SALVAGE DAWGS SHOW
Documents Redesign

summer 2015
Optometry Alumni and Friends is a chartered alumni society of The Ohio State University Alumni Association, Inc.

Letter from the Dean ............4
Letter from the Alumni President .5
Letter from the Editor ............6
Feature Story: Salvage Dawgs .7
Alumni Feature: Dr. Quinn ....12
Pelotonia 2015 ................16
College News ..................19
Gifts to the College ...........20
Inaugural Hill Lecture ..........21
White Coat 2015 .................22
Distinguished Teaching Award ..23
Wildermuth Scholarships ........25
Development ...................28
Convocation 2015 ..............29
Awards Banquet 2015 ...........34
50th Reunion ....................36
Schweitzer Fellow ...............37
Alumni Legacy ................38
Alumni News ..................44

CONVOCATION 2015
pg. 29

FEATURE STORY: DR. ZOLLINGER AND BROWN
pg. 7

DR. MICHELLE QUINN
pg. 12

FOUR OPTOMETRY LEGACIES
pg. 38
I re-read my last dean’s letter in this publication and found I’d started it by stating I composed it in the Ft. Lauderdale airport. Tonight, it’s National Airport in Washington DC, headed home from a National Institutes of Health Study Section meeting where I helped review scientific grants all day.

I can’t help but think of my “deanniversary” on June 1 and the great year’s worth of achievements at the college. That year has contained other experiences, too, outside the college. Just last month, I attended three Buckeye-best events that made me reflect on why I love this place so much.

In May, I attended a gala honoring the on-campus group, Medicine and the Arts. New Associate Dean for Research, Jeff Walline (OD, MS’98, PhD’02) is a member of their board, and he invited me to their end-of-year gala. I didn’t know what to expect, but when my calendar told me it was time to trek across the street to Meiling Hall, I went. The keynote “speaker” was Robert Post. It turned out I had worked with his brother, Doug, a faculty member in the College of Medicine, on an interprofessional education project last year, but the revelation was Robert. He is a professional comedian, mime, character sketch artist, and magician with limbs made of rubber and a face of a thousand characters. He made me think of Dick Van Dyke, Sid Caesar, and Billy Crystal. Check him out at http://robertpost.org/, and if you’re ever somewhere he’s performing, run, don’t walk, to see him.

The very next week, the Innovate! conference popped up on my schedule. I couldn’t really remember what that was, but I went to it at the Ohio Union on my way to work. There, I got to meet and listen to the keynote speaker, Steven Johnson, author and host of an upcoming PBS show, How We Got to Now. He was fascinating, weaving tales of technology and history, moving from 18th century London through 19th century Paris to now, and captivating the audience of 750 students and faculty from all across campus with the power of his voice and the force of his intelligent observations. You can hear him yourself at https://www.ted.com/speakers/steven_johnson.

Then, in early June, our Chief Administrative Officer, Jim Woods, casually mentioned that his daughter and her friends were going to see a play on campus that evening. When he told me it was Spring Awakening, one of my favorite musicals—a dark and depressing tale of youthful angst punctuated by downright joyful rock music—and that it was being workshopped by Ohio State theater students at the Bowen Theater, I made plans to ride my bike home from work and turned around and drove right back in time for the evening performance.

The three unexpected events in close succession, reminded me how rich our lives can be if we attend a novel performance, a speech we aren’t sure we’ll like, a piece of music that may not be our usual taste … a sudden change in plans. I was amused, inspired, and amazed in turn, all because I’d left my schedule … and mind … a little bit open.

Karla Zadnik, OD, PhD
Dean
Glenn A. Fry Professor in Optometry and Physiological Optics
Summer 2015

I usually like to thank all of those involved with the administration of Optometry Alumni and Friends in this President’s Letter. I don’t thank them often enough, but this thank you is a tough one to do since OAF has lost Kerry Gastineau back to her family.

Kerry came to the College of Optometry three years ago and was the OAF CARL (Campus Alumni Relations Liaison). She had her hands full with us initially. She and Terry Huston (OD’73, MBA, PhD), OAF’s former treasurer and technology guru, spent many, many hours trying to get several databases synched and clean up our records. After achieving the data management, Kerry was then able to get our latest alumni directory into print, which was on the OAF back burner for years.

One of Kerry’s other annual tasks was organizing our Alumni Weekend. She was extremely good at getting the Friday night banquet and the Saturday morning events organized. I especially appreciated the subtle changes to the layout of the tailgate at the college.

I am personally going to miss Kerry a great deal. The business of OAF was in very good hands with her as our CARL, and the job of the presidency was much easier once she settled in. Thank you Kerry for all that you have done for OAF and our college.

Another thank you goes to the OAF board as a whole. Vince Driggs (OD’85), Chris Smiley (OD’01), Bob Newcomb (OD’71, MPH), Jim Bieber (BS’64, OD’68), Stephanie Baxter (OD’08) and Jeff Myers (OD’84), along with student reps Janel Elamin (OD’15), Michelle Miller (’16), and Chelsea Monroe (’17) have had to endure some lengthy meetings due to the challenges of changing from a dues model organization to a donation model organization. And needless to say, none of that would have happened without the guidance and patience of Dean Karla Zadnik and her administration.

I would also like to thank Cheryl Archer (OD’84) for her time serving on the OAF board. Cheryl has decided to step away but we won’t let her get too far away either as I know she’ll continue her outstanding support of the college and OAF. Thank you Cheryl for your contributions to OAF, our College, and our Ohio optometric family.

And let me especially thank all of our Alumni who made their $75 contribution to our College of Optometry. This is a yearly contribution that takes the place of a dues payment and recognizes the donor as a sustaining member of OAF and The Ohio State University Alumni Association. This donation is the key source of income for OAF and is greatly appreciated. Thank you again.

As always, “Affirm Thy Friendship, O-Hi-O”

Roger L. Sanneholtz (OD’74)
President, Ohio State Optometry Alumni and Friends
Alive or Just Living?

What is it that really makes you feel alive?

Is it seeing your favorite sports team win? Maybe handcrafting a gift for a friend. Or playing a musical piece to perfection, or to the delight of a group of listeners. Perhaps it is preparing and hosting a meal that sets the perfect mood for an event. Maybe, like some of the subjects of stories told on the pages of this magazine over time, it is climbing the next mountain peak, getting the light just right on your photographic subject, completing a triathlon, calling the championship baseball game, or maybe racing your car faster than your competition.

Maybe it is teaching others about a favorite subject, optometric or another. Or making a research discovery or breakthrough. Maybe it is just being in your boat on a weekend afternoon with friends or family. Maybe it is making that 28-foot eagle putt, or bowling your first 300. Or perhaps, it is simply hanging out with folks you love.

For my father-in-law, it was playing and singing Bluegrass or Gospel music with others, especially family. His instrument of choice was the Dobro guitar. The song played or which of these genres was sung was not important, it was just important to play. For my dad, I think it was having family, especially the grandkids and his great-granddaughter around. He also loved to recount the family relationships of everyone in town. The funeral business allows one to learn them, and he loved to recount them.

For my mother-in-law, now 93, it is simply being around people. At parties, she reminds me of a 16-year-old girl leaning in to hear the current news, dare I say gossip, of all that is going on. For mom, now 80, I think it is preparing the holiday meal and having us argue over which of the cookies she made is really the best. That might be a tie with making a new genealogical discovery or breakthrough.

How about you, what is it that really makes you feel alive? Maybe another way to say it is this: What are you truly passionate about?

I hope one of the things relatively high or your list is making a difference in peoples’ lives through our profession. It is a true privilege and a high call to be able to make a positive impact in the lives of others on a daily basis.

Each time I enter the examination room to care for the next patient, I expect that I will somehow be able to improve their life. Sometimes we underestimate the power of being able to see well. Certainly, having the opportunity to improve the lives of others through better vision can make one feel alive. It is a truly great way to live a career.

Life is not just about living, but about truly being alive.

Jeffrey A. Myers (OD'84)
BuckEYE Editor
RUSTIC INDUSTRIAL REDESIGN
Connects creativity and patient service

Alumnae featured on ‘Salvage Dawgs’ television program

By Sarah Cupples, MA
Director of Marketing and Communications

Where do we start? How are we going to do this?
These common questions face optometrists troubleshooting and making patient diagnoses, but two Ohio State University College of Optometry alumnae practicing in Collinsville, Virginia explored answers to these questions – and many more – in the fascinating realm of industrial design.

Julie Brown (OD’09) and Shannon Zollinger (OD’09, MS’11) are the doctors at The Eye Site, located one hour south of Roanoke. After buying the 30-year-old practice in 2013 and quickly coming to adore serving the patients in their community, the doctors tackled what they thought would be a quick eyewear gallery revamp, but it turned into so much more.

It all began with Drs. Brown and Zollinger watching a DIY program on how to refurbish a vanity. They started brainstorming about how to incorporate the notion of repurposed materials into their eyewear gallery, which ignited a flare for salvaging that became the project’s theme. The doctors enlisted the help of their husbands, Frank Manuguerra and Jeff Hook, also Ohio State alumni, to move the project forward.

“The redesign started with an idea to install reclaimed barn wood on the eyewear gallery wall,” said Manuguerra, who with the help of Hook, dissembled a barn by hand to provide the needed aged lumber. “The next thing we knew, the doctors and I were designing and creating an entire wall made up of an intertwined 3D maze with galvanized piping.”

