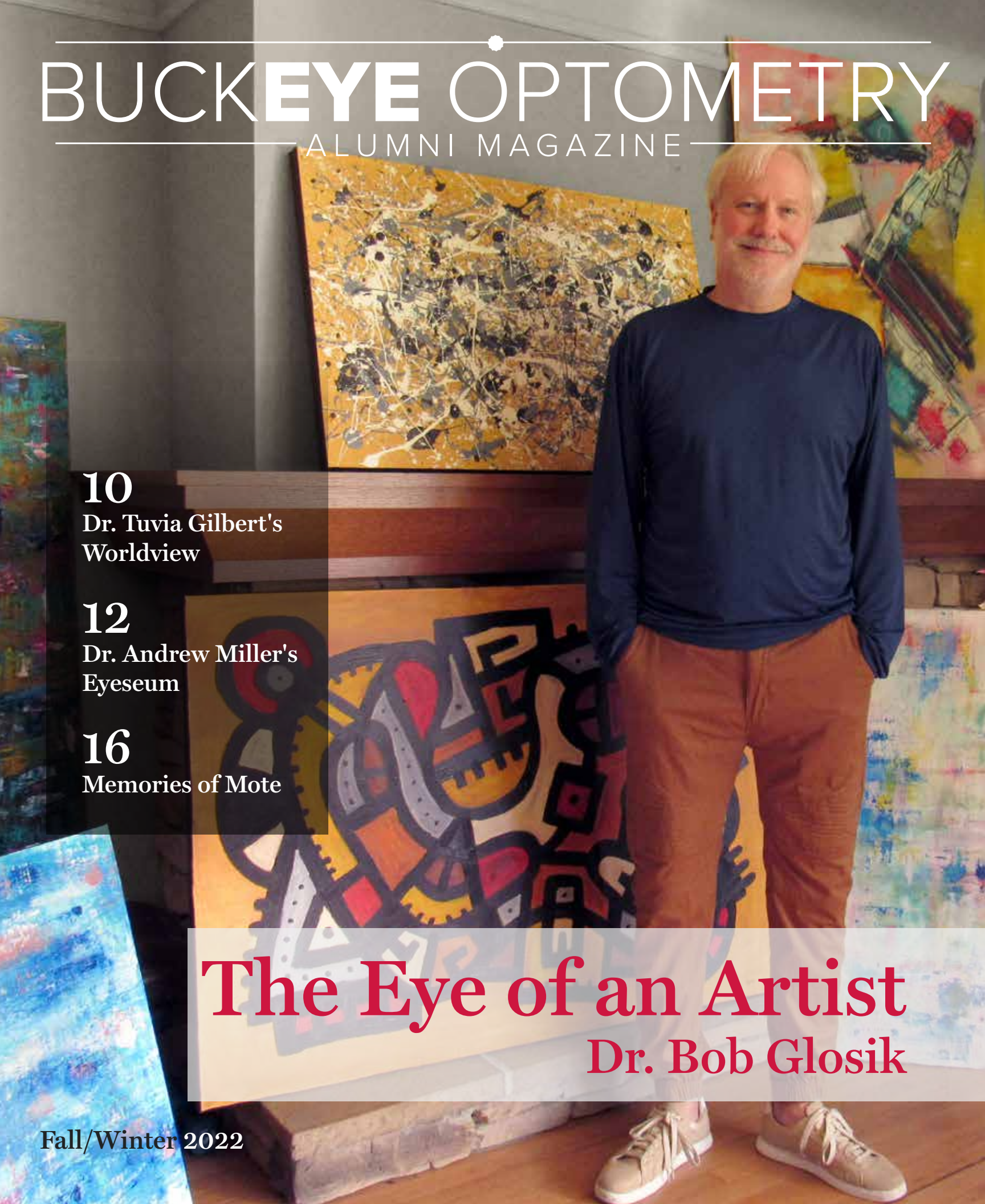
BUCKEYE OPTOMETRY

ALUMNI MAGAZINE



The Eye of an Artist

Dr. Bob Glosik

Fall/Winter 2022

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On the Cover: **Bob Glosik (OD'82)** surrounded by his artwork.

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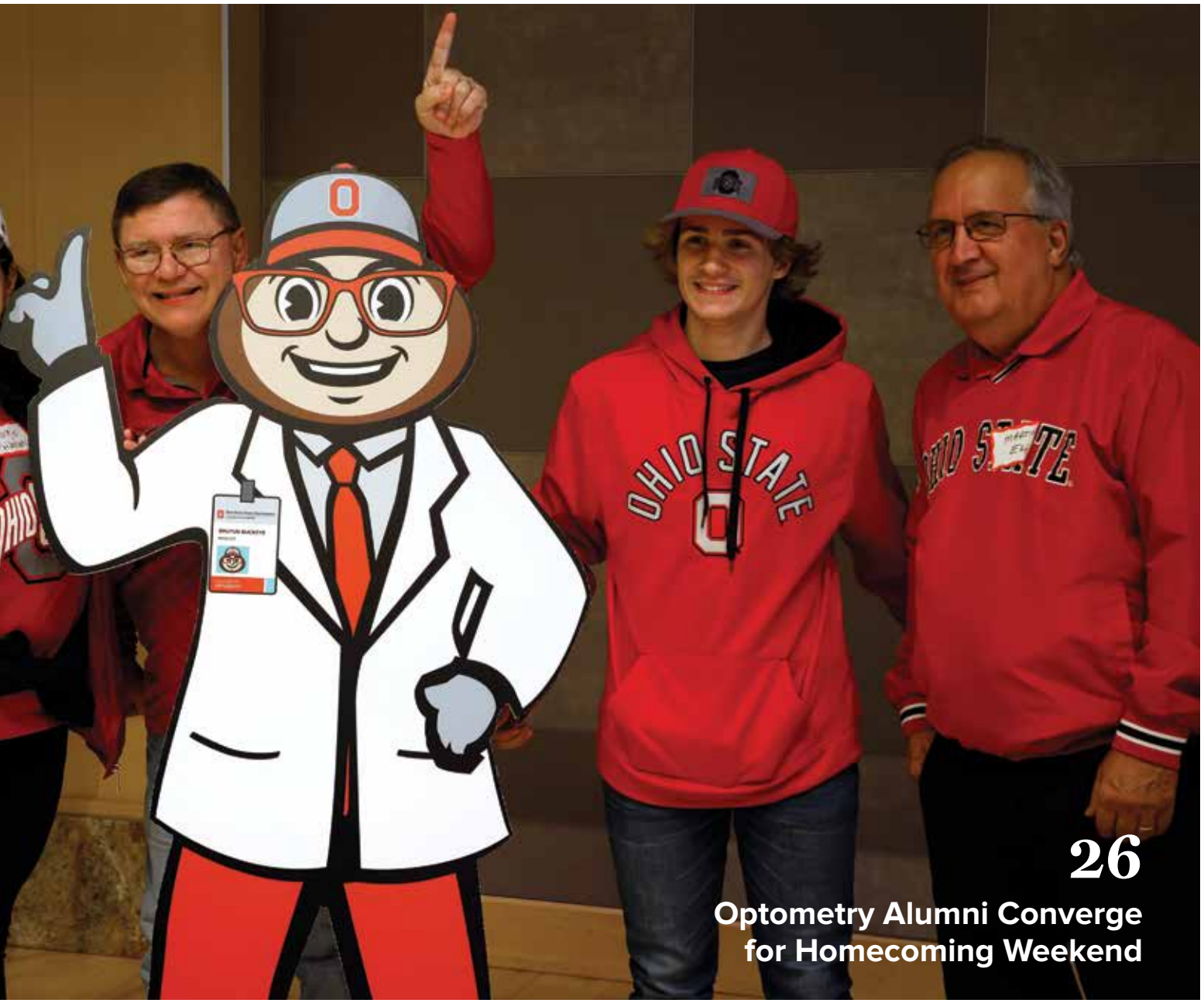

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Optometry Alumni Converge for Homecoming Weekend

The 2022 Optometry Homecoming Tailgate provided family-friendly fun prior to the big game.

