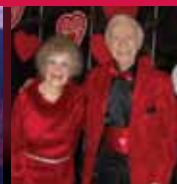
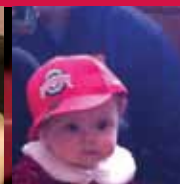




Cornett Awarded Ewalt Medal

spring 2013



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on the cover:

Dean Mel Shipp, OD, MPH, DrPH congratulates Richard Cornett on receiving the H. Ward Ewalt Medal.

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FROM THE DEAN

From the Dean

Dear Optometry Alumni and Friends:

Welcome to the 2013 Spring issue of the *BuckEYE Optometry Alumni Magazine*.

Spring is in the air. . . and so are change and renewal! We've said goodbye to some familiar faces and hello to some new ones. We also have several stories about alumni and students who rediscovered old passions or changed careers.

In our cover story, we celebrate with **Larry Cusma (OD '75)** as he rediscovers his passion for acting 45 years after leaving the theater. We look forward to hearing more about his performances with The Stillwater Players Among Others, Inc.

Just before last Christmas, two of our staff members, Doreen Landess and Sally Haltom, retired from the College of Optometry. We asked them about their best memories of the College.

In the College News section, we welcome our newest members of the Optometry Alumni & Friends Board, **Janel Elamin ('15)** and **Chris Smiley (OD '01)**, as well as new staff members, Julie Megchelsen and LaShanda Coleman. Julie is our resident social media expert, and she has renovated our Twitter account by adding several new microblogs. Please sign up for Twitter and follow @OSUOptometry to see all our exciting new updates. You'll even see updates from me on occasion.

We have an update on our progress in the But For Ohio State Campaign from Rachel Childress, whose tireless efforts have gotten us past the half way point. I sincerely hope you'll join your fellow alumni in helping us reach our goal of \$10 million.

Last month our new Alumni Coordinator, Kerry Gastineau, created a charming Valentine's Day Facebook contest called Only had Eyes for a Buckeye. I'd like to thank all of you for the overwhelming response. I know you'll enjoy reading about the results.

As is always the case, I've run out of room before running out of accolades. There are many other noteworthy alumni, faculty, staff, and students featured in this issue of our magazine. Thanks and congratulations to all of you for doing what you do so well.

Best wishes for a warm, enjoyable spring,

Melvin D. Shipp, OD, MPH, DrPH
Dean, OSU College of Optometry



March 2013

If you are reading this letter, then you have made it to page 5 (the usual location of my meanderings) of your award winning *BuckEYE* magazine. I ask you to go back and look at page 2 again, please. I hope that you appreciate all of those folks listed as much as I do. We are fortunate to have these people committing their time to our College, and we don't say thank you often enough. While you are reviewing this page, pay particular attention to your OAF board members, student reps, and our Editor (**Jeffrey Myers (OD'84)**). This is the volunteer side of the slate, and they deserve our special thanks and recognition.

I would like also to recognize a true friend to Optometry from within our parent organization, The Ohio State University Alumni Association. Erin Essak-Kopp is the director of Advancement Events and Alumni Programs. Erin has been offered a position outside of the University and is leaving us very soon. She will be missed by her friends at OSUAA, and I will miss her greatly as well. Thanks, Erin!

The end of spring quarter usually gets here too quickly but especially this year with the change to semesters. I need to get over to the clinic and get my annual eye exam while the second year students are jumping into clinic for the first time. Besides, those exams are free if you're willing to sit for a second year exam. It's good for them to get to examine a 60-something guy who used to always be able to tell the difference between lens one and two but can't anymore. Way too many responses that they look the same! Can you show me that again?

Even though spring is just arriving, it's not too early to look ahead to this fall. OSU football will be going out to Cal Berkeley. Right now there is only a small contingent of OSU ODs going out to Berkeley for the game. OSUAA has a trip planned, which includes game tickets, and there will also be some serious tailgating with the Berkeley OD folks for you as well. Let us know, and we can get you the need-to-know info.

I made this point in my last article but feel it is necessary to repeat. Your OSU OD degree is only as good as the last one given. Our alumni support is necessary now more than ever..

As always, "Affirm thy Friendship, O-HI-O!"

