getting into optometry school and researched the different school options. NSUOCO stood out having the smallest class size and being in the state with the widest scope of practice. To top it off, every OD that I talked to, whether a graduate of NSUOCO or not, pumped the school as being amazing. While at NSUOCO my wife and I have talked thousands of times about how great the

faculty at NSUOCO is and how thankful we are that I got the opportunity to attend NSUOCO.



And now, I am honored to be a part of the faculty at NSUOCO by joining the team and starting my career as a NSUOCO Rural Eye Program Optometrist at Will Rogers Health Center in Nowata. The program really provides you with the skills to be ready for anything upon graduation.

Emily Bruce, O.D.

I grew up in Wichita, Kansas, as the sixth of twelve children. My two oldest brothers chose their professions early, deciding their careers at the young ages of 10 and 12. It took a little longer before I knew where I belonged. In college, I majored in chemical engineering and went to work in the oil and gas industry. Although I enjoyed parts of my job, I couldn't shake the feeling that I was meant to do something else, something more meaningful. I began to look at going back to medical or dental school. After several conversations with two close optometry friends, Dr. Lacy Crissup and Dr. Amber Mayes, I agreed to shadow an optometrist.

My first shadowing experience was more than I could ever have imagined: I saw pre- and post-cataract surgery patients, a corneal infection, contact lens fittings, trauma, and glaucoma. The effect that shadowing experience had on me was immediate and profound. I was completely hooked. I continued to shadow other optometrists, only fueling my desire to become one. I applied to NSU and could not have been more thrilled when I received my acceptance letter.



My time in optometry school has truly been a breath of fresh air. I am incredibly thankful to be in a profession that is able to make a daily, lasting difference in a person's life. As I start my career, I am both nervous and excited, but can't wait to see what the future holds.

Join the NSU Alumni Association at
www.nsualumni.com/join

OAOP Selects OCO Alumni as Outstanding ODs

OAOP is excited to share that **Dr. Michelle Welch** is the 2013 Optometrist of the Year and Dr. Lynsey Bigheart is the Young OD of the Year.

Dr. Michelle Welch is a 1995 graduate of OCO. She currently serves the college as Associate Dean and a Professor. Dr. Welch is responsible for ten eye clinics within the NSU and Cherokee Nation Health Division and lectures all over the U.S. promoting the latest in optometric surgical techniques, lasers, and JP. She instills the importance of the OAOP, encourages grass roots political involvement, and promotes board certification to all students, faculty and practicing OD's. Dr. Welch is a Diplomat of the ABO and has been an OAOP member since 1995. Her involvement within the association has included serving as district director and various other committees and is currently an executive member of the Optometric Education and Excellence committee.

"Thank you and everyone involved VERY much for the great honor of being selected as OD of the Year for the OAOP! I am truly humbled by the award and greatly appreciate everyone for thinking of me!!! Please pass my sincerest thanks on to all involved!" - Dr. Welch



Michelle Welch, OD
(NSUOCO)

In 2009-2010 Dr. Welch received the NSU Circle of Excellence Award for Service in recognition of her outstanding accomplishments and commitment to community and professional service. The Circle of Excellence honors the top faculty at NSU in three areas: Teaching, Research and Service.

Her award was presented at the Spring Congress luncheon recently at the Embassy Suites in Norman.

OAOP's Lynsey Bigheart Young OD of the Year



Also honored was Dr. Lynsey Bigheart as Young O.D. of the Year for 2013.

Dr. Bigheart received her doctorate in optometry from NSUOCO in 2007, after completing her undergraduate degree in Chemistry from the University of Oklahoma.

She is very active on OAOP, serving on the Oklahoma Legislative Committee, OAOP District 1 President in 2010-2012, and as OAOP District 1 Director. Dr. Bigheart has served an active role in OCO's Embrace the Vision campaign. She is currently a speaker for Essilor contact lens division and has served as speaker for Inspire Pharmaceuticals and Bausch and Lomb Pharmaceuticals.

Dr. Bigheart is a partner in Twenty Twenty Eyecare, Tulsa. She specializes in contact lenses for patients who suffer from vision loss due to eye injuries, corneal diseases or unsuccessful refractive surgeries.

For information about NSUOCO, please contact Natalie Batt, Director of OCO Student and Alumni Affairs, at 918-444-4036 or batt@nsuok.edu, or Sandy Medearis, Optometry Program Representative, at 918-444-4006 or medearis@nsuok.edu. They 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>.

Holland Recognized as 2013 Kansas Optometrist of the Year



Dr. Jeannette Baze Holland, Oskaloosa, was recognized as the 2013 Optometrist of the Year during the Kansas Optometric Association Annual Convention and Seminar in Overland Park. This is the highest award an optometrist can receive from the KOA and is in recognition of personal sacrifices to advance the profession and the welfare of the public.

A 1995 graduate of the NSUOCO, Dr. Holland is a past-president of the Kansas Optometric Association and the Kansas Optometric Foundation. She serves as a representative of optometry with Blue Cross and Blue Shield of

Kansas, as well as with the regional Medicare Carrier.

Dr. Holland is a long-time participant in the Eye Care Council's SEE TO LEARN® Program, where she provides no-cost vision assessments to any three-year-old child in the community and she also donates care to individuals with financial need through VISION USA.

She has served in the Oskaloosa Rotary Club, and is a past president of the Oskaloosa Lions Club. She is also a supporter and speaker for the Jefferson County Health Department Diabetes Coalition.

Dr. Holland practices in Oskaloosa with her husband, Dr. Heath Holland (1997).

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

EMBRACE
the **VISION** 

Dr. Dan Bintz and Dr. Jerry Carter Assisting NASA in New Eye Health Study On Board the International Space Station

1984 OCO alumni Dr. Dan Bintz and Dr. Jerry Carter designed, created, and wrote a digital eye chart computer program known as Acuity Pro. It is currently being used in a scientific study conducted by NASA which began on the International Space Station in April, 2013. The two-year health study will begin shortly after the last three astronauts involved in Expedition 35 arrive at the International Space Station. The launch of the Soyuz TMA-08M from Kazakhstan occurred on March 28. It is installed on all the laptops of the Space Station.

