

# BUCKEYE OPTOMETRY

## ALUMNI MAGAZINE

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the Leadership of  
Dr. Jeff Myers

# Role Model Returns to Columbus

DR. ANN RUDICK

Autumn 2019

BuckEYE Magazine  
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Yoongie Min (OD'89) and John Archer (OD'75)  
smiling at a laughing Roger Sanholtz (OD'74)  
during Homecoming Weekend 2019.

On the cover:  
Ann Rudick (OD'07)





# Dean's Perspective

*“We cannot live only for ourselves.” – Herman Melville*

I made a pilgrimage in mid-November to Nantucket Island. Some of you may know that Nantucket is “my place.” My extended family first went there in 1989 to celebrate my parents’ 50th wedding anniversary. I fell in love with the place and have returned most summers since with an assortment of family and friends.

I usually travel there in the height of the summer season when the little island (only seven by 14 miles, 30 miles from Cape Cod) becomes home to four to five times its year-round population of about 10,000 people. I’ve also gone for festivals in other seasons like the film, cranberry, and daffodil festivals and the early December Christmas Stroll.

This year I went there for a true off-season weekend. Only a handful of restaurants were open. Most shops were shuttered and dark. It was far too windy to manage a calm beach walk. So, what did I do? I headed to a couple of those restaurants for fresh little bay scallops, harvested during scalloping season in the waters around the island. I took a book binding class.

And I stumbled into the annual, 28-hour marathon reading of *Moby Dick*. Melville’s classic American novel describes the voyage of a whaling ship, the Pequod, which originates out of Nantucket Harbor. You probably have a high school or college or popular culture familiarity with *Moby Dick*. Some of you have perhaps read the whole novel. I confess to never having read it, relying instead on my own knowledge of societal references to the whale, Ahab, and the novel’s narrator’s opening words, “Call me Ishmael.”

The reading started Saturday morning at 10 a.m. The first chapter was read by island resident, Nathaniel Philbrick, author of *In the Heart of the Sea*, the true account of the 1820 tragic whaling voyage that is thought to have inspired Melville. Other chapters were read by prominent island residents like the owner of my favorite bike shop, which has been in his family for four generations. His wife also read, and she taught the book binding class.

As I walked into the library, housed in Nantucket’s Atheneum, the organizing librarian asked me, “Are you a reader?” When I said no, she followed up, “Would you like to be?” Long story short, I walked to one of the island’s two bookstores, bought a copy of the novel, and proceeded to practice Chapters 76 and 77 in anticipation of my reading in the wee hours of Sunday morning. In the end I got drafted to read a third chapter for a no-show, finishing around 2 a.m.

Here’s the thing. I was struck by key features of that unexpected event and a strong sense of community. It reminded me of our optometric community. Nantucket has strong, deep connections among its year-round residents that extend to enthusiastic summer vacationers. Everyone seemed to know everyone else yet were welcoming to me as an off-islander. That felt just like the recent American Academy of Optometry meeting in Orlando and every Ohio State Optometry reunion. To the new attendee or the recent graduate, everyone seems to know everyone, yet the newbies are warmly welcomed.

It was evident on the island that there was half a degree of separation between any two people. That is definitely true in optometry. Strike up a conversation with any optometrist, and you will quickly find a common topic of conversation—a clinical case, another optometrist you both know, a recent paper you’ve both read. My advice this autumn is to take that time. Read something you’ve never read before. Make meaningful connections in your profession and alma mater. Live beyond yourself.

Go Bucks,  
**Karla Zadnik, OD, PhD**  
*Dean*  
*Glenn A. Fry Professor in Optometry and Physiological Optics*



# President's Perspective

Welcome to fall, BuckEYES,

I hope you are enjoying all that autumn has to offer. There certainly are exciting things happening on campus and within our alumni society this fall. Hopefully many of you were able to attend our alumni reunion weekend in September. The weekend included an informative continuing education lecture by **Jason Miller (OD’99, MBA)** and a wonderful turnout for the Bad Habits concert Friday night with almost 300 in attendance. Ohio State President Dr. Michael Drake on guitar was an added bonus to start out the night’s performance. Our tailgate included the always delicious Schmidt’s, plus some wonderful information on the new optometry clinic building. Project 2020 is well under way with the ribbon cutting set for next fall. If you have time, check out the new clinic blog ([u.osu.edu/newclinic](http://u.osu.edu/newclinic)) for updated information on the building’s progress and naming opportunities.

This fall we earned “Scarlet” status from The Ohio State University Alumni Association, which allows us to continue to be recognized as an Outstanding Alumni Society for 2019. **Robert “Buckeye Bob” Newcomb (OD’71, MPH)** and **Jeffrey Myers (OD’84)** happily accepted our award and flag as a gracious gift to our society.

As for other board news, I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to Dr. Newcomb and **James Bieber (BS’64, OD’68)**, who transitioned off our board this fall. They have been essential to our alumni society for a combined 25+ years, and thanks to their dedication, our society continues to thrive. I would also like to thank Dr. Myers, who is stepping down as our BuckEYE Alumni Editor. Dr. Myers has been an integral part of our society through this publication and also has been the forefront for the Distinguished Alumnus/ Alumna and Early Professional Achievement Awards. In filling those crucial roles our board welcomes **Jason Ortman (OD’00)** and **Katie Greiner (OD/ MS’09)**, and we look forward to continued success in the years to come. Our board also has been working on updating our constitution and bylaws, so I hope you will all look out for those changes this winter!

Enjoy the upcoming holidays and Go Bucks!  
**Stephanie M. Baxter (OD’08)**  
*President*  
*The Ohio State University College of Optometry Alumni Society*







# Alumni Editor's Perspective

## Time to Make a Move

Twenty years ago, **Joseph Barr (OD'77, MS'79)** visited me on a Wednesday afternoon when I was working in the Disease Clinic at the college. He had a volunteer proposal for me. How would I like to serve as the Editor of the college's alumni newsletter? While I had handled an organizational newsletter a number of years before, I really had no idea the journey that could occur depending on how I answered the question.

The answer was yes, and the journey has been a blessing in many ways. As a result of answering that question, many opportunities were opened up to me. Included was the privilege of serving the college under four deans, writing 54 editorials and 67 articles. Unique in the alumni communications world, my service as Editor was voluntary. I followed the service of **Arol Augsburger (OD/MS'71)** and Dr. Barr as former editors. We were able to move to a color format and magazine quality over the last 20 years and won two university awards. Now, I write my final BuckEYE editorial.

The real privilege of the position has been to meet, get to know and to tell the stories of some of our amazing alumni. The alumni stories that have been told span the Class of 1937 to 2007. The stories include deans, industry vice-presidents, military leaders, hobbyists, musicians, authors, travelers, legacy families, missionaries, researchers, and volunteers in the profession. All the stories are different, each one fascinating in its own way. Getting to live in our subject's world for a short period of time to understand their passion has been incredibly enriching.

I am grateful for the freedom of creativity offered by each of the four deans I have served; Richard Hill, OD, PhD; **John Schoessler (BS'65, OD'66, MS'68, PhD'71)**; Melvin Shipp, OD, MPH, DrPH; and Karla Zadnik, OD, PhD. I value the trust each of them placed in our team. I appreciate the leadership and officers of the Optometry Alumni Society over that time including presidents **Richard Marquardt (OD'97)**, **Roger Sanholtz (OD'74)**, **Vince Driggs (OD'85)**, and **Stephanie Baxter (OD'08)** who have been unwavering in their support.

It is the relationships built with the members of the production team over the years that are most valuable. There have been too many people to name them all here. Each has brought their unique experience and perspective to the effort and created the BuckEYE as you know it today. **Robert Newcomb (OD'71, MPH)** has been a consistent cheerleader for the college and our alumni. **Barbara Fink (OD, MS'85, PhD'87)** consistently championed diversity on campus and through magazine articles. Rachel Childress has gotten to know our alumni as part of her own family over the last years. Sarah Cupples has taken the helm as Editor in this last year. She is eminently qualified to do the job and will do nothing but make our alumni look good.

The BuckEYE as you know it today would not look as fine as it does without our Senior Graphic Designer Kerri McTigue. She is a consummate professional and takes the words that many of us write and makes them look fabulous every single time. We are fortunate to have her on our team.

