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STATE UNIVERSITY**

OKLAHOMA COLLEGE OF OPTOMETRY
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FALL 2011

EYE ON ALUMNI

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



**NORTHEASTERN
STATE UNIVERSITY**



Second-year students earn white coats



The Class of 2014 received their white coats during a ceremony on Nov. 11.

Second-year NSUOCO students were honored at the 7th annual White Coat Ceremony Nov. 11 at NSU's Webb building auditorium.

The White Coat Ceremony is held in recognition of the students' progressing in their four-year optometric education from classroom to clinic, from didactic studies to clinical care. The presentation of the clinical coat officially welcomes the students into their clinical education. The ceremony is representative of the responsibility the students have to their patients and the profession, the faculty and their fellow students throughout their education and optometric careers. NSUOCO is recognized nationally as a leading institution in educating future optometric physicians.

The coats, which are embroidered with each student's name, were presented to the students by two of their senior faculty members, Dr. Alan McKee ('96) and Dr. Earlena McKee ('96). Approximately 300 friends, family members and faculty members attended the ceremony.

The following second-year students were recognized at the ceremony.

Cassie N. Adams
Anthony Battese
Courtney A. Bloodgood
Chadwick K. Branch
Jody A. Buller
Blake Carlisle
Lauren E. Claborn
Amy Dang
Jason T. Dobson
Leslie Faulkner
Ali M. Freese
Charles Gallegos
Mollie J. Golden
David A. Hackett

Drew M. Heide
Amanda N. Herrera
John Johnson
Ben Lynch
Kelly J. McLain
Rachel C. Meyer-Borel
Shabree N. Nichols
Trent Ott
Jamie N. Rodriguez
Molly G. Tebow
Skylar D. Williams
Derek J. Wills
Casey L. Wright



L to R: OSIs Lauren Claborn, Amy Dang and Jason Dobson.

Rice begins as assistant professor

Northeastern State University Oklahoma College of Optometry is pleased to announce the addition of Dr. Stephanie Rice ('03) to its faculty. She will begin as an assistant professor in January 2012.

"I have always enjoyed working with our students, and I also enjoy learning," Rice said. "This opportunity will allow me to share my experience and knowledge with our students and to continue to grow as an optometrist and leader in my community."

Rice brings experience and expertise to NSUOCO that she hopes will help students as they become successful optometrists themselves. She is a 2003 graduate of NSUOCO and taught in the Rural Eye Program clinics

until 2005 when she opened her own private practice in Keys, Okla. She has completed her Fellowship in the College of Vision Development, has been active in the OAOP as the District 2 Director, has served as a consultant and committee member for Healthy Eyes Healthy People and helps at the Jack C. Montgomery VA Hospital.

"As an alum, I understand the level of education that NSUOCO provides their students," Rice said. "I am excited about being in a position to add to the knowledge our students receive."

To learn more about NSUOCO, visit <http://optometry.nsuok.edu/NSUOCOHome.aspx>.

News Items

>> **The American Academy of Optometry** awarded fellowships at the October meeting to the following alumni: **Dr. Rodney Bendure** ('05); **Major Greg O'Brien** (2009-11 Family Practice Resident); **Dr. Melissa Turner** (Muskogee VA Residency 2011); and **Dr. Bret Lehman** (2011 Resident at Womack Army Medical Center). In qualifying for and maintaining fellowship, individuals are evaluated against the highest standards of professional competence. The letters "FAAO" (Fellow of the American Academy of Optometry) after an optometrist's, scientist's or other qualified person's name signify to colleagues and patients that rigorous qualification for fellowship have been met.

>> **Dr. Jacoby J. Dewald** ('10) is proud to announce the opening of his new business Great Plains Vision Center. Great Plains Vision Center is located at 1418 Main Street in Woodward, Okla. and is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. In addition to comprehensive eye exams, Dewald provides pediatric exams, vision therapy, low vision exams, pre and post-op cataract and LASIK co-management, and glaucoma, diabetes and macular degeneration management. Dewald graduated from Oklahoma State University in 2006 with a Bachelors of Science degree in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology. Dewald then earned his Doctor of Optometry degree from Northeastern State University Oklahoma College of Optometry in 2010. Dewald is a fourth generation northwestern Oklahoman and is proud to provide premier eye care to the people of northwestern Oklahoma.