Acuity Pro was developed to replace the bulb projector used to check visual acuity. By using a computer, doctors can randomize the eye chart, vary the number of letters shown and perform many functions that bulb

projectors cannot do. It is the industry leader in computer generated eye charts and the same software on the space station is used in thousands of eye clinics all over the world, including the majority of NSUOCO's clinics. Acuity Pro has been available since 2000.

The study is focused on decreased visual acuity that astronauts seem to experience due to long term exposure to microgravity while in space. This is the first experiment to investigate micro gravity-induced visual impairment/intracranial pressure or VIIP Syndrome. According to NASA, about 20 percent of astronauts who have flown to the International Space Station have reported some type of vision changes with varying degrees of severity and permanence.



“Scientists are aware that astronauts have developed vision modifications while in space,” said Dr. Bintz. “In the past, this issue has not been able to be addressed until astronauts return to earth. Now, with Acuity Pro, NASA has the ability to monitor visual alterations in real time to determine when changes begin, how they progress and specific astronauts who are affected. Dr. Carter and I are proud to be a part of this research and for Oklahoma to be represented in such an important endeavor.”

“NASA first approached us last year with the idea of using Acuity Pro on the International Space Station,” said Dr. Carter. “They wanted a software product that would test acuity, contrast sensitivity and macular function so they would not have to add any existing equipment to an already crowded space station. Acuity Pro was the perfect solution,” added Carter.

“This is just another example of the amazing work being done by optometric physicians here in our state,” said Sandra Naifeh, chief executive officer of OAOP. “Not only are our members helping people all across Oklahoma with their eye health, but now astronauts in space!”

Dr. Bintz said, “We feel it’s a great story that promotes Oklahoma, Oklahoma optometry (and optometry in general), Oklahoma’s optometry school, careers in science and optometry and the space program (which has had enormous downsizing).”

Dr. Bintz has practiced optometry in Elk City since opening his practice in 1984. He is a past president for OAOP and served on association’s board of directors, is currently the chair of the American Optometric Association’s Health Promotion and Disease Prevention Project Team and is a past chair of the Oklahoma Diabetes Coalition. Immediately following the May 20 tornado in the Moore, Oklahoma, area Dr. Bintz volunteered to loan copies of Acuity Pro to be used on laptop computers for those ODs checking vision or doing refractions for survivors.

Dr. Carter practiced in Bartlesville for 26 years. He participated as a Gold Standard doctor for the National Eye Institute’s Vision in Preschool Study and was an Adjunct Professor at the Northeastern State University Oklahoma College of Optometry (NSUOCO) for more than 20 years. Since Dr. Carter’s recent retirement he has built and moved into a new house and is working on a new version of Acuity Pro. He and Dr. Bintz have promoted Acuity Pro at Expo East in New York, AAPOS (American Association for Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus) and SECO, as well as other venues.

Watch Channel 9 news cast video (address below) about this amazing contribution.

<http://www.news9.com/category/116601/video-page?clipId=8720340&autostart=true>

Dr. Roger West Retires after Long Career at OCO



Dr. Roger West retires June 30, 2013, after 31 years of teaching at NSU. He has played a role in the education of OCO's 741 students. Dr. West received his bachelors degree with a double major of Psychology and German at Western Washington State College in 1966; a masters degree in psychology in 1967. In 1970, he obtained a Ph.D. from the University of Illinois in Psychology and Physiology. Upon receipt of his Ph.D., Dr. West began eye research at the following institutions: John Hopkins Hospital, Harvard University and Memorial University in St. Johns, Newfoundland. At that point, he returned to school and completed an O.D. degree from New England College of Optometry in 1981.

Dr. West was supplied with the following questions regarding his OCO experience. For those of you who have not had the opportunity to hear from him recently, we chose to give you our questions and his answers. This will allow you to enjoy (one last time) that typical Dr. West dry humor.

How did you wind up in Tahlequah, Oklahoma, at NSUOCO?

I went to optometry school at NEWENCO (NECO) where they had an accelerated two year program for students who had a Ph.D. Their rationale was that we already had a good background in the basic sciences, and they hoped that we would continue on as researchers and educators. Former OCO faculty members, George Fulk was in the same class, and Lynn Cyert was in the class ahead of us. When Lynn went to NSU, George and I followed.

Was this your first teaching job?

My first teaching job was in the Dept. of Psychology at Memorial University of Newfoundland (Canada) where I taught psychology and did research on retinal anatomy.

Were you ever in private practice?

No. In fact, I never took part in the Practice Plan offered to faculty through the college, so I have the dubious distinction of never having earned a dollar directly through the practice of optometry.

How have you seen optometry change?

As a student at NEWENCO (now NECO), Massachusetts law did not allow us to use dilating drops, let alone other drugs. This meant that even anesthetics were not allowed, so we had to use noncontact tonometry. Our training with indirect ophthalmoscopy consisted of sharing two kits that we took home to dilate and practice on our "pets" (wink-wink, spouses). The normal curriculum was still four years, so much more of the course work dealt with optics and graphical analysis.

What have you enjoyed most?

I have gained a great deal of satisfaction helping students become published. This will hopefully encourage them to continue with an interest in research.

How long have you been located in your current office?

I have been in the same office (Rm 176) since we first moved into the Optometry Building in 1990, so 23 years. My office was originally an isolation room in the old Hastings Hospital and it had two sinks, one for the patient and one for the doctor. (Even corporate executives don't usually have their own attached bathroom!)

What classes have you taught?

In my previous teaching position in Canada I taught psychology, mainly general and physiological psych and sensation and perception. At NSU I started out teaching Physiology and Neuroanatomy, but switched to optics after about five years. Dr. Walls allowed me to make this change based on his trust that I would make a good effort, for which I am eternally grateful.

How has teaching in the classroom evolved while you have been here?

We, of course, started out teaching using a chalkboard, but evolved to white boards, and then computer. I never did get into Blackboard.

Comments to your former students? Advice for new students?