Enter Black Dog Salvage, the Virginia-based company behind the popular DIY Network program, Salvage Dawgs.

“Black Dog helped with the dispensing tables, which came from repurposed bourbon barrel lumber,” said Manuguerra. “They filled in the skill-set gaps where we needed it.”
Members of the Black Dog crew, experts at salvaging, also create one-of-a-kind “upcycled” pieces – a perfect fit for the unique style that the doctors envisioned for The Eye Site. This preservation-centric style, especially popular in Virginia, keeps the Black Dog crew’s schedule packed, well beyond what is featured on their television show.

One thing led to another and before they knew it, the Eye Site docs and their husbands had come up with a plan to redesign the entire eyewear gallery, with the aid of the Black Dog crew. Their plan caught the attention of the DIY Network’s showmakers, and the project is featured in an episode that aired July 26.

In a style they call “rustic industrial,” the redesign project came together quickly once the network became involved. What was originally going to take three months now had to be shoehorned into a six-week timeline to fit the network’s production schedule. In typical renovation reality show style, the first part of the episode features the key players meeting and picking out materials. As they do in all of their episodes, the crew went into great detail about the origins of the materials and explained their process, step-by-step.

“What makes the show so great is that Mike (Whiteside) and Robert (Kulp) are creativity versus numbers,” said Manuguerra, of the show’s stars. “Their back-and-forth banter makes the show really great.”

And now, Mike and Robert are Eye Site patients and friends.

Surprisingly, optometry and industrial design share a lot of similarities.

“We asked so many questions throughout the process,” said Dr. Zollinger. “Where can we get materials? Will the
More “before and after” photos of the redesign.
Sometimes your ideas don't work out as expected, and you have to take a different route."

This creative approach has affected the doctors' reputation in the area.

"We are becoming known as the doctors who do things a little differently," explained Dr. Zollinger. "Sometimes patients aren't 'textbook' and you have to roll with the punches and think outside of the box."

To others contemplating a similar project, Dr. Zollinger offered the following advice, "You definitely need to know your audience. Right now, the whole industrial thing is extremely in. This could be successful in Manhattan. Here in Virginia, it can last a very long time and be appreciated because of our audience. It will be timeless in the south."

Dr. Brown agreed. "I definitely would encourage anyone to do it with passion and to own it. If you can convey what your patient base will appreciate. A lot of times, I feel that optometry design can get stagnant or repetitive. If you can appeal to your clientele in a different way, you will stand out."
Optometry is a very rewarding profession. My advice is to stick with it and get through school. You will have lots of opportunities to change lives in a very practical and rewarding way.

Dr. Julie Brown

I was very happy to be an employee and treat patients, but I never envisioned myself as a business owner. My advice to current students is to take every opportunity and walk down every path they have to offer, from business classes to SVOSH.

Dr. Shannon Zollinger

The success of the project shaped a new company called Podtical Designs, led by the doctors and their husbands.

“We learned a great deal from our experience, since we worked on the rehab ourselves, with our husbands,” said Dr. Brown. “This is a separate business where we can share our knowledge and help other optometrists do what we did.”

We have commonly highlighted alumni stories of accomplishments outside the profession many years after graduation from the college. So it is unusual that our subject this time graduated just last year. But she has raced to the top of her area of interest, and has won more national championships than Urban Meyer or the Cleveland Indians. One more national championship will tie her with Woody Hayes, Jim Tressel, and the Cincinnati Reds. And her high level of sportsmanship has seen her give back more national championships than the number of Super Bowl Championships won by the Cleveland Browns and Cincinnati Bengals combined. She is Michelle Quinn (OD’14) and she is a four-time national auto racing champion.

Dr. Quinn is involved in autocross racing, sponsored by Sports Car Club of America (SCCA) (www.scca.com). Weekend events are held around the country at airfields or large parking lots. Temporary courses are set up using orange cones, and every event has a different course. Racers use production cars, modified cars, or cars built just for racing at these events (purpose-built).

The goal is to drive fast and accurately, and racers are timed as they complete the course, competing against others driving in the same class. Courses are designed for about a 60-second circuit. Interestingly, racers cannot drive the course prior to competition, but they can walk the course, trying to memorize the turns and straightaways. Racers can have 3-10 competitive runs on a course. As you would expect, a penalty occurs for knocking down a cone; two seconds are added to your run time.

Dr. Quinn got involved in autocross in 2005 when a friend bought a Subaru WRX during her sophomore year of undergrad at the State University of New York at Buffalo. The friend was involved in autocross and invited her to come along. She entered her first race with a 1999 automatic Volkswagen Beetle. She began competing in the Western New York Region once or twice a month. She attended Novice School there to
learn the nuts and bolts of SOLO, SCCA’s brand name for autocross. Because her Beetle did not have a lot of power and speed, she had to learn the fundamentals of competitive driving to be able to compete at all.

Her education and focus on the fundamentals paid off. She was recognized as Novice of the Year in the region and later was recognized twice as the Western New York Driver of the Year. After participating in the regional events for a couple years, she entered national events located throughout the northeast. Her goal through all of this was to simply have fun racing. In 2009, she participated in her first SOLO national championship and placed second. She then won the national championship in 2010, 2011, 2012, and 2014. So, you might ask what happened in 2013?

She won. Pictures were taken of her and the trophy. She took the trophy home. She was reported as the four-time national champion in the SCCA magazine.
For training and documentation purposes, she uses in-car video. When she returned home and reviewed her video, she discovered that she had gone off course during her fastest run, disqualifying that run. She reported this on her own, because no one else knew. This resulted in giving up the 2013 championship.

Over the years, she has driven a variety of cars including the Beetle, a Miata, Mustang, Civic, and Integra Type R. Her current car is a Formula Modified purpose-built KBS Mark V. This car is very low to the ground, and handles beautifully from a reclined driving position. It is her favorite vehicle for racing.

Her counsel for folks interested in trying SOLO? Find an SCCA chapter near your home, and participate in Novice School. Look for a good instructor, one who can teach you, and that you respect. Learn the fundamentals of driving and preparing to race. And most importantly, keep the focus on having fun.

She loves the racing, though full-time optometric practice limits how much racing she can do. Her plan is to race for as many years as she can. Friends who are twice her age are still racing. Like Dr. Quinn, they love to experience the adrenaline rush every time they get in the car.

Dr. Quinn practices in Tampa, Florida in an OD/MD practice and lives with her cat, Zara. Her parents live in upstate New York and are members of the Finger Lakes Region of SCCA.
"I always wanted to do whatever my dad was doing - which often included working on cars!"

Michelle Quinn (OD'14)
Since 2008, cyclists have converged on Columbus for Pelotonia, a three-day cancer research fundraiser. This year, Optometry Alumni and Friends is joining forces with the optometry student peloton, The Rolling Eyes. The Rolling Eyes team brings students together to ride 25 to 180 miles to raise money, and all dollars will go directly to the James Cancer Hospital in support of cancer research.

How can you help? Consider registering as a Virtual Rider, or making a donation at www.pelotonia.org. Once you have completed your registration, you will have the option to link your donation to The Rolling Eyes, which will directly support their effort.

To register as a Virtual Rider, follow these easy steps:

- Go to www.pelotonia.org and select Register/Virtual Rider Registration.
- Complete the registration as requested. A minimum gift of $10 is required to register but there is no specific amount that must be raised as a Virtual Rider beyond the $10 gift. We encourage everyone to raise as much as possible - 100% of the money raised by Riders, Virtual Riders and Donors is directed to cancer research at Ohio State.
- After registration is complete, join BSR - THE ROLLING EYES. Go to www.pelotonia.org and select Login Search. Log in to your profile page by entering the email address and password used during registration.
- On the left side of your profile page you will see MANAGE MY PELOTON/Join a Peloton.
- Scroll through the list of pelotons starting with BSR until you find BSR - The Rolling Eyes.
Derek Metz ('17)

**Hometown:** Jackson Center, Ohio

**Why or when did you begin to ride:** I've ridden bikes for as long as I can remember but didn't start riding seriously until undergrad in 2011. My apartment was right alongside a nice bike path, and I decided that biking would be an enjoyable activity to pursue all the while breaking up day to day college life.

**Reason to ride:** I ride for my grandma who passed away from lung cancer in 2005.

**First Pelotonia experience story:** For me, and I'm sure most other participants, Pelotonia is truly inspiring. I don't have much of a story from the 2014 ride, just the countless memories of spectators, supporters and survivors standing along the route the entire way cheering everybody on. To me, the bike ride portion of Pelotonia is a celebration for the greater accomplishment of another year's unification of the community with the common goal of ending this terrible disease we know as cancer.

**How do you get in shape:** Get in shape? Sure, we'll say that happens...

**Tell us about your bike:** I've always had mountain bikes growing up like most kids do. They're nice to have because you can beat them up and nothing really happens to them. As I got older I found that I really enjoyed doing distance road riding, and the mountain bikes just weren't cutting it. When I finally had enough money of my own I bought a Trek road bike. Google reviews had a lot of good things to say about the brand so I figured why not?

**Any riding mishap stories?** The worst thing that has happened to me while riding my bike was getting a hole in my tire. Thankfully I had everything with me that I needed to fix it.

**Most interesting or unusual Pelotonia details:** Each and every rest stop has the most diverse selection of food imaginable. I expected maybe some granola bars and Gatorade. No, they have Oreos, PB&J, home cooked goods and all kinds of fruits! If you're not riding for your fastest time possible, it's definitely worthwhile to take advantage of the rest stops!