>> **Dr. Thomas Salmon** spent most of July in Japan doing research work, volunteering with tsunami recovery and visiting NSU graduates. During the first week, he attended the annual meeting of the Japan Contact Lens Society as a part of his research grant with CooperVision - Japan. Salmon then traveled to northeastern Japan and spent two weeks working with the people of Ishinomaki, which was one of the hardest hit cities in Japan. Over 5,000 people died from the March 11 tsunami in Ishinomaki. In his last few days in Japan, Salmon traveled all over the country visiting Japanese NSU graduates, students and their families.

>> **Third and fourth-year optometry** students making up the Neutrophils intramural football team won their second consecutive NSU intramural championship on Sept. 29. The team remained undefeated throughout their season, winning a total of nine games.



The Neutrophils intramural football team won its second consecutive championship



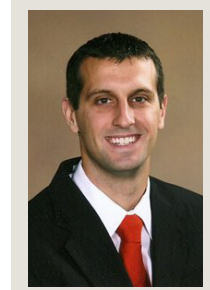
Dr. Jacoby Dewald and family

Find us on Facebook!
Search 'NSUOCO Alumni' to
join the group. Upload photos for
the alumni newsletter, post
updates and stay in touch with
your fellow NSUOCO alums!

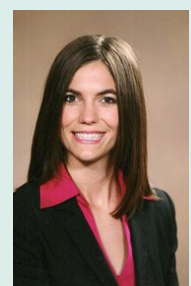
News Items

» **Dr. David Lewerenz** is a member of the AOA Vision Rehabilitation Service committee which was recently honored with the Envision Excellence in Advocacy Award. Centered around the theme "Excellence in Research," the Envision Conference 2011 hosted the largest interdisciplinary low vision conference in the U.S. Attendees nominated the AOA RVS for the award. Lewerenz said, "The Envision Excellence in Advocacy Award is awarded annually to recognize an individual, individuals or organization that has demonstrated an outstanding career, program, research outcome or effort in advocacy for persons who are visually impaired with the national or international impact. To be recognized by an award with such a broad scope speaks to the many things the VRS and its members have done to advance care for the visually impaired. It shows that the VRS advocates not just for optometrists who provide, but for the patients who receive it."

» **Dr. Amber Mayes ('08) and Dr. Brandon Mayes ('09)** specialize in pediatric eye care at their practice, Kid's Eye Site in Oklahoma City, Okla.



Dr. Brandon Mayes



Dr. Amber Mayes

Though they do specialize in pediatric vision care, they welcome patients of all ages. According to their website, "Kid's Eye Site Oklahoma City is focused on providing high-quality service and customer satisfaction in a child-friendly

environment." Their website can be found at www.kidseyesiteokc.com.

» **Dr. Lindsey A. Sicks**, 2010-11 Contact Lens Resident, has been selected by the American Optometric Foundation with the 2010-11 Dr. George W. Mertz Contact Lens Residency Award. Dr. Sicks was one of six exceptional residents selected nationwide. The awards are intended to promote postgraduate optometric clinical education by supporting residents who demonstrate talent and commitment in the fields of children's vision and contact lenses. The award is made possible by AOF and VISTAKON, a Division of Johnson & Johnson Vision Care, Inc.

» **Eric C. McPeak** ('99) was the first health care practitioner to exchange clinical data using the new Kansas Health Information Network (KHIN). Developed by the Kansas Medical Associations and Kansas Hospital Association, the Health Information Exchange will ensure health practitioners in the state can securely transfer health data in order to qualify for the Medicare Electronic Health Records Incentive Program. Following graduation, McPeak completed a primary-care residence at the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Fayetteville, Ark.