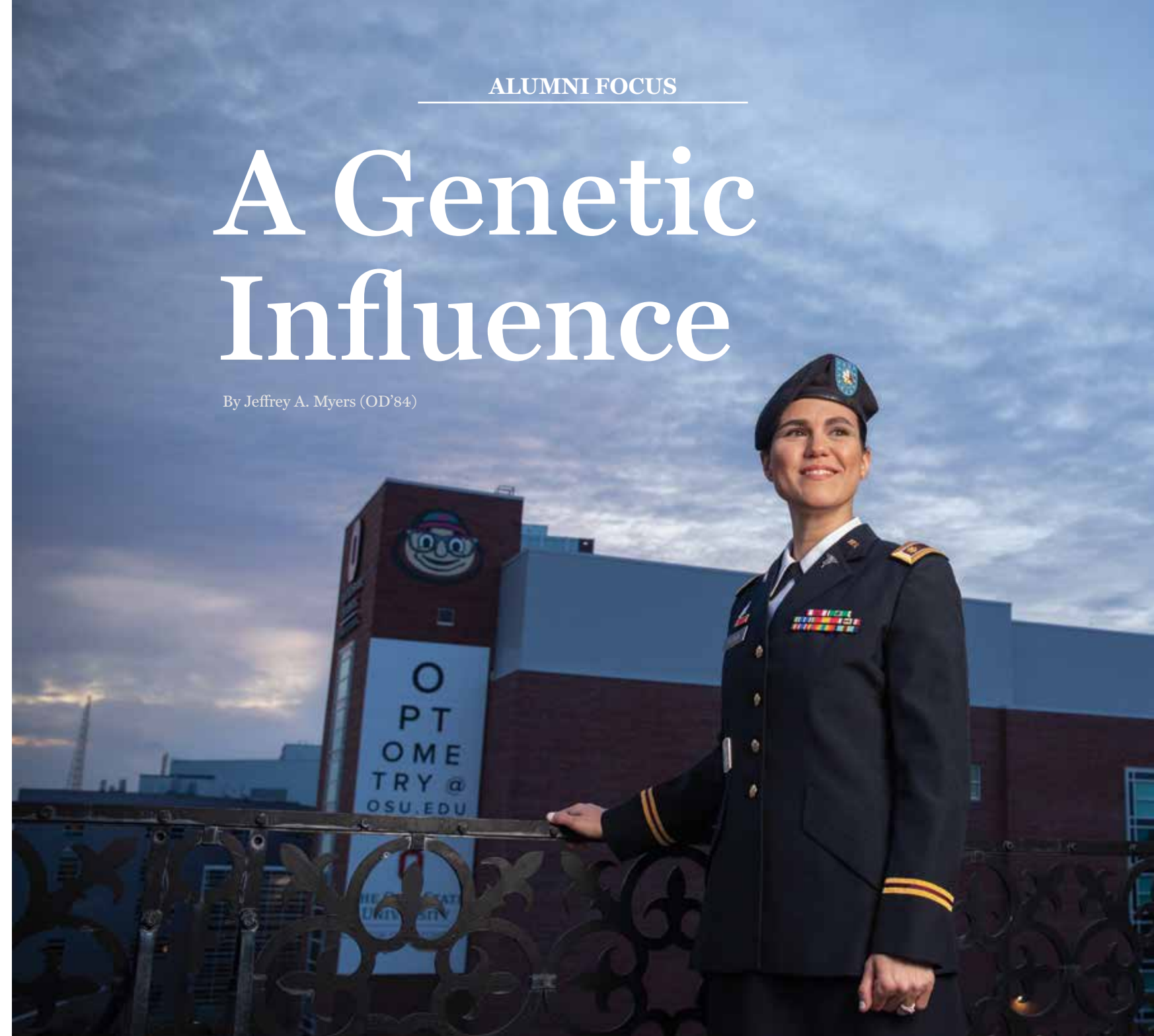
Thank you to each and every person that has helped in some way over the last 20 years. It has truly been my privilege to serve and has been a labor of love. Almost since my graduation in 1984, I have been a volunteer somewhere in optometry. This has been my favorite and most rewarding opportunity. Thank you to all, and please accept my gratitude.

**Jeffrey A. Myers (OD'84)**  
*BuckEYE Alumni Editor*

## ALUMNI FOCUS

# A Genetic Influence

By Jeffrey A. Myers (OD'84)



Northeastern Pennsylvania has lost much of its industry over the last couple decades. But one of its daughters, who grew up in Wilkes-Barre, is doing things that shine brightly for the community. **Maj. Ann Rudick (OD'07)** observed the powerful role model of her mother and the vision challenges of her brother early in life. Those experiences led her to be a role model in her own right, caring for the vision needs of others.



Her parents were prominent business people in Wilkes-Barre; her father, Thomas, was a realtor, and her mother, Josephine, was a certified public accountant. Her mother was one of the first female CPAs to work for Price Waterhouse in Manhattan in the 1970s. In time, her mom took over her own father's accounting business. While growing up, Dr. Rudick's younger brother, Thomas, was diagnosed with a retinal detachment when he was 11 and she was 16 years old. His retinal repair surgery was done at the Wills Eye Hospital in Philadelphia, a two-hour drive. It was the local optometrist in Wilkes-Barre who cared for her brother for weeks, compassionately monitoring his progress.

Dr. Rudick attended the University of Pittsburgh, completing her undergraduate work in neuroscience. Early consideration was given to a career in medicine, specifically neurology. As she investigated the field, she realized that for many neurology patients, a cure was simply not possible and that there was little improvement that she could offer to their lives. As she explored optometry, she found that she could make a tangible difference in the lives of most of her patients, as she had witnessed with her brother. Working in her local optometrist's practice in Wilkes-Barre as well as in practices in Pittsburgh gave her first-hand experience and exposure to optometry and health care. Her decision was made.

As she came to Ohio State, one of the faculty members she met was **Gregory Good (OD'75, MS'79, PhD'81)**. Dr. Good was active in the military and shared the benefits of the Armed Services' Health Professions Scholarship Program (HPSP) with her. The program offers full tuition, pays for books and equipment, gives a monthly stipend while in school, and offers a sign-on bonus. A recipient agrees to be an optometry officer, beginning at the commissioned officer rank of O-3 for one year in exchange for each scholarship year. She applied and received the Army HPSP for three years of optometry school.

Following graduation in 2007, she attended Basic Training at Ft. Sam Houston in San Antonio, Texas. Her first assignment was a deployment to a combat support hospital in Iraq. All the equipment that was needed

to support the optometry clinic was packed into two pods, and she even had the ability to make eyewear onsite. A shakedown stop in Kuwait assured that everything was packed and worked properly. Occasionally, she would break down and repack the equipment to travel to other military bases in Iraq that did not have optometrists to provide optometric services. Most of her patients were Marines, often who had sustained ocular injuries. Because there was only one Army ophthalmologist in country, treating those injuries was part of her responsibility. That 12-month deployment began in late 2008.

Upon her return to the U.S., Dr. Rudick married Josh Funk, an Ohio State civil engineering graduate, whom she had met while at Ohio State. She also became a Fellow of the American Academy of Optometry. Her next deployment took her to Germany to see patients, both active duty military and dependents, in a small outpatient clinic in Bavaria. She spent three years there, with a few short temporary assignments in Italy. The newlyweds took advantage of the opportunity to travel to almost two dozen countries while stationed in Europe.

Next, she returned stateside to participate in a contact lens residency program focused on scleral and specialty contact lenses, returning to the Brooke Army Medical Center at Ft. Sam Houston in San Antonio, Texas. The residency was outstanding, and her first son was born in February during the residency. He was born with a cleft palate. Her move following the residency took her to be the Chief of Optometry at Ft. Knox, Kentucky overseeing four optometrists, an ophthalmologist, and 20 staff. This compassionate move placed the family close to Cincinnati Children's Hospital, one of the top children's hospitals in the country for her son's needs.

Her son was identified as a high myope very early in life and has worn spectacles since he was nine months old. He also has been prophylactically treated with retinal laser. Genetic testing revealed that he was positive for Stickler Syndrome, an autosomal dominant syndrome, which includes cleft palate, high myopia, ocular hypertension, retinal detachment, and cataract.