Remember the "Mother Test" for ophthalmoscopy. If you would have looked more carefully if it was your mother in the chair, then you have failed the test.

Awards you have received?

The main award was the Circle of Excellence Award for Research, which I received last year. I have carried the mace on two graduation ceremonies. This was once reserved for the most senior faculty, but this honor is now spread around more.

Published how many articles in what journals?

My first publications were in general science and neuroanatomy journals, but with the shift in my interest to optometry most have now been in Optometry and Vision Science. My research for the past seven years has been to study the cues that we use to determine where another person is looking.

How do you think students have changed over the years?

When I entered optometry school more students had a background in physics and math. Now their interest seems to be more medically oriented.

What do you plan to do in retirement?

Ann is retiring at the same time. We will continue to live in Tahlequah, but we intend to do a lot of travelling and pursue our hobbies--in my case, astronomy and rock hounding.

Any favorite memories?

The First Year Star Parties were fun. Ann and I have given them continuously for at least 25 years.



The Final and Famous West Bonfire

Alumni Memories...

Dr. West is extremely passionate about Research and Optometry. He taught me a lot when we worked on our research project together. Thank you Dr. West for caring so much about your students and the future of Optometry!
Dr. Julie Dolven (2011)

The class of 2005 worked very diligently our first semester to get Dr. West to smile and joke during Optics class. Our hard work paid off. He started smiling at our jokes and he even invited our class to his home for a cook out and bon fire! I'm sure we are still his favorite class today.
Dr. Sherl Garr (2005)

Dr. West's notes were among the best. They should be published.
Dr. Chris Copp (2012)

The first time I had seen Saturn through a telescope was when Dr. West invited our entire class to his house for a get-together. I had never seen a telescope so tall that

one had to climb a ladder to get a view through it. I had also never met anyone who had built a telescope. That must mean that Dr. West is simply a genius.

Dr. Meimey Wong (2012)

What an exciting time for Dr. West, he was one of my favorite professors at NSU. He was always very helpful and professional. He has a great dry sense of humor that always made me laugh.
Dr. Cody Greenhaw (2007)

The most memorable lecture from Dr. West was when he told us about finding burn marks on his son's window ledge. He led us on with this story, believing that his son was secretly smoking in his room or some other awful scenario. He had us going for a while, but then revealed that in reality, his son had a glass globe on the window ledge that was focusing the sunlight perfectly and scorching the ledge. Dr. West then went through the optics of what was happening. His son would

periodically move the globe, only to create more scorch marks. Best optics lesson ever! Dr. Robin Price (2004)

Dr. West valued our class time. If his lecture finished a little early, he would always ask, "Does anyone have a two-minute question?" to fill the last bit of time. We often learned a lot (if a bit reluctantly) from those two-minute questions. Dr. Becky Dobbins (2003)

I will always remember Dr. West and his wife for opening their home to all of the students in the first year class for a bonfire and Jupiter viewing party. This party still remains as one of my most treasured memories of optometry school! Thank you, Dr. West!

Dr. Lindsey Brewer Young (2005)

Dry...but quick witted! (Which is an excellent combination.) Enjoyed his class! Congrats Dr. West!

Dr. Holly Anderson (2002)

I loved Dr. West! He was one of my favorites. Won't be the same without him. Genuine, kind, king of optics.

Dr. Gabe Avilla (2002)

I'll never forget when he made a bet with class of 2000 that led to him shaving his beard in class. I don't remember what our part was, but we won.

Dr. Monte Harrel (2000)

As a student, I remember being intimidated by this highly intelligent PhD trying to teach me optics. He didn't disappoint with his deep knowledge, but I was pleasantly surprised to find he was a humble, genuine man with a great sense of humor and a quick wit."

Dr. Jeff Miller (1995)

Who can forget the Telescope Party (with the huge bonfire) that Dr. West and his wife threw each year?? Good times! I wish him congratulations on his retirement!!!

Dr. Saunya Smith (2010)

Even nearing his retirement Dr. West's dedication and work ethic were unparalleled. Thanks to him, we were able to get our research project published before we graduated! Thank you Dr. West!

Dr. Russell J. Crotty (2012)

Dr. West had a methodical approach to teaching optics. Each lesson built on the last, slowly and surely, to give greater understanding to complex concepts. He constantly made improvements to his notes over his years of service to make the subject matter as clear as possible. He also had a habit of quietly sneaking notes into his lectures, so you had to pay attention in class or you'd miss them.

Dr. Neal Whittle (2013)

One of the most intelligent, well prepared professionals I have ever encountered.

Dr. Matt Horner (2006)

That is great news and happy retirement! Gotta love his bolo ties and the dinners he sponsored at his house to do some star gazing on his own built telescope! Great times indeed.

Dr. Oscar Corredor (2003)

I would say the thing about Dr. West the class of 2005 will never forget is his ability to draw the perfect circle. And no one can ever forget his fabulous dry humor!! Very excited for him to retire, but no one can ever replace him!

Dr. Megan Petty (2005)

For information about NSUOCO, please contact Natalie Batt, Director of OCO Student and Alumni Affairs, at 918-444-4036 or batt@nsuok.edu, or Sandy Medearis, Optometry Program Representative, at 918-444-4006 or medearis@nsuok.edu. They 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>.

Join the NSU Alumni Association at
www.nsualumni.com/join

Optometry Partnership between NSU & Cherokee Nation Recognized



The Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry recently passed a resolution commending the Cherokee Nation for its dedication to quality health care, citing its collaboration with the Northeastern State University Oklahoma College of Optometry. NSU presented the resolution to the Nation during a ceremony at the optometry college Jan 14. In attendance were, left to right, Dr. Doug Penisten, dean of NSUOCO, Bill John Baker, principal chief of the Cherokee Nation, and NSU President Steve Turner.

*This article first printed in the
Tahlequah Daily Press.*

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TAHLEQUAH, Okla. -- Through its cooperation with the Northeastern State University Oklahoma College of Optometry, the Cherokee Nation was honored Jan. 14 by the Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry (ASCO) for dedication to providing health care for its citizens.