» **A ribbon cutting** was recently held at the Fulton Eye Care Center in Chickasha, Okla. **Dr. Robert Fulton** ('08) and wife Holley, who serves as office manager, offer high quality vision care and eye health products at the new business. Fulton graduated from Cameron State University with a Bachelors of Science degree in chemistry prior to optometry school.

» **Dr. Janet Boschert** (Muskogee VA Residency 2008) was also awarded the FAAO and presented a poster at Academy on "Ocular Implications of Carotid Stenosis" in 2010.

» **Dr. Richard Castillo's** term as Part 1 exam council on the National Board of Examiners has been extended by one year. Also, he has been appointed to a national task force on surgical and laser competency and certification for optometrists by the NBEO. Castillo presented several lectures on ophthalmic surgery to the New Jersey Society of Optometric Physicians. He attended the semi-annual meeting of the National Commission on Vision and Health in Washington, D.C. where he is a commission member. Castillo presented a continuing education program to the Kentucky Optometric Association and an educational program to the North Dakota Optometric Association.

EMBRACE
the **VISION**

THE CAMPAIGN FOR THE NSU OKLAHOMA COLLEGE OF OPTOMETRY

NSUOCO suffers the loss of student



Preston and Dara Smith

Fourth-year NSUOCO student, Preston Smith, age 26 of Baxter Springs, Kan., passed away Tuesday, Nov. 1 after an automobile accident north of Tahlequah, Okla. on Highway 82.

Preston was born Sept. 11, 1985 in Joplin, Mo. to Bruce and Mary Beth (Messenger) Smith. Preston graduated Valedictorian in 2004 from Baxter Springs High School and then attended Missouri Southern State University. He graduated Summa Cum Laude with a degree in biology in 2008. Preston then attended Northeastern State University Oklahoma College of Optometry in Tahlequah where he was the former president of Fellowship of Christian Optometrists and Practice Management Club.

Preston married Dara (Frerer) Smith on July 31, 2010 in Joplin, Mo. They resided in Tahlequah while Preston continued optometry school and Dara worked as the continuing medical education coordinator for the College

of Optometry. Preston enjoyed Christian fellowship, playing golf and snow skiing with family and friends. "Preston was a shining example of the NSU Oklahoma College of Optometry," Dr. Doug Penisten, dean of the college, said. "He was a kind, caring and compassionate person and health care provider. Optometry has lost a shining star with the loss of Preston."

Preston was active in NSUOCO activities, including involvement in clubs and organizations and volunteering his time and talents to serve others. He served as a student monitor at many continuing education meetings, including SWCO, HOA, the OAOP Pioneers in Optometry and the Student Symposium. He was a member of the NSU Honor Society and Beta Sigma Kappa International Honor Society of Optometry. Preston participated in the Optometric Classic 5K Run and the Optic Cup Golf Tournament. In 2010, he traveled with SVOSH (Student Volunteers in Optometry for Service to Humankind) to Roatan, Honduras on a mission trip to provide vision care to the people of Roatan.

Funeral services for Preston were held in Joplin, Mo. at Forest Park Baptist Church. Memorial donations may be made to Mission Trips coordinated by Eye Care of Tulsa in care of Derfelt Funeral Home, 328 East 12th Street, Baxter Springs, Kansas 66713.

A scholarship has been established in memory of Preston Smith at NSUOCO. Contributions should be sent to Natalie Batt – NSUOCO, 1001 N. Grand Avenue, Tahlequah, OK 74464. Checks should be made payable to NSU Foundation with Preston's name written in the memo line.

One of Preston's classmates recorded the following message to describe how his death affected many of the NSUOCO family.

It is amazing to me how we all feel called to become Optometrists; to meet the vision, health, and emotional needs of perfect strangers everyday. It is amazing to me how much I love what we do—it is even more amazing how over the years we learn to love who we sit with in class (even through the rough times), who we wear white coats with, who we ride with to REP clinics, who we drag equipment up the stairs with, who we battle the books with.