EYE ON ALUMNI

Dean's Message

"Family is who you make it. Family is place, face, bed, and bowl."
– Carolyn Ferrell

At The Ohio State University College of Optometry, we talk a lot about family. We welcome students, staff, and faculty alike to our family. Every time we spell O-H-I-O with our arms raised high above our heads, we could just as easily lower our arms to greet you with a hug.

Many former and current students say they found their way to Ohio State Optometry because of a particularly warm and welcoming Visit Day or interview day. Sometimes I think prospective students wonder, "Are these people for real?" and then, once they're here? They find out we are. My tagline for prospective students is, "We love Ohio State Optometry. Come join us, so you can love it too."

That word family characterizes that "love" idea. We care deeply about the profession of optometry, and students represent the profession's future. We want all our alumni to find the professional job of their dreams, to achieve the work-life balance that suits them, and to stay in touch with the education that got them there.

Ohio State Optometry has a close relationship with the American Academy of Optometry. I'm a past Academy president, and our Associate Dean for Research **Jeff Walline** (**OD, MS'98, PhD'02**) just became the Academy's president-elect. Faculty members volunteer for a variety of roles in the Academy; notably, Andy Hartwick, OD, PhD, serves the Scientific Program Committee, **Aaron Zimmerman** (**OD'06, MS'08**) the Lectures and Workshops Committee, and **Melissa Bailey** (**OD/MS'01, PhD'04**) the Awards Committee. We lay claim to two new diplomates of the Academy: Professor **Nick Fogt** (**OD/MS'92, PhD'96**) in Binocular Vision, Perception and Pediatric Optometry, and **Erin Rueff** (**OD'12, MS'14, PhD'16**) in Cornea, Contact Lenses, and Refractive Technologies.

Thirteen out of a record 309 new fellows at the Academy's Centennial Annual Meeting are Ohio State alumni: **Nicole Auble** (**OD'21**); **Kristen Bisig** (**OD'21**); **Melissa Bollinger** (**OD'93**); **Petr Boshinski** (**OD'17**); Grace Brasel, OD; **Zachary Coates** (**OD'19**); **Sean Cushman** (**OD'21**); **Paul Grigsby** (**OD'21**); **Caroline Haberthy** (**OD/MS'15**); **Megan Hafner** (**OD'20**); **Kelly Lutmer** (**OD/MS'21**); **Linh-An Nguyen** (**OD'19**); and **Douglas Widmer** (**OD'11/MS'16**).

As I reflect on 2022 and our Ohio State Optometry family, we are indeed self made. Come to a family reunion any time!

Go BuckEYES,

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

President's Message

"The noblest motive is the public good"
– from the San Diego city seal

In 2022, it was incredible catching up with many friends and colleagues at Vision Expo West, the Ohio Optometric Association's EastWest Eye Conference, and the American Academy of Optometry's annual meeting. The peer-to-peer interaction at these well-attended events made me almost forget the challenges of recent years. As amazing as these meetings were, I felt a little more burnout among some of my colleagues than I recall from past meetings.

I know, I know this is an Alumni Magazine, and most of you are probably wondering why I would even go there? The Optometric Oath states, "I AFFIRM that the health of my patient will be my first consideration." In order for us to fulfill this duty, we must engage in self-care by focusing on our own wellness. Much of this subject matter is new and outside my expertise; however I will share some recent learnings.

On May 23, 2022, the U.S. Surgeon General issued an advisory on healthcare burnout. Burnout is caused by excessive workloads, administrative burdens, time scarcity, poor work-life balance, and other factors. The concern is this leads to poor outcomes in patient care, declines in our own health/wellness, as well as "quiet quitting," which exacerbates the healthcare shortages we are already experiencing. I encourage all alumni to increase our education on these issues and become advocates for change within our organizations.

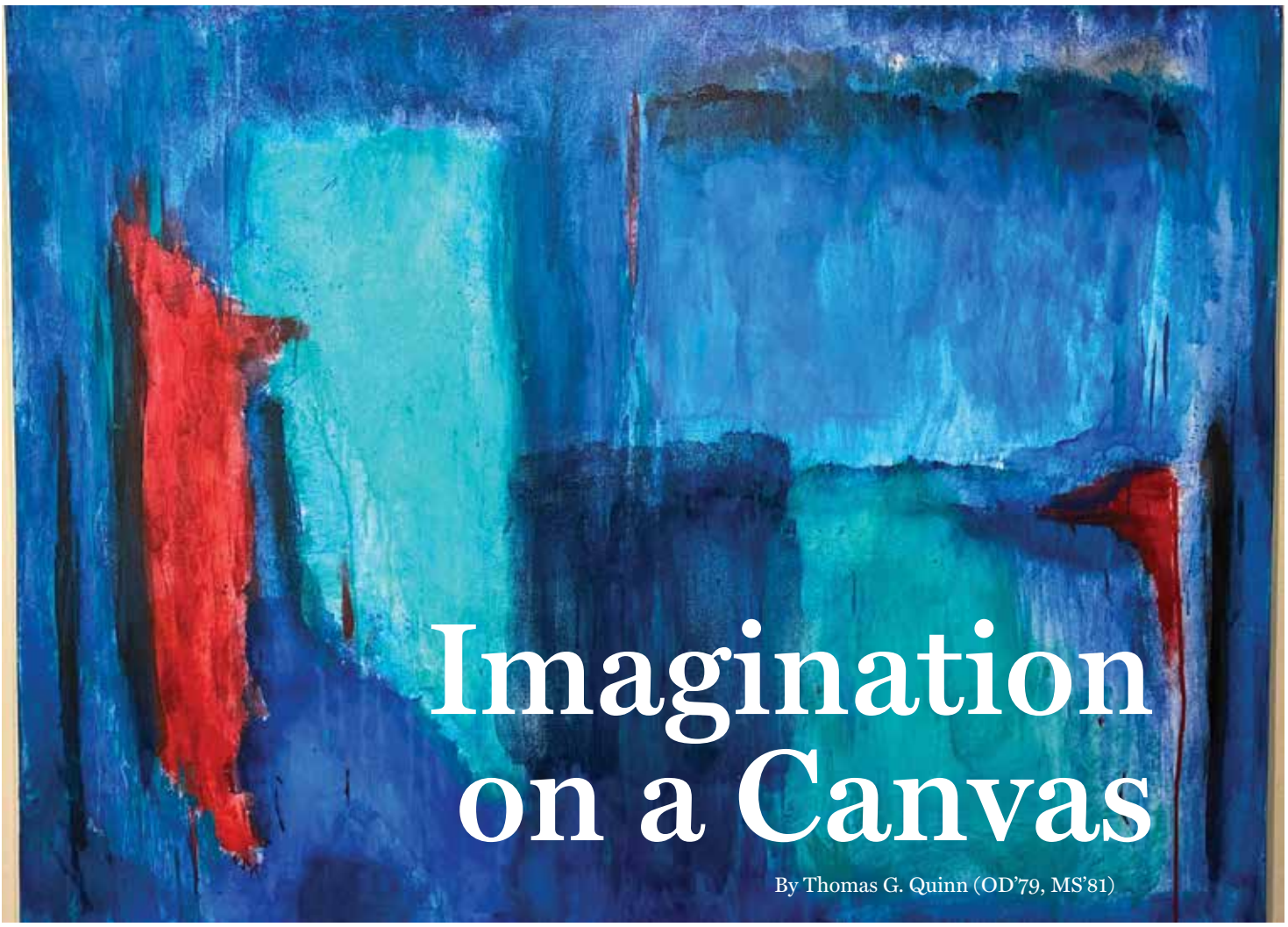
The Ohio State University published an e-book titled "9 Dimensions of Wellness," and provides it to all students and faculty. The nine dimensions include physical wellness, emotional wellness, financial wellness, spiritual wellness, social wellness, career wellness, intellectual wellness, creative wellness, and environmental wellness. The book is an incredible resource to get you started in understanding all the elements that help make you the best "you." A link is provided below, and I recommend all fellow alumni take a look. Try to find one (or more) area(s) that would benefit you the most and engage additional resources to take a deeper dive in each area. Better yet, make this your New Year's resolution.