Roger L. Saneholtz (OD'74)

President, OSU Optometry Alumni & Friends



Who Made That Decision?



One of the few bad decisions that Walt Disney made in planning and executing Disneyland in Anaheim, California, was having too small a property. By his own admission, having just over 500 acres was inadequate to really fulfill the dream he had. The property had about 28,000 visitors on opening day in July 1955 and boasted just over 16 million visitors in 2011.

When Disney realized that only 5% of the visitors to Disneyland were from east of the Mississippi River, while 75% of the population lived there, he saw opportunity. The Disney team had settled on Florida for the site of a new park, due to its good weather suitable for year-round operation and its already existing stature as a tourist destination. In November 1963, a visit to Florida sealed the decision that the Orlando area was the location. Its highway and road network with the Florida Turnpike and planned I-4, a large airport, and lots of undeveloped land would eventually make Orlando a world-class city and the vacation destination for millions from the entire planet.

Disney went about purchasing about 28,000 acres in the area over the next two years, paying as little as \$80/acre for the pastures, swamps, scrub forests, and fruit groves. He used a variety of dummy corporations to covertly buy the land, paying about \$5.5 million. In 2011, almost 17 million people visited the Magic Kingdom at Walt Disney World, making it the most visited amusement park in the world.

My question is this: did Walt Disney have any clue what the impact of that simple decision in November 1963 would be? Could he have possibly envisioned the powerful impact his decision would have on the Orlando region and the state of Florida? Unfortunately, Disney passed in 1966, a year after announcing the new park and five years before it opened.

For us, do we realize the impact of the decisions we make in our lives? Do we realize the impact of the recommendations we make for our patients, for our employees, or even for our students?

Where we decided to practice, teach, or be employed in our profession has an effect on the geographic area in which our children are raised, the culture and values they will encounter, and the opportunities they will experience. The effects of our decisions will last a lifetime for our children and will perhaps even extend to our grandchildren.

Each day, our prescriptions, whether lenses, medications, or counsel, have the potential to impact our patients' lives. In fact, most of our prescriptions are made with the expectation that a patient's vision and life will benefit. Consider that the child for whom you prescribed +5.00 eyewear last month will allow that patient the gift of reading and ability to learn independently for a lifetime. Or consider the glaucoma patient you treat with medication to maintain vision in the one eye that was not lost to glaucoma prior to their arrival in your practice. Or even consider the patient with burning and stinging from dry eye and blepharitis for whom you prescribe better lid hygiene and lubrication.

What you do every day makes an impact for the folks who visit you. It may not have the impact that Walt Disney's decision had, but for the people that you care for, it may make all the difference in the world. Accept that responsibility with the knowledge you may be changing a life.

Jeffrey A. Myers (OD'84)

BuckEYE Editor



Reviving Some Roots

by Jeffrey A. Myers (OD'84)

Larry Cusma (OD'75) (on the right) and costar Terry Ford in a scene from Neil Simon's *The Prisoner of 2nd Avenue*.

Often, adults will find their way back to a hobby or interest of their youth once the daily responsibilities of raising children are complete. It might be a sport, collecting, music, an artistic endeavor, or cars. For **Larry Cusma (OD'75)**, it was a return to the theater. A seed that was planted more than 45 years ago has germinated and sprouted into an interest and passion that allows him an outlet outside his practice.



Lead Story



Cusma in a scene from "The Prisoner of 2nd Avenue."



Cusma and costar Bonnie McKeown in the play.

His acting career started simply enough; he played the role of a country clergy in a 1967 production of "Sweet Violet," a play written by his high school English teacher. That seed lay dormant for many years, until last winter, when he answered a newspaper ad for the Stillwater Players Among Others, Inc. acting troupe. The dinner theater group was looking for an actor in his 50s or 60s to play a role in Neil Simon's comedy, "The Prisoner of 2nd Avenue".

He reported for an audition and read lines about three times for the director. He had already determined that a play was good for him, as he did not sing or dance, eliminating a musical. A few days later, he received a call to not just be an actor in the play but to portray the role of Mel Edison, the lead. He was quite surprised and

humbled by the opportunity. He was told that he had the look and ambition, and they were willing to work with him.