It is amazing to me how we are present for some of the biggest moments in each other's lives—weddings, anniversaries, birthdays, births of babies, death of family members, and even the death of one of our own. I guess I always thought I was coming to Optometry school to learn how to love on patients through eye care. I never realized just how much I would learn to love my classmates, professors, and profession. I'm so grateful to be a member of the Optometry family; what a great support system to share while in disbelief when the unthinkable happens, and an even greater support system for the celebrations of life in the future! We show so much love toward strangers in the exam chair...think of the comparison and magnitude of compassion we show toward each other; those we've come to know best!

NSUOCO is now accepting applications from residents of all 50 states!

Alumni participate in Fall Primary Eyecare Update event



L to R: Kathy Halverson, Dave Macarty, William Jackson, Dawn Teal, Brian Shewey, Angie Brassfield, Russell Hopkins, Dave Reynolds, Jim Johnson, Doug Hansen and Julie Jones ('91).

The annual Fall Primary Eyecare Update continuing education event took place at NSUOCO Sept. 17-18. More than 100 optometrists participated in the three events offered that weekend. Those who registered for continuing education were eligible to receive up to 10 hours of continuing medical education credit.

Participants were welcome to also take part in the NSUOCO annual Optic Cup Golf Tournament held at Cherry Springs Golf Course the afternoon of Sept. 17 in Tahlequah

and the alumni dinner reception at the NSU Jazz Lab the evening of Sept. 17. Graduates of the classes of 1986, 1991 and 2001 were honored at the alumni reception with dinner, drinks, music and video presentations.

"We had a great turnout of alumni and friends of NSUOCO at the CE lectures, golf tournament and alumni reception," Dara Smith, coordinator of continuing medical education at NSUOCO, said. "The class of 1991 was very enthusiastic about their reunion and helped make it a great one."

Make plans to attend the 2012 Fall Primary Eyecare Update continuing education event on Sept. 8 and 9 in Tahlequah at NSUOCO. Classes of 1987, 1992 and 2002 will be honored at the Sept. 8 alumni reception.



L to R: Kathy Halverson ('91), Russell Hopkins ('91), Dr. Lee Carr, Doug Hansen ('91), Jim Johnson ('91) and William Jackson ('91).

Alum connects Scouts via home-made radio



Dr. Doug Cook worked with Boy Scouts during Jamboree-on-the-Air.

On Oct. 15 Dr. Doug Cook ('89) from Guthrie, Okla. participated in Jamboree-on-the-Air, an annual amateur radio Scouting event that connects Scouts around the world via ham radio.

JOTA station WBSBSA, sponsored by Troop 850, set up an electronic fox hunt using radio direction finding gear as well as a radio surgery demonstration. Cook (callsign

KDSPDN) brought along an Ellman device to teach scouts how radio surgery is performed and allowed them to remove warts from a pickle.

"The Scouts loved this part of the activity," Cook said. The highlight of the event, however, was talking with an astronaut on board the International Space Station.

"I wanted to brainstorm some symbol that merged amateur radio with Scouting, so I lashed up a beam antenna," Cook said. It is made up of sticks and barbed wire. The materials were collected from tornado storm damage that hit Guthrie earlier this year. The debris came off the Frank Davis farm, a 39-year veteran Scoutmaster of the troop and former state representative that was a supporter for optometry in the legislature.

The Daily Oklahoman sent a photographer to cover the contact. The story was published in an enhanced story format with audio and video in addition to the print edition. You can find Cook's interview via Skype at <http://twit.tv/show/ham-nation/22>.

SVOSH 2011-2012 Update



Lauren Frost, OSIII, provides care to a patient in Roatan, Honduras.

By Megan Kirkpatrick, SVOSH president; Jessica Colpitt, vice president; and Sarah Mulliniks, director of fundraising

The 2011-2012 SVOSH executive team is hard at work planning our next mission trip for the 2012 summer! Our main goal is to establish an annual trip to the island of Roatan, Honduras. SVOSH first traveled to Roatan in 2009 and returned there

this past summer 2011 where we were able to see 1,005 patients. The demand for optometric care is high in Roatan, and we were able to meet the visual needs of countless patients who greatly needed and appreciated our services. We would feel blessed to be able to provide Roatan's people with annual eye care, so we are currently planning to return to Roatan in the summer of 2012.

