

# BUCKEYE OPTOMETRY

ALUMNI MAGAZINE



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY  
COLLEGE OF OPTOMETRY  
OPTOMETRY  
CLINIC

1664 Neil Avenue



A New Site  
for Eyesight  
The Optometry  
Clinic Opens

Autumn 2020

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# Table of Contents

## INSIGHTS

4 Dean's Message

5 President's Message

## FEATURES

6 Feature Story:  
The Optometry Clinic

17 Alumni Focus:  
Dr. PremNandhini Satgunum

27 Focus on Scleral Lenses

## DEVELOPMENT

12 Project 2020 Wrap-Up

13 Donor Recognition

## COLLEGE NEWS

20 NIH Loan Repayment Program

21 College News

24 2020 Myers Lecture

26 Optometric State Associations



On the Cover: Associate Dean for Clinical Services Greg Nixon (OD'96) spent countless hours consulting on the design of every square foot of The Optometry Clinic from the ground up. Photo credit: Jodi Miller

# ents

6

Patient Services  
It all starts here



## RESEARCH

25 Research Roundup

## EYE ON ALUMNI

29 Reunion Weekend

30 Alumni Notes



# Dean's Message

*"Destiny is no matter of chance. It is a matter of choice.  
It is not a thing to be waited for, it is a thing to be achieved."*  
– William Jennings Bryant

I have had the distinct pleasure of teaching a course, "Practice of Optometry," to our first-year students for many years. At my alma mater, a similar class was always called "the dean's course," so it seems logical to me to teach it. This was a challenging year. I decided to teach the course with a synchronous Zoom lecture each week and to lead four weeks of small discussion sections on the course's topics of professional ethics and cultural competence.

I also hoped to get to know each student, at least virtually, and have scheduled a one-on-one Zoom meeting with each student in our Class of 2024. It has been a wonderful experience, one I will repeat each autumn even after this pandemic is a distant memory. I have heard stories of families and heartwarming connections to optometry as a career. I have asked "Why Ohio State Optometry?" and learned about the excellence of our Office of Student Services and Admissions Committee. My favorite response might have been, "Everyone at Ohio State Optometry seems to think they're the best, and I realized that I want to be the best."

I've talked with the students about how much I admire them. Alumni, imagine this. You've committed to optometry school. And then? The pandemic. Do you adopt a "full speed ahead" attitude, determined to complete your first year of our program, pandemic or no pandemic? Or do you change your mind and either defer or delay your matriculation, as some of our competitor institutions' students did? For Ohio State Optometry, the answer is, you persevered! We have a full first-year cohort, and they are meeting the first-year instructors more than halfway with their dedication to their coursework and commitment to the program and the optometric profession. They have become expert time managers and have developed what I predict will become a lifelong skill—the ability to keep their "eyes" on the prize. It is remarkable.

The first-year students are not the only ones. Our upper classes have excelled, too. They have made it through masked laboratory exercises and have learned the basics of performing an eye exam while preventing transmission of the coronavirus. Our students with clinic assignments have cared for patients safely and have learned about much more than just optometry along the way. Their newly found skill set will hold them in good stead forever.

I need to give special recognition to the Class of 2021. They experienced the unthinkable in mid-March—cancellation of Part I of their national board licensing exam on just 12 hours' notice, and they could not retake the test until August. Once they recovered from the abrupt interruption, they rose to the occasion. They got back to their coursework and geared up for scheduling and eventually taking the exam. They have my undying admiration for their persistence.

As the students who have been through any part of our program during the pandemic graduate and fulfill their destiny by joining the optometric profession, I predict they will be the best critical thinkers and the most resilient graduates ever. Please take a moment to silently applaud them as your future colleagues.

**Karla Zadnik, OD, PhD**

*Dean*

*Glenn A. Fry Professor in Optometry and Physiological Optics*



# President's Message

Greetings BuckEYEs,

I'm sure most of you agree that waving goodbye to 2020 is a relatively easy task. My year started with a trip to Mexico — a beautiful diamond ring in my carry-on — to help my brother pull off a surprise engagement. Two months later, the stress of the world sunk in as my husband and I sat on the couch on a Thursday evening discussing our practice shutting down for who knows how long. We worried about our 80+ employees who would potentially be laid off and wondered when we could resume routine eye care and not just emergent care for our patients. I stressed about my kids' mental health, since they wouldn't be at school or seeing family or friends except for on Zoom. And after six weeks, we were lucky enough to open our offices back up under a new normal routine of social distancing, intense cleaning protocols, a COVID task person assigned to the office, and of course masked. It was an odd feeling and slightly scary for a while, but eventually we all settled into our new normal.

The College of Optometry had more than its fair share of adjustments to be made, and they—of course—rocked it! The students managed to thrive while changing schedules and routines, new optometry students were welcomed in the fall, and the new clinic was unveiled and ready to safely see patients. I'm sure there were challenges and frustrations, but their priority is always making sure the students get the best experiences possible, and not even a pandemic can stop that from happening. Throughout my four years of optometry school, I always felt like they wanted me there, they wanted me to succeed, and I was not just a number trying to get my doctoral degree. That continues today, and I take pride in telling students about my personal experiences. One of my favorite things about being on the alumni society board has always been talking to the students and future students about the advantages of Ohio State Optometry. A positive outcome from this pandemic has been my ability to speak with students on a more frequent basis via Zoom.

When I look back on the year, I feel fortunate for the time I had at home to give my kids undivided attention and myself a grey hair or two. We were able to celebrate my brother's wedding with extremely scaled back plans. Our office is still running smoothly, depending on who you ask. And the College of Optometry is continuing to do bigger and better things every day for our students and our profession. We may not have had the celebrations intended for graduation, white coat, or our annual student awards. And we may not have enjoyed the great company and entertainment that our alumni weekend usually holds. But what we can expect is that the year 2021 will hold a deeper meaning for a lot of things. I look forward to conferences, gathering with fellow Ohio State alumni for our reunion weekend, and the possibility of attending a football game, rain or shine! I am most excited to step foot into our new building and see what the future of Ohio State Optometry looks like. I hope each of you will make some time to come to the college and meet our students and let them know how great it is to be a BuckEYE optometrist.

Here's to 2021, and as always, Go Buckeyes!

**Stephanie M. Baxter (OD'08)**

*President*

*The Ohio State University College of Optometry Alumni Society*





# The Optometry Clinic

By Dean Karla Zadnik, OD, PhD

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Perhaps you've heard?  
We opened a brand-new  
optometry clinic building  
in early November at the  
southeast corner of 11th and  
Neil Avenues. We christened  
it "The Optometry Clinic,"  
and it is beautiful.

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A little more than three years ago, ongoing discussions about us vacating parts of our buildings on 10th Avenue culminated in the identification of the 1664 Neil Avenue site by advisors to the university and College of Medicine. The Fry Bridge (the basement plus first floor section that included our old clinic entrance) and the A wing of Starling Loving Hall (just east of our old clinic entrance) were slated for demolition. That meant about half our program would need to be relocated. Three years in a construction cycle at the university—from idea to the first patient seen—is ... fast. Really fast. We watched the building go up, floor by floor, brick by brick. We raised the money to finance it without additional tuition burden on our incumbent students. We chose internal finishes and planned the move. We figured out who would stay in the Fry “Tower” and who would move, mostly based on the

delivery of clinical education and care versus roles that are primarily administrative or research-oriented.