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"The fact that I love Columbus and some of the best times of my life were at Ohio State helped in making the decision to return to Ohio State for my MHA."

*Dr. Ann Rudick*

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Top row:  
Dr. Rudick and her husband,  
Josh, on their wedding day.

Embracing culture while  
stationed in Germany.

Joy Ellerbrock (OD'07), Dr.  
Rudick, Jennifer Schmelzer  
(OD'07), Adrienne Schepler  
(OD/MS'07), and Anna  
Schlesselman (OD/  
MS'07) at their white coat  
ceremony.

Bottom row:  
Family photo of Josh, Dr.  
Rudick, Miles, Alex, and  
their dog.

Joy Ellerbrock (OD'07),  
Corrie Ziegler (OD/  
MS'07), Dr. Rudick, Jennifer  
Schmelzer (OD'07), and  
Anna Schlesselman (OD/  
MS'07) at a Buckeye game.

Her experience in navigating the healthcare world and advocating for her son changed her view of the healthcare system. She discovered there were many inefficiencies and challenges just to get him the care he needed. Ann and Josh made the decision that Josh would handle the home duties while she followed her career. Their son's recovery and treatment took the better part of 18 months. Josh was delighted to have the freedom to be with their child and be a stay-at-home dad.

While at Ft. Knox, the Army decided to close the hospital's outpatient clinics. Dr. Rudick was assigned responsibility for closing the surgical specialty clinics. The process took a full two years to accomplish. The opportunity gave her experience in making day-to-day impactful, management decisions in the hospital setting.

As she completed that assignment, her commander complimented her work. He suggested the next step in her personal development might be an MHA (master's in health administration). She was accepted for funding through the Army, so long as she was accepted at any accredited program. So, she returned to Ohio State, allowing her family to be close to Josh's family in southeastern Ohio and to the familiarity of Cincinnati Children's Hospital for her son. The fact that she loves Columbus and some of the best times of her life were at Ohio State were helpful in making the decision as well.

This two-year program is housed in the College of Public Health, has a public health emphasis, and is one of the best programs in the country. There are 29 people in her cohort, including

two other military folks. The first year of the program was much didactic study, reading and writing many papers. She is in the second year of the program with this semester spent in group case studies and next semester focused on a thesis.

In addition to her husband, Josh, her family includes Alex, their five-year old son and Miles, their two-year old son. Her brother has recovered remarkably from his early life visual challenges, now seeing 20/30 in the operated eye following a later cataract surgery. He lives in Boston and has worked for Microsoft, Spotify, and Google.

Maj. Rudick is promotable to Lt. Col. and will likely be promoted prior to receiving her MHA. While there are unique opportunities available to a Lt. Col. with an MHA, her next assignment

has not yet been decided. Wherever it is, being an optometrist will be unique. Historically, few optometry officers in the military have been given hospital-level administrative responsibilities. Additionally, being a mother who has had to advocate for her son will bring a level of compassion not often seen in healthcare administrators. She is a role model for women in optometry and in the military, attributable directly to her mother's example, her brother's experience, her husband's support, and her own remarkable ability. We wish her the best in her new opportunities next year.

Top row:  
Ann, John Stehulak  
(OD/MS'07), and  
Amman Starr (OD'07)  
in Iraq.

Thanksgiving in Iraq.

Ann in Iraq in 2008.

Bottom row:  
Ann and her brother  
Tom as kids.

A more current photo  
of Tom and Ann in  
Sweden.

Family photo at  
graduation from the  
College of Optometry



# Ohio State Alumni

## Scout Out Inspiration

by Richard Billman (OD'79)



More than 35,000 scouts from 150 countries around the world gathered July 22 – August 2, 2019 at the World Scout Jamboree in Glen Jean, West Virginia. Held every four years, the Jamboree engages young scouts and promotes peace, cross-cultural understanding and leadership.

**Richard Billman (OD'79)** and **James McDonel (OD'90)** volunteered at the Jamboree as staff doctors in the Medical Division of the International Service Team. The Medical Division included physicians, nurses, dentists, optometrists, psychologists, and support staff, and the team interacted with more than 13,000 patients during the Jamboree.

The Jamboree's Eye Clinic was made up of five doctors (three ODs and two MDs), who worked out of a M.A.S.H.-style portable, multi-lobed temporary hospital structure. The clinic was open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., and the doctors rotated an on-call schedule during the nighttime hours.

The eye doctors examined and treated eye injuries/red eyes, and although no refractive services were provided, an optician was on staff to provide glasses repair services. Eye conditions seen were: perforation of the cornea, corneal ulcers, bacterial/toxic conjunctivitis, allergic

red eyes, and vitreous degeneration. The Eye Clinic's equipment included: a slit lamp, direct and indirect BIO ophthalmoscopy, tonometers, mydriatic eyedrops, a selection of antibiotic/steroid eyedrops and ointments, artificial tears, foreign body removal tools and bandage contact lenses. Also, a pharmacy has a small supply of available ophthalmic medications. The Eye Clinic evaluated and treated both youth and adult participants.

The World Scout Jamboree provided an immersive experience for scouts of all ages, allowing them to come together and learn about each other's cultures while building friendships. For our alumni, it was an opportunity to be inspired by interactions with future leaders from many different cultures while providing much-needed eye care to attendees.



Drs. McDonel and Billman at the World Scout Jamboree

# Patently Innovative

## Melissa Bailey (OD/MS'01, PhD'04) invents path to success

By Sarah Cupples, MA  
Director of Marketing and Communications







**Melissa Bailey (OD/MS'01, PhD'04)** earned three degrees from The Ohio State University College of Optometry, but her Ohio State education didn't stop there.

When Dr. Bailey joined the Ohio State Optometry faculty in 2006, she relished her role as an educator both in the clinic and in the classroom. On the front line serving patients and working with student interns, she was able to envision truly workable solutions to challenges she encountered in the clinic. Coincidentally, university-wide support for tech commercialization was starting to gain steam, and Dr. Bailey found herself in the perfect environment to research and develop her ideas. So, without any formal business education (her undergraduate degree from Muskingum University is in neuroscience), Dr. Bailey immersed herself in the patent and tech commercialization process.

Two start-ups and 19 patents later, she has gained more practical knowledge in patent law and business development than she ever could have imagined.

Dr. Bailey's first startup, Sight4All, Inc., launched in 2014, after a long process with a lot of ups and downs. The company developed an app that measured the eye on mobile devices and has since been sold. The turnaround time for her second startup was much shorter, however, as the university refined its processes. In 2017, Dr. Bailey and **Joseph Barr (OD'77, MS'79)** launched Lentechs, LLC, which is developing a unique bifocal contact lens. Both companies are headed by local entrepreneurs, CEO Robin Sears and CFO Brad Beasecker.

As a youngster, Dr. Bailey knew that her future career would include research in some form. While conducting bench research during her undergraduate years, she decided that the lack of social interaction did not appeal to her. After a visit to Ohio State Optometry, she realized that the clinical research associated with optometry was the perfect solution for an

**"Dean Zadnik works hard with every faculty member to figure out what they're most passionate about and reach their full potential."**

*Melissa Bailey (OD/MS'01, PhD'04)*

outgoing problem solver. After choosing a career in academia, she has never looked back.

Dr. Bailey's career has included many accolades, including the 2012 Irvin M. and Beatrice Borish Outstanding Young Researcher Award from the American Academy of Optometry and the university's 2015 Early Career Innovator of the Year. But she is most proud of the impact she's had on her students.

**Kelsy Steele (OD'16, MS'18)**, who currently is pursuing a PhD in vision science, is one such individual. "Melissa has been a tremendous research and career mentor for me. Her creativity and innovative thinking are inspiring and an asset to the College of Optometry," says Dr. Steele.

"One of the rewarding parts of tech commercialization is that you see the impact that you have on people's lives, if you're successful at it. I try to pass this on to my students," explains Dr. Bailey. "I emphasize with my students that learning concepts now is so vitally important to a successful career. What we're doing now is going to change; the technology will evolve. For example, the contact lenses they're fitting now won't be the same ones they'll be fitting in practice in 10 years. The learning process never ends."