SVOSH has already begun fundraising for the 2011-2012 school year in preparation for our upcoming trip. We have catered lunches and dinners for incoming speakers, as well as held our annual Eye-talian dinner where we shared pictures and stories from our latest trip to Roatan. We also have many fundraisers planned for the future, including SVOSH members waiting tables at Del Rancho, where all tips raised will

go to our organization, as well as our annual Eat-A-Lotta

Enchilada lunch in the spring and our annual garage sale in June. We will be accepting donations throughout this year. Anyone interested in donating to our current trip can send a check to NSUOCO SVOSH – Megan Kirkpatrick, 1001 N. Grand Avenue, Tahlequah, OK 74464. We will also be sending out our annual donation letters in the spring to tell alumni a little more about our upcoming trip. Tax deduction forms will be available for your generous donations.

We would like to thank you all for your continual support of SVOSH. It is because of you that we are able to meet the optometric needs of people who would not otherwise receive care.



NSUOCO students wore red on Oct. 13 to bring awareness to World Sight Day.

World Sight Day, the annual day of awareness of blindness, visual impairment and rehabilitation of the visually impaired, was celebrated Oct. 13 at NSUOCO. It takes place the second Thursday of every October.

"World Sight Day is one of the programs initiated through Vision 2020 to help meet their goal to eliminate avoidable blindness by the year 2020," third-year NSUOCO student, Jessica Colpitt, said. "The goal to ensure the best possible vi-

NSUOCO brings awareness to World Sight Day

sion for all people should be achieved through the establishment of a sustainable, comprehensive eye-care system as an integral part of every national health system." Colpitt headed up NSUOCO's World Sight Day festivities.

NSUOCO has been participating in World Sight Day since 2003, but in the past three years, they have brought even more awareness and attention to the cause with greater effort in publicity and fundraising.

Students, faculty and staff, as well as their friends and family, had the opportunity to purchase World Sight Day t-shirts and bracelets to support the cause. Students worked at NSU's Uni-

versity Center throughout the week passing out brochures and website information so that the community can access more information about World Sight Day and its mission.

For information on donating to World Sight Day efforts, contact NSUOCO or find our page on Facebook. World Sight Day 2012 will be Thursday, Oct. 11.

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THE CAMPAIGN FOR THE NSU OKLAHOMA COLLEGE OF OPTOMETRY

Optic Cup golf tournament a success

NSUOCO's American Optometric Student Association hosted its 24th annual Optic Cup golf tournament Sept. 17 at Cherry Springs Golf Course in Tahlequah. More than 55 participants enjoyed the tournament. Many of the participants also attended the weekend's continuing education events as well.

Golfers paid a \$90 registration fee for green fees, a cart, beverages, lunch, a t-shirt and prizes. Hole sponsorships were also available. The tournament began at 12:30 p.m. and was played in a four-person scramble format.

Winners of the tournament left with cash prizes, and competition winners were awarded prize items such as an iPod touch. The first-place team consisted of Lucas Grounds, Kyle Cisper, Dr. Heath Coleman ('11) and Josh Davis. Second place went to Dr. Doug Hansen ('91), Dr. David Reynolds ('91), Dr. Russell Hopkins ('91) and Aaron Reinert (OSIII). Colby Ricks (OSI), Chelsea Ricks, Dr. Lance Ledbetter ('88) and Robin Ledbetter won third place in the tournament. Competition winners included David Hardgrave and Preston Smith (OSIV), and Dr. Jason Ellen ('99) was the raffle winner.

Travis Kliewer, fourth-year NSUOCO student and coordinator of the tournament, said, "I would judge [the



L to R: Colby Ricks (OSI), Chelsea Ricks, Dr. Lance Ledbetter ('88) and Robin Ledbetter placed third in the tournament.

event's] success by how enjoyable the tournament was for the players. I heard nothing but positive feedback from everyone. The weather was perfect that Saturday, and everyone seemed to have a great time."