Optometry is not immune to these issues; however, of all the healthcare professions, ours is the best equipped to lead and overcome these modern day challenges. This is why I continue to love optometry and advocate for our profession! The future of optometry is bright. It continues to get better when we take care of one another, and ourselves, and tackle these challenges together!

Chris Smiley (OD'01)
President
The Ohio State University College of Optometry Alumni Society

"9 Dimensions of Wellness"
go.osu.edu/NineDimensions

Surgeon General's advisory
go.osu.edu/BurnoutAdvisory



Imagination on a Canvas

By Thomas G. Quinn (OD'79, MS'81)

On the lower level of **Bob Glosik's** (**OD'82**) Northeast Ohio home is a treasure trove of color and design created by the man himself. A kind, soft-spoken, and unassuming fellow, Dr. Glosik lights up when the topic of artistic painting enters the conversation. Below are some excerpts from a Zoom chat we had discussing his latest passion.

Dr. Quinn: Have you always been interested in paintings?

Dr. Glosik: Yes! I can remember being a little kid in my Russian Orthodox church looking at the many larger-than-life icons of saints, the billowing clouds on the ceiling, and the other worldliness of angels. I was captivated.

Dr. Quinn: What is it about paintings that captures your imagination?

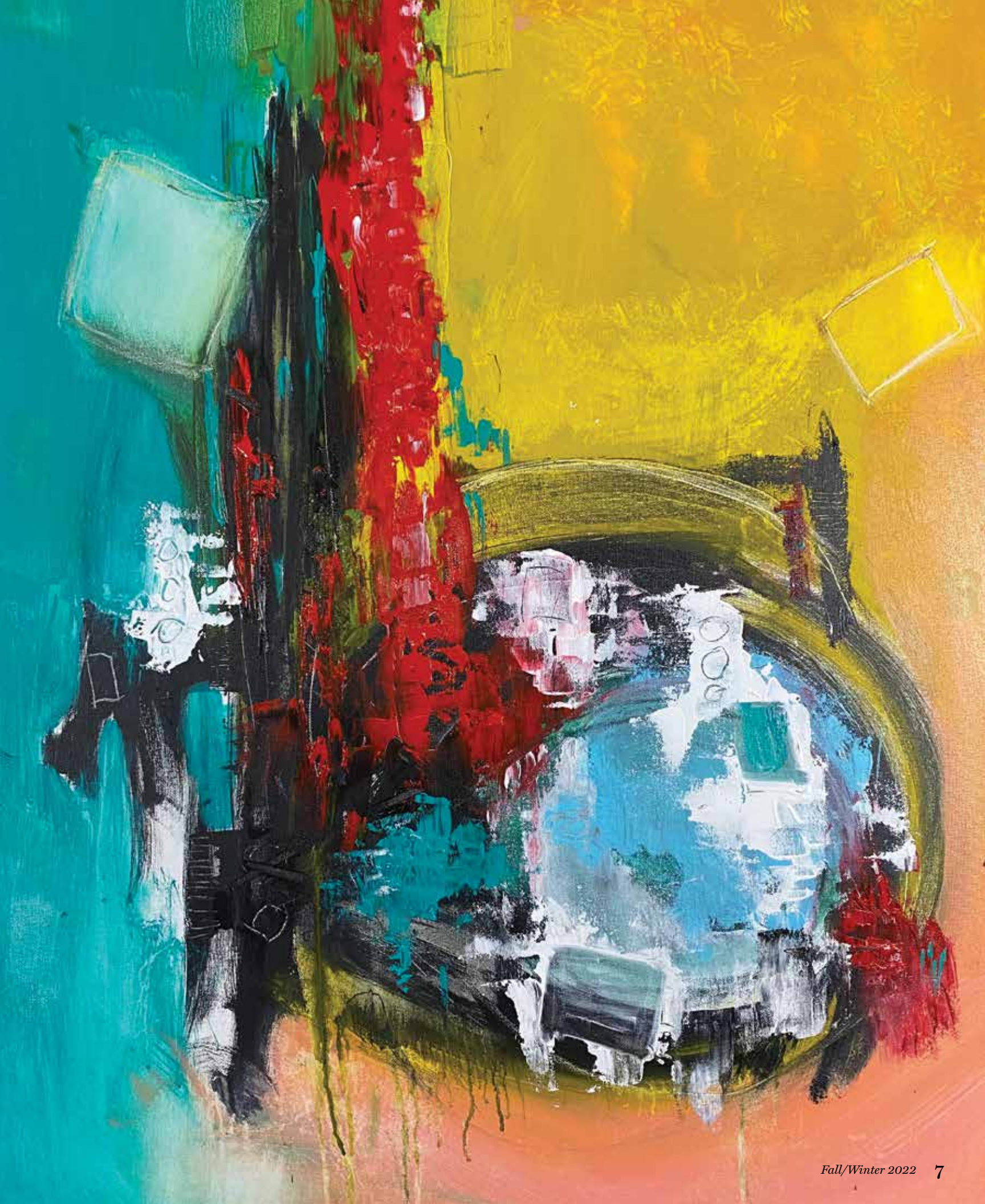
Dr. Glosik: I love the feeling of immersion and connection while viewing a good painting. It's right there. It's just paint on canvas, but it can stir up any number of emotions. I love when the viewer is moved by something the artist created; it's a shared moment.

Dr. Quinn: How did you get into painting?

Dr. Glosik: I only started painting five years ago. I wanted some large abstract paintings for my home and couldn't find what I was looking for. I realized that the style of painting I wanted was not technically as difficult as formal painting. I choose to first reproduce a fairly straightforward Mark Rothko painting I loved. It was essentially three soft color fields floating on a large canvas. From that, I keep learning the craft and moving forward to more complex paintings.

Dr. Quinn: How did you know Mark Rothko even existed?

Dr. Glosik: Back in college, I collected art books. I think I got most of them from the bookshop on Neil Avenue. Something about Rothko's work, with its immersive color, large scale, and simplicity just took me in.



Dr. Quinn: What made you start with copying him in particular?

Dr. Glosik: It looked like I could do it! (laughter) I'm not really an artist with any formal training or skill, but I have something that allows me to channel emotion in a way that other people connect with.

Dr. Quinn: How did you begin to develop those skills?

Dr. Glosik: I Googled the artists I'm interested in and watched YouTube tutorials. Probably a lot like we all learn new skills nowadays.

Dr. Quinn: Is there anything in particular that helped push you to actually buy materials and start painting?

Dr. Glosik: I've always enjoyed creating and designing things like newsletters, posters, flyers, even office forms. Using my imagination to work within the constrictions of the medium is exciting to me, a fun challenge. It was just a matter of acquiring the skill set to do it with paint.

Dr. Quinn: What materials do you use?

Dr. Glosik: I use acrylic paint because it's easy to work with, can be cleaned with water, and dries fairly fast (hours to overnight). The other option is oil paint, but it's strong smelling and needs solvents for cleanup. Watercolors are also very common but not my preference.

Dr. Quinn: When you start a painting, do you have a vision in your head of what you want to create or does it evolve?

Dr. Glosik: If I'm inspired by something I've seen; I'll have it in my head. I don't know how it's going to come out, but I know what to do to get there. Abstract Impressionism is very much about allowing the viewer to see how the painting was made, to see the actions it took to get to that point.

Dr. Quinn: I know you play guitar and have a deep interest in music. Is there any relationship between the two art forms, music and painting?