**Favorite ice cream:** Ruggles Cherry Cordial

**Favorite drink:** Chocolate milk

**Favorite book:** The Harry Potter series

**Favorite movie:** Shooter

**Favorite childhood memory:** Sticking with the bike theme, I remember my parents teaching me to ride my bike in my front yard so I didn’t hurt myself too bad if I fell over.

**Daily inspiration:** My parents

Nicholas Green ('17)

**Hometown:** Meriden, Connecticut

**Why or when did you begin to ride:** I had a bike as a kid, and I loved to ride it around! Once I got to optometry school, I bought a bike to transport myself to class but that changed once I heard about Pelotonia. I wanted to use the opportunity to increase my fitness level and overall health.

**Reason to ride:** I ride because I have seen too many of my family and friends suffer from the effects of cancer.

**First Pelotonia experience story:** Last year I rode 50 miles, and it was a wonderful experience. I was so surprised how many people along the route came to support the riders especially with posters and cow bells. It helped me pedal through the exhaustion and discomfort. At the end of the ride, I felt like I could have ridden longer which is why I decided to ride 180 miles this year.
How do you get in shape: I do a variety of different workouts including free weights, running, swimming, stretching, core strengthening and others in addition to biking. While I would love to ride my bike every day, this is not always possible. In addition, I have been incorporating more fruits, vegetables, and proteins into my diet. I have been trying different recipes to try to keep my meals interesting and to keep myself on track.

Tell us about your bike: I currently own an SE Royale 16S Road Bike. I recently purchased it from Once Ridden Bikes in Columbus for a really good price. Before, I had owned a Schwinn hybrid bike that was not going to cut it for such a long ride. So I shopped around for a bike specifically designed for long endurance rides like Pelotonia.

Any riding mishap stories? Last year there was an unusually warm day towards the end of February so I took the opportunity to ride along the Olentangy River. At one point, the trail goes underneath W 3rd Ave. and it includes some sharp turns. I make the first turn but there is a patch of ice right afterwards. I ride over it and I instantly fall off my bike and scrape up the left side of my body and I broke a tooth off of my bike chain. It was a painful ride back to my apartment.

Most interesting or unusual Pelotonia details: The route takes you through some beautiful countryside.

Favorite ice cream: Tie between Husky Supreme from the UCONN Dairy Bar and Brown Butter Almond Brittle from Jeni’s

Favorite Drink: Long Island Iced Tea

Favorite book: The Body by Stephen King

Favorite Movie: Any James Bond movie

Childhood Memory: Playing wiffle ball in my backyard with my siblings and Dad

Daily inspiration: My grandfather who was incredibly hard-working, humorous and fair.
In July 2015, married couple Heidi Wagner (OD'86, MPH) and Christopher Woodruff (OD'86, MBA) returned to their alma mater, The Ohio State University, following a 22-year career as Nova Southeastern University College of Optometry (NSUCO) faculty members. In their new roles at Ohio State, Dr. Wagner will serve as Professor of Clinical Optometry and Externship Director, while Dr. Woodruff will be Professor of Clinical Optometry, instructing ophthalmic optics, and assisting in the development and implementation of educational technology.

When Drs. Wagner and Woodruff graduated from the college, they would not have predicted that their career paths would lead them to Florida and back.

“My husband and I entered private practice immediately following graduation in 1986,” said Dr. Wagner, who served in a variety of academic and clinical capacities since joining the NSUCO faculty team in March 1993. “While building our practice in Mansfield, Ohio, I worked part-time in varied practice settings, including a rural private practice, a health maintenance organization, and as a clinical instructor at my alma mater. I particularly enjoyed practicing in an academic health center, and this experience motivated me to pursue a full-time position in optometric education. Nova Southeastern University—then Southeastern University of the Health Sciences—provided me with a full-time position and the opportunity to grow with a new institution.

“Initially, I saw my tenure at the institution as a steppingstone in our transition to Florida,” said Dr. Woodruff, who joined the NSUCO faculty in June 1994. “However, I soon realized that working in an academic setting was a good fit for me because I found a different dimension of independence. Looking back, education was a good fit for me because I very much enjoy student interactions and classroom teaching.”

As a professor of optometry at NOVA, Dr. Wagner served as the department chair for clinics from 2001 through 2011. In addition, for 15 years, she was the primary care educational coordinator for the cornea and contact lens portion of the clinic, with emphasis in the Cornea and Contact Lens Residency Program. Dr. Woodruff served as interim assistant dean for student affairs in 2002 and worked as a clinical preceptor in the Primary Care as well as the Cornea and Contact Lens Service. He also served as an instructor in both the optometric professional program and in the Master of Science in Clinical Vision Research Graduate Program. They have both received numerous awards for their teaching.

Dr. Wagner earned her Master of Public Health in Public Health Practice through the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. Dr. Woodruff earned his Master of Business Administration from Nova Southeastern University.

In addition to their numerous professional accomplishments, Drs. Wagner and Woodruff are the proud parents of Alexandra, who is a sophomore at Dartmouth College and Alyssa, who graduated from NSU’s University School in 2015 and will enter Wellesley College this fall. They are pleased and proud to be returning to Ohio State and promise to work on Buckeye pride with their children.
By Rachel Childress, Director of Development

COLLEGE RECEIVES SIGNIFICANT GIFTS

Innovation, Technology, and Future Renovations are the areas of focus for new funding

With the university’s transition to semesters in 2012, May is now filled with excitement as fourth year students graduate, white coats are presented, and alumni return to campus for various events. However, there was additional excitement this May as we celebrated two of the largest gifts that the college has ever received.

For a number of years we’ve been partnering with VSP Global to support our Improving Diversity of Optometric Careers (I-DOC) program, and they will continue to be the sole sponsor of that program as it grows and builds notoriety. In addition, VSP has committed $500,000 to create the VSP Vision Care Technology and Innovation Endowed Fund. This new fund will support new and creative project ideas for the college’s faculty and students.

We invited Jim McGrann, VSP Global’s President and CEO-elect to speak at our White Coat Ceremony and make the gift presentation on May 16. He remarked, “As new technology continues to shape how eye care is delivered, this endowment will help ensure the university’s students and faculty have the resources needed to experiment and study new innovations that help fulfill our shared mission of helping more people see.”

We are thrilled to have this opportunity to work with VSP Global as we continue to look to the future of eye care.

The second significant gift the college received in May was from HOYA Vision Care. Working with Barney Dougher and Gregory Hicks (OD’84), HOYA made a commitment of $250,000 to name our Eyewear Gallery. We’ve been fortunate to have HOYA as an advocate and supporter of the college for the past 10 years. They have sponsored our magazine for seven years, and continue to give the single largest student scholarship ($10,000) each year to the top entering student, which is an essential recruiting tool.

This generous gift will go directly into the college’s facilities and renovation fund and will then be used for future renovation projects within the college. Certainly, $250,000 will go a long way as we contemplate the next project on the horizon.

Kudos to Barbara Fink (OD, MS’85, PhD’87), who recently was promoted to professor!

Congratulations to Lisa Jones-Jordan, MS, PhD, who recently was promoted to research professor!
Adaptive Optics Leader speaks at
INAUGURAL HILL LECTURE

By Karla Zadnik, OD, PhD

Thanks to the generosity of Emeritus Dean Richard Hill, OD, PhD and his wife, Lee, the inaugural, endowed Richard M. and Leonora Hill Lecture was given on March 10, 2015 by David Williams, PhD. Dr. Williams is the Dean for Research in Arts, Science, and Engineering; Director, Center for Visual Science; and William G. Allyn Professor of Medical Optics at the University of Rochester. He is world-renowned for his leadership role in the burgeoning area of adaptive optics and figures prominently in the training lives of most of the young researchers involved in the use of adaptive optics for imaging the retina, including our own faculty members, Nathan Doble, PhD and Stacey Choi, BOptom, PhD.

Dr. Williams’ lecture was entitled Functional Imaging of Single Cells in the Living Eye. Its synopsis went something like this, “The correction of the eye’s aberrations with adaptive optics has made it possible to image the normal and diseased retina of the living eye at microscopic resolution. The value of this approach, which includes single and two-photon fluorescence imaging of individual retinal cells, allows us to optically probe the electrical signals the retina sends to the brain as well as molecular events in photoreceptors that would otherwise be invisible. It may be that these high resolution imaging tools, combined with recent advances in our ability to record from and control neurons with light, will eventually help complete our understanding of the computations the retina performs that allow us to see and also help to restore vision in the blind.” Lofty stuff.

Dr. Hill declared himself officially astonished by Dr. Williams’ work and presentation, and it was great to watch Drs. Hill and Williams exchanging war stories about people they both knew, from Berkeley to Boston and back again. And if anyone thought that was the highlight of the evening, it wasn’t. The real fun was in watching Dr. Hill enjoy his Buckeye dessert waffle (chocolate and peanut butter, of course) at the dinner in honor of David Williams, the first-ever Hill lecturer. The lecture in its entirety can be viewed on the college website, go.osu.edu/hill, albeit without the waffles.
The Class of 2018 celebrated its first year of successes at the 14th annual White Coat Ceremony on May 16 in the Great Performance Hall at the Ohio Union. Dean Karla Zadnik, OD, PhD presided and 500 attendees glowed with pride as the 66 students received their white coats individually from EF Wildermuth Professor Don Mutti, OD, PhD and Associate Dean of Academic Affairs, Michael Earley (OD/MS’88, PhD’92). The event was ably staffed by two women who show their dedication to the college every day: Sandy Workmaster and Carol Wilcox.