All funds raised through the tournament will assist students in attending the AOA/AOSA national optometry conference held in Chicago in 2012.

The 25th annual Optic Cup golf tournament will be held in conjunction with the Fall Primary Eyecare continuing education event on Sept. 8, 2012. The tournament will again take place at Cherry Springs Golf Course. Current second-year student, Skylar Williams, can be contacted for more information about next year's event or to donate to the cause.

McDaniels receives Peer Recognition Award



McDaniels, center, shown with Kristy Ross and Misty Mooney of Cherokee Nation.

Dr. Chris McDaniels ('10), Rural Eye Program optometrist in Nowata, Okla., was honored with the Peer Recognition Award at the 8th Annual Oklahoma City Area Director's Indian Health Service, Tribal and Urban Awards ceremony.

McDaniels was nominated for the award because of the work he has done with the Diabetes Management Team and his productivity. He was recognized in Oklahoma City on July 21.

The Indian Health Service, Tribal and Urban, allows

each federal facility within the service unit to award one individual with the Peer Recognition Award annually. The winner is determined by a vote of clinic supervisors after considering all nominees.

His willingness to go above and beyond his regular job duties was among many reasons McDaniels was deserving of the award, according to Cindy Collins, the clinic administrator at Will Rogers Health Center in Nowata, Okla.

Alana Smith, a nurse for the Nowata, Bartlesville and Vinita clinics, nominated McDaniels. "Dr. Chris McDaniels is an amazing asset to our health system and to the health community. The patients that he encounters adore him," Smith wrote in her letter of nomination. "During the development of the diabetic annual day here at the clinic, Dr. McDaniels increased the diabetic retinal exams at the Will Rogers Health Center, Bartlesville Clinic and Vinita Clinic to the highest percentages they have been."

McDaniels was notified as the recipient of the Peer Recognition Award by letter in May. "I had no idea that there was such an award or that I had been nominated," McDaniels said. "I was very surprised, but honored to have been awarded. It means a lot when your peers decide to honor you with something like this."

Memories shared at the Alumni Reception

1986 alumni who attended the Alumni Reception held in conjunction with the Fall Primary Care Update shared these memories.

Favorite restaurant and what did you order there?

- >> Roni's for pizza and calzones
- >> Del Rancho for the steak sandwich
- >> Big Red for breakfast
- >> Echota House for quail
- >> Jerry's (now Boomerang) for fried chicken with brown gravy
- >> Echota House for fried shrimp
- >> Oak Hill experience and all I could afford was a salad and free drink
- >> Mazzio's for pizza

Most enjoyable class

- >> Practice Management with Dr. Ronnie Rounds
- >> Vision with Dr. W. C. Maples
- >> Retina with Dr. Debbie Bezan
- >> Introduction to Optometry with Dr. Penisten
- >> Ocular Disease with Dr. Lee Carr
- >> Pathology with Dr. Les Walls
- >> Advanced Clinical Methods
- >> Optical Dispensing

Favorite Optometry Professor

- >> Dr. Lee Carr – "He rocks!"
- >> Dr. Les Walls
- >> Dr. Doug Penisten
- >> Dr. Debbie Bezan
- >> Dr. Hank Van Veen

Most Notable Professor

- >> Dr. W. C. Maples (he won by a landslide!)

How did you spend your free time?

- >> Floated the river
- >> Lake/work/golf
- >> Studying!
- >> Feeding cows
- >> With classmates – cards, lake, studying
- >> Feeding popcorn and bread to the ducks at Tenkiller
- >> Playing golf and intramurals

What is your fondest memory?