Dr. Glosik: That's an excellent question because the answer is yes, yes, yes! One is repetition. In music, it's enjoyable to hear a repeated chord progression, a repeated chorus. In painting, you want to see some angle, some shape, some color repeated, maybe subtly, maybe in a different size, in a different shade. Repetition is pleasing to the eye just like it's pleasing to the ear.

Bob Glosik (OD'82) with his artwork in his Northeast Ohio home.

Dr. Quinn: You come from an optometric family. Is there any relationship between your career in optometry and your art?

Dr. Glosik: Part of me is science-based, the optometrist who likes order, deduction, reasoning. In painting I can let all that go and allow myself the freedom to create something from nothing, to try a new technique, to make mistakes without repercussion. Mistakes, I've discovered, are often the best part of an abstract painting!

Dr. Quinn: Your story may inspire someone to take a dive into painting. How do you suggest they start?

Dr. Glosik: Your first paints will typically be red, yellow, blue, green, black, and white. Buy brushes and stretched canvases from a hobby store. Think about the paintings that inspire you. Do you like the detail in realism, the freedom of abstraction, or the heightened emotion of impressionism? I collect images of my favorite paintings to study and reproduce for practice, much like learning to write songs by playing your favorites by other artists.

Dr. Quinn: Final question. It's one little kids get asked. What's your favorite color (in painting)?

Dr. Glosik: Yellow ochre. It's one of the warmest colors and it's very easy for me to work with. And of course, right behind that? Scarlet and gray!

More of Dr. Glosik's work can be seen on Instagram at @robertglosik. You also may email Dr. Glosik directly at **bglosik@roadrunner.com**.

Buckeye Optometrists Around the World

Dr. Tuvia Gilbert

By Kathy Rudolf (OD'09)

In our new feature, "Buckeye Optometrists Around the World," we focus on Ohio State alumni who practice outside of the U.S. While we know our profession and scope of practice can vary from state to state, there are many unknowns when we consider practicing in another country.

In this issue, we feature **Tuvia Gilbert** (**OD'14**), who practices in Israel. Dr. Gilbert is a third-generation optometrist; his grandfather is the late **Ronald Gilbert** (**OD'55**), his father is Marc Gilbert, OD, and his uncle is **Heath Gilbert** (**OD'92**). After graduation, Dr. Gilbert worked at Dayton Optometric Center with his father and uncle and at Nova Vision in Beavercreek, Ohio, where he honed his skills in developmental optometry and vision therapy. After several years, he and his wife decided to move to Israel for spiritual and religious reasons. They have lived in Jerusalem for the last three years.

Dr. Gilbert reports that the mode of practice in Israel is much different than in the U.S. For example, primary eye care in Israel is performed by ophthalmologists, and many ophthalmologists refer patients to optometrists for refractive care. The Israeli optometrist's training involves more coursework on spectacles, contact lenses, low vision, and vision training and less disease detection and management. Optometrists in Israel have no diagnostic or therapeutic pharmacological rights.

According to Dr. Gilbert, getting a license in Israel required taking licensing exams in two parts, written and practical. After that, he was issued a temporary license, requiring him to work under another optometrist for a year before obtaining permanent licensure.

"I love living in Israel, and I love practicing optometry here," says Dr. Gilbert. "Although at times I wish I could do more medical care, I still have a good network of ophthalmologists for referral, and I do anterior segment

For my specialty, developmental/behavioral optometry and vision therapy, there is a very high demand. I love being able to fill this niche, and hope to continue training and spreading good optometric vision therapy for future generations.

Tuvia Gilbert (OD'14)

plus posterior pole evaluations on my patients. Being a foreign-trained doctor from the U.S. is looked upon highly in Israel. For my specialty, developmental/behavioral optometry and vision therapy, there is a very high demand. I love being able to fill this niche, and hope to continue training and spreading good optometric vision therapy for future generations. We actually just recently opened a COVD (College of Vision Development) Israel chapter."

Dr. Gilbert currently works in a vision therapy clinic, where he has hired a general optometrist and is working to bring in an ophthalmologist as well.

The Eyeseum

Patients exhibit interest in Dr. Andrew Miller's carefully curated collection of ophthalmic artifacts

By Sarah Cupples, MA
Director of Marketing and Communications

Optometrists typically don't hear their patients say, "I arrived early for my appointment so I could spend more time in your waiting room." That is, unless you're **Andrew Miller** (**OD'87**).

The waiting room in Dr. Miller's thriving Virginia Beach practice is a bona fide museum – or "Eyeseum" as he calls it – containing scores of optometric artifacts, ranging from rare relics (an eyeglass case from the 1600s with a carved depiction of Pocahontas), to bizarre quackery devices (the Actina Eye Restorer - more on this later). What's on display is only the tip of the iceberg, however. Dr. Miller keeps a great deal of this collection at home, simply because there is not enough space in the waiting room. "I rotate artifacts in and out to keep it interesting," he says.

There's not a clear favorite showpiece among patients, although old glasses, cases, and medications are quite popular. "Every day, patients come in and say, 'This one is my favorite,' and it's always something different," says Dr. Miller.

Dr. Miller's personal favorites include several unique, local Virginia items, as well as a 1691 German prayer book with a hidden recess in the back cover to hold a pair of reading glasses.

He is particularly fascinated by medical device quackery. From his perspective as a collector, the quackery business reached its heyday in the mid- to late 1800s, lasting through the early 1900s.

Andrew Miller (OD'87) outside of his Virginia Beach practice.

Antique eyeglass case

"I like the quackery and the curiosity section the most. People didn't fully understand how the eye worked at the time and it was very easy to deceive them," he says.

One of Dr. Miller's favorite scam devices is the previously mentioned Actina Eye Restorer, which claimed to use a galvanic and ozone battery to produce electricity to cure cataracts, astigmatism, iritis, blindness, and more. Spoiler alert: It did not cure any of these ailments.

"Electricity was brand new at the time, and people thought there could be therapeutic benefits to it," explains Dr. Miller.

Dr. Miller acquired an Actina from the estate of a retired New York Railway worker who ran a medical quackery museum. The Actina, manufactured by the New York and London Electric Association, was patented in the U.S. in 1886. When asked what Actina meant, the manufacturer replied, "The life giver!" In addition to a $10 price tag (pricey for the time), the device had to be sent back to the manufacturer every six months to be "recharged" for $1.

The Actina is three and a half inches tall. According to Dr. Miller, it is "wrapped with a spiral strip of embossed copper with screw toppers on either end and an absorbing material stuffed in the center, which would allow it to be filled with a mixture of oil of mustard (48%), oil of sassafras (25%), belladonna extract (12%), ether (12%), and amyl nitrate (3%)." Needless to say, the device was described as having a "wretched" smell. Patients were advised to place one end of the device against the eye until they felt a "decided smarting sensation" and then turn the device around and take "as deep an inhalation as possible" up to a dozen times per day.

More than 100,000 Actinas were sold between 1885 and 1915 in the U.S. and England. Eventually, the journalist Samuel Hopkins Adams exposed Actina as a fraud in a series of *Collier's Weekly* articles.

We don't see as many quackery devices like the Actina today, thanks to federal laws.

"The reason that medical device quackery was so outrageous from about 1850 to 1938 was because there were no laws against claiming things that weren't true," Dr. Miller says. "People could sell a medication or device and say that it cured diseases, and there were no repercussions if the claims were false. With the Pure Food and Drug Act in 1906, Congress decided that any medications on the market had to accurately list ingredients. This helped get rid of the 'snake oils' but still didn't stop people from peddling devices like the Actina because they weren't under the auspices of drug laws. The government agency that made progress next in the fight against quackery devices turned out to be the U.S. Postal Service, which could penalize sellers for mail fraud for making misleading claims for products sold through the mail. Everything truly changed in 1931 when the Food and Drug Administration [FDA] was established, and in 1938, the Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act finally gave them the power to police and remove therapeutic devices from the market that weren't producing the results they claimed."