Attending the presentation was Bill John Baker, principal chief of the Cherokee Nation, NSU President Steve Turner and Dr. Doug Penisten, dean of NSUOCO.

"We were excited to present this ASCO resolution to the Nation," Penisten said. "We are proud to have this relationship which permits us to provide an outstanding level of eye and vision care to the Cherokee people."

The resolution reads "that the Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry and its member institutions commend the Cherokee Nation for its commitment to providing quality health care to it people through collaboration with an optometric teaching institute, the Oklahoma College of Optometry."

Faculty, residents and students of NSUOCO provide eye and vision care for Cherokee citizens at the tribe's nine medical facilities, and ASCO unanimously adopted a resolution recognizing the Nation's efforts.

Penisten said the NSUOCO community handles more than 50,000 patient visits a year through regular appointments, missions abroad and clinical agreements such as that with the Cherokee Nation. He added that the resolution commending the Nation was "unprecedented."

"The salient point is that ASCO recognizes this system, set up between the Nation and OCO, is a model for the delivery of health care while coordinating optometric education, all while setting a phenomenal standard of excellence," he said.

ASCO is a non-profit education association founded in 1941 which represents the interests of optometric education. Its membership includes all 23 schools and colleges of optometry in the United States, Puerto Rico and Canada. ASCO's mission is "to serve the public through the continued advancement and promotion of all aspects of academic optometry."

For more information about the NSU Oklahoma College of Optometry call 918-444-4000.



Left to Right, Brett King O.D., F.A.A.O., President HOACLS; Leland Carr, O.D., O.D. of the Year HOACLS recipient; Steve Smith O.D., past Director HOACLS (and father of OCO alumni Dr. Lacy Crissup, graduate in 2009)

Leland Carr, O.D. Named Heart of America Contact Lens Society OD of the Year

The Board of Directors of the Heart of America Contact Lens Society is proud to present the 2013 Optometrist of the Year to Dr. Leland Carr. The award is presented to an optometrist who has made substantial contributions to the understanding of professional practice and/or contact lenses and primary eye care. Dr. Carr received his OD degree From Ferris State University in 1981. Three years later he accepted a full appointment as an assistant professor at NSUOCO in Tahlequah, Oklahoma and was named full professor in 1992. In July 1993, he joined Pacific University and was appointed Dean in 1997. Dr. Carr was named Oregon Optometrist of the Year in 2000. A very popular speaker, Dr. Carr has lectured extensively and in 2004 Dr. Carr was honored to receive an award of Special Recognition from the American Optometric Student Association. Carr has authored or co-authored numerous articles and is co-editor of a text covering laser technology in primary eye care. A highlight of his career was his induction in 2006 into the Oklahoma Association of Optometric Physician's Hall of Fame.

Dr. Carr is currently Assistant Dean and Professor of Optometry at NSU and serves as President of the Oklahoma Association of Optometric Physicians. He also serves on the Steering Committee for OCO's Embrace the Vision campaign. Additionally, Dr. Carr serves as academic consultant to The Vision Care Institute, a Johnson & Johnson company, and is a Diplomat and consultant to the American Board of Optometry.

Dr. Carr is frequently honored by OCO's students. Students have voted him the Outstanding Professor numerous times and he is often selected by graduating students to participate in the hooding ceremony at optometry commencement and graduation services.

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NSUOCO accepting applications July 1, 2013, for the 2014 entering class.

Go to <http://www.optomcas.org/> to apply!

Edie deFreese Retires, during which time she helped 564 students become ODs

After 23 years of dedicated service, Edie deFreese retired in January 2013. When requested to share her memories, she asked for a few months to prepare it, because departure was emotional.

We moved to Tahlequah in August 1977, the day after Elvis died—almost had to take to the bed over that and was not sure I would be ready when Mayflower arrived early the next day with all our furniture!! Dr. Carr and I both share a love for Elvis. On August 13, 1990, Mary Stratton hired me for a “90 day temporary” in the Contact Lens Clinic at W.W. Hastings Hospital. In November Dr. Leland Carr, the Chief of Clinics, asked me if I would stay on and work in Administration. So, I moved to Wylly Hall on the main campus, and became the Word Processing Person. This was before all the doctors had their own computers, so I did all the typing for them (Dr. Penisten was the only one whose writing I could read). AND I had never used a computer before!! Dr. W. Gary Wickham, bless his heart, spent many days teaching me. The day after Christmas break in January 1991 we all moved to our new location which is now NSUOCO, and I was still the Word Processing Person—my office was right next to the office of the Dean.

In May 1991, we moved the Contact Lens Office from W.W. Hastings to NSUOCO, and my contact lens career began. Throughout the years I worked with Contact Lens Clinic Chief Dr. Harry House, followed by Dr. Bill Edmondson and then Dr. Latricia Pack. When I started Dr. Les Walls was the Dean, followed by Dr. William Monaco, Dr. George Foster, and now Dr. Doug Penisten. Dr. Lynn Cyert was also an interim Dean.

During my 23 years at NSUOCO I have been privileged to have many student workers. Twenty-two of them have gone on to become Optometry students, 20 here at NSUOCO, 1 at UMSL and 1 at Pacific. We have had Christmas parties at our house, dinners and students “dropping in for a visit” or just needing someone to talk to. We have hired numerous students to plant or



relocate trees, move flower beds, trim bushes and even lay sod in our front lawn.

When I think back at how much optometry has changed I think of how much we have grown, from only a few staff members to many, and the many clinics that have been added. Contact lenses used to all be in glass vials, with the exception of GP’s, and had to be cleaned, disinfected, neutralized and then stored again in vials to be used again for diagnostic use. Hooray for the blister packs and all the new equipment, diagnostic machines, and hard fought legislation that allowed us to teach and do laser! I am excited to think where optometry will be in the future, and I continue to be in awe of the program, our mission and the vision that NSUOCO has.