On November 5, we staged our “soft open.” I received the very first comprehensive eye examination performed there. I’m always impressed by our students and attendings, but I had a new, astonished perspective on the experience of patient care in our new facility. It still seems a little unbelievable to me!

Now comes the next phase. What will replace our demolished buildings (slated for early 2021)? We will benefit directly from the planned Interdisciplinary Health Sciences Center that will connect the Fry Tower to a new south wing on Hamilton Hall, at the northwest corner of 10th and Neil Avenues. We will have two tiered classrooms in the center, along with dedicated vision science, optics, and anatomy laboratory spaces. Our students will have full access to a modern student life environment—imagine the Ohio Union merged with the Reading Room at the Thompson Library—with ample space for individual and group study, along with relaxation and leisure facilities. While its construction was briefly interrupted during the pandemic, it is back on track for 2023 completion.

Imagine 2023 at The Ohio State University College of Optometry for a moment. Our faculty will teach and conduct their research in the Fry Tower, and our

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**“Delivering patient care in a new clinic building is just one of the many reasons why I’m proud to be a Buckeye!”**

*Ellen Smith ('22)*

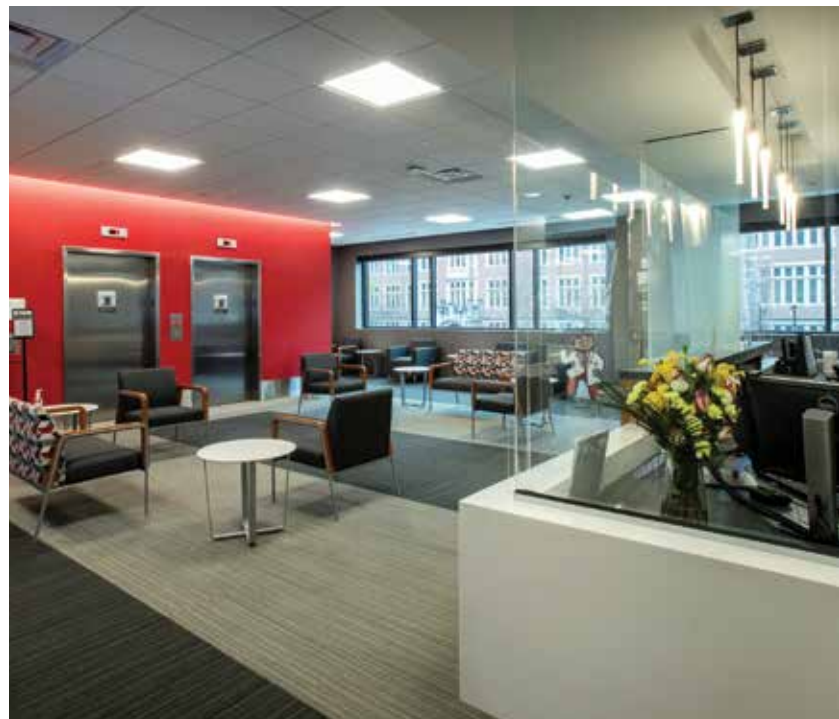
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“Words can hardly express the excitement about our new facility! After our long history, we have a building that reflects the care and dedication we all possess for our students and patients. I am so thrilled to be part of such an important moment in the history of Ohio State Optometry!”

*Ashley Hill, MSW  
Assistant Director of Clinical Operations*

administrators will manage the college from there. Students will move back and forth between the Interdisciplinary Health Sciences Center and The Optometry Clinic. We’ll all get our steps in on a daily basis. A renewed clinic with parking next door(!) will provide state-of-the-art optometric education and patient care. Ohio State Optometry will be hard to beat. O-H-I-O!





“Our beautiful, state-of-the-art building now reflects the stellar care we have always been known to give. Our BVP office space is very cool, pretty, and welcoming to patients, staff, and faculty!”

*Freda Dallas, Service Coordinator, BVP Services*





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“We have always projected high expectations—encouraging student clinicians to expend best efforts toward a firm foundation for their optometric careers. Our new clinic space makes manifest Ohio State Optometry’s culture of excellence, support, and inclusion to help students exceed expectations.”

*Greg Hopkins (OD’10, MS’14)*

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# PROJECT 2020

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

## Project 2020 Wrap-Up

By Rachel Childress, *Director of Development*

As 2020 comes to a close, so does our building fundraising project. This once-in-a-century opportunity has been a great way for many of our alumni and friends to be involved, sustaining our cherished culture of giving. Here are some funding highlights:

The original fundraising goal was \$1.5 million. With a few last-minute gifts being finalized, we have surpassed \$2.25 million.

More than 250 alumni and friends made this project a priority, with some giving more than once.

We have 56 of 81 spaces named. All rooms in the Contact Lens, Primary Vision Care, and Advanced Ocular Care Services have been named.

We had five gifts that were \$100,000 or more, with two of these at \$250,000.

A donor wall has been installed in the main waiting area for those who personally contributed \$25,000 or more to this project.

We look forward to celebrating with all of you in the new space as the future allows.

If you've been considering supporting the college with a gift, please reach out to Rachel Childress at **childress.35@osu.edu** or **614-292-2100** to talk about all of your options.

## THANK YOU!

THANK YOU to the following alumni and friends who have made a gift to name a space in our new clinic. Your support has made our new facility a reality, and we appreciate all that you do for the college.

*Drs. Dave and Staci Anderson*  
**Dave Anderson, OD'04 and Staci Anderson, OD'02**

*James C. Bieber, OD in Honor of Janet P. Bieber*  
**James Bieber, BS'64, OD'68**

*Terry L. Bolen, OD'78*

*Scott A. Bowser, OD'77 and his Family*  
**Scott Bowser, OD'77**

*Dr. Roger G. Boyd, OD'52, Ohio Optometrist of the Year and State Board President*  
**Roger Boyd, BS'52**

*Dr. Wayne Collier in Honor of his Parents Herbert and Frieda Collier*  
**Wayne Collier, BS'65**

*Ronald Cooke, O.D. - Founding Member of Opticare Vision Centers, LLC and Diversified Ophthalmic, Inc.*  
**Ronald Cooke, OD'69**

*Timothy D. Fries, OD, MBA, MPH & Family in memory of Stephanie Renee (Fries) Hoover*  
**Timothy Fries, OD'04, MBA, MPH**

*Terri Gossard, OD/MS'96*

*Dr. Lee Halsted, OD'77*  
**Lee Halsted, OD'77**

*D. Blair Harrold, OD'71*

*Dr. Bryan Heitmeyer in Honor of Lorraine and Marvin Heitmeyer*  
**Bryan Heitmeyer, OD'04**

*Dr. and Mrs. Richard M. Hill, Dean Emeritus, College of Optometry*  
**Richard Hill, OD, PhD**

*Dr. Matthew and Cara Ingram*  
**Matthew Ingram, OD'95**

*Dr. Susan Gromacki Lathrop, OD, MS'93 and Dr. Scott D. Lathrop*  
**Susan Gromacki Lathrop, OD/MS'93**