Dr. Miller keeps his collection (and knowledge of what's out there) up-to-date through his membership in the Ophthalmic Antiques International Collectors' Club, which is based in the U.K. Through this group, as well as networks in the U.S., Dr. Miller keeps an eye out for unique items to acquire.

Dr. Miller grew up in the Cleveland area, specifically Shaker Heights and Mayfield Heights. After earning an undergraduate degree in psychology at Ohio State, he stayed in Columbus to earn his optometry degree, graduating in 1987. Soon after graduation, he moved to Virginia Beach, eventually buying his own practice and raising triplets (now grown). Although he always has been interested in the history of optometry, his Eyeseum truly took off about 10 years ago.

Learn more about Dr. Miller's impressive collection at eyeseum.us, and feel free to contact him with device questions and leads at **andrew.miller@verizon.net**.

Ads for the Actina made outrageous claims.

At three and a half inches tall, the Actina's manufacturers claimed it could cure a variety of ailments, including blindness.

Fund Established in Memory of

Gil Pierce (OD'89, MS'94, PhD'94)

Gil Pierce (**OD'89, MS'92, PhD'94**), who passed away August 29, 2022, touched the lives of countless Ohio State Optometry students throughout his career as an educator.

According to Dean Karla Zadnik, OD, PhD, Dr. Pierce "helped generations of students find their way to becoming optometrists, teaching the art and science of clinical practice in the classroom and clinic. He served the college for many years on the Admissions Committee; many of our graduates will remember him across the table during their interview day. Many more will remember his love for Epsilon Psi Epsilon, the college fraternity, which he served as faculty advisor for many years. Saturday tailgates were some of his happiest, proudest times."

To honor Dr. Pierce's commitment to optometric education and Ohio State, we will name a space in our new clinic in his memory. You may support the fund at give.osu.edu/gilpierce. If you have already contributed a gift to the Gil Pierce fund, thank you so much for your generosity.

Memories of Mote

By Jim Noe, *Retired Assistant to the Dean*

July 1, 1968 was a significant date for Ohio State Optometry. It was the day that ushered in the beginning of our college status. The pre-existing School of Optometry, hidden since 1912 under the College of Arts and Sciences, was finally elevated to full college status and authorized to award the Doctor of Optometry (OD) degree to its graduates.

That date also happened to be the first day of my 16-year career as College Secretary and Assistant to the Dean. I was overwhelmed. I had served for several years as a high school counselor in Cincinnati and was entering higher education administration for the first time.

Fortunately for me, the first faculty person to whom I was introduced that July morning was a tall, lanky gentleman sporting a wrinkled, white lab coat by the name of **Herbert G. Mote** (**BS'35, MS'38**) or just Herb as he was known. He greeted me with a warm smile and firm handshake and invited me to join him for a cup of coffee.

Dr. Mote roamed the college halls and clinic with his trusty retinoscope jutting out of his pocket. His jaunty gait bounced him back and forth between the College Office and the Optometry Clinic where he assisted most days in teaching students who were completing their patient optometric examinations.

1935 Epsilon Psi Epsilon group photo, courtesy of Makio (The Ohio State University's yearbook). In this historic record, only last names were provided. Back row: Shirey, Wolfe, Howe, Rieckhoff, Garrison, Marsch. Middle row: Stark, Paradzinski, Mote, Donoghue and Westfall. Front row: Wilson, Kiess, Scull, Kettler, Turner, Dennison.

He took me under his wing and vowed to educate me about his beloved profession. I soon learned his passions – his wife, Elizabeth, a microbiology faculty member, followed in close order by the optometric profession and optometry students. Dr. Mote had been with the college since the early '50s and was responsible for many of the administrative duties I had been assigned. After discovering this, I was greatly relieved by his eagerness and enthusiasm to mentor me on the various functions I was to perform.

For the next several months and years, Dr. Mote and I became close friends and colleagues. He introduced me to most of the students and faculty. He put me in contact with the staff in central administration who would shepherd me through learning the various university processes necessary to facilitate our students' flow through our four-year curriculum. Because we shared the vices of coffee and cigarette smoking, we followed those habits into the student lounge, the hospital cafeteria, or walks around the campus. The subject of all our hours of conversation was always the same. Dr. Mote was insistent on infusing me with a deep understanding and appreciation for his profession.

He took me to optometry meetings and arranged visits to practicing optometrists throughout the state whom he considered to be leaders in the profession and a fertile source of future students. He encouraged me to liaise with other institutions in the state to help them create pre-optometry curriculums. He challenged me to increase our optometry applicant pool's numbers by working with advisors and counselors in University College and the College of Arts & Sciences.

Dr. Mote and his wife took home and housed an occasional new optometry student whose apartment contract had not been honored. He would see that students who needed financial assistance were helped. He counseled students having difficulties with their studies or marriages. He even found time to work with many local organizations such as the United Way, Camp Fire Girls, the Columbus Recreation Commission, and the Columbus Chamber of Commerce.

He encouraged graduates to pursue ethical optometric opportunities either in private practice or associate with those already in practice. He was a personal Rolodex for established optometrists looking for associates and acted as a facilitator to get doctors and graduates together to discuss the possibilities for a professional relationship. He kept track of older optometrists who wanted to sell their practices and put them in touch with students and/or graduates who might be interested in buying them.

> The subject of all our hours of conversation was always the same. Dr. Mote was insistent on infusing me with a deep understanding and appreciation for his profession.
>
> *Jim Noe*

In addition to his college administrative and clinical responsibilities, Dr. Mote was a lifetime member of the Ohio Optometric Association, serving as President from 1948 to 1950. He served as a consultant to the Ohio State Highway Patrol from 1951 to 1969, assisting them with vision-related issues. For his outstanding service to the profession, he was honored by the Ohio Association as Optometrist of the Year in 1973.

Dr. Mote became ill in 1973 and passed away in 1974. He left a deep legacy of a lifetime of service to the profession of optometry and The Ohio State University College of Optometry. He will always be remembered as a father figure by so many of our graduates. I can still see him sitting in my office in Fry Hall, one of his long legs entwined around the other, cigarette positioned on his lips, and his infectious smile directed toward me as he extolled about the great future of the optometric profession. Well, Herb, you were right! And you were a big part of making it great!

Inclusive Excellence

College of Optometry Receives "Insight Into Diversity" 2022 HEED Award

For the fourth consecutive year, The Ohio State University College of Optometry has received the 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 2022 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 was featured, along with 64 other recipients, in the December 2022 issue of INSIGHT Into Diversity magazine.

"We are committed to being leaders in inclusive excellence in optometry. That means that we endeavor to engage everyone in the work of teaching and learning optometry and vision science, in order to provide the best, most equitable optometric care to everyone," says Chief Diversity Officer and Clinical Professor Vondolee Delgado-Nixon, PhD. "This year we were particularly excited to share all our innovative work that demonstrates our ongoing commitment."

Student-centered, purposeful strategies increased student diversity, created a sense of community, and provided students with tools for success. Strategic highlights included: the Improving Diversity in Optometric Careers (I-DOC) summer student pipeline program; the Buckeye Launch five-day, immersive summer bridge program; and new coursework integrated into the curriculum for the Class of 2025. This coursework built upon Ohio State Optometry's existing curriculum, which included Implicit Bias with Mitigation Strategies, a second-year interprofessional course called Anti-Racism in Action (ARIA), and co-curricular book and film clubs, as well as invited speakers. A continued favorite is a discussion series led by the College of Optometry's dean.

"I teach first-year optometry students about health disparities by discussing *The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down* by Anne Fadiman," says Dean Karla Zadnik, OD, PhD. "Every year, I am inspired by their understanding and engagement of the issues raised by the book. Such discussions are key to our diverse, equitable, inclusive, and just future."