A respectful and supportive family make it possible for Dr. Bailey to soar. Her husband, Daniel, is a special education teacher, so at certain times of the year, his job schedule is more flexible. Their son, Luke, 14, is a busy high school freshman who is involved in sports and theater.

"I spend a lot of time in the summer at my son's baseball games, so sometimes I'll use downtime between innings or during rain delays to spend a bit of time on my laptop or my phone," she says.

Balancing a successful, multi-faceted career with the joys of family might take a lot of



creativity and a bit of sacrifice, but like all other challenges, Dr. Bailey is up for it.

In addition to support from her family, Dr. Bailey appreciates the support she receives from college leadership.

"Dean Zadnik works hard with every faculty member to figure out what they're most passionate about and reach their full potential. This is why so many of our colleagues have made such profound contributions to the profession."

Dr. Bailey's contributions to the profession are making the future brighter for ODs and patients for years to come.



# An Opportunity to SocialEyes

By Jennifer Bennett, MSED, *Director of Student Services*



Drs. Flom and Raasch hiked with their SocialEyes group at Hocking Hills

Dr. Delgado-Nixon's SocialEyes group bonded while kayaking

Next page: Drs. Lai and McDaniel and their SocialEyes group enjoyed ice cream!



Many optometry students find that one of the most challenging aspects of their first year is building new relationships and establishing a sense of belonging within the community. Increased expectations and a new level of academic challenge can be quite difficult for a new student to manage while still establishing a support-system in a new environment.

To address this challenge proactively, the SocialEyes program was created in the fall of 2014. SocialEyes provides all new students a comfortable small-group setting to build new connections and relationships. The first-year class is divided into small communities of seven to eight students per group. Each group is paired with a faculty leader who volunteers to spend the semester engaging with their group in fun activities outside of class that have become an outlet for stress reduction and social interaction.

As SocialEyes enters its sixth year, student feedback continues to be overwhelmingly positive in large part because of the hard work and

dedication of the faculty group leaders whose creativity and genuine care for students has created countless memories, inside jokes, and entertaining stories. These memorable SocialEyes moments are the experiences that begin to bond our new students to each other, to the faculty, and to the Ohio State Optometry family.

First-hand accounts from faculty SocialEyes group leaders and student participants:

“We learned that Dr. Raasch was the yo-yo champion of the entire San Francisco Bay Area at just nine years old! For a man of few words, he does like to share some humble brags with us.” **Katie Bracht ('23)**

“The Walleyes SocialEyes group formed bonds over Indian food and cemented them over Jeni's ice cream. A spirited discussion about the merits of Graeter's versus Jeni's quickly tested the strengths of the newly formed friendships, but we came away a stronger, closer unit.” **Jeff Walline (OD, MS'98, PhD'02)**



“My SocialEyes group took a deep dive into the Spagio menu, which included a pork chop that dwarfed the student who ordered it. There is no better opportunity for faculty to find out what wonderful people we have as students and for students to find out that their teachers don't have two heads. We learned about hidden talents (which included a black belt), that there was another Mutti in the world who was confusing the heck out of students looking for the right table (I'm sure he was an imposter), and that none of us, including the old souls at the table currently enrolled in optometry school, really understands the younger generation. Any evening that ends with a discussion of yodeling pickles has to be judged a success.” **Don Mutti, OD, PhD**

“Dr. Davis took our group to zip line, and of course I was pumped. To zip line in Columbus sounded pretty neat; I'd been before in Tennessee, so of course it couldn't be that scary. We get through the entire course without a problem. Everyone was having an awesome time...until we get to the end. The last stop was a drop off. Like a vertical drop off where you fall backwards into nothing and 'easily' land on the ground below.

“I couldn't bring myself to do it! I was last to drop, having avoided the instructor on the tiny platform until the last moment possible. I hate heights and I hate the feeling of free falling even

**“We learned that Dr. Raasch was the yo-yo champion of the entire San Francisco Bay Area at just nine years old! For a man of few words, he does like to share some humble brags with us.”**

*Katie Bracht ('23)*

more. But the folks down below kept calling to encourage the jump, and I finally decided to inch my nearly paralyzed feet to the edge. Glancing below, praying I survived, then glaring at the instructor - I fell. Thirty seconds of choking fear later, I was flat on my back sprawled on the forest ground. Everyone whooped and clapped, and I felt so grateful to have this kind, supportive group by my side to keep me going. While I don't foresee myself doing such a fall anytime in my future, it is quite a fond memory of friendship.” **Angelica Polizzi ('20)**

“I usually don't get to interact with the students until late in their second year, so it is great to be a SocialEyes leader to have a chance to get to know a few first years and get a general idea of what their experience is like before I get to work with them. But the best part of the program for me is when I work with these students in my group when they are third-year and then fourth-year in clinic and I have known them since first year. It is like watching them grow up!

“The other advantage is that my SocialEyes students get to know me and my quirks, and they can share their impressions of me as a faculty member with their classmates. This helps the entire class get to know me easier and hopefully it is less intimidating for them to try to figure out a new instructor, so we can get right to learning!” **Nicky Lai (OD/MS'03)**



# Bergenske Gives 2019 Myers Lecture

By Bob Newcomb (OD'71, MPH)



Joyce Myers, Dr. Bergenske, Dr. Myers, and Dean Zadnik

In football, a “triple threat” player is one who excels in running, passing, and kicking. In optometry, there are just a few “triple threat” colleagues who excel in private practice, academia, and industry. One such person is Peter Bergenske, OD, FAAO, FBCLA, who presented the 2019 Jeffrey and Joyce Myers Lecture on September 25.

Currently retired and living in the Spokane, Washington area, Dr. Bergenske – who is the son of an optometrist – was in private practice in Madison, Wisconsin for 22 years before he made a significant career change to become an associate professor and Director of Contact Lens Services at the Pacific University College of Optometry in Forest Grove, Oregon. He served in that capacity for six years, then moved across the country to become the Director of Clinical Research and Development at CIBA Vision in Atlanta for the next three years. Following that valuable experience, he became the Director of Professional and Clinical Support for Alcon Vision Care in Ft. Worth, Texas until his retirement. Among his many contributions to the profession, he is a past chair of the American Academy of Optometry's Section on Cornea, Contact Lenses & Refractive Technologies, a Topical Editor for Optometry and Vision Science, and an active member in “Fellows Doing Research,” a special interest group of the American Academy of Optometry. Dr. Bergenske, who received his undergraduate degree in German from the University of Wisconsin and then his Doctor of Optometry degree from the University

of California, Berkeley, kept students, faculty, and alumni highly engaged as he reminisced about the history of hydrophilic contact lenses over the past 40 years.

His lecture opened with a harrowing story from his years at Berkeley about a life-threatening avalanche near Yosemite. He alluded to being rescued from the snow by a friend but kept the audience waiting to hear the identity of his rescuer until the very end of his talk. Dr. Bergenske then recalled his excitement for new aphakic extended wear lenses in 1979, general use extended wear lenses in 1981, daily wear lenses in 1990, and silicon hydrogel lenses in 1999. He depicted the dramatic changes in our knowledge of the oxygen needs of the cornea behind contact lenses.

His lecture concluded with the big reveal—of Tom Raasch, OD PhD as his avalanche salvation. He then called Tom to the podium, describing their other hobbies back in the day—guitar playing for Peter and competitive yo-yoing for Tom. They then teamed up to entertain the audience with Sweet Georgia Brown on the guitar as a yo-yo demo accompaniment. Dr. Bergenske's entire presentation is available at [go.osu.edu/2019Myers](http://go.osu.edu/2019Myers), and a very entertaining one-hour interview with Dr. Bergenske and Dr. Myers is available at [go.osu.edu/MyersInterview](http://go.osu.edu/MyersInterview).

The Myers Lecture series was established in 2009 by a generous gift from **Jeffrey (OD'84) and Joyce Myers**. Their intent was to sponsor an annual lecture that featured a guest speaker from outside Ohio State who had special expertise in optometry and vision science.