The audience was treated to moving words by Optometry Alumni and Friends treasurer Chris Smiley (OD’01) and Ohio Optometric Association president Terri Gossard (OD/MS’96). Chris told an emotional story in which his diagnosis truly saved a patient’s life, as the patient’s eye examination led to the early diagnosis of a brain aneurysm, while Terri described the power of the white coat when her father suffered a stroke many years ago. The students and their families and friends got a new look at the future ahead of them.

Each student made the most of his or her moment in the sun, while donning the coat and hearing a personal statement read to the audience. We learned that Katherine Fisher (’18) aspired to be an optometrist beginning at age 4 and that Eric Ward (’18) married his preschool sweetheart last year. There were many references to coffee, sports, travel, and heartfelt thanks for the support of friends and family.

In recent years, it has been our tradition that students who have a relative who is an optometrist can ask that person to assist with the “coating”. It was great fun to watch dad Bruce Manning (OD’81) and brother Justin Manning (OD’13) with Steven Manning (’18), Maria Fragoulis (OD’89) with daughter Evangelia Fragoulis (’18), and mom Kathy Sovine-Wise (OD’00) with Kimberly Weisenberger (’18).
Vondolee Delgado-Nixon, PhD ("Dr. VDN" to her students) received the “Provost’s Award for Distinguished Teaching by a Lecturer” during a surprise visit to her classroom by Ohio State President Michael Drake and Vice Provost Mike Boehm. Only three lecturers university-wide receive this award each year. The presenters snuck up on her in class, and Dr. Drake praised her achievements. Her husband, Greg Nixon (OD’96), Associate Dean for Clinical Services, and son, Chase Nixon, presented her with a bouquet of red roses and lots of hugs.

Students, faculty and alumni nominate their “best of the best,” and a committee of students, award-winning faculty, and alumni choose the awardees. In his nomination from last autumn, Mike Earley (OD/MS’88, PhD’92) wrote, “She is dedicated to each and every student’s success as optometrists, not just to success in her classes.” One of her students was quoted: “I appreciate Dr. VDN’s ongoing effort to meet one-on-one with her students. She truly cares that we succeed as happy, healthy future optometrists. I know that I can talk with her when I am stressed, and she will respond with sound advice. The transition to optometry school can be a tough one, and I am thankful that she has been here for us each step of the way!” Dean Karla Zadnik echoed the praise in supporting materials as Dr. VDN made it to the final selection round earlier this year, “She is truly an extraordinary classroom teacher. She makes herself completely available to her students--our first-year students, who are generally quite nervous about the requirements of the professional curriculum, which challenges them significantly compared to their undergraduate work. Her courses are generally regarded as the most demanding in the first year curriculum, and yet the students give her high teaching marks, positive comments, and, quite simply, love her as a person.”

The Office of Academic Affairs recognizes the award recipients with a $4,200 honorarium.

Kudos to Jeff Walline (OD, MS’98, PhD’02), our newly appointed Associate Dean for Research! Kudos to Tom Raasch, OD, PhD, who recently was promoted to professor!
Beta Sigma Kappa Holds Mock Practical for 2nd Year Students

By Gil Pierce (OD’89, MS’92, PhD’94)

On the weekend of April 11 and 12, members of The Ohio State University College of Optometry chapter of Beta Sigma Kappa held a “mock practical” for the second year students to help them prepare for their final clinical proficiency exam. Chapter officers Bridget McMurray (‘16), Whitney Territo (‘16), Michelle Miller (‘16), and Alyssa Willig (‘16) recruited third year students to serve as graders and first year students to sit as patients for four timed sessions. The upperclassman “graded” the exams and provided support and mentorship to the second year students. This is a shining example of Buckeyes helping Buckeyes and represents another example of how great our students are.

The final proficiency exam is a vital event, as it allows the students to demonstrate that they are prepared to begin seeing patients in the Primary Vision Care and Advanced Ocular Care Services beginning in the summer of their third year. The exam consists of the students performing a comprehensive primary care exam on a single patient, with specific skills required and evaluated by a Primary Vision Care attending doctor. Passing the exam is a pre-requisite of interns entering in clinic, so the help they received from the members of BSK was greatly appreciated.

In addition to the officers, the other BSK members volunteering up to 10 hours over that weekend were: Cheryl Andler (‘16), Joanna Cammenga (‘16), Cassie Dearth (‘16), Amanda Eilerman (‘16), Dana Griesmer (‘16), Janet Harawa (‘16), Megan Hoffman (‘16), Tiffany Hoffman (‘16), Meredith Kiess (‘16), Kate McClure (‘16), Tatevik Movsisyan (‘16), Shane Mulvihill (‘16), Kelsea Naylor (‘16), Lien Nguyen (‘16), AJ Peiffer (‘16), Alicia Powers (‘16), Andy Reed (‘16), and Jennifer Wei (‘16). Dawn Goedde (OD’04) served as faculty proctor for the weekend.

Epsilon Psi Epsilon Celebrates with Annual Spring Banquet

By Gil Pierce (OD’89, MS’92, PhD’94)

The Beta Chapter of Epsilon Psi Epsilon (EΨE), the College of Optometry’s professional fraternity, celebrated the graduating members of the class of 2015 with their annual Spring Banquet on Saturday, March 28 at the Columbus Athenaeum.

The Spring Banquet is held each year not only to honor the graduates, but also to give several student and faculty awards, and to introduce the chapter’s new executive board.

Additionally, this year there was a special ceremony to induct three honorary members to EΨE. Dean Karla Zadnik, OD, PhD, Associate Dean Mike Earley (OD/MS’88, PhD’92), and Professor Donald Mutti, OD, PhD were each given honorary membership during the banquet. Each of them expressed their great gratitude to the active members.

An extra special surprise this year was the entertainment for the evening – Bad Habits, the Eye Docs of Rock. Bad Habits was formed in 1987 by students at the college to perform at the annual talent show, and have been playing together ever since. Performing members included alumni Michael (Jules) Raies (OD’89) on bass and vocals, Tony Fenton (OD’89) on drums and vocals, and Pat Dollenmayer (OD’91) on guitar and vocals. Once the dancing began, Bad Habits serenaded Dean Zadnik with the 1972 Looking Glass hit Brandy (You’re a Fine Girl). Dr. Raies had contacted the dean’s husband, Kurt, to ask what her favorite song was, and he came up with this gem that Bad Habits intends to include on future playlists. The entire evening was planned by Kelsy Steele (‘16).

The awards presented at the banquet were:
- Herbert G. Mote Faculty Award: Nick Fogt (OD/MS’92, PhD’96)
- Michael Polasky Clinical Attending Award: Dawn Goedde (‘04)
- Senior of the Year Award: Jesselyn Miller (OD’15)
- Junior of the Year Award: Kelsy Steele (‘16)
- Pledge of the Year Award: Brennen Yaquinto (‘18)

The Epsilon Psi Epsilon Beta Chapter Executive Board for 2015 – 2016 is:
- President: Weston Tuten (‘17)
- Vice-President: Sara Hitchman (‘17)
- Treasurer: Kirsti Roehm (‘17)
- Recording Secretary: Ryan Alpino (‘17)
- Corresponding Secretary: Erin Andrews (‘17)
- Sergeant-at-Arms: Max Rennaker (‘18)
- Treasurer Elect: Jessica Bodamer (‘18)
The E. F. Wildermuth Foundation has supported optometry scholarships at Ohio State since 1970. For 44 years they have continued their partnership with us through significant scholarship gifts totaling more than $1 million. The broad criteria of awarding students who have demonstrated a high degree of academic potential and financial need has allowed us to extend scholarships to more than 100 students in the last five years alone. Let’s meet a few of our current Wildermuth Scholars.

Marisa Ciamacca

Class of 2017

Hometown:
Aliquippa, Pennsylvania

Undergrad:
Pennsylvania State University

Undergrad major:
Biological Sciences

My interest in optometry began ...

... In high school, as I always had an interest in medicine, the human body, and becoming a health care provider, overall. However, I didn’t know exactly where to direct these interests. In ninth grade I mentioned to my optometrist that I was considering a medical profession. She immediately insisted that I shadow her first, and I will forever be in debt to her for introducing me to a field of medicine that I would grow to love more than I ever thought was possible. It was the day that I shadowed her that I first saw the optic nerve.

As my experiences with optometry grew, I was able to see the type of doctor-patient-relationships that optometrists shared with their patients on a daily basis. Patients were always greeted by their first name, and the optometrist knew more than just their prescription or the reason for their visit. The conversations I watched my optometrist have with her patients were always heartfelt, enjoyable, and empathetic when appropriate. This was a type of interpersonal relationship that many other fields of medicine didn’t always have the privilege to experience or express.

Interests on campus ...

I am involved in both the doctor of optometry as well as the master’s in vision sciences programs. My research involves the use of OCTs to help detect novel stages of disease within different areas of the retina.

Future Plans ...