The most rewarding part of my job has ALWAYS been working with students, “helping to give them roots and wings”. I also absolutely loved the contact with the patients. One of the very special times I always looked forward to, was the Advanced Contact Lens Class III on Friday morning during the fall semester when the entire 4th year class had a Workshop. Most Fridays we had visiting speakers from other colleges of optometry, or from the industry itself. One of our favorites was GPLI workshop. After the speaker, students had a clinic partner and they would see 45-50 patients. These were all new contact lens fits with specialty lenses; what a learning experience this was for all involved! I think how much work Dr. Bill Edmondson and later Dr. Alan McKee put in just organizing this fall workshop. Their efforts were very far reaching and the students realized how fortunate they were to be given this opportunity for growth and knowledge.

It was during some of these times I really got to know so much about our students and share in their lives, happy times and sad times. Life happens--falling in love, falling out-of-love, engagements, marriages, births, divorces and even death. We were all almost "brought to our knees" over the tragic loss of Preston Smith (class of 2012) on Nov. 1, 2011. What a beloved classmate and friend, and what an ambassador of God's grace—Preston touched all of our lives, and I would like to think we are better people because of that.

The Eyeball, White Coat Ceremony and Commencement were all special events. After all these years, I still am

overcome with emotion and have tears in my eyes when I see the students stand and take the Optometric Oath.

The hardest part of my job was "walking away" from something I loved doing and looked forward to with joy each day, but I knew it was finally time to retire.

I will always consider my NSUOCO "family" with gratitude and love and know how fortunate I was to be a part of them. How blessed I have been to be a part of all of this!

My e-mail address continues to be defreeze@nsuok.edu

"Edie wanted students to get the best educational experience possible in contact lens clinic. She knew us well and knew the patients well, so she was in a perfect position to see that patient/student encounters were mutually beneficial. Edie cared as much about students' personal lives as she did their education. She often referred to us as her "kids". When I became Contact Lens Clinic Chief, I was already aware that Edie knew more about running the contact lens clinic than I did! She taught me a lot about how the clinic ran. She was a gracious mentor and a responsible co-worker. I appreciated that Edie took a personal interest in the patients and students. She had an uncanny ability to remember patients' names, prescriptions, occupations, and hometowns. And, this ability came in handy when we were recruiting patients for annual workshops like the Gas-Permeable Lens Institute (GPLI) Workshop."

"More than anything, Edie was (and still is) a treasured friend. We talked about many things over the years, much of which included family. She knew me better than anyone else I worked with, and we still got along amazingly well! I know she will be a blessing to those she chooses to serve in retirement through volunteer activities; and, she will enjoy seeing more of her beloved grandchildren."

Dr. Patricia Pack (1998)

"In this life, each one of us will run across a special individual that we connect with in a way that is as deep as family, yet share no blood relation. Edie is one I consider a family member and have been blessed because of her care, devotion, and presence in my life."
Dr. David Jones (2002)

"Edie was my first optometry friend (or as I would later learn optometry cousin). Working for Edie in NSUOCO's contact lens clinic prior to optometry school built the foundation for my relationship with our NSU family as a faculty member today. Edie was the person I could go to when optometry school days were long and I needed a push. She was also the person to go to when exciting things were going my way. She cared not only about my success in school, but about my family, friends, and future. Without Edie my optometry experience would be far different. I am blessed to have known her as my boss, friend, and of course optometry cousin."

Dr. Becky Enloe (2007)

For information about NSUOCO, please contact Natalie Batt, Director of OCO Student and Alumni Affairs, at 918-444-4036 or batt@nsuok.edu, or Sandy Medearis, Optometry Program Representative, at 918-444-4006 or medearis@nsuok.edu. They 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>.

Nix Foundation Helps Optometry Purchase Scanning Laser Microperimeter



OCO Assistant Professor Dr. Jenna Lighthizer, Associate Dean Dr. Michelle Welch, and Chief of Low Vision Services Dr. David Lewerenz, join Nix Foundation members Jimmy Nix and Patsi Nix-Smith for a test drive of a new machine designed to assist optometrists and those affected with macular degeneration and other conditions. The Nix Foundation provided the funds to add the machine -- one of just two in the state and the only one in the country to have a training module.

Northeastern State University's Oklahoma College of Optometry can now offer a further enhancement of its outstanding eye care for patients thanks to the generosity of Patsi Nix-Smith and Jimmy Nix. Through the Nix Foundation, the two provided funds for the purchase a scanning laser microperimeter (SLMP). The machine helps assess and assist those afflicted with macular degeneration and other conditions in which a patient has areas of blindness in their vision.

"It allows us to track the eye movements or habits of these patients," said Dr. David Lewerenz, chief of Low Vision Services at NSUOCO. "Since most people with macular degeneration do not possess direct forward vision, they use available peripheral vision. We can also help them adjust their vision habits through training, which can improve reading speed. Many visually impaired people use left peripheral capability to read. "This can slow reading speed because the blind spot covers the next word as they scan left to right," he said. "

The instrument, produced by the Italian company Centerveue, can let an optometrist determine exactly which part of peripheral capability a patient is using. To enhance reading speed, patients can be trained to use their bottom peripheral vision. The SLMP can then be used to measure the effectiveness of training.

"The machine tells us which direction and how far the patient is turning the eye and how steady the fixation is," Lewerenz said. "It maps an area of fixation dots – a quantification of how stable their fixation is. Our goal is to teach them to perhaps relocate that and to make that area a little tighter so the fixation is more stable. That will enable them to get more out of the vision they have."

Cost of the machine is about \$45,000 and it is only the second SLMP operating in Oklahoma. The OCO machine is the first in the U.S. to include a training module provided by Centerveue. The college was chosen to field test and give feedback on the module before it is widely distributed.

Nix-Smith is the daughter and niece of twins Mildred Nix and Callie Stinson, respectively. The two were blinded immediately after birth by an excessive application of silver nitrate – a compound commonly used in the past to prevent bacterial infection in the eyes of newborns.

"I remember them always dealing with their vision problems and wearing thick glasses," Nix-Smith said. "The issues facing the visually impaired became very important to me."

Jimmy Nix said he could empathize with his grandmother and great aunt, and not only because he saw them meet their challenges. He had a personal brush with vision loss. "I was playing racquetball in college, and in those days they didn't require you to wear safety goggles," he said. "A ball came off my opponent's racquet and hit me in the face. It completely hemorrhaged my eye and I almost lost the eye. It was a traumatic experience and I appreciate eyesight. Supporting the College of Optometry is a pretty easy sell for me."