After accepting the invitation, he asked about the intensity of the role. He was told that while he was the lead, he was not on every page of the 86-page script; he was only on 82 of them. When he asked how long he had to learn his portion of the script, he was told that he had 2 ½ months, rehearsals were three nights a week for three hours a night, culminating in three weekends of performances with three performances each weekend. He dove into the rehearsals and gave the process 110%. Both the other actors and directors were very supportive and encouraging. His first performance in more than four decades was well-received by critics.



The Stillwater Players Among Others, Inc. (www.spaotheater.org) acting troupe has been in existence since 1989, producing more than 30 dinner theatre productions, including "Last of the Red Hot Lovers," "The Female Odd Couple," "Bus Stop," "Arsenic and Old Lace," and "Barefoot in the Park." Prior to beginning dinner theater in 1996, the troupe produced four musicals, including "The Sound of Music" & "Fiddler on the Roof." Prior to that, the group had 12 other plays to its credit. Currently, the performances are presented in the Stillwater Parish Center, also called All Saints on the Hudson, in Stillwater, New York.

Dr. Cusma grew up in the Wilkes-Barre/Scranton area of Pennsylvania, and graduated from King's College in Wilkes-Barre with his BS degree. After choosing optometry from a variety of health care programs, he graduated from the college in 1975 and was active in Epsilon Psi Epsilon. He fondly remembers Dr. Herb Mote as being a great influence on his life. After practicing for a year or so in Syracuse, New York, he and his wife visited her college roommate in Scotia, New York. He liked the area and opened his practice cold in 1976. Scotia is a few miles from Schenectady in the Albany region of upstate New York. He is looking forward to retiring in a few years.

He is serving as the Communications Liaison for the New York State Optometric Association and is active

"As grueling and time-consuming as the rehearsals are, the end product and the standing ovations are well worth the effort of my new-found hobby."

Larry Cusma (OD'75)

in the New York State Capitol District Buckeye Booster Club. His hobbies include boating, fishing, camping, and traveling for continuing education. One of his favorite experiences was a Tropical CE program in Barbados a few years ago, when he reconnected with several of his classmates from the Class of 1975.

Dr. Cusma's family includes his wife of 40 years, Mary Lou, who has a degree in English with a minor in



Larry Cusma (OD'75) and Dave Loshin (OD'75) with a vision training patient.

Dr. Cusma with his daughter Jill, son Jared, and wife Mary Lou



4 Generations: (clockwise l to r) Cusma, son Jared, father Walter, and granddaughter Riley



Trout fishing in upstate New York



OSU football with Jared

drama/theater. Their son, Jared, is an elementary school teacher and is working on his optician license in his dad's practice. Jared is married to Linda, and they have a daughter, Riley, who was born in 2012. Cusma's daughter, Jill, is married to Jeff, and they are both nurses; Jill works for Visiting Nurses of Schenectady, and Jeff works with mentally handicapped patients living in group homes. Jill and Jeff have a daughter, Grace, also born in 2012.

The future in theater for Dr. Cusma? He feels that the acting bug has bitten him hard. Even with his wife's minor in drama/theater, the time and effort put into rehearsals and productions has been a challenge. She refers to his acting as a delayed "mid-life crisis". Nonetheless, negotiations to do one show each year have been agreed upon. Cusma reflects, "As grueling and time consuming as the rehearsals are, the end product and the standing ovations are well worth the effort of my new-found hobby." Break a leg in those upcoming productions, Dr. Cusma.



HAPPY RETIREMENT!

In December, two of our staff members retired: Doreen Landess, Director of Billing and Claims, and Sally Haltom, Director of Student Affairs. We asked each of them to tell us a little about the time they spent at the College of Optometry and what they plan to do during retirement.

Doreen Landess began her OSU career working in the Exercise Physiology Department of the College of Education. However, before coming to OSU she had 16 years of experience working in optometry. So, when a position at our College became available she jumped at the chance. She started in the specialty clinics reception area and later transferred to billing. When she came for her interview, **Joseph T. Barr (OD'77, MS'79)** ran her up four flights of stairs, talking all the time, and she was too out of breath to reply. She thought to herself, "These people have lots of energy!" That proved very true later on when the billing department had to move five times to accommodate

"The best memories are working with the faculty, staff and student workers."