*Dr. and Mrs. Robert C. Layman*  
**Robert Layman, OD'82**

*Carla Mack, OD, MBA, FAAO*  
**Carla Mack, OD'95, MBA**

*Galloway Eye Care*  
**Jennifer Mattson, OD'06**

*Kathleen A. Murphy, OD, Class of 1982*  
**Kathleen Murphy, OD'82**

*Dr. Donald Mutti in honor of Dean Karla Zadnik and the Collaborative Longitudinal Evaluation of Keratoconus (CLEK) Study*  
**Donald Mutti, OD, PhD**

*Thomas F. Nagy, OD'89, in memory of Philip M. Wing, OD'73*  
**Thomas Nagy, OD'89**

*Gregory J. Nixon OD'96 and Vondolee Delgado-Nixon PhD'98*

*Dr. Dawn Blanton Hartman Class of 1999 in honor of her mother, Andrea Blanton*  
**Richard Orlando, MD**

*Kelly Carson Raies, OD, Class of 1988 and Michael Raies, OD, Class of 1989 in memory of Kelly's father, Raymond D. Carson, OD Class of 1954*  
**Michael Raies, OD'89 and Kelly Raies, OD'88**

*Dr. Daniel M. Runyan*  
**Daniel Runyan, BS'66, OD'69**

*Keith Sellers, OD, MS, Beverly Sellers, Noah Sellers, Betsy Sellers*  
**Keith Sellers, OD/MS'83**

*Christopher A. Smiley, OD, Class of 2001, Dedicated to Restoring Sight to all those Impacted by Keratoconus*  
**Christopher Smiley, OD'01**

*Dr. Frank and Deborah Tangeman*  
**Frank Tangeman, OD'72**

*Dr. Jeff Timko and Katie Timko*  
**Jeff Timko, OD'73**

*William B. Thomas, OD 1966, Gallipolis, Ohio*  
**William Thomas, BS'66**

*Dr. Karla Zadnik in honor of Dr. Greg Nixon*  
**Karla Zadnik, OD, PhD**

*Dr. Aaron and Amanda Zimmerman*  
**Aaron Zimmerman, OD'06, MS'08**

*In Honor Of Jim Noe*  
**Anonymous**

*Bruce Manning, OD, Brian Armitage, OD and Jeff Ahrens, OD - Class of 1981*  
**Bruce Manning, OD'81; Brian Armitage, OD'81, MS'83; and Jeff Ahrens, OD'81**

*Michael H. Greenberg, OD, MS and Kaleel J. Shaheen, OD, Class of 1972*  
**Michael Greenberg, OD/MS'72 and Kaleel Shaheen, OD'72**

*The Hawaii Room - Ronald Ling, OD'78, FAAO and Caron Ling Lau*  
**Ronald Ling, OD'78 and Caron Ling Lau**

*Dr. Jason Miller and Dr. San-San Cooley, Focus on Your Goals*  
**Jason Miller, OD'99, MBA and San-San-Cooley, OD'09**

*Northwest Vision Center - Yoongie Min, OD'89 and Stephanie Sims, OD'14*  
**Yoongie Min, OD'89 and Stephanie Sims, OD'14**

*Hillsboro Family Vision - Dr. Ralph Williams, 1965; Dr. Leah McConnaughey, 2000; and Dr. Khristopher Ballard, 2011*  
**Ralph Williams, OD'65, Leah McConnaughey, OD'00, and Khristopher Ballard, OD'11**

*Heyedrate Lid and Lash Cleanser and the Eye Love Cares Foundation by Drs. Jenna and Travis Zigler*  
**Travis Zigler, OD'10 and Jenna Zigler, OD'11**

*Bad Habits "The EyeDocs of Rock" Dr. Patrick Dollenmayer, Dr. Tony Fenton, Dr. Robert Glass, Dr. Michael "Jules" Raies, and Dr. Mark Schindler*  
**Patrick Dollenmayer, OD'91; Tony Fenton, OD'89; Robert Glass, OD; Michael "Jules" Raies, OD'89 and Mr. Mark Schindler**

*CooperVision - Contact Lens Leaders in Astigmatism, Presbyopia and Childhood Myopia*

*HOYA Vision Care Eyewear Gallery*

*Luxottica Eye Care*

*Ohio Optometric Association*

*Optometric Educators, Inc.*

*The Ohio State University College of Optometry Alumni Society*

*Friends and Classmates of Rich Bell, OD'95*  
**Organized by Andrew Feltz, OD'05 and Dawn Goedde, OD'04**

*Friends and Classmates of Dr. Lyle AJ Gassmann, Class of 2002*  
**Organized by Richard Lodwick, OD'02**

*Friends in Honor of Hazael Edward Welton*  
**Organized by Jackie Davis, OD'81, MPH**

*Columbus and Chillicothe VA Residents from 1981-1997*  
**Organized by Bob Newcomb, OD'71, MPH**

*Friends and Former Students in Honor of Dr. Jack King*  
**Organized by John Conrad, OD'81**

*The Optometry Class of 1990*  
**Organized by Julie Miavez, OD'90**

*The Optometry Class of 2006*  
**Organized by Sarah Watkins, OD/MS'06**

*The Optometry Class of 2009*  
**Organized by Katie Greiner, OD/MS'09**

*Class of 2020 and Friends in Memory of Jeannie Danker*  
**Organized by Bridget Lorenz Klimchak, OD'20**

*Additional Significant Donors:*  
**Rob Engel, OD'01**

**Lonny Harrison, OD'74**

**Jeff Walline, OD, MS'98, PhD'02**

## First Floor

Bad Habits "The EyeDocs of Rock"

Ronald Cooke, OD -  
Founding Member of  
Opticare Vision Centers,  
LLC and Diversified  
Ophthalmic, Inc.

HOYA Vision Care  
Eyewear Gallery

Kathleen A. Murphy, OD,  
Class of 1982

More than  
**250**  
alumni and  
friends gave to  
**The Optometry  
Clinic**

Ohio Optometric  
Association

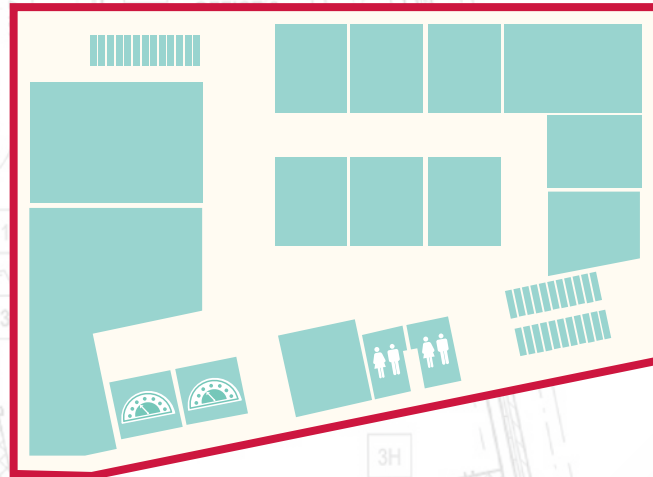


11th Ave.

Neil Ave.