- >> How close we were as a class and our get-togethers.
- >> Great friends for life!
- >> Studying, partying, hanging out with friends.
- >> Being a close class and watching the Faculty Video made by our class.
- >> Doing externship at Triad in an ice storm and doing a complete 360 on the highway.
- >> Making the infamous faculty video after midnight in the clinic.
- >> Graduation
- >> Class dance
- >> Good times with classmates, many parties and lots of laughter.
- >> When Les Walls called us into his office during our fourth year and asked about a video that was rumored to have been made about faculty. He told us we could make it on one condition – that we get him good!

What advice do you have for current students?

- >> Avoid debt! Seek the wisdom of your older peers.
- >> Enjoy your time in school. Four years seems forever, but you will look back at it with fond memories.
- >> Study hard, but enjoy your time in Tahlequah – it is priceless!
- >> Keep your debt to a minimum. When you graduate you will have learned more than any class before you.
- >> GPA is not too important after graduation.
- >> Have fun while learning.
- >> Enjoy!
- >> Don't take it too seriously, study hard and have fun.
- >> Balance work with play.

SAVE THE DATE

February 25, 2012

Multi-State Symposium

Tahlequah, Oklahoma

Be watching your mail for a brochure!

NSU's College of Optometry to create Walls Vision Center



Former NSUOCO dean, Dr. Lesley Walls and his wife Dr. Maryann Walls, review details for the newly announced Lesley L. Walls Vision Center at Northeastern State University-Broken Arrow.

A new low vision center will serve as the cornerstone objective for Embrace the Vision, an initial campaign for the Northeastern State University Oklahoma College of Optometry.

The Lesley L. Walls Vision Center at NSU-Broken Arrow will operate as a premier resource and service facility to meet the needs of the elderly, veterans and other patients seeking to recover from decreased vision and function due to brain injury, retinal degeneration and

other causes.

"Conceptualized as an adaptable, flexible-function, clinical center of excellence, the Walls Center will offer patient care and education and facilitate inter-departmental and inter-institutional collaboration for NSU and its sister institutions in eastern Oklahoma," said Dr. Leland Carr, professor and assistant dean of development at NSUOCO.

Patients with low vision or oculomotor and visual perception impairment resulting from stroke, concussion and other brain injuries will be able to access interdisciplinary care through the clinic.

"A major goal is the provision of service to returning veterans with visual disorders resulting from military actions in the Middle East," said Carr.

A tribute recognizing the contributions of Dr. Lesley L. Walls, NSUOCO dean from 1987 to 1992, to the college and profession, the Walls Center will offer services currently unavailable in the Tulsa metropolitan area. "The naming of our new optometry clinical facility

at NSUBA after Dr. Walls could not be more fitting," said Dr. Douglas Penisten, dean of NSUOCO. "Dr. Walls has always been driven by the passion of providing patients access to the best in eye and vision care."

Carr said no one was surprised that, when approached with the idea, Walls and his wife Mary Ann made the first financial commitment to support the center.

Dr. David Lewerenz, associate professor at NSUOCO, said local and state agencies have approached the college with requests to bring vision remediation education and care into Tulsa to enhance access to services. Lewerenz has accepted the tasks of detailing and designing the clinic.

More than 90 percent of people with vision loss have usable vision, said Lewerenz, including more than 75 percent who are considered legally blind.

Low vision rehabilitation is supported by nearly every national and international organization concerned with eye and vision care, including the American Optometric Association, American Academy of Optometry and the American Academy of Ophthalmology.

Students attend AAO Meeting in Boston

Three fourth-year NSUOCO students attended the American Academy of Optometry's (AAO) 2011 Annual Meeting in Boston. Rosie Ghazanfari, Savannah Burch and Meimey Wong spent the week in Boston and presented their research. Below, Ghazanfari has shared her experience at the Annual Meeting.

Attending the Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Optometry has been a wonderful and unique experience. My group members and I presented our research project titled Evaluation of Agreement in CCT Measurements Between SD-OCT and Ultrasound Pachymetry. I enjoyed learning from

my peers' accomplishments in eye care research and education, as well as gaining the opportunity to present to others about my own work. The American Academy of Optometry meeting has been a great place for me to enhance my knowledge about new products and research. With the vast amount of technology booming in the eye industry, it is imperative that I involve myself with the most current vision science research. The AAO 2011 Boston meeting has been a memorable experience. I look forward to attending other AAO meetings in the future.