My future goals include fellowship with the American Academy of Optometry, completing a Veterans Administration residency, and continuing forward as an active member in optometric research. In addition, I would like to work at a VA giving back to our nation’s veterans as well as one day participate in a group OD/MD practice.
My interest in optometry began …

... Optometry has been a dream of mine since I was a sophomore in high school, after my mother mentioned optometry as a potential career choice. Having perfect vision, I had never actually had an eye exam. It was then that I decided to schedule my first one, where I learned I had a freckle, which I know now is actually a CHRPE, on my left retina. This was the first time I saw what an interesting field optometry was. I did more research, shadowing multiple doctors in my hometown and decided then that I wanted to be an optometrist someday.

Future Plans …

I hope to have my own office or partner with a few other doctors. At this point I am still exploring the many options optometry offers, but vision therapy is something that has spiked my interest. I am looking forward to doing an additional rotation in the Binocular Vision clinic this coming year.

Kelsea Naylor

Class of 2016
Hometown: Carrollton, Ohio
Undergrad: University of Akron
Undergrad major: Biology

My interest in optometry began …

... After spending some time observing optometrists in the Akron area during my undergraduate career. I fell in love with the experiences that optometry provides to serve patients and interact with them more than the typical practitioner. Optometrists have the ability to develop a trusting relationship with their patients and make a true impact in their lives, and I aspire to continue this tradition in my future practice.

Future Plans …

I hope to return to the area near my hometown and manage a private practice to offer comprehensive eye care to families, including vision therapy. I aspire to be an integral part of my future community and be able to pay forward the generosity with which I have been blessed.

Katrina Schlarman

Class of 2018
Hometown: Osgood, Ohio
Undergrad: The Ohio State University
Undergrad major: Medical Laboratory Science

My interest in optometry began …

... Optometry has been a dream of mine since I was a sophomore in high school, after my mother mentioned optometry as a potential career choice. Having perfect vision, I had never actually had an eye exam. It was then that I decided to schedule my first one, where I learned I had a freckle, which I know now is actually a CHRPE, on my left retina. This was the first time I saw what an interesting field optometry was. I did more research, shadowing multiple doctors in my hometown and decided then that I wanted to be an optometrist someday.

Future Plans …

I hope to return to the area near my hometown and manage a private practice to offer comprehensive eye care to families, including vision therapy. I aspire to be an integral part of my future community and be able to pay forward the generosity with which I have been blessed.

Heather Van Law

Class of 2018
Hometown: Denver, Colorado
Undergrad: Hillsdale College in Michigan
Undergrad major: Biochemistry

My interest in optometry began …

... During high school - I knew I wanted to have a career in the healthcare field because I wanted to use my passion for science to help improve the lives of my patients. I knew optometry would be a perfect fit because I think eyes are absolutely fascinating. A few of my interests in optometry include community service and short term mission trips. I am also interested in advocacy for the profession of optometry in various settings.

Nicole Wenman

Class of 2017
Hometown: Minocqua, Wisconsin
Undergrad: University of Wisconsin-Madison
Undergrad major: Biology

Why Optometry?

I know how important vision is on a daily basis. Vision is something most people often take for granted until it begins to deteriorate or becomes altered due to a life event. All of the optometrists I have ever seen are happy, successful, and have an open heart and mind. Seeing a smile on an individual's face when they put on their first pair of glasses and can see clearly for the first time will definitely bring a feeling of accomplishment.
The E.F. Wildermuth Professorship in Optometry was established in 1989 to recognize and support distinguished scholars in optometry. Donald Mutti, OD, PhD, currently holds this position.

According to Dr. Mutti, “The generous support of the Wildermuth Foundation has been a tremendous benefit to my research and to my students. The funds have made it possible to study why more time outdoors lowers the risk of the onset of juvenile myopia, the role of the ciliary muscle in regulating the development of the eye, and made it possible for the students involved in these projects to travel to meetings to present their findings. We are working hard to make this investment pay dividends for the children and the scholars of the future.”

Future plans ...
I plan on joining a practice with the ultimate goal of owning my own practice. I may possibly specialize in a certain area and have a strong interest in vision therapy and sports medicine.

Alyssa Willig
Class of 2016
Hometown:
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
Undergrad:
University of Pittsburgh
Undergrad major:
Biological Sciences

My interest in optometry began ...
... After I discovered I needed glasses as a nearsighted eight-year-old. I always looked forward to visiting my optometrist and learning more about vision from her.

Future Plans ...
I think I would like to work in a pediatric setting or private practice in Pittsburgh. I would also love to stay involved with research and be on the front line of optometry. I’ve enjoyed helping out with school screenings and RealEyes presentations, and I hope to provide similar services in my community in the future.

Scholarship Challenge Dramatically Boosts Support

By Rachel Childress, Director of Development

At the time this magazine arrives in your mailbox, we will be two months into the final year of the But For Ohio State campaign, and I am happy to report that we are within $1 million of the college’s $10 million goal. With other articles in this edition of the magazine highlighting the Scholars Dinner and the Wildermuth Scholars, I thought we should keep with this theme and tell you about how three of our scholarships are doubling their impact and moving our campaign totals closer to the goal.

In 2013 the university began the Ohio Scholarship Challenge. This program gives the donor of a new endowed scholarship the ability to double their impact by receiving a match of the distribution from the university. A typical $100,000 endowment, which is the minimum to participate in this challenge, would provide $4,250, but will now award $8,500 with the match. We are fortunate to have added three of these new scholarships in the past year.

The Dr. Carol Alexander (OD'87) and Dr. Kevin Alexander (OD’76, MS’77, PhD’79) College of Optometry Student Leadership Endowed Fund provides a scholarship for a student who demonstrates outstanding leadership ability. Both of the Alexanders have a philanthropic spirit and felt that it was time to give back to the college that has given them so much. Because of Dr. Carol’s current position in industry, the Alexanders were able to take advantage of the corporate match provided by Johnson & Johnson Vision Care, Inc.

Faculty member Don Mutti, OD, PhD also is taking advantage of the Ohio Scholarship Challenge by creating a new scholarship in memory of his brother, David R. Mutti, DVM. The David R. Mutti Endowed Fund in the College of Optometry provides scholarships to students who have potential to inspire others. Dr. Mutti talks fondly about how his brother was always there to inspire and motivate him, and this was a great way to honor that legacy.

The third scholarship to qualify for the challenge is from Karla Zadnik, OD, PhD. She created a fund last year in memory of her mother and then decided this year to increase it to take advantage of the match. The Ellen M. Henry Scholarship Fund provides tuition support to a student who demonstrates extraordinary achievements and/or potential. When the top floors were built on Fry Hall, Karla named a room for her father. It was time now to honor her mother with a fund that will last in perpetuity.
As the But for Ohio State campaign moves into its final year, the college continues to build its culture of giving. In March, we hosted our first Scholars Dinner to thank those who previously made scholarship gifts and educate current students about the importance of giving back. Although students who have received scholarships in the past have always written thank you notes to their donors, this was the first time we’ve provided an opportunity for them to meet and get to know each other.

Before dinner began, we heard from Cheryl Archer (OD’84), who has recently established a scholarship with her husband, John Archer (OD’75). Cheryl talked about how she and John felt that they owe much of their success to their degrees from Ohio State and it was time to show their appreciation and give back. Not only did they support students by establishing a new endowed need-based scholarship, they also named the student lounge in the newly renovated pre-clinic.

Following Cheryl, we heard from current student Allison Treleaven (’16), the recipient of the John F. Schuller Scholarship, given by William Schuller (BS’65). Allison talked about her prestigious aerial freestyle skiing career before discovering her passion for optometry. We learned that her success centered on setting big goals, hard work and dedication - all of the same qualities she has used to be successful as a student here at the college.

As the program concluded, we celebrated our newest endowed scholarship donors and presented them with framed copies of their endowment descriptions approved by the Board of Trustees. Please see the story on page 27 for more details. We look forward to awarding these scholarships for the first time this fall.

- The John and Cheryl Archer Endowed Scholarship will provide one need-based scholarship for an incoming student from Ohio.
- Dr. Don Mutti established a new scholarship in memory of his brother, David. The David R. Mutti Endowed Fund will be used to provide scholarships to students who have the potential to inspire others.
- Dean Karla Zadnik created a new endowed scholarship in memory of her mother, Ellen M. Henry. This scholarship provides for a student who demonstrates extraordinary achievements and potential.
Dean Karla Zadnik, OD, PhD, presided over a retooled Doctoral Convocation event on May 9 as the college honored the graduates of the Class of 2015 and also recognized the members of the Class of 1965 and the winners of the 2015 Optometry Alumni and Friends Early Professional Achievement and Distinguished Alumnus awards.

The day started with a lunch at the Ohio Union for the Class of 1965 and their families, then a tour of the college to show off the many renovations to date and talk about those yet to come. At 5:30 the “65’ers” gathered with the “15’ers”, alumni award winners, and guests at Weigel Hall, home of the Ohio State School of Music, for the Convocation ceremony. As the Cardinal String Quartet played Pomp and Circumstance, optometry faculty and alumni honorees took the stage, the 2015 graduates processed to their front and center audience seats, and Dean Zadnik welcomed everyone to a very special evening. After guest speaker and longtime Executive Director of the Ohio Optometric Association Rick Cornett delivered words of wisdom to the new grads, the dean recognized the Class of 1965 members for their lifetime achievements, and then presented Jeff Hackleman (OD’01) with the Early Professional Achievement Award, and Richard Weisbarth (OD’80) with the Distinguished Alumnus Award.