## Second Floor

**56**  
out of **81**  
spaces are named!



Dr. Roger G. Boyd, OD'52,  
Ohio Optometrist of the  
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Parents Herbert  
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in honor of  
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and Vondolee Delgado-  
Nixon PhD'98

The Ohio State University  
College of Optometry  
Alumni Society

11th Ave.



Neil Ave.

## Third Floor



Keith Sellers, OD, MS, Beverly Sellers, Noah Sellers, Betsy Sellers

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Dr. and Mrs. Robert C. Layman

Dr. Frank and Deborah Tangeman

Hillsboro Family Vision - Dr. Ralph Williams, 1965; Dr. Leah McConnaughey, 2000; and Dr. Khristopher Ballard, 2011

*Passion and purpose converge*

# Global Vision

PremNandhini Satgunam

By Sarah Cupples, MA  
*Director of Marketing and Communications*



Dr. PremNandhini Satgunam speaking at the LV Prasad Eye Institute.

Like most optometrists, **PremNandhini Satgunam (BSOpt, MS'04, PhD'07)** found herself shaken in March 2020 as a result of the COVID-19 global pandemic.

As a research scientist, clinician, and instructor at LV Prasad Eye Institute in Hyderabad, the top-ranked eye hospital for research and clinical care in

**“Dr. Fogt is an extremely good human being, a very down-to-earth person. I learned quite a bit from him. I think working with him really brings out the best in you. He gives you the space to do your own thinking. He wouldn’t push his ideas on us.”**

*Dr. PremNandhini Satgunam*



Dr. Satgunam made many Ohio State Optometry memories outside of the classroom. Pictured from left to right, **Vidhya Subramanian (BSOpt, MS’04, PhD’09)**, Dr. Satgunam, and Mallory Fogt, daughter of **Nick (OD/MS/92, PhD’96)** and **Jenny Fogt (OD’99, MS)**, at the Fogt home circa 2007

India, Dr. Satgunam and her colleagues had just two days to prepare for the lockdown after it was announced by India’s prime minister.

“We didn’t have a lot of time to plan,” she explained. “There was a lot of panic.”

The team rose to the challenge, adapting quickly. The hospital was shut down, with the exception of emergency eye care during the initial lockdown, and didactic classes shifted to an online format. Teleconsultations were offered to help non-emergency patients. Researchers pitched in by testing, implementing, and analyzing teleoptometry options, and Dr. Satgunam plans to share the results of this work in an upcoming journal article.

Now that the hospital is open at 80 percent capacity, coursework continues to be delivered online, while clinical education is in person.

“Because we had a very good hospital with a very good base, our institution stood strong,” she said. “Here, the leadership nourishes the relationships between researchers and clinicians, and optometrists and ophthalmologists, all in the best interest of patients. It’s a great model.”

Dr. Satgunam credits her Ohio State education for reinforcing her sense of purpose, which has guided her throughout not only the pandemic, but her entire career.

### **The Journey to Ohio State**

After earning her degree in optometry from the Elite School of Optometry in India, Dr. Satgunam moved to Ohio specifically for Ohio State’s Graduate Program in Vision Science. Her research interests aligned with those of **Nick Fogt (OD/MS’92, PhD’96)**, who became her master’s and PhD advisor. Another perk: a classmate from her undergraduate program, **Veena Adusumilli (MS’03)**, was enrolled in the Vision Science graduate program.

She fondly remembers her days at Ohio State. “Dr. Fogt is an extremely good human being, a very down-to-earth person,” she said. “I learned quite a bit from him. In India, we are so used to calling somebody to fix things for us, but after coming to the U.S., the first culture shock I had was that people will do their own repair work. They know how to drill and saw and all that,” she laughed. “So Dr. Fogt, beyond optometry, taught me how to operate machines.”

As Dr. Fogt’s advisee, Dr. Satgunam found herself motivated by his encouragement and support. She said, “I think working with him really brings out the best in you. He gives you the space to do your own thinking. He wouldn’t push his ideas on us. I don’t think very many people operate that way, especially these days. If you have a grant and you’re already focused on one particular topic, it becomes a very strict focus area. The fun of science, of exploring, is lost.”

Some of Dr. Satgunam’s favorite Ohio State memories include access to inspirational speakers, fantastic library facilities, the Jimmy John’s “Number Six” sandwich, and the college’s genuinely warm, good-natured faculty.



Dr. Prem Satgunam enjoying Ohio's colorful fall at Mirror Lake circa 2007.

"A large part of Ohio State is still with me," she said. "Sometimes, I close my eyes and can still see the fall colors."

### Returning Home

With her master's and doctoral degrees completed, Dr. Satgunam received additional post-doctoral research training with the famous vision scientist Prof. Eli Peli, at Schepens Eye Research Institute, Harvard Medical School. Upon completion of this training, she returned to India to advance the optometric profession as a researcher, clinician, and instructor.

"I knew that I wanted to return to India, even before I left India," she said. "My mind was fixed."

---

**"A large  
part of Ohio  
State is still  
with me.  
Sometimes,  
I close my  
eyes and can  
still see the  
fall colors."**

*Dr. Satgunam*

---

Her six-day (often seven-day during the pandemic) work week consists of long, yet rewarding days.

"Even before the pandemic, unless you are a workaholic, it is difficult to enjoy work/life balance in India," she explained. "I take time for yoga and social activities, and prior to the pandemic, I volunteered at an orphanage. For me, I think the fact that I enjoy working makes it more of a challenge to achieve work/work balance ... balancing projects in different clinical areas of research."

Dr. Satgunam sees the future of optometry each day as she educates India's future eye doctors, and she passes along a little bit of BuckEYE spirit to them with each lesson.

# NIH Loan Repayment Program

By Heather Anderson, OD, PhD, *Associate Professor of Optometry*

Scientific discovery is often a team effort built on the efforts of basic scientists, clinician scientists, statisticians, and a host of other experts in various fields. In 1993, the U.S. Congress invested in efforts to continue attracting talented clinicians into the research field through the establishment of the National Institute of Health's Loan Repayment Program (LRP). Their establishment of this program was based upon the observation that the escalating costs of doctoral level education in medical and clinical specialties were forcing scientists to select higher-paying private practice careers over research careers. The loss of clinician-scientists from the research community would be detrimental to the advancement of knowledge in biomedical research, and thus investing in the retention of these talented individuals became a priority.

The LRP is a competitive program whereby individuals with a doctoral level degree who are engaged in research 50% of the time can apply for monetary awards that directly pay down qualified educational loan debt held by the applicant. The awards are significant and calculated based on the total debt load and the current income level of the applicant. Awards can be as large as \$50,000 per year for two years, and recipients who have remaining debt after their first award cycle can apply for a competing renewal of their LRP award.

While a PhD is not required to receive an LRP award, many awardees are clinicians who are pursuing graduate education to prepare for a career in research. The Ohio State University graduate program in Vision Science currently has six PhD students who are recipients of the LRP. When asked what this award has meant for her career, PhD student **Kelsy Steele (OD'16, MS'18)** responded, "This award not only provides valuable financial support, but the rigorous selection process indicates that I am making meaningful progress in my journey to become an independent clinician-scientist." PhD student **Ann Morrison (OD'14, MS'16)** echoed similar sentiments by stating "Receiving LRP dollars is allowing me to pursue the kind of career I want in academia."