A list of previous Myers Lecture speakers is available at [optometry.osu.edu/myers-lecture-series](http://optometry.osu.edu/myers-lecture-series)



By Michael Haddock, MA

Assistant Director of Alumni Engagement

Homecoming Weekend is always an exciting time for Ohio State Optometry! This year, the College of Optometry was fortunate to schedule its events in line with what the university had planned, including a big football game versus the Michigan State Spartans (with a Buckeye victory)! Similar to years past, Ohio State Optometry's Homecoming Weekend offered opportunities for individual classes to gather for reunions as well as hosted large scale events for alumni, faculty, staff and friends.

On Friday evening, the Optometry Alumni Society Board held their annual membership meeting in (the newly renovated) Room 33 prior to a continuing education lecture led by **Jason Miller (OD'99, MBA)**. Later on, Bad Habits: The Eye Docs of Rock were joined by a very special guest on stage, Ohio State University President Dr. Michael V. Drake, to kick off a concert at The Bluestone in downtown Columbus.

On Saturday, African American students, alumni, and their guests met for the second annual H.E. Welton African American Optometry Alumni gathering. This event has provided an opportunity for students and alumni alike to network and build a community in the spirit of Dr. Welton's legacy.

Later that day, alumni and friends gathered at Starling Loving and Fry Halls for a Pre-Game Tailgate. Catered by Schmidt's Sausage Haus, everyone had an opportunity to sing along with the Men's Glee Club and tour Starling

Loving for the last time before demolition and renovation. With the football game taking place in the primetime evening slot, alumni met throughout the weekend at different times and locations for individual milestone class reunion celebrations. These gatherings were coordinated by alumni volunteers from each class and had special guest appearances by Dean Zadnik and Drs. Nixon and Earley.

We would like to extend an invitation to all alumni to attend a special reunion weekend – November 6 and 7, 2020. The official ribbon cutting ceremony of the new clinic building at 11th and Neil Avenues will be part of the festivities to kick off the weekend for all Ohio State Optometry alumni, students, faculty, and friends. More details will be available in the coming months, but if you are a class president or would like to help coordinate your class's reunion, please email [haddock.15@osu.edu](mailto:haddock.15@osu.edu) or call 614-688-1363.

All alumni are invited and encouraged to return to campus for this special weekend; the 2020 milestone reunion classes next year will be: 1975, 1980, 1985, 1990, 1995, 2000, 2005, 2010, and 2015.

Bad Habits: The Eye Docs of Rock perform at the Bluestone with special guest rhythm guitarist President Michael Drake, MD.

Save the Date for next year!  
**November 6 and 7, 2020**



# Construction Update

By Dean Karla Zadnik, OD, PhD

## PROJECT 2020

*We can't see the future without you.*

This is the season of construction and renovation at Ohio State Optometry! There is visible progress—weekly--on our new building on the southeast corner of 11th and Neil Avenues that will house our clinic and associated

functions and personnel. At the Maryland game, I had occasion to be in President Drake's box at Ohio Stadium. I looked to the southeast and wondered what the construction I could see was. And lo and behold, it was us!

We will occupy the bottom three floors of the building. The first floor will house the Hoya Eyewear Gallery, patient reception, billing and other key clinic administrative personnel, our Low Vision Clinic, and our Vision Rehabilitation Service. Advanced Ocular Care, the Binocular Vision/Pediatric and Vision Therapy Services will occupy the second floor. Our Contact Lens and

Primary Vision Care Services will occupy the entire third floor.

In addition to patient care facilities, the building will include clinical faculty offices and open workspaces, a shared student/staff/faculty lounge, various conference and meeting rooms, IT, and a shop to service equipment. The building will look traditionally academic from the outside and will have an open, welcoming interior with lots of nooks and crannies for informal interactions among students, staff, and faculty.

Renovations in the Fry Tower are proceeding rapidly. The former patient-oriented research waiting areas on the fourth and fifth floors have been converted to conference rooms. Room 33 was changed to accommodate student life space and the classroom. The anatomy and optics teaching labs are being created in the space at the north end of the Fry Tower basement. The sixth floor was gutted to allow for an internal remodel to include the dean's suite along with student services, advancement, communication, and financial/human resources staff. I am delighted at the amount of light and space the new design netted us. We moved in mid-December, and we are "loving" being out of Starling Loving Hall.

Once the construction is complete in autumn 2020, our two main locations will be separated from each other. We walked it off; 500 steps will get us from one building to another. We'll be the healthiest college on campus!

*We can't see the future without you!*

## Thinking of naming a room? The time is now.

By Rachel Childress, *Director of Development*

On October 4, the university kicked off the public phase of its new \$4.5 billion campaign, *Time and Change, The Ohio State Campaign*. The college is responsible for \$15 million of the overall goal by 2024. Great news? We already have \$5 million as the counting began in 2016, and the majority of the funds we've raised in the last year have come from those who have supported our new clinic building at 11+Neil.

The official ribbon cutting for the new building is November 6 and 7, 2020 (of course it's 2020!), which means we have less than a year to complete this part of our campaign. Between general giving to the facility and those who have generously named spaces, we've raised just about \$1.5 million toward our \$2 million goal.

If you have been considering adding your name to a room, now is the time. In fact there are only a few Primary Vision Care and Advanced Ocular Care exam rooms remaining. Pediatrics, Contact Lens and Low Vision still have many prime spaces in high traffic areas of their sections. In addition, there are some meeting spaces and other non-exam room spaces available as well.

Students, faculty and patients will be using this new clinic for decades to come, and we hope that you'll want to be part of that experience by making a gift to this important project. I would be happy to talk with you about how we can best structure a gift that would fit your philanthropic plans.

Please reach out to  
Rachel Childress to learn more:

**614-292-2100 or  
childress.35@osu.edu**



# A "Thrilling" EastWest Experience



In October, The Ohio State University College of Optometry was represented well at the Ohio Optometric Association's EastWest Awards Reception in Cleveland. Award winners included: **Jacqueline Davis (OD'81, MPH)**, Optometrist of the Year; **Joan Nerderman (OD'86)**, Humanitarian of the Year; **Theresa Watt ('20)**, Student of the Year;

and **Michael Earley (OD/MS'88, PhD'92)**, Outgoing President. A highlight of the weekend was the reception at the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, at which Dr. Earley joined the Bad Habits: The Eye Docs of Rock on stage for a rousing performance of Michael Jackson's Thriller.

# Welcome, Dr. Heather Anderson



Heather Anderson, OD, PhD, joined The Ohio State University College of Optometry faculty on November 1.

A nationally recognized academic clinician-scientist, Dr. Anderson's work focuses on research related to the visual system of children with and without special needs. Her most recent grant from the National Eye Institute investigates new objective methods to prescribe spectacles for patients with Down syndrome. At the University of Houston, a leading optometry program, Dr. Anderson

taught clinically-oriented laboratories critical to performing eye examinations, and she received the University of Houston Excellence in Teaching Group Teaching Award in 2015.

Dr. Anderson completed her Bachelor of Science degree in Biomedical Science with a Minor in Music at Texas A&M University. Both her OD (*summa cum laude*) and PhD degrees are from the University of Houston College of Optometry. As a graduate student under PhD advisor Dr. Ruth Manny, she was a two-time recipient of the American Academy of Optometry Foundation's prestigious Ezell Fellowship. Her current service activities include membership on the Academy's Research Committee, and she chairs the American Optometric Association's Council on Research.

Dr. Anderson joins the college as an Associate Professor and will assume primary responsibility for the Graduate Program in Vision Science.



# Optometry Students Named Sesquicentennial Scholars

Ohio State is celebrating a very significant anniversary. On March 22, 1870, the Ohio General Assembly voted to establish a new university. It was to be called the Ohio Agricultural and Mechanical College. Today, nearly 150 years later, we know it as The Ohio State University.

A milestone this significant deserves to be recognized, so academic year 2019-20 will be marked with a global celebration of Ohio State's sesquicentennial. As a Buckeye community, we will come together to honor and explore our history, celebrate who we are today and envision and embrace our future.