Doreen Landess

remodeling projects. During her retirement, Doreen plans to visit her daughter in Europe and friends who live in sunny, warm states. She is looking forward to getting an early start on her gardening and would also like to break in her new stove by trying out the recipes she has been collecting from magazines for years. Here's what she had to say about her time here:

"The best memories are working with the faculty, staff and student workers. Being a small college, we have shared many events in people's lives, and some of us are like family. I enjoy talking to graduates when they get out in practice and call to ask how to bill for a procedure. One time, the students working in my office saw I was having a bad day; there were endless phone calls from patients with problems, and I guess I was getting a little flustered. When they went to lunch they came back with flowers. Another time, Sandy Workmaster painted a mural of a sandy ocean beach scene and taped it to the wall, so I would have something pleasant to look at. We always celebrate everyone's birthday and special holidays in the billing office, and those are happy times we all look forward to."



Doreen Landess (center) surrounded by her family at her retirement party.



Sally poses with flowers from her son.



Kim Oyer, Carol Wilcox, and Lynn Wolters at Sally's retirement party.

Sally Haltom worked in Student Affairs at the OSU College of Pharmacy before coming to Optometry. She was recommended for the position by Sue Wynn, the previous Director of Student Affairs, who served on a campus committee with Sally. Sue believed Sally would be the ideal person for the job, and she was right. Sally has provided such stellar service that she received a University Distinguished Staff Award, presented on the field at the 'shoe during last year's Purdue game. During her retirement Sally plans to relax, do a lot more reading, play her new baby grand piano, and do some traveling to warm, sunny places. Here's what she had to say about working here:

"My best memories all involve my participation in the wonderful community that is OSU Optometry and all the great things I've experienced working with our outstanding students, faculty and staff. I loved having the privilege of welcoming each year's new class as they come through the orientation process and helping them navigate the new world of optometry school then sitting and watching each year's graduating class get their doctoral hoods, and helping them celebrate their success as they get ready to venture out into the world as new professionals! I also have so many great memories of meeting prospective students at Pre-Optometry Club meetings and the annual Open House programs and seeing their excitement as they learn about what OSU Optometry has to offer them. My favorite memories are of working with so, so many of our students one-on-one in all kinds of different ways. It's been a total joy to watch our awesome students make their way through the four challenging years of our program, and marveling, over and over again, at how they gradually transform themselves from fledgling, tentative learners into confident new vision care professionals ready to step into their new roles with relish!"



Sally celebrating with her son Mike

"My favorite memories are of working with so, so many of our students."

Sally Haltom



Dean Melvin Shipp, Sally, and The Ohio State University President E. Gordon Gee

Welcome our newest member of the Optometry Alumni & Friends Board!

Janel Elamin ('15) was born and raised in Avon Lake, Ohio, a suburb of Cleveland with her parents and brother, Alix. Janel attended Avon Lake High School and graduated in 2005. Janel went on to The Ohio State University for her undergraduate degree and attained a BS in Biology in 2009 with honors.

While on campus, she participated in the International Affairs Scholars and Honors Program, which offered a living and learning environment, making the campus feel smaller and more like family for her. The group of students lived together, had classes together, and even shared travel experiences. Through the International Affairs Office, she traveled to Brazil for 2-1/2 weeks as well as Toronto and looked forward to monthly international nights where students shared varied ethnic cuisine and culture from around the world. The most interesting place Janel has traveled is Lebanon, which is 50 percent of her family heritage. Janel's honors advisor, David Stetson, served as a mentor to Janel during her undergraduate years, always providing her support and encouragement and even writing a recommendation letter for Janel to optometry school.

Post undergrad, Janel indulged her passion for reading and took a job at Barnes and Noble Bookstore. While working, a family friend employed with Pearle Vision recommended Janel for an administrative and technician position at



Janel testing out her BIO!

Pearle Vision. It was there that she received a firsthand look at ocular anatomy and disease by taking retinal photos with an Optos Retinal Imaging System, and it was these photos that sparked her interest to pursue a degree in optometry. She does not have any optometrists in her family, but her mom, Maggie, is an occupational therapist.