NSUOCO alumni visited on Nov. 4 to speak to Dr. Stephanie Rice's practice management class. Left to right: Dr. Chad Fleming ('02), Dr. Gabe Avila ('02), Dr. Jeff Gamble ('02) and Dr. Ryan Heisterman ('03). Dr. Fleming practices in Wichita, Kan., Dr. Avila in Abilene, Texas, Dr. Gamble in Columbia, Mo. and Dr. Heisterman in Clay Center, Ka.

Mankiller movie filmed at NSUOCO



NSUOCO became the set for a film being made about Chief Wilma Mankiller.

The Oklahoma Film & Music Office and the producers of "The Cherokee Word for Water," a Mankiller Project LLC production, filmed pre-production recently in Tahlequah.

Shooting locations included NSUOCO, the city of Tahlequah and its surrounding areas. The Contact Lens office was returned to a hospital room from the 1970s.

"The Cherokee Word for Water" will be a feature-length motion picture inspired by the true story of the struggle, opposition and ultimate success of a rural community to bring

running water to their families by using the Cherokee concept of gadugi – working together to solve a problem. The movie is told from the perspective of Wilma Mankiller, the first female principal chief of the Cherokee Nation, and Charlie Soap, a full-blood Cherokee organizer and community advocate. The completion of the waterline and its success sparked a movement of similar self-help projects across the Cherokee nation and in Indian country that continues to this day. A majority of profits from the film will go back into community and economic development projects in Cherokee nation.

At the age of 64, Chief Mankiller died April 6, 2010 after battling pancreatic cancer. A scholarship has been established

in her memory by NSUOCO and Hoya Vision Care. The \$1,000 scholarship is awarded to Native American optometry students.

Recipient Matt Geiger, OSI, stated, "Earlier in the semester I was selected to receive the Hoya Vision Care - Wilma Mankiller Scholarship for first year optometry students here in Tahlequah. As a student of Cherokee descent, I am extremely excited and honored to be the first to receive this scholarship. Additionally, with Chief Mankiller's passing, I am hopeful that this award will help remind us of her importance to Oklahoma, the town of Tahlequah, and most importantly the Cherokee people and that it will ultimately help carry on her legacy."

Residents 2011-2012

Family Practice Optometry - Tahlequah, Oklahoma

Aaron McNulty (IU)
Brittany Nannini (PUCO)
Chris Nannini (PUCO)

Cornea and Contact Lenses - Tahlequah, Oklahoma
Jordan Jones (UMSL)

Ocular Disease at EyeCare Associates of South Tulsa - Tulsa, Oklahoma
Kyle Tate (NSUOCO '11)

Ocular Disease at BVA and TLC - Edmond, Oklahoma
Laura England (SCO)

Ocular Disease at BVA and TLC - Tulsa, Oklahoma
Stephanie Cooper (NSUOCO '11)

Ocular Disease at BVA West - Elk City, Oklahoma
Brett Wagner (SCO)

Primary Eye Care at Veterans Health Care System of the Ozarks - Fayetteville, Arkansas
Matthew Willis (SCO)
Jessica Carson (UMSL)
Hanni Hagen (NSUOCO '07)

Primary Eye Care at Jack C. Montgomery Veterans Affairs Medical Center - Muskogee, Oklahoma
Jordan Hagler (NSUOCO '11)
Jenny Stevens (SCO)

Primary Eye Care at Veterans Affairs Medical Center - Amarillo, Texas
Jacobi Clever (PUCO)

Primary Eye Care at Veterans Health Care System of the Ozarks - Mt. Vernon, Missouri
Christopher Boschen (UMSL)

Primary Eye Care at Brooke Army Medical Center - Fort Sam Houston, Texas
Lee Johnson (NECO)
Stevan Kochis (UH)

Womack Army Medical Center Fort Bragg, - North Carolina
Frances Silva (UH)

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