Dr. Doug Penisten, OCO dean, noted the donation to purchase the SLMP is only the most recent expression of support from the Nix Foundation. The foundation has helped the college update equipment in its Low Vision Rehabilitation Room. It also contributed most of the funds to facilitate provision of text-magnifying specialty glasses to Parkview-Oklahoma School for the Blind in Muskogee. OCO conducts low vision evaluations for Parkview students and provides glasses or magnifying devices to help improve vision at all

distances, or glare reduction for those who are light sensitive.

"Because of the support of Patsi Nix-Smith and Jimmy Nix, services for the visually impaired are better," Penisten said. "This new piece of equipment allows us to

provide an even more advanced level of care. To be able to have real-time objective data as to where the fixation is going on and have it monitored and recorded, and then to be able to see the progress after training is phenomenal. The commitment and support of Patsi and Jimmy are helping people see!"

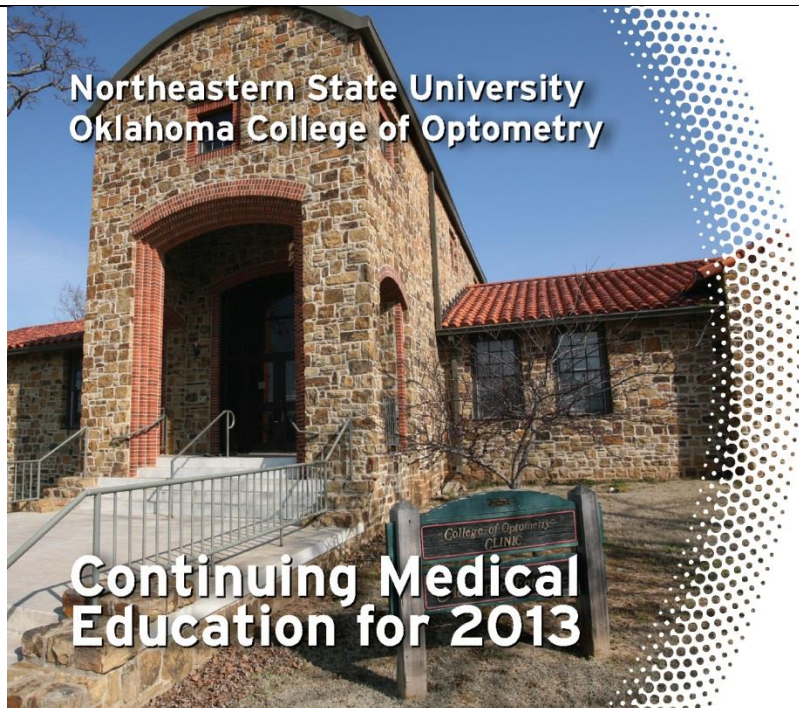
OCO and TLC Laser Eye Centers to Host PRK Certification Course

NSUOCO, in conjunction with TLC Laser Eye Centers, is looking forward to hosting a PRK certification course this upcoming Fall/Winter. This course has not been offered for several years. We are excited to have the opportunity to certify more Oklahoma Optometrists to practice to the fullest scope of their licenses. We currently need to see how many Optometrists are interested in attending the course, so that we can plan accordingly. Prerequisites for PRK certification include a current Oklahoma license with Laser Therapy for the Anterior Segment Certificate, a current DEA number, and proof of Malpractice Insurance. Following the course, you will need to complete four proctored cases

(four eyes) within one year to obtain your PRK certification. The previous PRK certification class provided over 20 hours of CE credit and cost around \$1200. Once we have an idea of how many Oklahoma Optometrists are interested in the course, we will be able to provide an exact price and number of CE credits provided.

Please contact Mary Stratton at stratton@nsuok.edu if you are interested in attending the course, so that we can add you to the tentative list. Please contact Liz Batchelor at liz.batchelor@tlcvision.com if you have questions about the course.

NSUOCO CONTINUING EDUCATION SCHEDULE OF EVENTS



<http://optometry.nsuok.edu/ContinuingEducation>

Fall Primary Eye Care Update

(Fall NSUOCO Homecoming Event)

September 14-15, 2013

10 COPE hours, including OK JP, held in conjunction with OSA Golf Tournament Classes held on NSUOCO Campus - Optometry Building

Save the Date

5-State Symposium

Saturday, February 22, 2014

For more information about this Annual AOSA event, contact Jordyn Barnwell raneyjn@nsuok.edu. This is the primary fundraising event for the students through the American Optometric Student Association.

DeRosier honored at NSU Employee Appreciation Reception & Selected for 2013-2014 HOACLS Board of Directors

Northeastern State University recently honored Dr. Wes DeRosier with The Model the Way award. The Model the Way awards honor faculty and staff who exemplify service above self and tirelessly promote the NSU mission. Dr. DeRosier was one of only two selected from all faculty campus wide.

Along with his teaching duties, DeRosier coordinates post-graduate clinical training residencies for optometrists. He was an NSUOCO optometry resident himself before joining the faculty in 1997. He earned his bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Saskatchewan and earned his doctor of optometry degree from the University of Missouri – St. Louis. "I enjoy the community of the university," DeRosier said. "NSU is one big family where everyone helps and works with each other. At NSUOCO, it is incredible to watch students work with patients and witness their realization that they impact their patients' lives."

DeRosier and his wife, Dr. Heidi Thoden, OCO Clinical Assistant Professor, also support the community off campus. They are active in many professional optometry associations, their church and Special Olympics Lions Club International Opening Eyes.

"We recently coordinated the tenth annual Oklahoma Opening Eyes event. This year, in one day, 120 volunteers conducted eye exams for



416 Special Olympics athletes at the Oklahoma Summer Games," he said. "The NSUOCO students, staff and faculty were again instrumental in the success of Opening Eyes. Also many OCO graduates and their staff volunteer for these events, so we get to see how successful NSUOCO graduates have become and how they are contributing in their communities. I am grateful to NSU and to all my colleagues who support my wife and me and our efforts in the community."