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

Visualizing Beautiful Music

Music Teacher Connects with Optometrists Shane Foster (OD'08), Heather Gebhart (OD'99) and Tyler Speelman (OD'13)

By Francesca Fuerman-George
Assistant Director of Alumni Engagement


Ms. Janice Cook

Janice Cook, who earned her bachelor's degree in music education from The Ohio State University in 1969, has been a piano teacher since high school, with a career spanning over 50 years. Her interest in children's vision health began when she was invited to speak at Music Teachers National Association (MTNA) in Athens, Ohio in Fall 2013. She laughs as she mentions that her attendance at the conference was centered on teaching musicians how to play a professional arrangement of "Happy Birthday" in a piano lab. With some free time on her hands, Ms. Cook went to hear **Shane Foster** (**OD'08**) deliver a talk before her own presentation.

She remembers that Dr. Foster showed a slide of how sheet music appears to a child with convergence insufficiency and went over the "hidden problems."

"I gasped," remarks Ms. Cook. "I started going through my mind of students I had in the past with sight reading issues." Dr. Foster then showed slides of what sheet music looked like with conversion excess and accommodative disorder. Ms. Cook recalls, "On my drive home that day, I began thinking there are two worlds of music: the sight readers and the performers who just sit down and play. We've always been taught that students are either auditory or visual learners. It kept gnawing at me when I got home."

Ms. Cook describes herself as a lifelong learner and knew after MTNA that she wanted to acquire more information about sight reading and vision issues.

About a decade later, Ms. Cook's own granddaughter was diagnosed with accommodative disorder. This was a turning point. She began referring more students to pediatric optometrists and began contacting optometrists. After gaining permission from **Heather Gebhart** (**OD'99**), Ms. Cook went to her practice one day and observed the optometrist diagnosing and treating children with binocular vision abnormalities. "I learned a great deal watching vision therapy. Now when I see a student with significant sight reading issues, I recommend that they get a comprehensive eye exam."

Ms. Cook met **Tyler Speelman** (**OD'13**) at an optometry practice while he was taking care of her eye injury. After speaking with him, he generously agreed to give a talk at the Columbus Piano Guild on "Sight, Vision, and Learning" on March 6, 2014.

In April 2022, Ms. Cook attended the COVD Conference (College of Optometrists in Vision Development) in Columbus and enjoyed learning from the section on music vision. She also is featured in the Winter 2023 edition of Piano Inspires Magazine in a story titled "Learn: Healthy Playing, Healthy Teaching: What Pianists Should Know about Hidden Vision Disorders."

"I feel like I have the best career ever," she says. "Often, I work with a child from age four or five until high school. I think it is important to nurture the whole child, to think that their personalities and self-esteem are affected by the quality of vision that they have. I have a front row seat to problem solving potential eye issues. I have run into some extraordinary doctors who care about the whole child. I am so fortunate to have Dr. Shane Foster rock my world. I am really proud of everything that I have learned. Now I am connected to the Ohio State Optometry."

Research Roundup

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

Congratulations to Heather Chandler, PhD, for her $3.8 million grant, *First Aid Medicine to Treat Vesicant Induced Corneal Injury*, awarded by the National Eye Institute under the CounterACT program to develop therapeutics to treat injuries resulting from chemical exposure. Mustard agents are potent chemical agents that cause vesicant damage to the cornea, resulting in corneal lesions followed by loss of limbal stem cells and prolonged ulceration and vascularization. Dr. Chandler and her collaborators will conduct proof-of-concept studies with a protein therapeutic to determine the efficacy and safety windows in rescuing corneal function.

T.J. Plageman, PhD, was awarded $25,000 by the Center for Medical and Engineering Innovation for a pilot study, *Optimization of a Novel Technique to Bioengineer Lens Organoids*. He and his collaborator, Katelyn Swindle-Reilly, PhD, will continue their work to develop a technique to generate lens organoid tissue that has the characteristics and organized differentiation process of an endogenous lens. Development of such an *in vitro* lens would be of great importance to the study of lens aging disorders, such as cataracts and presbyopia.

Dean VanNasdale, OD, PhD, continues his long-standing work with the National Association of Chronic Disease Directors with his new work, *Health Literacy among People with Vision Impairment*, funded with a $50,000 grant.

Jeffrey J. Walline (**OD, MS'98, PhD'02**) and **David A. Berntsen** (**OD, MS'04, PhD'09**) received a planning grant funded by the National Eye Institute. This two-year $485,340 grant funds planning of a randomized clinical trial to determine whether low-dose atropine can delay the onset of myopia, resulting in additional years of correction-free clear vision and potentially less myopia in adulthood. The grant will require 14 clinic centers to screen at least 250 6-11 year old schoolchildren to find pre-myopic children based on non-cycloplegic retinoscopy. In a companion study funded by a $39,900 grant from the Ohio Lions Eye Research Foundation (OLERF), each clinic center will also enroll five participants in a randomized clinical trial to determine the highest concentration of atropine (up to 0.05%) that children can tolerate. Ultimately, the investigators hope this work will provide the necessary data to justify a large-scale clinical trial to answer this important optometric question.

Drs. Deffler, Shelton and Steele

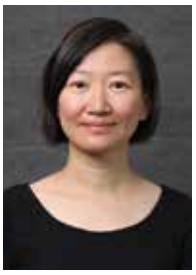
Ohio State Optometry Graduate Students Receive NIH Loan Repayment Awards

Rebecca Deffler (**OD, MS'19**), **Kelsy Steele** (**OD'16, MS'18**), and **Erica Shelton** (**OD/MS'18**) have been selected as two-time recipients of the National Institutes of Health Loan Repayment Award. This program, established by Congress, is designed to recruit and retain highly qualified health professionals into biomedical or biobehavioral research careers. The competitive Loan Repayment Award repays up to $50,000 of qualified educational debt annually for one-year or two-year award periods in exchange for a commitment to engage in NIH mission-relevant research. Drs. Deffler, Steele, and Shelton are fulfilling that commitment while completing their PhD in Vision Science as graduate students at The Ohio State University College of Optometry.

In addition to Dr. Walline's study, the Ohio Lions Eye Research Foundation awarded College of Optometry researchers four other grants:

Ann Morrison (OD'14, MS'16, PhD'21) is the 2022 recipient of the Lois Hagelberger Huebner Young Investigator Award for her proposal, *Emmetropization via Accommodation (EVA)*. This two-year $211,855 award will support her study to determine whether the emmetropization process can be enhanced in highly hyperopic infants. She also plans long-term follow-up of the infants.

Erica Shelton (OD/MS'18) received the 2022 OLERF Fellowship. Dr. Shelton will assess the quality of life improvements noted in children who participate in the iSEE with Vision to Learn mobile clinic program in southeast Ohio. The funding will support her trips to schools across the Ohio Appalachian region to administer focus groups and surveys to gather data.



Deyue Yu, PhD, is the recipient of the $30,000 2022 Neiderhauser AMD (age-related macular degeneration) grant. She will focus on developing novel subjective evaluation procedures to comprehensively assess patients' functional vision. The goal of the work is to develop assessments that can be used by patients with AMD remotely, both to allow tele-visits and self-monitoring of changes in visual status.

Heather Chandler, PhD, received the $20,000 W.R. Bryan Diabetic Eye Disease grant from OLERF. One of the strategies to treat advanced diabetic retinopathy is to remove the vitreous and replace it with silicone oil. Unfortunately, this treatment can have vision-threatening complications such as cataract and glaucoma and does not treat the underlying mechanisms associated with diabetic retinopathy. Her lab has developed a novel vitreous humor replacement to use instead of silicone oil that can release antioxidants into the eye to reduce oxidative stress, which is a contributor to diabetic retinopathy and cataract. This project will analyze treated tissue samples for markers of inflammation and oxidative stress. Results from this project will allow future work to focus on clinical application of this novel vitreous substitute in patients with diabetes.