As Don Mutti, OD PhD, read the graduates’ names, each came forward to be hooded by Associate Dean of Academic Affairs Mike Earley (OD/MS’88, PhD’92), assisted by Associate Dean of Clinical Services Greg Nixon (OD’96). Four graduates were hooded by their proud family members, including Loni Dickerhoof (OD’15) hooded by her mother Rose Dickerhoof (OD’85), Jessica Dopkiss (OD’15) hooded by her father Michael Dopkiss (OD’78), Katie Scullion (OD’15) hooded by her parents Lynn (OD’88) and Tom Scullion (OD’87), and Travis Stiegemeier (OD’15) hooded by his mother Mary Jo Stiegemeier (OD’83). Seven graduates, Caroline Haberthy (OD/MS’15), Laura Hydeman (OD/MS’15), Jenna Korsan (OD/MS’15), Sarah Lasher (OD/MS’15), Michaela Minichello (OD/MS’15), Nicholas Perichak (OD/MS’15) and Dix Pettey (OD/MS’15) were honored with Bing and Ellerbrock awards in recognition of their earning simultaneous OD and Masters in Vision Science degrees. Class of 2015 president Josh Wolf (OD’15) delivered words of appreciation on behalf of the class, and Sarah Munther (OD’15) led the singing of Carmen, Ohio.

The evening ended with a celebratory dinner at the Blackwell for the alumni award winners and their families.
Class of 2015

Sara Marie Bokan .................................................Cortland, Ohio
† Julie Christine Boyce .......................................Hubbard, Ohio
† Joyce M. Cater ...............................................Brecksville, Ohio
Angelina Anna Cerone...........................................Beaver Creek, Ohio
Brandy Marie Cestoni.................................Louisville, Ohio
† Harmin J. Chima .................................................Solon, Ohio
Ty Christian Clase................................................Marion, Ohio
† Loni Rae Dickerhoof ........................................Clinton, Ohio
Jessica Michelle Dopkiss......................................Plain City, Ohio
Janel Elizabeth Elamin .........................................Avon Lake, Ohio
Christopher Daniel Erwin ..............................Cincinnati, Ohio
Stephanie Erwin ..................................................Jackson, Ohio
† Cari Louise Gallagher ........................................Avon Lake, Ohio
Travis Miles Gilbert ............................................Dayton, Ohio
Abigail G. Graeff ..............................................Dayton, Ohio
* ‡ Caroline Haberthy ........................................Dublin, Ohio
Scott M. Hanes ..................................................Westerville, Ohio
Megan Elise Heffelfinger ................................Dublin, Ohio
Rachele Marie Huffman .................................Zelienople, Pennsylvania
* † Laura Hydeman .................................................Murrysville, Pennsylvania
Courtney Elizabeth Justice .........................Waverly, Ohio
Laura Anne Kahn .................................................Dublin, Ohio
Lindsey Ann Kentner ........................................Wapakoneta, Ohio
* Jenna M. Korsan .............................................Huntingdon, Pennsylvania
Piana Krymskaya............................................Mayfield Village, Ohio
* Sarah Kathleen Lasher ........................................Malta, Ohio
Kimonia Lawrence ........................................Pembroke Pines, Florida
Bryan Gregory Lewis .......................................Ashburn, Virginia
† Yu-Ju (Lisa) Lin .................................................Taipei, Taiwan
Jessica Erin Lybarger ........................................New Albany, Ohio
† Julie Marie Marko ............................................Mayfield Village, Ohio
† Michelle Ashley Massie .....................................Yorktown, Virginia
Justin M. Mays ...................................................Mason, Ohio
† Tayla Marie Meade ..........................................Clyde, Ohio
Jeselyn Elizabeth Miller ......................................Ottoville, Ohio
* ‡ Michaela Anne Minichello .................................Columbus, Ohio
Sarah Ruth Munther ........................................Mansfield, Ohio
Artika Naidu .....................................................Seattle, Washington
Linda Nguyen .................................................Anaheim, California
† Nicholas Perichak .............................................Amherst, Ohio
Jason M. Petersen ...............................................Lehi, Utah
* ‡ Dix Hale Petey ................................................Salt Lake City, Utah
Matthew Phan ...............................................Houston, Texas
Marcella Elisa Pipitone ....................................Hudson, Ohio
Laurence Rahardjanoto ....................................Arcadia, California
† Breanna Kay Ruesch ........................................Medford, Wisconsin
Megan Kay Rutledge .........................................Wapakoneta, Ohio
† Lindsay Michelle Sallecchia .......................Marysville, Ohio
Alexandra Price Schmucker ........................Monclova, Ohio
Katherine Scullion ............................................Salem, Ohio
Namrata Shah .....................................................North Olmsted, Ohio
† Andrew Steele ..................................................Louisville, Kentucky
Tyler Stiegemeier ..............................................Hudson, Ohio
† Austen Tanner ...............................................Maumee, Ohio
† Megan Taylor ..................................................Holland, Ohio
† Jillian Elaine Terreri ........................................Canfield, Ohio
† Brittany Nichole White ...................................Moundsville, West Virginia
Sarah Ann Wildermuth ....................................Huntsville, Ohio
Kathryn Lynn Woeste .......................................Dayton, Ohio
Joshua Michael Wolf ............................................Salem, Ohio
Korey A. Young ..................................................Poland, Ohio
Brian Zembower .............................................Centerville, Ohio

* Complete both the Doctor of Optometry and the Master of Science in Vision Science programs
† Four-year members of Beta Sigma Kappa (BSK)
‡ Student Fellows, American Academy of Optometry
± Complete both the Doctor of Optometry and the Graduate Interdisciplinary Specialization in Aging programs
The Class of 1965 with Dean Karla Zadnik at convocation to celebrate their 50th reunion!

*front row*: Wayne Collier (BS’65), Dean Wells (BS’65, OD’67), Dean Karla Zadnik, OD, PhD, Thomas Fiffick (BS’65, OD’66), and John Schoessler (BS’65, OD’66, MS’68, PhD’71)

*back row*: James Pearl (BS’65), Robert Davis (BS’65), Richard Herr (BS’65), Ralph Williams (BS’65), and William Schuller (BS’65, OD, MPH)

Joyce Cater (OD’15), Marcella Pipitone (OD’15), Katie Woeste (OD’15) and Lindsay Sallecchia (OD’15) at convocation.

Janel Elamin (OD’15) being hooded by Michael Earley (OD/MS’88, PhD’92)
Lindsay Sallecchia (OD’15) being congratulated by Dean Zadnik.

Sarah Munther (OD’15) singing Carmen Ohio.

Class President Joshua Wolf (OD’15) speaking for his class.

Convocation speaker Rick Cornett addressing the class of 2015.

Jeffrey Hackleman (OD’01) receiving the Early Professional Achievement Award.

Rick Weisbarth (OD’80) was named 2015 Distinguished Alumni Award recipient.
WEISBARTH AND HACKLEMAN
Honored at Convocation

By Kerry Gastineau, Alumni Coordinator

The stage was set perfectly on May 9 in Weigel Hall on The Ohio State University campus for the College of Optometry Convocation. Members of the Class of 1965 were present for their 50th reunion celebration, the members of the Class of 2015 were present with family and friends proudly smiling in the audience, and the very special recipients of the Optometry Alumni and Friends (OAF) distinguished alumni awards also were on stage.

Richard Weisbarth (OD’80) from Texas was recognized with the 2015 Distinguished Alumni Award, and Jeffrey Hackleman (OD’01) from Georgia received the Early Professional Achievement Award. Both awards were presented by Dean Karla Zadnik OD, PhD and OAF President Roger Saneholtz (OD’74).

Drs. Weisbarth and Hackleman drew upon their own experiences from their days spent at Ohio State, and how their careers have evolved and flourished to receive such recognitions. They expressed great appreciation for their families and shared their “But for Ohio State” stories.

Their advice for the students to make a difference in all patients’ lives resonated throughout the auditorium. And the class of 2015 saw first-hand how powerful their OD degrees will be with regard to changing lives in their own communities and staying engaged with their alma mater.

After the ceremony concluded, family and friends - including Pam Weisbarth along with Tricia, Claire and Paige Hackleman - convened at The Blackwell Hotel to continue the celebration and to offer personal congratulations. Emeritus deans Richard M. Hill (OD, PhD) and John Schoessler (BS’65, OD’66, MS’68, PhD’71) were also in attendance, along with several other former faculty members and mentors. Joe Barr (OD’77, MS’79) and Jim Sheedy (OD/MS’74, PhD ’77) spoke on behalf of Dr. Weisbarth. Chris Smiley (OD’01) and Melissa Bailey (OD/MS’01, PhD’04) spoke on behalf of Dr. Hackleman.
The Class of 2015 graduates and their families and friends celebrated in style at the Columbus Athenaeum at the college’s annual awards banquet. They toasted their achievements over the past four years and looked ahead to their official entry into the world of optometric practice and their many professional accomplishments to come!