LRP awards are also made to early-career faculty who are engaged in significant research efforts while still working to eliminate their student loan debt. Assistant Professor **Phil Yuhás (OD/MS'14, PhD'19)** is one such recipient at The Ohio State University College of Optometry who has received LRP support for a total of six years. Dr. Yuhás recognizes the impact that LRP has played in both his career and personal life stating, "I did not have to choose between my career and family aspirations because the LRP gave me the freedom to pursue both, simultaneously. Over the past six years I have completed my PhD, found a faculty position at Ohio State, gotten married, bought a house, and had three wonderful children."

The Ohio State University College of Optometry has a long legacy of exemplary clinician-scientists as part of the faculty who are also instrumental in training future clinician-scientists. The LRP continues to foster that ability and ease the financial burden of individuals pursuing research careers. To learn more about this program and graduate education at The Ohio State University College of Optometry, please contact the chair of the Graduate Program in Vision Science, Dr. Heather Anderson ([Anderson.3881@osu.edu](mailto:Anderson.3881@osu.edu)).

## Vision Science Graduate Students Receive NIH LRP Awards

Four students in the Vision Science PhD program at the College of Optometry have been selected as recipients of the National Institute of Health's Loan Repayment Program.

**Rebecca Deffler (OD, MS'19), Elizabeth Galko (OD/MS'19), Erica Shelton (OD/MS'18), and Kelsy Steele (OD'16, MS'18)** were competitively selected to receive two years of funding to support their pursuit of graduate education.



Rebecca Deffler  
(OD, MS'19)



Elizabeth Galko  
(OD/MS'19)



Erica Shelton  
(OD/MS'18)



Kelsy Steele  
(OD'16, MS'18)



Jacqueline Davis, OD, MPH diplomate  
in the Public Health and Environmental  
Vision Section

## James Rogala (OD'93)

In partnership with Ohio State's Early Head Start Program, the College of Optometry's Eye Can See project has received a \$5,000 Healthy Eyes Healthy Children (HEHC) grant from the American Optometric Association/Optometry Cares. HEHC grants provide funding for implementation of community-based solutions that increase the outreach of vision services to communities, families, schools and the medical community with special attention to the underserved children in the U.S. The funds awarded to Ohio State's Eye Can See project will not only go toward glasses for infants and toddlers but for new eye equipment for the College of Optometry as well marketing materials to promote healthy vision.

This highly competitive grant is awarded to talented optometrists and/or vision scientists who are Academy Fellows, and are currently undertaking cutting edge research in the areas of glaucoma and/or the anterior segment. This is the seventh year the Allergan Foundation has sponsored this generous grant through the AAOF.



# College of Optometry Receives “Insight Into Diversity” 2020 HEED Award

The Ohio State University College of Optometry received the 2020 Health Professions Higher Education Excellence in Diversity (HEED) Award from *INSIGHT Into Diversity* magazine, the oldest and largest diversity-focused publication in higher education. As a recipient of the annual Health Professions HEED Award — a national honor recognizing U.S. colleges and universities that demonstrate an outstanding commitment to diversity and inclusion — Ohio State Optometry will be featured, along with 45 other recipients, in the December 2020 issue of *INSIGHT Into Diversity* magazine. This is the second consecutive year Ohio State Optometry has been named as a Health Professions HEED Award recipient.

“While I am proud of our HEED award recognition for 2020, there is much work to do in the areas of diversity, equity, and inclusion in The Ohio State University College of Optometry,” says Dean Karla Zadnik, OD, PhD. “Our students, staff, and faculty are deeply committed to that work.”

The College of Optometry focused on several key initiatives to foster diversity and inclusion in 2020, including: reimagining the role of the college’s chief diversity officer to be more broadly integrated into the structure of the college; enhancing the admissions process for diverse underrepresented students by employing mitigation strategies against implicit bias and searching for inclusive behaviors in all applicants; educating all faculty, staff and students on implicit bias and anti-racism; engaging in purposeful relationship-building between diverse students and diverse alumni; integrating diversity, equity and inclusion in the policy documents that govern the college; and developing a pathway for diverse underrepresented students to become faculty. The college also updated its Improving Diversity in Optometric Careers program this year to be virtual, ensuring that this annual summer program continued its mission to attract underrepresented diverse undergraduate students from across the U.S. to learn about optics, eye anatomy, vision disorders as well as the College of Optometry admissions process.



“I am delighted that our efforts have been recognized with the HEED Award,” says Clinical Associate Professor Vondolee Delgado-Nixon, PhD, Chief Diversity Officer for the College of Optometry. “We will continue our work to increase diversity, equity, and inclusion within The Ohio State University College of Optometry and to decrease health disparities for our patients. Our ability to treat diverse patients with equity and inclusivity is an integral part of our responsibility to provide the best care possible for all our patients. This is what it means to be a good optometrist.”

“The HEED Award process consists of a comprehensive and rigorous application that includes questions relating to the recruitment and retention of students and employees — and best practices for both — continued leadership support for diversity, and other aspects of campus diversity and inclusion,” says Lenore Pearlstein, publisher of *INSIGHT Into Diversity* magazine. “We take a detailed approach to reviewing each application in deciding who will be named a HEED Award recipient. Our standards are high, and we look for institutions where diversity and inclusion are woven into the work being done every day across their campus.”

Ohio State Optometry proudly joins its campus health sciences peers on this esteemed list, The Ohio State University Colleges of Medicine, Nursing, and Veterinary Medicine.

Let's close out the year by once again  
congratulating the Class of 2020!



Sarah Alquist



Alyssa Ashley  
Class Representative



Taylor A. Williams  
Secretary



Bridget Lorenz  
President



Stevie M. Njeru  
Vice President



Farah Hamade  
Treasurer



Francesco Maiorca  
Class Representative



Laura Andre



Brice Arnold

## The Ohio State University College of Optometry



THE OHIO STATE  
UNIVERSITY  
COLLEGE OF OPTOMETRY

Class of 2020



Jasmine Barker



Colin Bloor



Brett K. Bowers



Taylor Brack



Monica Braun



Jacob Brown



Ann M. Cater



Joseph Culp



Jill Danker



Austin Eckel



Sawyer Ellis



Julia Evanoff



Brianna Farley



Erin Filbrandt



Robert Dillon Fullenwider



Todd Gardner



Nathan Garlick



Julianne Golinski



Megan Hafner



Natalie Hartman



Derek Hemlich



Isalah M. Jordan



Gentry Kerwood



Zachary Laskovich



Joseph Lehman



Yumes Li



Kevin Mar



Kyle Martin



Samantha Meredith



Karina Y. Miller



Natalie Montecalvo



Fanita Munitz



Amy Myers



Gabrielle Nivar



Shaun O'Connor



Mawada Osman



Lindsay Page



Lydia Pickrell



Angelica Polizzi



Alexandra Potter



Jason Ro



Sloane Rudolf



Mojdeh Samiei



Jake Sander



Paige Scott



Caitlyn Sharick



Adam R. Smith



Kayla Thiemann



Carolyn Thomas



Nathan Turnwald



Theresa Watt



Kyle A. Williams



Jessica T. Wolfe



Ryan Zaidinski



Emily Zimmermann

# Disparity to Parity: Is Health Determined by Genetic Codes or Zip Codes?

## The 2020 Myers Lecture

By Bob Newcomb (OD'71, MPH)

Edwin C. Marshall, OD, MS, MPH, FAAO, FNAP, gave an impassioned and inspirational lecture at the college on November 4, which covered a wide range of topics including optometric education, population health disparities, and social justice concerns.