Educational Grants Awarded at the 52nd Annual Heart of America Contact Lens Society Congress

Five students were each awarded a \$1,000 scholarship for Outstanding Research Project Poster during the Heart of America Contact Lens Society annual congress, in Kansas City, MO. To view all of the posters submitted visit <http://www.hoacsl.org/posters-2013.cfm>

Pictured from left to right: Bill Hefner, O.D., M.Ed., F.A.A.O., Director HOACLS; Ryan Nicholas, Western University of Health Sciences College of Optometry; Jason Koschmeder, NSUOCO (2013) ; Megan Kirkpatrick, NSUOCO (2013); James Thirion, NSUOCO (2013); Jessica Colpitt, NSUOCO (2013); Chris Putnam, UMSL; and Brett King, O.D., F.A.A.O., President HOACLS



SCHOLARSHIP CONTRIBUTIONS

Dr. Wes DeRosier presents a \$200 check from Heart of American Contact Lens Society for the Preston L. Smith Memorial Scholarship to Dr. Doug Penisten, NSUOCO Dean. Preston served as a monitor for three HOACL Annual Conferences.

Other donations to the Smith Scholarship include \$1,320 raised at the 5-State Symposium in the silent auction in February. And \$355 was donated onsite at the Dr. Preston L. Smith Memorial 5K Run on April 6, 2013. Pictured below from left to right are, former classmate Andy Whitley and wife Courtnie; Preston's parents, Bruce and Mary Beth Smith; mother-in-law Freda Frerer and wife, Dara; former classmate James Thirion and wife Brianna. Other alumni who participated were Dr. Chris Copp (2012) and wife, Angelika; Dr. Tiffany (2012) and Grant Spencer; Dr. Jordan Ewart (2012); and Dr. Dakota Waldroop (2008).



Donations to any of NSUOCO's scholarship may be made by mail to NSU Foundation, 812 North Cedar, Tahlequah, OK 74464 or At <http://www.nsugiving.com/s/1517/foundation-start.aspx>

My Experience with a Student Response System

by Kippi Wyatt, O.D., M.S.

Several years ago, I requested and received a student response system to use in the classroom. The system I selected was TurningPoint, by Turning Technologies. TurningPoint allows instructors to present multiple choice questions during class which students answer using small keypads (clickers). The responses are

detected by a receiver, and the software then displays the percentage of responders who selected each answer choice. TurningPoint works with PowerPoint, so the questions can be added to existing PowerPoint presentations.



Students using TurningPoint clickers during Dr. Wyatt's class.

Benefits of using a student response system in the classroom include:

- A student-centered approach to teaching and learning is enhanced.
- Questions or problems may be used to motivate the students.
- More students participate in class since they do not fear giving an incorrect answer due to anonymous responses.
- Each student receives immediate feedback on his/her answer and how it compares with the rest of the class.
- The instructor receives instant feedback regarding the students' knowledge or understanding of a concept.
- The instructor can custom-tailor class discussions based on students' responses, taking advantage of "teachable moments."
- Using the system is fun for the instructor and the students.

There are a couple of disadvantages of using a student response system. A few minutes of additional time are required to set up the system before class and retrieve keypads after class. Additional preparation time is also required for developing questions and inserting them into your presentations.

However, my experience with the student response system has been very positive. Previously, I would ask a question in class and get few, if any, responses from the students. With the keypad system, I often have 100% class participation. In order for the keypads to be most effectively used, the students must have reviewed the course material before coming to class. I encourage this by giving assignments and quizzes based on those assignments. Sometimes the responses to a question presented in class are surprising. I gain real-time knowledge of the students' understanding of a particular topic, and this knowledge allows me to spend more time discussing the concepts they don't understand.

Some other features of the student response system which I haven't used are software which allows students to use any web-enabled device to respond and the ability to assign specific keypads to students and administer quizzes with automatic recording of results.

In summary, I greatly enjoy using the student response keypads in my class, and I believe my class time is being used more effectively.

Dr. Wyatt is Professor and Assistant Dean for Academic Affairs in the College of Optometry. She was recognized with the Circle of Excellence Award in Teaching in 2005 and was named one of the first Fellows of the DaVinci Institute in 2006.

NEW FACULTY JOIN OCO

Dr. Joseph Shetler grew up in Neligh, Nebraska, a small town in the Northeast corner of Nebraska. He attended Hastings College, a small Presbyterian liberal arts college, and completed a Chemistry degree at Indiana University. He graduated in 1985 with his OD degrees with honors from IU. Right after graduating he was a PHS office for the Navajo for a few years in Arizona before returning to Nebraska. He practiced as an associate in West Point, NE, for a couple of years, before purchasing a small solo practice with two employees in the panhandle of NE. When he accepted the assistant professorship at NSU, the practice had grown to three OD partners, three locations and over 15 employees. One of his partners was an NSU graduate, Dr. Timothy Chancellor (1994). Offices were located in Gordon and Chadron, NE, on the Ogalala reservation in Pine Ridge, SD. He practiced there for 25 years. Dr. Shetler was named NOA, (Nebraska Optometric Association) Young OD of the Year many years ago, OD of the Year, and recently received the Distinguished Service Award. He has served as INOA president and served on a couple of AOA committees.

“After 25 years of successful private practice I decided it was time to do something else, to practice optometry in a different way and have the chance to pour myself and my experience into the students I teach. I was ready for

Dr. Mallorre Dill (2008) returned to NSUOCO as assistant professor in fall 2012. Dr. Dill grew up in the Kansas City area. She obtained a bachelor’s degree at Baylor University in Waco, TX, and a master’s degree in journalism from the University



of Kansas, Lawrence, in 1997. She received her doctorate of optometry from OCO in 2008. Her past work experiences include being an English instructor in Costa Rica and from



variety and NSU has certainly offered that. I have been involved in providing continuing education the last 20 years, so this seemed like a natural step,” commented Shetler. He will serve as clinical check-out OD and teach Practice Management.