**Banquet Awards**

**Beta Sigma Kappa Silver Medal**  
Megan Taylor, OD

**Eyewear Dispensing Award of Excellence**  
Austen Tanner, OD

**Low Vision Rehabilitation Clinical Excellence Award**  
Andrew Steele, OD

**Award of Excellence in Contact Lens Patient Care**  
Laura Hydeman, OD

**Binocular Vision and Pediatrics Clinical Excellence Award**  
Sarah Kathleen Lasher, OD, MS

**Community Outreach Clinical Excellence Award**  
Caroline Haberthy, OD, MS

**Primary Vision Care Clinical Excellence Award**  
Abigail G. Graeff, OD

**Advanced Ocular Care Clinical Excellence Award**  
Julie Marie Marko, OD

**The Dr. Lyle Aloysius John Gassmann Memorial Award**  
Ty Christian Clase, OD

**Graduate of the Year**  
Megan Taylor, OD
Awardees with presenters:
Megan Taylor (OD’15) and Greg Nixon (OD’96); Austen Tanner (OD’15) and Jeff Rohlf, Andrew Steele (OD’15) and Roanne Flom, OD; Aaron Zimmerman (OD’06, MS’08) and Laura Hydeman (OD/MS’15); Sarah Lasher (OD/MS’15) and Cayti McDaniel (OD/MS’08); Jackie Davis (OD’81, MPH) and Caroline Haberthy (OD/MS’15); Jackie Davis and Abigail Graeff (OD’15); Julie Marko (OD’15) and J.P. Maszczak (OD’05); Ty Clase (OD’15) and Michael Earley (OD/MS’88, PhD’92); Karla Zadnik, OD, PhD and Megan Taylor (OD’15)
In 1965, a postage stamp cost $0.05 and a gallon of gas was $0.31. Bonanza and Andy Griffith were popular TV shows; The Sound of Music won the Oscar for the year’s best movie; the Beatles, the Rolling Stones, the Supremes, the Beach Boys, Petula Clark, Sonny & Cher, and the McCloys (Hang on Sloopy!) all had Number One hit songs; and President Lyndon Johnson signed the legislation for Medicare and Medicaid.

Also in 1965, The Ohio State University School (it was not yet a College) of Optometry graduated 28 optometrists who went on to serve patients in their communities and expand the scope of optometric practice in Ohio and beyond. Nine of those graduates returned to campus on May 9 to renew old friendships and to be honored by Dean Karla Zadnik at a special luncheon and again on-stage at the Class of 2015 Doctoral Convocation.

Along with their families, Wayne Collier (BS’65), Robert Davis (BS’65), Thomas Fiffick (BS’65, OD’66), Richard Herr (BS’65), James Pearl (BS’65), John Schoessler (BS’65, OD’66, MS’68, PhD’71), William Schuller (BS’65, OD, MPH), Dean Wells (BS’65, OD’67), and Ralph Williams (BS’65) all enjoyed a beautiful May day on campus, which began with a luncheon in their honor at the newly-remodeled Ohio Union. They then boarded a bus for a tour of the college, which has changed substantially since their graduation: the old classroom 119 is now the main patient reception area; the old student rooms are now classroom 22; venerable old classroom 33 has been enlarged and rotated ninety degrees; the old Topaz Memorial library is now the beautiful Eyewear Galley; the old refracting lanes in the basement are now student laboratories for geometric and physiological optics; and three new state-of-the-art research floors have been added to the top of Fry Hall. The members of the Class of 1965 reminisced about the “good old days” but all agreed that the new infrastructure and equipment in the college was needed to prepare today’s graduates for practice in the 21st century.

The nine Class of 1965 graduates were seated on-stage in full academic regalia during the Convocation program. When Dean Karla Zadnik formally recognized them, she told the Class of 2015 graduates: “In 50 years, I hope you all look as good as these gentlemen do today.”
With an infectious smile and endless determination, Elizabeth Brubaker (’17) has won over a lot of people throughout her student career, but her latest win is of the fellowship variety.

Elizabeth is among 18 graduate students from Columbus and Athens selected as Albert Schweitzer Fellows, a prestigious honor that involves following the example set by famed physician Albert Schweitzer.

The selection process for Schweitzer Fellows is incredibly tough. Elizabeth, a natural leader, was chosen because of her work to address the importance of early eye exams for children. This population is not new to Elizabeth; during her four years as a health sciences undergraduate student, she worked as a camp counselor for Ohio State’s Learning in Fitness and Education (LIFE) Sports program, which led to her to connect her passion for optometry with her passion for helping children.

Elizabeth drew inspiration from faculty members Jackie Davis (OD’81, MPH’08) and Joan Nerderman (OD’86), and knowing that a need for vision screenings existed among LIFE program campers, made it happen.

“We have reached nearly 1,600 kids in one year,” said Elizabeth. “The first year, I took a team of Opt 1s and a professor, and we did screenings during lunch hour at camp. This year, we screened on registration day. In fact, we screened 89 kids in just one day!”

Elizabeth made sure to incorporate an educational component as well, borrowing from the RealEyes curriculum. She also acted as an optometry ambassador and educated the parents and provided information about appropriate follow-up.

The Schweitzer Fellowship caught the attention of university officials, bringing on yet another award for Elizabeth, the 2015 Professional Student Award for Excellence in Community Service by the Office of Student Life, Office of Outreach and Engagement, the Service-Learning Initiative in partnership with the Office of Undergraduate Education and the Office of International Affairs.

Post-graduation, Elizabeth plans to return to her native Northwest Ohio and work in private practice. Of course, she will continue to serve others through volunteer and outreach programs.

As good leaders do, Elizabeth is already working on a succession plan to make sure that the program continues to grow and thrive, even after she graduates and moves into the professional world.

Congratulations, Elizabeth!
Mother – Daughter team, service dogs enhance patient experience

Loni Dickerhoof (OD’15) grew up in Clinton, Ohio, graduated from Jackson High School in 2008 and earned an undergraduate degree in 2011 in biology while playing varsity tennis at the University of Dayton. Dr. Loni chose Ohio State for its reputation and location. Choosing a career in optometry came naturally, as when she was young, she enjoyed looking at “eye” books while seeing her mom, Rose Dickerhoof (OD’85), and other ODs enjoying work/life balance. Dr. Rose originally intended to work in the cosmetology field but pursued optometry instead, based on how much she valued and enjoyed her own annual eye exams. Dr. Rose shadowed Kaleel Shaheen (OD’72), who encouraged her pursuit of an OD degree.

Dr. Loni’s advice for getting through the grueling program is to find an activity outside of the clinic. For her, it was Freedom Paws Assistance Dogs, an organization in Marysville that trains service dogs. Volunteering at the facility, she bathed and trained the dogs and took them on field trips. Dr. Loni and Dr. Rose began fostering and progressed to puppy-raising, which involves basic training, socializing, and caring for a Freedom Paws’ puppy for up to a year and a half. Dr. Loni raised Nashville, a male golden retriever who attended class and was at every boards review session to get the students through the stressful times! Nash has since gone on to be a Diabetic Alert Dog, and now the Dickerhoofs are raising their third puppy, Zeppelin, a lab-golden mix. Zeppelin works with Dr. Rose, providing support to her staff while creating an awesome environment for everyone, including patients who love to meet him and even offer to take him for a walk while they are dilating.

Dr. Loni hopes to emulate her mom, who is active with charity fundraisers in both their work and home communities. Dr. Rose presents for RealEyes at local schools and participates in screenings, such as, iSee and OneSight. Dr. Rose and her staff raise money for various charities, participating in multiple runs, walks, and bike rides each year.
Buckeye Born & Raised

Jessica Dopkiss (OD’15) is a true Buckeye, Columbus born and raised. A career choice in optometry was easy for Dr. Jessica after watching her dad, Mike Dopkiss (OD’76), and working in his practice as an optometric technician. She noticed how happy he was and his obvious care and concern for his patients. He would chat with his patients after church or bring home fresh tomatoes from the garden that a patient had given him. Her dad remembers discovering creative ways as a young student to see the chalkboard before he knew that he needed a visual correction. An optometrist made his path and world clearer, and it is a privilege to treat patients and “pay it forward.”

A positive experience with the pre-optometry club encouraged Dr. Jessica to choose Ohio State, but after seeing her dad’s 1976 composite picture (complete with tinted aviator-style glasses and brown wool suit), she said, “Ohio State it is!”

For Dr. Jessica, the memories range from countless study hours in Prior Library and on the 6th floor of Fry Hall, coffee runs to Bruegger’s and note taking as fast as Dr. Earley’s brain goes! Outside of academics, Dr. Jessica was a member of Epsilon Psi Epsilon and fondly remembers the bowling tournament where her team dressed up as birds -Team CHRPEs.

“The relationships created because of Ohio State are numerous and immeasurable. Wherever you plant an O - H, expect an I-O to grow!”

Mike Dopkiss (OD’76)
“Ohio State is a very, very big family that unifies us and encourages us to use our resources to promote education and innovation. Ohio State's influences run far and wide, but I feel that being a part of the university encourages me to improve the local community. I hope to give back locally to help further the cultural and economic growth of Ohio State and Columbus.”

Jessica Dopkiss (OD'15)

Mom Knows Best, Especially When It Comes to OD Career Choice

Tyler Stiegemeier (OD'15) grew up in Hudson, Ohio, and landed at Bowling Green to pursue a bachelor’s degree in music education. After teaching for a few years, he sought a new challenge … optometry! Ohio State brought a sense of proximity, family and reputation, following in his mother’s footsteps. Mary Jo Stiegemeier (OD’83) also cites her mom, Theresa Rovito’s influence for a piqued interest in optometry, and for her recommendation to seek training at Mt. Sinai Hospital in Cleveland as an optometric/ophthalmic technician for a summer job after high school.