In doing so, he became the twelfth speaker on an impressive list of prominent clinicians, educators, and vision scientists to be honored through the generosity of the Jeffrey and Joyce Myers Lecture Series endowment. His lecture was delivered virtually via Zoom this year because of COVID-19 precautions.

Dr. Marshall is a Professor Emeritus of Optometry and of Public Health at Indiana University (IU). He served as the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Student Administration at the IU School of Optometry for many years before being appointed to the university's position of Vice President for Diversity, Equity, and Multicultural Affairs in 2007. He is an American Academy of Optometry Fellow and Diplomate in Public Health and Environmental Vision and also a Fellow of the National Academies of Practice. He retired from IU in 2013.

Some of his many accolades and awards include the Distinguished Service Award from the Vision Care Section of the American Public Health Association; the Distinguished Hoosier Award from the Office of the Governor; the Carel C. Koch Memorial Medal for interprofessional relationships from the American Academy of Optometry; the Person of Vision Award from Prevent Blindness Indiana; and the William "Bill" Mays Minority Health Titan Award from the Indiana Minority Health Coalition. He was named Optometrist of the Year by the Indiana Optometric Association (IOA) in 2006; and Optometrist of the Year by both the National Optometric Association in 1976 and the American Optometric

Association in 2007. In 2009, he was inducted into the National Optometry Hall of Fame. In 2017, he was honored by the IOA with a Lifetime Achievement Award. And in 2019, he was honored by IU with their Distinguished Alumni Service Award.

All of our individual attitudes, beliefs, and principles are shaped by our own unique past experiences: where we grew up, the influence of our family, friends, and teachers, our struggles and achievements, and especially those who helped us – and did not help us – along the way. In Dr. Marshall's case, he was born in Albany, Georgia, during the south's Jim Crow era. He vividly remembers that black children were not permitted to enter into a local ice cream parlor but had to be served through a window marked "Colored Only." He also remembers that black children were not permitted to attend publicly-funded kindergarten along with the white children. And he remembers his mother, who was a schoolteacher, moving her family to New Jersey in search of a better and more equitable life for them.

Later, when he enrolled as an undergraduate at Indiana University (IU) in 1964, he experienced other instances of racial discrimination on campus and around Bloomington, but he also met similarly-situated students and empathetic professors there who supported him and nurtured his inquisitive mind. He considered majoring in genetics, but a fortuitous meeting on the IU campus with future Ohio State Optometry Dean Emeritus Mel Shipp, OD, MPH, DrPH, caused him to consider optometry as a career choice. And what a career it has been!

We encourage all of our students (both current and pre-op) and residents, staff, faculty, alumni, and friends to watch his riveting lecture at [go.osu.edu/2020Myers](https://go.osu.edu/2020Myers).

# Research Roundup

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

Associate Professor Heather Chandler, PhD, was awarded \$20,000 by the Ohio Lions Eye Research Foundation for her research on corneal neovascularization. This funding will support her continued work on the tissue repair protein, MG53, that her lab has discovered regulates corneal inflammation and vascularization following injury. The outcome of this research may have significant clinical value in developing effective therapies to treat corneal injury and neovascularization associated with corneal disease.

**Rebecca Deffler (OD, MS '19)**, is the recipient of the Ohio Lions Eye Research Foundation 2020 Fellowship. Dr. Deffler's study, Automated Collision Risk Detection and a Novel Driver Training Program for People with Central Vision Impairment, uses naturalistic driving recordings of novice bioptic drivers to evaluate near-collision events to determine if inappropriate use of the telescope plays a role in the events. She will use the resulting data to develop and test strategies for teaching novice bioptic drivers safer driving technique.

The Bifocal Lenses In Nearsighted Kids (BLINK) Study was a randomized clinical trial to investigate the effects of soft multifocal contact lenses on myopia progression in children. The study was conducted by Study Chair **Jeff Walline (OD, MS'98, PhD'02)**; Ohio State Site Principal Investigator Don Mutti, OD PhD; University of Houston Site Principal Investigator **David Bernstein (OD, MS'04, PhD'09)**; and Data Coordination and Analysis Center Director Lisa A. Jordan, PhD. The primary findings from the BLINK Study were recently reported in the Journal of the American Medical Association. Soft multifocal contact lenses with a +2.50 D add slowed the progression of myopia by 42% and eye growth by 36% compared to single vision contact lenses. There was not a statistically significant difference between the +1.50 D add power and single vision contact lenses in terms of myopia progression or eye growth.

**Jenny Fogt (OD'99, MS)** is leading the Innovation in Vision and Eye Care Research Group (iVERG) at The Ohio State University College of Optometry. The iVERG team partners with industry sponsors to conduct clinical trials of ocular or vision related drugs or devices. Contact lenses and contact lens solutions, both categorized as devices by the FDA, require rigorous testing before approval for market. Likewise, ocular pharmaceuticals, such as low dose atropine eye drops, also require rigor and even larger,

multi-center studies in order to meet the requirements of the FDA. The work conducted by iVERG has brought several new products to market, with the most recent innovation including Nutrifill scleral lens filling solution. Current FDA trials include the CHAMP study and the Chaperone Study, both of which are exploring low dose atropine for myopia control in children. The Chaperone Study is currently enrolling myopic children.

In addition to FDA trials, iVERG conducts clinical research to further explore products on the market. Studies of contact lenses and contact lens solutions from different manufacturers keep our researchers busy.

Some of our resources are unique to Ohio State. Studies of tear lipid layer thickness after utilizing various formulations of artificial tears have been accomplished using the Stroboscopic Video Color Microscope built by Dr. Ewen King-Smith. A recent study of a multifocal contact lenses made use of the Driving Simulator Laboratory in the College of Engineering at Ohio State.

The iVERG team is powered by two fantastic coordinators, Jessica Barger and Alana Monzon, MA, who are amazingly skilled in keeping multiple studies moving forward at the same time. The efforts of our student worker, **Casey Ramirez Cortes ('21)** has been invaluable. The iVERG research team is further strengthened by many of our faculty members and alumni who have contributed to our research including **Kimberly Weisenberger (OD'18, MS'20)**, **Abigail Menner (OD'15)**, **Ryan Rutschilling (OD'19)**, **Beth Travis (OD'98)**, **Kate McClure (OD'16, MS'18)**, **Kelsy Steele (OD'16, MS'18)**, **Cara Lai (OD/MS'03)**, **Taylor McGann (OD'17)**, **Ann Morrison (OD'14, MS'16)**, **Maureen Plaumann, OD**, **Andy Toole (OD'97, MS'00, PhD'08)**, **Tatevik Movsisyan (OD/MS'16)**, **Michelle Buckland (OD'06, MS'08)**, **Aaron Zimmerman (OD'06, MS'08)**, **Heidi Wagner (OD'86)**, **Matt Karres (OD'17)**, **Marielle Blumenthaler (OD/MS'19)**, **Rebecca Deffler (OD, MS'19)**, **Katherine Bickle (OD/MS'13)**, and **Nick Fogt (OD/MS'92, PhD'96)**.