He continued, “My experience as a lecturer and clinic professor has been very enjoyable. I have found the students to be very high caliber and am pleasantly surprised at the complexity of cases presented to students during their clinic time. It has been extremely enjoyable to be around so many professors and support staff that is top in their field. Although my name tag says Assistant Professor, I am learning again and being challenged daily and I like that.”

Dr. Shetler and his wife of 30 years, Karen, have two adult children and a “spoiled rotten Australian Shepard.”

1997 to December 2002 working as Associate Editor for a business magazine. Living in Lower Manhattan on Sept. 11, 2002, her home and worksite were engulfed in smoke. That experience made her realize she was spending her working hours in the wrong place. Her goal was to “do some direct, tangible good for people, so I focused on health-care.” Fascinated by eye care and shadowing several optometrists, she felt sure about her choice.

Upon graduation from OCO in 2008, Dr. Dill joined the NSUOCO faculty as an Adjunct Clinical Assistant Professor. In the Fall of 2012, she was appointed to the position of Assistant Professor. She teaches Vision Science III: Motility/Binocular and typically serves as clinical assistant professor in Vision Therapy, Infant Vision and Traumatic Brain Injury clinics.

Dr. Stephanie Cooper (2011) presented a lecture to NSUOCO faculty recently on the topic of retinal referrals and retinal treatment updates. After graduating from NSUOCO in 2011, Dr. Cooper completed an ocular disease residency through Britton Vision Associates and Retina Vitreous Affiliates in Tulsa, and is currently in a retina fellowship under the direction of Dr. Lars Freisberg at Retina Vitreous Affiliates in Tulsa. She is a Fellow of the American Academy of Optometry and has presented lectures optometric meetings including OAOP and the AAO Annual Academy Meeting. Dr. Cooper also presented at the OAOP Spring Congress in April.



Dr. Stephanie Cooper (left)
and **Dr. Michelle Welch** (1995)

STAPLE



Left to Right:

Ursula Lotzkat, *STAPLE Program Representative*

Dr. Shalu Pal *2003-2004 NSUOCO Cornea & Contact Lenses Resident*

Dr. Latricia Pack *(1998), NSUOCO Contact Lens Clinic Chief*

On May 21, 2013, the STAPLE Program (Soft Toric and Presbyopic Lens Education Program) was held at NSUOCO for 28 third-year students entering Contact Lens Clinic. The workshop provided an opportunity to practice fitting real patients with toric contact lenses provided by the program's sponsors, Alcon, Bausch + Lomb, CooperVision, and Vistakon. Ursula Lotzkat and Dr. Shalu Pal (2003-2004) NSUOCO Cornea & Contact Lenses Resident) attended to administrate and present the workshop, respectively. Dr. Pal has a private practice in Toronto, Ontario, Canada. Dr. Latricia Pack, Dr. Alan McKee, and Dr. Earlena McKee, and Dr. Jamie Kuhn (2012-2013 NSUOCO Cornea & Contact Lenses Resident) served as faculty mentors for the workshop.

NEWS ITEMS

Dr. Sabre Wright (1995) was installed in the Arkansas Optometric Association Board of Directors as Vice-President for 2013-2014.

Lt. Phillip Tabor, OD, (2010), has signed on to remain with the Navy. He was department head at the Optometry Clinic at Naval Health Clinic Cherry Point, NC. And now is transferring to Naval Health Clinic Great Lakes. While at Cherry Point, Dr. Tabor received the Naval Commendation Medal.

Dr. Kyle Tate (2011) was named as Fellow of the American Academy of Optometry in 2012. In November, 2012, Dr. Tate opened Insight Eyecare in Glenpool.

Dr. Holly Anderson (2002) and partner are opening a second lane in their office. The Fayetteville, AR, practice, Uptown Eyes, was established in March 2011. Uptown Eyes is primarily private pay with heavy focus on their optical with fashion forward eyewear. They host various trunk shows throughout the year as well as contribute to several charitable organizations and fund raisers. Dr. Anderson says "We have an amazing marketing director who leads our heavy social media presence in northwest Arkansas. We are proud to have clients who found us via the web from London, New York, California and beyond." They currently have two licensed opticians and are also looking for another employee.



Dr. Eric McPeak (1999), his wife Leah and daughters Aya and Meila stopped by to visit a few weeks ago. Dr. McPeak completed a one year residency in primary care at the Fayetteville, AR VAMC following OCO. He worked in Topeka, KS and Kansas City prior to starting his practice in the Hiawatha/Falls City area in 2003. He now has a second practice located in Falls City, Nebraska.

Dr. Kristen Culver (2007) has one daughter, McKinley Faith Culver (age 3) and is partner with Dr. Doug McKillip. They have three offices in Southeast MO-Kennett, Caruthersville and Portageville.

Dr. Tyson Allard (2010) has completed his enlistment with the U.S. Air Force. He will continue to serve in the Air Guard. Dr. Allard and wife, Kerri, will move in June to Hobart, OK. He will be buying the practice from a retiring OD. Allard Eye Care will be open and ready for business on July 1, 2013.



Dr. Shannon Morgans (2008) and Dr. Lynsey Bigheart (2007) opened Twenty Twenty Eyecare in South Tulsa, OK. Grand opening was March 11, 2013.

ENGAGEMENTS AND WEDDINGS!

Congratulations to Dr. Celina Hall (2010), who will be marrying Kristopher Watson on July 27th, 2013.

2008 alum Dr. Kathryn Nelson married Jeff Clair in a small ceremony in The Woodlands, TX. Dr. Clair practices at Texas State Optical in The Woodlands.

Congratulations to Dr. Josh and Chelsea Golden (2013) upon their wedding on Saturday, June 1. Dr. Golden will open a practice in Idabel, Oklahoma.

For information about NSUOCO, please contact Natalie Batt, Director of OCO Student and Alumni Affairs, at 918-444-4036 or batt@nsuok.edu, or Sandy Medearis, Optometry Program Representative, at 918-444-4006 or medearis@nsuok.edu. They 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>.

NSUOCO accepting applications July 1, 2013, for the 2014 entering class.

Go to <http://www.optomcas.org/> to apply!