Celebrations for the university's 150th anniversary are taking shape in many forms. In the 2019-20 academic year, 150 sesquicentennial scholarships will be awarded to students from across the university. These scholarships reinforce Ohio State's commitment to increasing access and affordability while recognizing our students' academic and non-academic accomplishments and diverse interests. The sesquicentennial student scholars will receive leadership training and professional



Lydia Pickrell ('20)



Veronica Schuver ('21)

development support and will serve as sesquicentennial ambassadors at programs and events throughout the year.

Two students from the College of Optometry, **Lydia Pickrell ('20)** and **Veronica Schuver ('21)**, are among the honorees.

In addition to the sesquicentennial scholar program, special programming will be incorporated into existing marquee campus programs and events — such as orientation, convocation, commencement, homecoming, etc. — in the 2019-20 academic year. In addition, the university will convene discussions with community members and academic scholars across the nation to discuss important topics in higher education, and of course have a celebration for all Buckeyes on the weekend of our anniversary, March 20-22, 2020.



Learn more about Ohio State's Sesquicentennial at [150.osu.edu](https://150.osu.edu)



# The Evolution of a Magazine

"Visionary" is the perfect word to describe the leadership of outgoing BuckEYE Alumni Magazine Editor Jeffrey Myers (OD'84). As he wraps up his 20-year tenure as the volunteer strategist/storyteller behind the magazine, we have compiled key covers and tidbits of wisdom from his editor's letters.

Thank you Dr. Myers!

*"The guidance, leadership and real life experiences I have gained working alongside Jeff Myers for the past 10 years is something I am truly grateful for."*

Stephanie Baxter (OD'08)

*"As editor, Dr. Jeff Myers has the uncanny ability to capture the spirit of Ohio State Optometry alumni: unselfishly giving of their time and talent to change the world. He has always been an exceptional alumni volunteer and relentless advocate for Ohio State Optometry. I feel blessed to have worked alongside him in my role at the college."*

Michael Haddock, MA  
Assistant Director of Alumni Engagement

*"Jeff Myers made every organization he ever served better. Whether it was the College, the Academy, the OOA, his church, or the Boy Scouts, he made lasting contributions to all of their missions. He is an exemplary OSU optometry alum who inspires everyone who knows and admires him."*

"Buckeye Bob" Newcomb (OD'71, MPH)

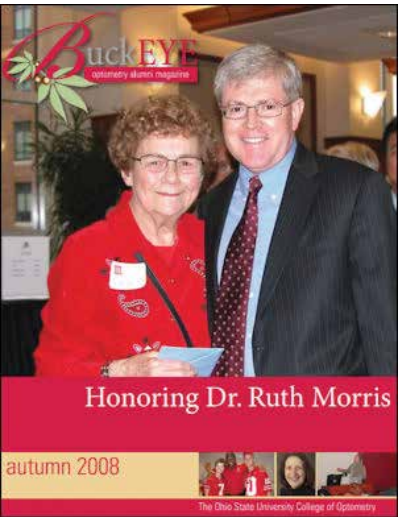
*"I am grateful for all the support, both professionally and personally, I've received from Jeff Myers during the 15 years we've worked together. It's been an honor to work with him."*

Kerri McTigue  
Graphic Designer, College of Optometry

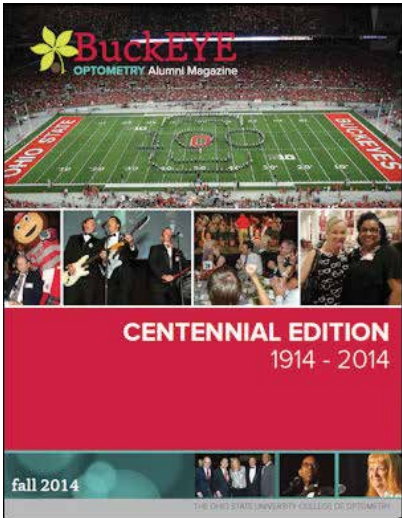


1999

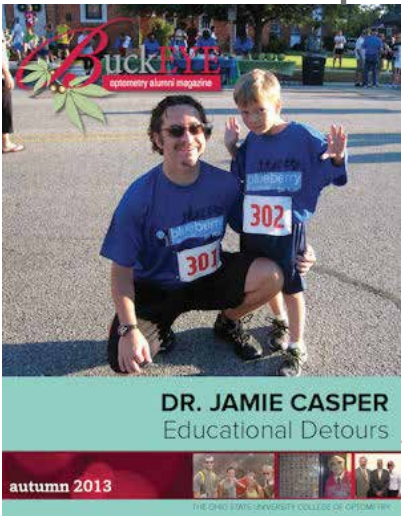
"As we enter the holiday season, most of us will have the opportunity to be part of 'community'... Take time, as you participate in these communities to appreciate the people you come into contact with. Help them to feel they belong to the community, that they are integral to the community."



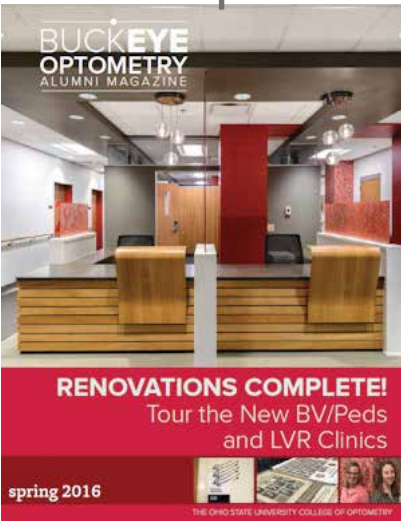
"For me, investing in others has always paid bigger dividends than I feel I have invested. I'll bet you will find the same."



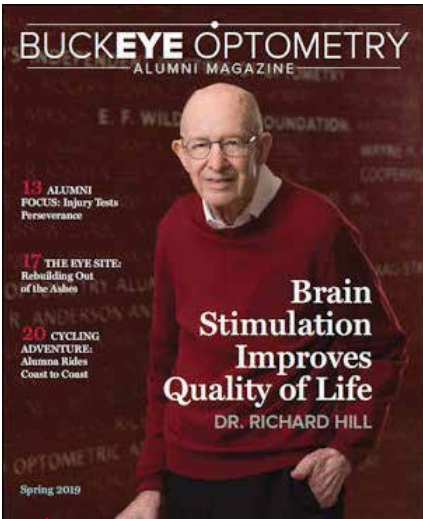
"Wisdom comes in considering the natural consequences before making a decision and then making the decision based on the desired consequences."



"Take a look at your policies and procedures, and be sure your staff understands them. Be sure they are not obstacles to patients using your services, and that your staff can communicate clearly the way you want to care for people."



"Know that everything in life does not warrant a 'yes.' Sometimes the answer is a carefully considered 'no.' But saying 'yes' is like a key to unlocking enrichment in your life."



today

"We don't usually choose our challenges; they often just appear. There is no shame in having challenges, we will all have them. Some only last a few minutes or a day or two. Some last months or years, and some last a lifetime. But how we face those challenges, how we handle adversity, that is a measure of our character."

Enjoy 20 years of Dr. Myers' editorials here:  
[optometry.osu.edu/Myers-Editorials](https://optometry.osu.edu/Myers-Editorials)



# Research Roundup

By Karla Gengler-Nowak, PhD, CRA, *Grants and Contracts Administrator*



## It's Over in a BLINK

The Bifocal Lenses In Nearsighted Kids (BLINK) Study, a randomized clinical trial to determine the efficacy of soft multifocal contact lens myopia control sponsored by the National Eye Institute (NEI), completed three years of follow-up of 294 nearsighted subjects. The study took place at the University of Houston and The Ohio State University Colleges of Optometry. The investigators, **Jeff Walline (OD, MS'98, PhD'02)**; Lisa Jordan, PhD; Donald Mutti, OD, PhD; and **David Berntsen (OD MS'04, PhD'09)** also received a competitive renewal from the NEI to continue to follow the subjects for three additional years in the BLINK2 Study. The goals of the study are to examine potential determinants of myopia progression such as outdoor time, choroidal thickness, and intrinsically photosensitive retinal ganglion cell (ipRGC) as a potential moderator of dopamine in the eye. Results of the BLINK Study are forthcoming and will show whether soft multifocal contact lenses slow myopia progression and eye growth as well as whether a strong add power provided better myopia control than a medium add power. Findings from the BLINK2 Study could potentially help eye care practitioners predict future myopia progression. Stay tuned to hear the exciting results of these studies.