Three Ohio State Optometry PhD Students Awarded 2022 Ezell Fellowships

Congratulations to **Rebecca Deffler (OD, MS'19)**, **Erica Shelton (OD/MS'18)** and **Marielle Reidy (OD/MS'19)** on their selection as recipients of a 2022 William C. Ezell Fellowship. Ezell Fellowships are prestigious awards given by the American Academy of Optometry Foundation to recognize and assist talented individuals in vision research with their pursuit of advanced degrees in optometric research and education. Dr. Deffler is a PhD student advised by **Bradley Dougherty (OD/MS'07, PhD'13)** and was awarded the American Academy of Optometry Foundation Ezell Fellowship. Dr. Shelton is a PhD student advised by Dean VanNasdale, PhD, and has been awarded the John N. Schoen Ezell Fellowship. Dr. Reidy is a PhD student advised by Don Mutti, OD, PhD, and received the Mike Daley/Essilor Ezell Fellowship.

Drs. Shelton, Reidy and Deffler

Looking ahead

Why Your Future Gifts Matter at Ohio State

It's no secret that the College of Optometry relies on the generous donations from alumni and friends to meet the needs of our students, put a quality education within their reach, and make innovative strides in vision research.

What some people do not realize is there are ways to support the college without writing a check or parting with your current assets. By using your will, estate plan, or other funds, you can make a meaningful difference for future generations of students and optometry leaders while putting your present-day financial needs first.

One of the most popular ways to leave a legacy gift to support the college is through a gift in your will. Why designate a gift in your estate plan?

1. Your current income or assets remain the same.
2. You can update your wishes at any time.
3. You can tailor your gift to support the areas or programs you are most passionate about at the college.

The value of your estate will likely fluctuate throughout your lifetime. Instead of giving a fixed dollar amount, consider gifting a percentage of your estate. Whether 1% or 100%, your gift makes a difference. You can also leave a percentage of your residual estate (the portion of your estate that remains after all claims of the estate are settled).

You can tailor your gift to reflect your passions and areas of interest. Whether it is supporting a specific program, establishing a scholarship, or making a contribution to our general needs, you can use your will to give a gift that is meaningful to you.

Consider these popular ways to give from your will:

- Unrestricted bequest. Provide the college with the greatest flexibility to use the gift where it is needed most at the time of receipt.
- Restricted bequest. Support a specific program or area of your choice.
- Endowed bequest. Designate your bequest to an endowed fund that is permanently invested to generate annual support from the fund's interest for the area you specify.

When you include a gift to the College of Optometry in your legacy plans, you ensure your support for Buckeyes continues well into the future.

Take the first step today

Our complimentary estate planning kit can help you discover tax-smart and heartfelt ways you can protect the security of your loved ones and make an impact at the college. Visit **go.osu.edu/estatekit** to download this valuable tool.

Have you already included the College of Optometry in your estate plans? We encourage you to let us know of any existing gift commitments. We would like the opportunity to thank you and ensure your gift is fulfilled according to your wishes. Plus, you will become a member of the Neil Legacy Society.

We have the language you need

Please contact the Office of Estate and Gift Planning today at 614-292-2183 or giftplan@osu.edu for the simple language to add to your estate plan. We've helped many alumni and friends like you take this important step in extending their legacy.

Congratulations

New American Academy of Optometry Fellows, Diplomates

New Diplomates

Nick Fogt (OD/MS'92, PhD'96)
Research Diplomate, Binocular Vision, Perception and Pediatric Optometry

Erin Rueff (OD'12, MS'14, PhD'16)
Diplomate, Cornea, Contact Lenses & Refractive Technologies

New Fellows

Nicole Auble (OD'21)
Kristen Bisig (OD'21)
Melissa Bollinger (OD'93)
Petr Boshinski (OD'17)
Grace Brasel, OD
Zachary Coates (OD/MS'19)
Sean Cushman (OD'21)
Paul Grigsby (OD'21)
Caroline Haberthy (OD/MS'15)
Megan Hafner (OD'20)
Kelly Lutmer (OD/MS'21)
Linh-An Nguyen (OD'19)
Douglas Widmer (OD'11/MS'16)

AAO Centennial Recognition Hall of Fame

Joe Barr (OD'77, MS'79)
Mark Bullimore, MCOptom, PhD
Sally Dillehay (OD, MS'86)
Mark Eger (OD'68)
J. Boyd Eskridge (MS'59, PhD'64)
Glenn Fry, PhD
Richard Hill, OD, PhD
Henry Hofstetter, PhD'42
Chris Johnson, PhD
Jerry Lowther (OD'67)
Don Mutti, OD, PhD
Thomas Quinn (OD'79, MS'81)
Loretta Szczotka-Flynn (OD/MS'92)
Michael Twa, (OD, MS'02, PhD'06)
Rick Weisbarth (OD'80)
Bradford Wild (PhD'59)
Jack Yager (OD'73)
Karla Zadnik, OD, PhD

We also would like to congratulate our Myers lecturers who were among the inductees:

Tony Adams, PhD
Ian Bailey, PhD
Peter Bergenske, OD
Irvin Borish, OD
Linda Casser, OD

Homecoming 2022

The seasons pass, the years will roll

Homecoming weekend brought together Buckeye Optometry Alumni from near and far.

"We're here, it's been 50 years. It's been awesome! It was my pleasure to help out and bring this to fruition. It's been a lot of fun to talk to everybody."

-Dr. Kaleel Shaheen, Reunion Chair of Golden Graduates

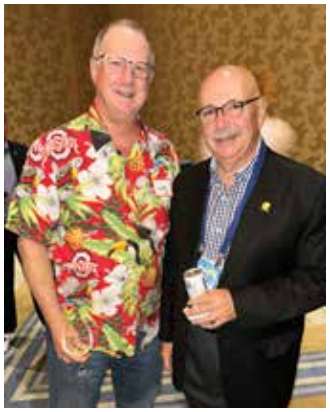
The Ohio State Optometry Class of 1972 at their 50th Reunion

Academy 2022 San Diego

How firm thy friendship, O-HI-O











The Ohio State Optometry Alumni reception at the American Academy of Optometry Meeting in San Diego was an epic event!

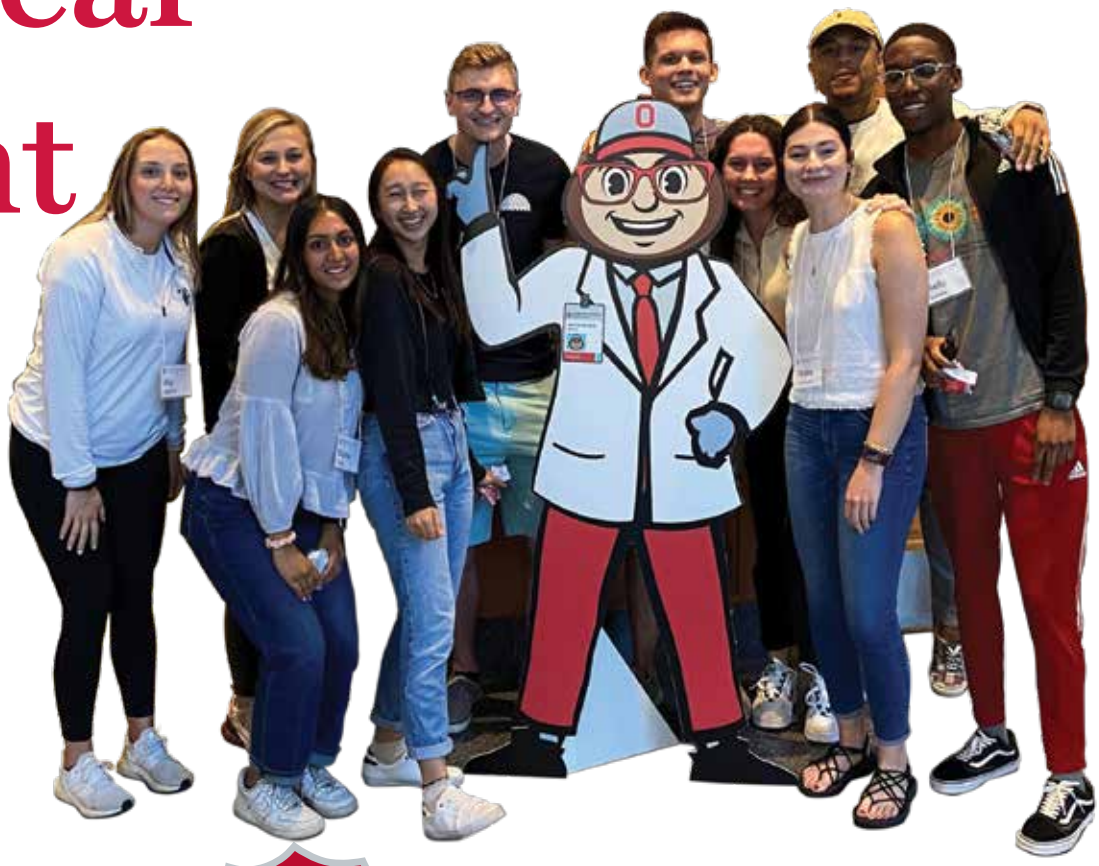
Row 1: **Stephanie Baxter (OD'08)** and **Annie Rudick Funk (OD'07, MHS)**, **Stevie Njeru (OD/MS'20)**, **Theresa Jay (OD'20)** and **Brian Jay (OD'18)**, David Damari, OD, Danne Ventura, and Rita Frumento Damari, **Melissa Bailey (OD/MS'01, PhD'04)** and **Lauren Grillot (OD/MS'10).**