Janel applied to The Ohio State University College of Optometry and the Southern College of Optometry, but OSU's proximity to home played a big role in her choice. Janel believes the professors make OSU Optometry unique and special. Janel is looking forward to the upcoming preclinic renovation as the quality and appearance of the facilities are very important to students.

Janel is the NOSA (National Optometric Student Association) Vice President and while attending a conference in Toronto, she was pleased to see how challenging and rigorous the OSU curriculum is when comparing stories and similar experiences with other students at the conference.

Janel's role model is **Dawn Goedde (OD'04)** because she is enthusiastic about optometry and patient care, just like Janel; however her list of mentors does not stop with Dr. Goedde. She also admires **Jacqueline Davis (OD'81, MPH)** and Dr. Vondolee Delgado-Nixon. Janel has had the opportunity to see Dr. Davis and Dr. Delgado-Nixon interact with people of all socioeconomic backgrounds at NOSA optometric screenings. Their kindness, empathy, and treating each patient with dignity and respect stood out as characteristics that Janel hopes to capture in her optometric career. Janel feels all three professors are very strong female role models and strong clinicians.

After graduation in 2015, Janel plans to do a residency but is uncertain about her specialty area.



Janel with **Kimona Lawrence ('15)** and **Jackie Davis (OD'81, MPH)**

New Staff Members



Julie Megchelsen

Julie Megchelsen

Julie Megchelsen (silent “ch”) works in the Dean’s office as a program assistant, assisting with social media applications and administrative functions. She writes articles for the web site and the alumni magazine, and she manages the College Twitter account. She tweets about College announcements, awards (students, faculty, and staff), and items found on the web of interest to optometry.

Julie grew up in Chicago, leaving at age 17 to live in a variety of places, including Kentucky, West Virginia, South Carolina, and Pennsylvania. She attended Carlow University in Pittsburgh from 2006 to 2010. She was encouraged by her writing mentor to publish her stories on Kindle, and she writes fantasy stories under the penname “Julie McClure.”

Julie’s interest in social media came about when she wanted to promote her stories. She writes articles for several web sites, including eHow, Yahoo, Google’s Blogger web site, and Hub Pages.

Julie would like to engage current and prospective students through social media, and she would like all our alumni to have Twitter accounts. In order to set up an account and follow the tweets from the College of Optometry, use the following steps:

Go to <https://twitter.com>.

Enter full name, e-mail address, and password in the “new to twitter sign up.”

Search “@OSUOptometry.”

Click “follow.”

Julie likes to make pies in her spare time and she owns a very large and smart Maine Coon cat.



LaShanda Coleman with her sons Jamari and Jameer

LaShanda Coleman

LaShanda Coleman works as a program assistant at the College of Optometry Office of Student Affairs. She coordinates the application process, gathering all materials from Optomcas (Optometry Centralized Application Center), as well as OAT scores and the supplemental application. She builds the application for review by the Admissions Committee, and she answers questions from students applying to the College.

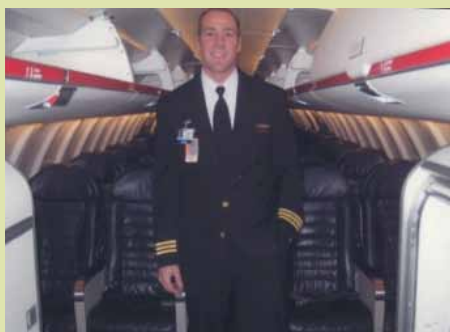
LaShanda also serves on the Diversity Enhancement Committee, where she is in charge of updating the diversity page of the College’s web site.

Prior to coming to the College, LaShanda worked for three years as an office manager at Student Academic Services. She also worked at the Franklin County Extension Office as a program assistant, providing courses to low income families at a variety of locations.

She currently also works as a personal trainer and group fitness coach and is certified through the Aerobics and Fitness Association of America (AFAA). She owns her own company, “Fearless Diva Productions”. She is active in Zeta Phi Beta, participating in the graduate chapter and serving as adviser for OSU’s undergraduate chapter.

LaShanda earned her bachelor’s degree in education from The Ohio State University in 2004, and she has a specialization in sports and leisure studies. In 2011, she earned her master’s degree in student affairs and higher education from Indiana State University.

LaShanda has two sons, Jamari (5 years) and Jameer (2 years).