## NIH Loan Repayment Awards

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) Loan Repayment Program was established by Congress and designed to recruit and retain highly qualified health professionals into biomedical or biobehavioral research careers. The escalating costs of advanced education and training in medicine and clinical specialties are forcing some scientists to abandon their research careers for higher-paying private industry or private practice careers. The Loan Repayment Program provides significant funds to offset a researcher's qualified educational debt in return for a commitment to engage in NIH mission-relevant research. This year, **Ann Morrison (OD'14, MS'16)**, Maureen Plaumann, OD, and **Phillip Yuh, (OD/MS'14, PhD'19)** received Loan Repayment Plan awards. These awards are extremely competitive, and receipt of the awards attests to the high quality of our graduate students. A hearty congratulations is to be extended to these future teachers, clinicians and research scientists.

## Update on the Impact of Vision Impairment Public Health Project

In the Spring 2019 Research Roundup, we told you about the research Dean VanNasdale, OD, PhD, has led to create and disseminate state-specific information related to vision impairment and other comorbid conditions. The infographics produced for the Centers for Disease Control are now available on the CDC website. Go to <https://www.cdc.gov/visionhealth/data/state-profiles/index.htm> to see your state's striking county-by-county data for yourself!

## New National Eye Institute Award

Heather Chandler, PhD, is a Co-PI on a \$1.2 million grant from the National Eye Institute; her Co-PI is Hua Zhu from the College of Medicine. Together, they will investigate MG53, a tissue repair gene that modulates limbal stem cell proliferation associated with corneal injury repair. Their work will hopefully lead to a pharmacological formulation that could potentially treat corneal diseases associated with fibrosis and improve corneal wound healing.

## Ohio Lions Eye Research Foundation Awards

Congratulations to all of our 2019 recipients of the 2019 Ohio Lions Eye Research Foundation research awards!

**Phillip Yuh (OD/MS'14, PhD'19)** was awarded the new Lois Hagelberger Huebner Young Investigator Award, which provides \$214,000 over two years for Alterations to the structure and function of retinal ganglion cells after repeated traumatic brain injuries. Dr. Yuh's research is designed to determine whether multiple traumatic brain injuries damage the retina and impair its ability to signal the brain. The long-term objective of this line of inquiry is to develop objective criteria for the detection of pathology associated with repeated traumatic brain injuries, including chronic traumatic encephalopathy (CTE).

**Marjean Kulp (OD'91, MS'93)** is the recipient of the OLERF Research Continuation Award (\$20,000). Dr. Kulp is interested in how correction of moderate hyperopia in preschoolers affects early literacy outcomes, which are highly predictive of reading outcomes in later years. This pilot study will determine if it is feasible to design a randomized clinical trial that expects young children to wear glasses and sensors to monitor glasses wear.

Maureen Plaumann, OD, is the recipient of the OLERF Fellowship. Dr. Plaumann will study amblyopic mechanisms using Optical Coherence Tomography with the aims of analyzing visual function through measurement of fixation and investigation of ocular structure through scans. This research will aid clinicians in the diagnosis of fixation disorders in patients with amblyopia.



Left to right:  
Drs. Plaumann, Yuh, and Kulp

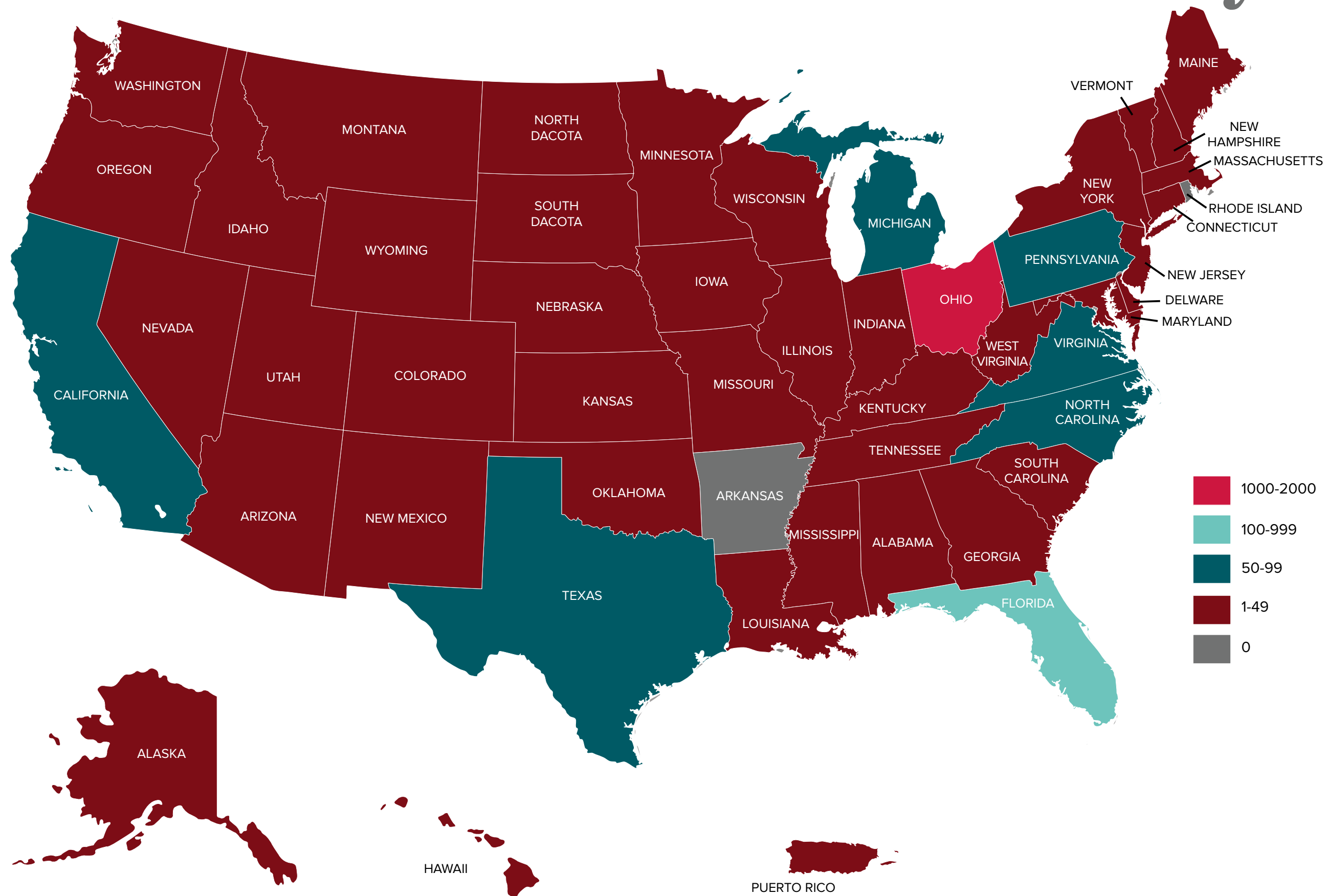


# BuckEYES Across the Country

The Ohio State Optometry family is represented strongly throughout the U.S.

Odds are, no matter which state you visit, if you shout out "O-H!" you'll be met with a friendly "I-O!"

This map represents the states with the highest concentration of BuckEYES.





# Student Bloggers Offer Insights

By Jennifer Bennett, MSEd  
Director of Student Services

Wondering what it's like to be an Ohio State Optometry student today? Here's a sample of what you'll find in our student blogs at [optometry.osu.edu/optometry-student-bloggers](http://optometry.osu.edu/optometry-student-bloggers).