Row 2: Kurt Zadnik and **Mark Eger (OD'68)**, Karla Zadnik, OD, PhD and **Andrew Steele (OD'15), Mo Merchea (OD'97, MS'99, PhD'03)** and **Kerry Giedd (OD/MS'00)**, **Jehann Dagher (OD'22)** and **Araba Otoo (MPH, OD'22).**

Row 3: **Anita Ticak (OD/MS'08)**, **Ann Morrison (OD'14, MS'16, PhD'21)** and **Cayti McDaniel (OD/MS'08)**, **Erin Rueff (OD'12, MS'14, PhD'16)** and **Kate McClure (OD'16)**, **Megan Hafner (OD'20)**, Jenna Murray Lehman, **Mawada Osman (OD/MS'20)**, **Joe Lehman (OD/MS'20)**, **Farah Hamade (OD'20)**, and **Jessica Wolfe (OD'20)**.

First-Year Student Profile

CLASS OF 2026



Students in the Class of 2026 are pictured here at Buckeye Launch, a weeklong orientation carefully designed to propel them to success.

69 Students

24 Men

45 Women

3.7 Average GPA

30 Ohio Residents

39 Non-Ohio Residents

Average OAT

342 Academic Average

339 Total Science

Alumni Notes

1 **1971-1991** **Mark Newman (OD/MS'91), Buckeye Bob Newcomb (OD'71, MPH),** and **Bruce Manning (OD'81)** brought Buckeye Optometry spirit to North Carolina this fall, as they attended the Ohio State Men's Basketball game versus Duke.

1977 **W. Howard McAlister (OD'77, MA, MPH)** received the Orion Award at the recent meeting of the Armed Forces Optometric Society held in conjunction with Academy 2022 San Diego. The Orion Award is the highest honor that AFOS can bestow for most significant contributions to the advancement of AFOS and Optometry.

1988-2011 Ohio State Optometry alumni competed in the Minster High School Alumni softball tournament August 12-14, 2022. **Karen Fortman (OD'94)** and **Mark Schmidt (OD'88)** played against **Dustin Gardner (OD'11, MS'13)** and **Valerie Gardner (OD'11)**. Dr. Valerie Gardner graduated from Minster, and the others' spouses graduated from Minster.

2 **2018** **Anne Rudick Funk (OD'07)** was named Army Optometrist of the Year by the Armed Forces Optometric Society at Academy 2022 in San Diego.

2007 **Bryce St. Clair (OD'18)** has been named a 2022 Top Doctor by *Baltimore Magazine*. Dr. St. Clair is an instructor in the Department of Ophthalmology and Optometric Residency Co-Coordinator at Johns Hopkins Medicine's Wilmer Eye Institute.

Births

5 **1979** **Thomas (OD'79, MS'81)** and **Susan (OD'82) Quinn** welcomed granddaughter Serafina Quinn Boals, born May 17, 2022.

3 **2014** **Stephanie Pisano (OD'14)** and her husband Michael welcomed daughter Lucia, born September 30, 2022.

4 **2014** **Phil Yuhas (OD/MS'14, PhD'19)** and his wife Emily welcomed son John Carroll Yuhas, born September 28, 2022.

Alumni Notes (cont'd.)

2016 **Bridget Grover** (**OD/MS'16**) and her husband Dan welcomed daughter Madison Lucia Grover, born July 27, 2022.

2017 **Danielle Orr** (**OD/MS'17**) and her husband Doug Dafler welcomed son Michael Orr Dafler, born August 18, 2022.

8 **2018** **Amber Lange** (**OD/MS'18**) and her husband Thomas welcomed son Landon Joseph Lange, born July 8, 2022.

6 **2018** **Steven Manning** (**OD'18, MS'20**) and his wife Allie welcomed son William Thomas Manning, born July 21, 2022.

10 **2018** **Elizabeth "Libby" Lemos** (**OD/MS'18**) and her husband Michael welcomed son Aiden, born July 22, 2022.

2019 **Silva Achmar-Hamade** (**OD'19**) and family welcomed daughter Isabella, born in September 2022.

2019 **Amber Slezak Hobbs** (**OD'19**) and her husband Nicholas welcomed daughter Selena Brielle Hobbs, born September 29, 2022.

14 **2019** **Connor Smallwood** (**OD'19**) and his wife Amanda welcomed daughter Amy Smallwood, born April 8, 2022.

2020 **Austin Eckel** (**OD'20**) and his wife Kendy welcomed son Paul Mason Eckel, born in August 2022.

Weddings

9 **1989** **Tony Fenton** (**OD'89**) married Kendra Kuckler on October 17, 2022. Dean Karla Zadnik, OD, PhD, was the officiant.

7 **2014** **Jessica Giesey** (**OD'14**) married Tim Burr in December 2021.

2019 **Kelly Morgan** (**OD/MS'19**) married Joseph Edward Hayden on June 18, 2022.

12 **2019** **Linh-An Nguyen** (**OD'19**) married Aren Olson on August 12, 2022.

11 **2020** **Angelica Polizzi** (**OD'20**) married Nathan Libertowski on June 18, 2022.

13 Senior Graphic Designer Kerri McTigue married Bee Jay Brown on September 3, 2022. Dean Karla Zadnik officiated, and the wedding party included **Ann Morrison** (**OD'14, MS'16, PhD'21**), Director of Marketing and Communications Sarah Cupples, and **Joe Blake** (**OD'14**).

In Memoriam

1950 **William L. Hoffman** (**BS'50**) passed away on September 10, 2022. He was 98.

1951 **Karl B. Lubitz** (**BS'51**) passed away on August 11, 2022. He was 97.

1957 **Gordon Arthur Bixel** (**BS'57, OD'76**) passed away on September 24, 2022. He was 95.

1962 **William W. (Wally) Hill** (**BS'62**) passed away on October 1, 2022. He was 83.

1964 **Vincent Mervin King** (**BS'64, MS'67**) passed away on October 9, 2022. He was 80.

1977 **Thomas A. Brannon** (**OD'77**) passed away on September 4, 2022. He was 87.

1984 **Jean Heisman** (**OD'84**) passed away on December 5, 2022. She was 64.

1989 **Gilbert E. Pierce** (**OD'89, MS'92, PhD'94**) passed away on August 29, 2022. He was 59.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Save the Date

The Ohio State University College of Optometry

Binocular Vision Pediatrics (BVPEDS) Forum

Date:
March 17, 2023

Speaker:
Dr. Marie Bodack
Professor and Chief of Pediatric Primary Care Service
Southern College of Optometry

Learn more and register at:
go.osu.edu/BVPF