The iVERG team is grateful to local alumni who often share the college's research studies with their patients. Our researchers enjoy meeting these patients and hearing them brag about their "regular eye doctors" as they participate in bringing innovation to optometry and the world.

# The Importance of Optometric State Associations

By Katherine Bickle (OD/MS'13)



State associations play a key role in supporting optometrists and the optometric profession. As a current zone governor for the Ohio Optometric Association (OOA), I would like to share the following examples of how organized optometry at a state level improves the quality of care we deliver.

## Member Benefits

There is a wealth of benefits for state association members. For example, the OOA quickly and effectively established COVID-19 resources to help us navigate through uncertain times and to ensure we could continue to remain open and provide care to patients. The Ohio Vision Project student loan repayment program is the only program like it in the country and has provided over \$100,000 to recipients. Contract review and legal guidance is readily available. CE is offered and provides a great opportunity to see colleagues in a fun environment.

## Optometry is a Legislated Profession

The OOA will not only protect our licensure but expand upon it. We earn the respect and attention of lawmakers when we can say 70% of optometrists in Ohio are members of the OOA. All state associations will remain strong in the future through membership.

## Bring Awareness to Optometry

The OOA's RealEyes program (pre-K through grade 12) was awarded the Apollo Award by the AOA in 2019. Last year, I presented the Sammy Safe Eyes program to the preschool students at my son's daycare. The teachers were so impressed by the attentiveness of these three- and four-year-olds and how they enthusiastically shouted out the parts of the eyes they learned during the presentation. What an incredible opportunity we have to make such an impact on our community while educating students and educators about the importance of eye health and safety.

## Advocating for our patients

I see the impact my membership has on our office when I hear our staff tell patients about the sales tax repeal bill. Patients are so impressed that we have advocated to reduce their financial burden. This is an excellent way to both educate and create loyal, passionate patients in your practice.

## Cost

The cost of dues is a small investment to ensure your career and livelihood. Dues are reduced for new graduates and for those pursuing residencies or post-graduate programs. The automatic dues payment plan is an easy way to pay your annual dues on a monthly basis.

Our state associations are here when it matters. In my experience, the OOA has been and will continue to be OUR strongest advocate and most constant presence in optometry. I encourage you to not only be a member of your state association, but to be an active member while striving to promote and advance our profession for us and future generations of optometrists.

# Focus on Scleral Lenses

By Bob Newcomb (OD'71, MPH)

One hundred and twenty years ago, scleral lenses were made of glass. Eighty years ago, they were made of plastic (polymethylmethacrylate). Both materials caused discomfort and corneal hypoxia. About 30 years ago, oxygen permeable polymer lens materials were developed which both increased comfort and decreased hypoxia.

Today, there is a resurgence of interest by optometrists and their patients in hyper gas permeable scleral lenses with Dk values of 95 or higher; especially for patients with corneal irregularities (ie, corneal scars, keratoconus) or ocular surface disease.

We asked three Ohio State-affiliated optometrists, all of whom have been credentialed by the Scleral Lens Education Society ([www.sclerallens.org](http://www.sclerallens.org)), to share their experiences with this novel treatment modality.



## Jennifer Fogt (OD'99, MS), FAAO, FSLs

Dr. Jenny Fogt is an Associate Professor of Clinical Optometry. She teaches in our contact lens clinic and also leads the Innovation in Vision and Eyecare Research Group (IVERG). This group conducts industry-sponsored research studies in contact lens design, contact lens solutions, dry eye, ocular pharmaceuticals, and myopia control. Before joining our faculty in 2014, she practiced at Pediatric Ophthalmology Associates (located within Nationwide Children's Hospital in Columbus) where she founded their Pediatric Contact Lens Services. It was there that she fit her youngest gas permeable corneal contact lens patient: a premature infant with bilateral aphakia in the hospital's NICU.

Dr. Fogt never fit a patient with scleral lenses as an optometry student but now has become an expert in the field. She transitioned her career to Ohio State to share her unique clinical experiences with our students and to learn contact lens research methodologies from **Joe Barr (OD'77, MS'79)** and others on our faculty at that time. While working at the college on an early industry-sponsored scleral lens research project, she became aware of a new organization called the Scleral Lens Education Society. This organization had been co-founded in 2009 by another Columbus optometry alumnus, **Greg DeNaeyer (OD'98)**, to promote the science and art of fitting high Dk scleral lenses. Dr. Fogt earned her Fellowship in the Scleral Lens Society in 2017. Excited by the innovations in our field, she decided to pursue additional graduate education to further her knowledge of clinical trials. In 2018, she received her master's degree in pharmacology/clinical pharmacology and clinical trial design from Ohio State's Colleges of Medicine, Nursing, and Pharmacy.

When working with our students, Dr. Fogt reflects upon her own career and stresses the need for them to keep learning after they graduate. "Optometry is important to the patients who need our special services," she tells them. "Keep learning to be able to offer them the best of care with new lens materials, new technologies, and new pharmaceutical agents."



## Abigail Menner, OD'15, FAAO, FSLs

While an optometry student, Dr. Menner worked as a technician at Ohio State's Havener Eye Institute. She met **Chantelle Mundy (OD'08)** there, who sparked her early interest in scleral lenses. Then, as a fourth-year optometry student, she rotated through the Case Western Reserve Department of Ophthalmology where **Loretta Szczotka-Flynn (OD/MS'92, PhD)** served as her mentor. After seeing many patients benefit from scleral lenses, she knew she had found her calling. Following her graduation in 2015, she completed a residency in the areas of Specialty Contact Lenses and Ocular Disease at the Havener Eye Institute, where she worked closely with Dr. Mundy and **Stephanie Pisano (OD'14)**. These two mentors helped her gain additional experience to design and fit specialty contact lenses for patients with corneal irregularities, corneal transplants, and severe ocular surface disease. She was lucky enough to work with **Chris Smiley (OD'01)** during her fourth year of optometry school and joined his practice, Vision Professionals, following her residency. In 2019, she became a Fellow of the American Academy of Optometry and a Fellow of the Scleral Lens Education Society. She is now a Clinical Assistant Professor at the college and supervises students in both Primary Vision Care and Contact Lens services. She continues to see patients at Vision Professionals and is also part of the Innovation in Vision and Eyecare Research Group (iVERG) working closely with **Jenny Fogt (OD'99, MS)** doing clinical contact lens research.

In the contact lens clinic, she tells our students that scleral lenses are completely customizable and can be used in a variety of patient populations. For example, scleral lenses can provide superior optical stability compared to other lenses for patients with high refractive errors. Because these lenses are fit with a semi-sealed state on the eye, they are very stable and less likely to rotate or become dislodged with eye movements (a particular benefit for athletes). She also enjoys fitting presbyopic patients in multifocal scleral lenses as they allow for a custom add power and zone size for enhanced multifocal viewing.