**Amy Myers ('20)** reflects on her second round of externships:

**"Just like everything in optometry school, once you start feeling comfortable, it is time to move on to something more challenging."**

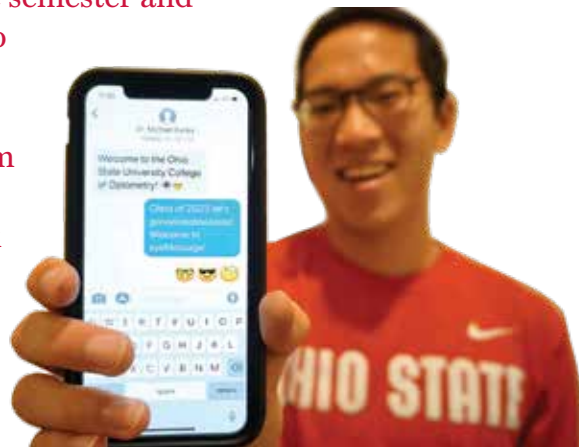
After her first summer clinic, **Sarah Pace ('21)**, provides insight into the transition to her third year:

**"What a whirlwind. I think that's a common theme for optometry school - life passes by in a whirlwind. So don't forget to blink. Savor each moment. And remember, it's a beautiful day to save vision ... and be a third-year."**



**Brandon Lim ('23)** shares his thoughts about the first day of class:

**"Today I am only feeling confident that I will succeed, and with the help of the excellent faculty, student advisors, and my fellow classmates, I know I will be able to get through this. Just like the peaks and troughs of ocean waves, there will be many highs and lows throughout the semester and it'll be on me to manage them appropriately. But for now, I'm gonna keep on riding the peak of this wave for the rest of the day (and more...)"**



In her last summer off between first and second year, **Emily Ulry ('22)** participated in a meaningful service project:

**"In July, a team of us went to Dayton, Ohio to volunteer vision services at a Remote Area Medical (RAM) disaster relief clinic after tornadoes struck the city earlier in 2019. With the help of many additional wonderful RAM volunteers, the clinic provided free eye exams and glasses to 56 people in one day!"**



# Congratulations Academy Award Winners and New Fellows



Ohio State Optometry was well-represented among the outstanding individuals recognized at the Joint American Academy of Optometry and World Council of Optometry Gala on October 26 in Orlando, Florida.

Ohio State-affiliated award recipients included:

**Andrew Pucker (OD/MS'11, PhD'16)** – Irvin M. and Beatrice Borish Award\*

**Thomas Quinn (OD'79, MS'81)** – Vincent Ellerbrock Clinician Educator Award

Heather Anderson, OD, PhD, and Donald Mutti, OD, PhD – Michael G. Harris Family Award for Excellence in Optometric Education

\*Dr. Pucker also became a Diplomate of the Section on Cornea, Contact Lenses and Refractive Technologies.

Congratulations to Ohio State Optometry alumni and faculty members who earned American Academy of Optometry Fellow status in Orlando. They are:

**Noor Abushagur (OD'18)**

**Jessica Bodamer (OD'18)**

**Margaret Brucker (OD/MS'18)**

**Moriah Chandler (OD'03)**

Stacey Choi, PhD

**Marisa Ciamacca (OD/MS'17)**

**Andrew Crist (OD'14)**

**Rebecca Deffler (OD, MS'19)**

**Chelsea Devitt (OD'17)**

**Amanda Eilerman (OD/MS'16)**

**Jenna Foglio (OD'18)**

**Katherine Herron (OD'14)**

**Charles Jay (OD'18)**

**Cory Lappin (OD/MS'18)**

**Elizabeth Lemos (OD/MS'18)**

**Amber Louprasong (OD'08)**

**J.P. Maszczak (OD'05)**

**Kate McClure (OD'16, MS'18)**

**Abigail Menner (OD'15)**

**Margaret Moore (OD'18)**

**Tatevik Movsisyan (OD/MS'16)**

**Shane Mulvihill (OD/MS'16)**

**Danielle Orr (OD/MS'17)**

**Lauren Pallet (OD/MS'17)**

**Charles Roseman (OD'11)**

**Sara Sanders (OD'16)**

**Erica Shelton (OD/MS'18)**

**Kelsy Steele (OD'16, MS'18)**

**David Sterna (OD'85)**

**Allison Treleaven (OD/MS'16)**

**Julie Tuten (OD'15)**

**Heather Van Law (OD/MS'18)**



# Alumni Notes

**1960 Robert Wright (BS'60)** was recognized by The Georgia Minority Supplier Development Council with their prestigious Blue Legend Award, which celebrates excellence and achievement among corporations who have set the standard for minority small business development.

**1972 Eli Dragisich (OD'72)** has been inducted into the Weirton, West Virginia Hall of Fame, in the category of Public Service.

1 📷 **1974** The Class of 1974 gathered at **Roger Saneholtz's (OD'74)** home prior to the college's Pre-Game Tailgate on October 5.

**1984 Bob Gerdes (OD'84)** was inducted into the Youngstown Road Runners Club Hall of Fame.

2 📷 **1984** The Class of 1984 celebrated their 35th anniversary during Alumni Weekend 2019.

**1992 Loretta Szczotka-Flynn (OD/MS'92)** received the 2019-2020 Allergan Foundation Research Grant from the American Academy of Optometry Foundation. This prestigious award will support her project, "Modeling Endothelial Cell Health Parameters as Predictors of Keratoplasty Stress."

**1995 Carla Mack (OD'95, MBA)** has been promoted to Global Head, Professional Affairs, for Alcon.

**2001 Michael Lyons (OD'01)** has expanded his practice, doubling it in size in the West Chester, Ohio community.

**2009 Katie Greiner (OD/MS '09)** has completed all of the requirements for a Healthcare MBA degree from Baldwin Wallace. She is currently a clinical optometrist and the Chief Operating Officer of Northeast Ohio Eye Surgeons in Stow, Kent and Akron/Fairlawn.

**2013 Cassie Fox (OD'13)** and her husband John welcomed their second child, Ryleigh, in May 2019.

**2018 Emily Rausch (OD'18)** has joined Pickerington Eyecare, where she will be seeing patients ages six months to 18 years and will be the lead doctor in their Performance Vision Academy.

**2018 Ashley Fritz (OD'18)** has joined Blue Sky Vision, at its Three Rivers, Michigan location.

**2019 Rebecca Deffler (OD, MS'19)** received the Frank W. Weymouth Student Travel Fellowship from the American Academy of Optometry.

**2019 Justin Klimchak (OD'19)** will become the Head/Managing Optometrist at LensCrafters at The Mall at Robinson (in Pittsburgh, PA).

**2019 Connor Smallwood (OD'19)** has joined Tencza Eye Associates in Gahanna, Ohio.

**2019 Alexzandra Rudinoff (OD'19)** has joined The Eye Centers of Northwest Ohio, serving the Fostoria and Fremont communities.

## In Memoriam

**1952 George Hagen (BS'52)**, age 92, passed away on June 10, 2019.

**1955 Joseph Babcock (BS'55)**, age 95, passed away on July 20, 2019.

**1955 Richard "Dick" Ball (BS'55)**, age 87, passed away on Saturday September 7, 2019.

**1964 William Campbell (BS'64)**, age 79, passed away on June 16, 2019.

**1996 Jennifer Glanville (OD'96)**, age 48, passed away on July 10, 2019.



Save the Date for Alumni Weekend 2020 - November 6 and 7, 2020



# EastWest Destinations

## Captiva Island

## Florida



Keynote speaker  
**Karla Zadnik, OD, PhD**  
**February 20 - 22, 2020**

Join Dean Karla Zadnik in Captiva Island, FL, where she will deliver an engaging lecture on "Myopia Control Today."

Earn up to 10 hours of CE!

register at:  
[eastwestdestinations.com](http://eastwestdestinations.com)



Naturally, 2020 will be an iconic year for optometry, and we've got a BIG fundraising goal to share with you.

We plan to celebrate the year by securing gifts from 2,020 donors to The Ohio State University College of Optometry between Jan. 1 and Dec. 31, 2020. This will include alumni, students, friends of the college, and corporate and foundation partners.

Ohio State Optometry has a reputation for generosity. For a number of years, the college has led the entire university with 18-20% alumni giving. This is outstanding, but certainly leaves room for growth.

Throughout 2020, on the 20th of each month, you'll receive an email highlighting this new initiative. We'll provide updates and spotlight donors and gift impact. There will be competitions and opportunities to receive Cool Brutus swag along the way.

We know this is a challenging goal, but we're confident that our alumni and friends will help us achieve this exciting milestone.

To learn more, contact  
Rachel Childress at 614-292-2100 or Michael Haddock at 614-688-1363





College of Optometry  
Alumni Society

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