Early challenges for Dr. Tyler as an optometry student included keeping up with coursework and relearning how to study. Where rote memorization had been useful before, studies that are integral for life long practice were meant to be retained and understood, not just memorized for a test and forgotten. Dr. Tyler credits Vondolee Delgado-Nixon, PhD and Greg Nixon (OD’96) for being compassionate, intelligent advisors and teachers who have strongly contributed to his success as a student and as an optometrist.

From his wedding to the birth of his daughter, Madeline, Dr. Tyler appreciated the sense of family that the faculty and staff embrace at the college. He recommends to fully commit yourself to the educational experience, embrace your relationships with peers and professors: they have large hearts and are very willing to go the extra mile for you.

Dr. Tyler plans to move to North Carolina with his wife and daughter this year to join a private practice in Wake Forest, where he will focus on specialty contact lens fitting, anterior segment disease management, and potentially vision therapy in addition to primary care.

Dr. Mary Jo says she was blessed to have been influenced by some of the greatest optometrists and human beings on the planet, including Mike Polasky, (OD’69), Arol Augsburger (OD/MS’71), Gary Andrasko, (OD’78, MS’80), Joe Barr (OD’77, MS’79), Jim Sheedy (OD’MS’74, PhD’77) and Lee Rigel, OD (Indiana). She cherishes her mother, husband, Andrew Stiegemeier, and Ohio State colleagues for being very instrumental in her career.
Mary Jo Stiegemeier (OD’83) hooding Tyler Stiegemeier (OD’15) at convocation.

“I thank The Ohio State University College of Optometry, for accepting me into a profession that is stimulating intellectually, rewarding, has allowed me to build lifelong friendships, and be challenged to grow and enjoy a successful career.”

Mary Jo Stiegemeier (OD’83)

A Long Line of Myopes and Buckeyes

Tom Scullion (OD’87) grew up in a house of Buckeye football and basketball fans, including a brother who was a 1970 Ohio State grad. Dr. Tom spent two years at Mount Union as an undergrad playing college basketball, but he knew he belonged at The Ohio State College of Optometry. This revelation first emerged during his junior year of high school at an eye examination with family optometrists, Will Stamp (BS’55) and Gail Herron (OD’68), who spoke highly of the career.

Lynn Blair Scullion (OD’88), who grew up in Parkersburg, WV and comes from a long line of high myopes, also realized that optometry was the career for her during her junior year in high school. While waiting in her optometrist’s exam chair, she thought, “I can do this” and from that point on, she never wavered in her decision.

This husband and wife team raised two daughters, Katie and Amy. Dr. Lynn enjoyed one of the best Mother’s Day gifts ever when Katie graduated from the College of Optometry in May. Dr. Katie chose to follow in her parents’ footsteps and pursue an optometry degree at their alma mater after seeing firsthand what it was like to work in an optometry practice.

“Ohio State has provided me with a great profession and most importantly I have met some great people who will be a part of my life forever. The work load and the ability to stay motivated and focused throughout was one of the biggest challenges. Being able to work with so many different people makes you a more well-rounded clinician. The faculty are so intelligent. I was in awe of how much they all knew and how nice and helpful they were to us.”

Katie Scullion (OD’15)
Not surprisingly, Dr. Lynn’s advice to optometry students is to marry an optometrist. Interestingly, out of the 55 graduates in her class, eight optometrists married another optometrist!

Dr. Tom’s advice to current students is not to sell themselves short. Ohio State prepares students well to do outstanding work, which will lead to great success. His philosophy is a new optometrist doesn’t necessarily have to enter or buy an existing practice. The right situation combined with hard work and genuinely caring about patients will lead to a successful practice. That in turn will lead to opportunities to become more involved in the community and therefore have a greater impact on more than eye care alone.

“Ohio State is a place with tremendous pride and tradition where lifelong friendships are formed and hard work provides the tools for success.”

Lynn Scullion (OD’88)

“Ohio State has such a special place in my heart. Of course it is where I received my professional degree but also where I met my lovely wife and now it is where both my daughters have attended school. It has become more than a university but an actual part of our everyday lives!”

Tom Scullion (OD’87)
Keep your eyes on the road!
License plates from our alumni are all over the country!

THANKS FOR SENDING IN YOUR PLATES!

1. Craig Coleman
2. Don Kammer, Amy Grimes, Ann Sherbet, Gerald Troy, John Nametz
3. Daniel Koch, Elliot Heisman, Don Kammer, Austin Saneholtz, Bruce Manning (2)
4. Burt Carlson, Jean Heisman, Joan Nerderman, John Ackerson, Keith Sellers, Marc Hartig (vertical)
5. Kathy Rudolf (after school), Kathy Rudolf (in school), Kevin Alexander, Laura Chonko, Lindsay Florkey
6. Nathan Drum, Mark Yoder (1 or 2), Mark Yoder (a or b), Neil Sika, Phil Kohanov
7. Nathan Drum, Randall Alessi, Ronald Gilbert, Susan Bajit Michaels, Walter Morton (diagonal)
8. Roger Saneholtz, Roger Saneholtz, Timothy Frye, Walter Morton
9. Roger Saneholtz, Roger Saneholtz, Tamara Kuhlman, Walter Morton
10. Roger Saneholtz, Troy Ogden, Tamara Kuhlman, Walter Morton
11. Troy Ogden, William Lay
NEW WEBSITE
for Optometry Alumni

By Dave Moore
Web Development Specialist

A quick walk-through of some aspects of the new and improved website.

The first thing that should catch your eye upon visiting the page is “feature slider” that displays different images of interest. This is updated from time to time. You can use the arrows on the right and left sides of the slider to display the different items or just let it advance through the slides automatically. Don’t worry, it repeats. The next time you visit, there could be different highlights showing.

Above the feature slider to the right you’ll find a search bar that allows you to just search the alumni society’s page. Perhaps you’re looking for contact info for a specific trustee, or you’d like to find out more about a special event, just type in what you want to search for here and hit return. The results of your search will appear and you can select the item that matches what you’re looking for.

Underneath the highlight slider is the navigation bar for the website. With this navbar, you can find out more ABOUT the Alumni Society, read the latest NEWS, check out upcoming EVENTS, view additional RESOURCES and get a list of the current BOARD OF TRUSTEES.

While still on the main page of the Alumni Society page, if you continue to scroll down more, you’ll discover a social media band that displays the latest Twitter tweets, Facebook posts and Instagram photo. Toward the bottom of the page, you’ll find the mission statement for the Optometry Alumni Society.

These are just a few of the things to discover. Have fun trying out the new website!
So what's the big deal?

Instagram is a social media application designed for sharing photos that you take in the moment... a picture you take in the instant and then want to share with others. The college uses Instagram to showcase different daily aspects of the college, clinic and university.

The program typically runs on Apple and Android handheld devices. It's possible to view some photos through the Instagram website, but to participate, you need your own smartphone or tablet to create an account so that you can add and edit your own pictures.

To get started:

1) Grab a smartphone and download the free Instagram app using the app store on your device. You'll need to search for "Instagram" and make sure you choose the one by "Instagram, Inc." Don't settle for imitations. Once you find it, install it.

2) When you fire up Instagram, you'll need to create an account using the "sign up" button. The app should step you through all the info it requires for your account.

3) If you run into any problems, Instagram has a great set of help pages. Here is a shortened link that will take you directly to Instagram help:

http://go.osu.edu/instagramhelp

4) Once you are up and going, search for the college under "people." "ohiostateoptometry" is the college's profile name. When you find it, view the profile and follow the college by touching the + FOLLOW button.

5) Be sure to use #OSUopt with any Ohio State Optometry-related posts!

Welcome to the Instagram family!

By Dave Moore
Web Development Specialist
1950  Philip “Bud” Levy (BS’50) passed away May 2015.

1956  William Kirk Vincett Sr. (BS ’56) passed away April 2015.

1957  John Higbee (BS’57) passed away December 2014.

1963  Robert Flagg (BS’63) passed away April 2015.

1970  David Canfield (OD’70) passed away January 2015.

1979  Herb Shultz (OD’79) is retiring from Family Vision Care in Salem, Ohio, after 36 years in optometry practice, and is passing the care of his patients to Julie Mackall (OD’04).

1984  Jean Heisman (OD’84) just celebrated 25 years of being in private practice in Mullica Hill, New Jersey.

2009  Josiah Young (OD’09) of Opticare Vision Centers in Newport, Kentucky, received a great deal of attention when the parent of one of his young patients posted a video of the child seeing through her glasses for the first time. The video went viral, and even appeared on the Today Show. To view the video, visit the college’s Facebook page. To date, this video has been viewed more than 30 million times!

2010  Greg Hopkins (OD’10), his wife, Katya, and new big sisters Matilda and Adelaide, welcomed baby boy Frederick (Freddie) Robert Hopkins on May 26.

2013  Justin Manning (OD’13) has been selected to serve in Nicaragua on the faculty of the optometry school at UNAN-Managua, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de Nicaragua. His appointment is the first VOSH/International placement in the newly established VOSH Corps program.

2013  Congratulations to Katherine Bickle (OD/MS’13) on her marriage to Kevin Meenach July 18!
As an independent, you’re up against market forces beyond your control. Fortunately, you can partner with companies that empower you to be more competitive, and don’t compete against you. Companies that only succeed when you do. Companies like HOYA.

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contact Dr. Jeffrey Myers at jamod@winchestervisioncare.com