She notes that scleral lenses are also a great option for patients following surgery or who have keratoconus and/or corneal scarring. With spectacles, these patients often have poor visual acuity and aberrated visual complaints such as glare and shadowing. Because scleral lenses are fluid-filled and provide a tear lens that vaults the irregular surface, improved visual acuity is achieved by providing a smoother refracting surface and much-improved optical image quality. Because these lenses rest on the sclera rather than the highly-innervated cornea, they can provide exceptional comfort when compared to gas permeable corneal lenses.

Finally, patients with severe dry eye disease may benefit from scleral lenses. These patients are often frustrated by numerous previous treatment failures and transient fluctuating vision. The fluid chamber between the cornea and lens of a scleral lens bathes the ocular surface, promotes corneal healing, and minimizes friction caused by blinking. In a study Dr. Menner conducted during her residency, patients with severe dry eye disease fit with scleral lenses improved their standardized quality of life metrics by 83%!

## Stephanie Pisano, OD'14, FAAO, FSLs

Dr. Pisano completed her pre-optometry requirements at the University of Toledo. As an optometry student, she was a member of the Beta Sigma Kappa honor society and graduated cum laude in 2014. Following a suggestion from our residency director **Dawn Goedde (OD'04)**, she then



completed a residency in ocular disease and specialty contact lenses at Ohio State's Havener Eye Institute with residency director **Chantelle Mundy (OD'08)**. In 2018, she became a Fellow of the American Academy of Optometry and also a Fellow of the Scleral Lens Education Society.

Dr. Pisano is now a clinical instructor in the Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences, where she teaches ophthalmology residents as well as optometry residents and rotating optometry externs. Her clinic mainly focuses on patients in need of specialty corneal and scleral contact lenses. Some of her patients are fit with standard soft contact lenses, but most are in need of specialty lenses for medical conditions such as corneal scarring, severe dry eye, ocular surface disease, keratoconus, irregular astigmatism, and corneal transplant. She admits she never saw herself in this mode of practice as an optometry student but says she loves what she does because of the great benefits

specialty lenses can provide due to improved visual acuity and quality of life for the patient.


When fitting scleral lenses she uses many specialty lenses manufacturers, including the EyePrint Prosthetics ([www.eyeprintpro.com](http://www.eyeprintpro.com)) technology which was developed by another Ohio State optometry graduate, **Christine Sindt (OD'94)**. After taking an impression mold of the irregular corneal surface, she over-refracts their eye with a diagnostic corneal or scleral lens and then mails the impression to the EyePrintProsthetics lab in Lakewood, CO to manufacture the lens. She also utilizes corneal and scleral Profilometry using the sMap3DTM, developed with **Greg DeNaeyer (OD'98)**, which meticulously maps the ocular surface to also design custom scleral lenses. These specialized technologies allow for optimal visual acuity, scleral lens fit, and comfort providing an improved outcome for the patient.



## NEW OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY Engagement Center



By Michael Haddock, MPA, *Assistant Director of Alumni Engagement*



It's no secret: The Ohio State University has a long history of employing student callers to touch base with alumni to solicit donations over the phone. While this has proven to be a helpful way to support scholarships and student programs, it has also been a point of contention among many alumni who feel as if the university only "calls me when they want money."

In an effort to combat this historic disconnect, Ohio State has created a new way for you to connect with the university: The Engagement Center. Their mission is to connect passionate alumni, family, and friends with Ohio State and to serve as your own personal guide to helping you feel more connected with your alma mater. By partnering with the Ohio State University Alumni Association, these Engagement Specialists can help you find volunteering opportunities in your community, discover a passion project at the university to support, and explore how to become a mentor for current Buckeyes to name a few.


So next time you receive a call from Ohio State, know that the university is striving to help you find people, events, and resources to enrich your experiences as alumni.

Learn more at  
[go.osu.edu/engagement-center](http://go.osu.edu/engagement-center)

# Alumni Notes

**1985 Jeff Kegarise (OD'85)** was highlighted in The Paper of Montgomery County Online for his comments about increased eye strain for children experiencing virtual school this fall.

**2011 Ian Whipple (OD'11)** has been named President of the Utah Optometric Association.

1  **2012 Chelsea (Schmidt) Baker (OD'12)** and husband Rob welcomed new baby Landon Thomas Baker into their family on August 20, 2020.

2  **2016 John Langel (OD'16)** welcomed a new baby in July, Graham Stephen Langel.

**2017 Benjamin Doering (OD'17)** and **Kelsey Krempasky (OD'17)** wed during the summer.

**2018 Kimberly Weisenberger (OD'18, MS'20)** has been named the American Academy of Optometry Foundation's 2020 Bert C. & Lydia M. Corwin Contact Lens Residency Award Recipient.

**2018 Casey Smith (OD'18)**, opened a new optometry practice, Sight Vision Care, in Springfield, Ohio.

**2019 Carolyn Chakuroff (OD/MS'19)** is the American Academy of Optometry's recipient of the Alfred A. Rosenbloom, Jr. Low Vision Residency Award.

3  **2019/2020 Natalie Montecalvo (OD/MS'19)** and **Francisco Maiorca (OD'20)** wed during the summer.

**2019/2020 Bridget Lorenz (OD'20)** and **Justin Klimchak (OD'19)** wed during the summer.

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## In Memoriam

**1951 Forrest Baillie (BS'51, OD'76)**, age 96, passed away on September 20, 2020.

**1958 Richard Curt Lowary (BS'58)**, passed away on July 10, 2020.

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Email Alumni News updates to Michael Haddock at **[haddock.15@osu.edu](mailto:haddock.15@osu.edu)**



## Alumni Award Nominations

Your Ohio State Optometry Alumni Society Board is revamping the annual alumni awards process for 2021 in order to streamline the nominations from our alumni community.

Please visit

**[optometry.osu.edu/alumni-awards](https://optometry.osu.edu/alumni-awards)**

to review the new process and submit candidates for the Distinguished Alumnus/na Award and Early Professional Achievement Award. The deadline is February 1, 2021.

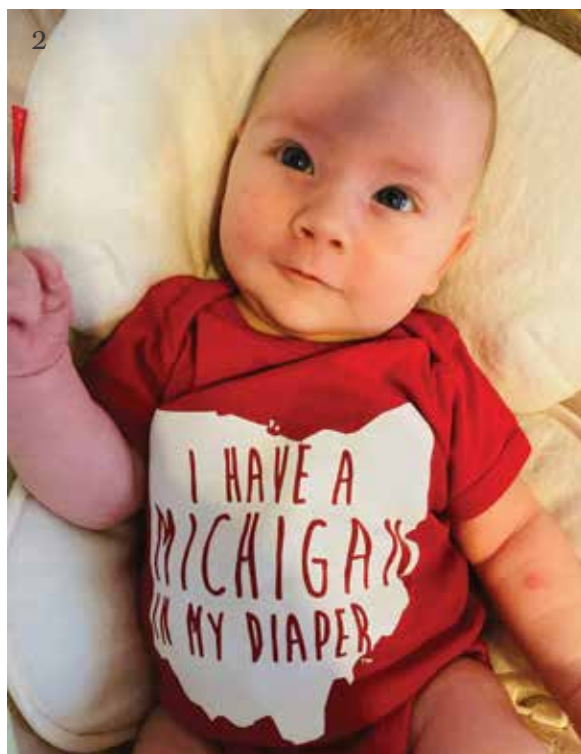
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