Josh Wolf ('15) in his pre-optometry days as a pilot at Comair.

Student Spotlight: Josh Wolf, Class of 2015

My path to a career in Optometry has been somewhat unorthodox. With that being said, I wouldn't change a thing. I grew up in Salem, Ohio. As I neared the end of my high school days, it became apparent that I needed to make a career choice. My father was a commercial airline pilot and seemed to love what he did. Not having a real good idea what I wanted to do, I started taking flying lessons, and really enjoyed it. During the summer before my senior year of high school, I obtained my private pilot's license and decided to attend Jacksonville University in Jacksonville, Florida, following in my father's footsteps.

I graduated from Jacksonville University with a degree in aviation and was hired as a flight instructor which allowed me to build flight time. Soon I was hired by Comair, a regional airline wholly owned by Delta Airlines, to fly a Canadair Regional Jet. I was extremely excited to start what I thought was going to be a long fulfilling aviation career. Unfortunately, a downturn in the economy directly affected the airline industry, and I was laid off six months after I started due to "right sizing." Three months later, the company recalled those of us that were laid off, and I was back flying only to have scares of more layoffs in the years to come. I decided that the lack of job security and constant travel was not for me, and I took a job working in the aviation safety department with NetJets, a Columbus-based company. While my experience at NetJets was very good, I still felt like there was something else out there for me, and I wasn't completely happy.

Coincidentally, I had dinner with an acquaintance from my hometown who had made a career change from engineering to optometry. We came from different backgrounds but had extremely similar stories. After having dinner with him that night, I shadowed him and several other optometrists, and I knew that a career in optometry was right for me. I was amazed at how such a big decision



Josh Wolf ('15) with his parents at the 2012 White Coat Ceremony.

could be so easy to make and seem so right! I enrolled in classes at The Ohio State University to take the prerequisite courses required by all optometry colleges, as my aviation degree had very little in common with the core requirements needed to enter optometry school. Once I neared the end of my prerequisites, I started the lengthy application process for optometry school. I looked at a number of different schools; however, it seemed like Ohio State was the perfect fit for me. Fortunately, they thought so too, and I was accepted into the class of 2015!

Now that my class is well into the second year of courses, things are starting to get very exciting. We are starting to learn the clinical skills required to provide a comprehensive eye exam, and in just a few short months, we will be seeing patients in the clinic. In addition, I've had the opportunity to meet some great people who will be life-long colleagues, but more importantly, life-long friends. Also, I have had the opportunity to get involved by joining student government as the president of the class of 2015 and becoming a member of various other organizations. One group in particular that I really enjoy is the Private Practice Club. They bring in speakers who are private practice owners. They tell us about their experiences and give us ideas and tips on how to run a successful business. Upon graduating, I would like to work in a private practice and eventually be a part owner in a multi-doctor practice.



Chris Smiley (OD'01) Joins OAF Board

Christopher Allen Smiley (OD '01) entered the field of vision care to practice optometry with an emphasis in specialty contact lenses, refractive surgery, and anterior segment diseases of the eye. While striving to practice eye care at the highest level possible, Dr. Smiley, a community philanthropist and volunteer, also wanted to serve as a leader and role model for future optometrists. He recently became a board member of Optometry Alumni and Friends.

Smiley graduated with honors in 1994 from Worthington Kilbourne High School. He originally pursued a degree in Zoology from Miami University of Ohio but quickly transferred to the Pre-Optometry program at The Ohio State University, studying molecular genetics and physiological optics. As an undergraduate student, he was involved with the OSU Pre-Optometry Club, Sigma Phi Epsilon Fraternity, Alpha Lambda Delta Honor Society, and Phi Eta Sigma Honor Society. Chris eventually pursued a degree in Optometry, completing externships at the Chillicothe Veterans Administration Medical Center and at TLC Laser Eye Centers.

His multiple honors while pursuing his OD degree include: Gold Key International Optometric Honor Society, Beta Sigma Kappa International Optometric Honor Society, Latham and Phillips Dispensing Award, and an American Optometric Foundation / VISTAKON® Award of Excellence in Patient Contact Lens Care.

Upon graduation, he purchased an existing two-location private practice, formerly owned by **Thomas D. Gilbert (OD'74)** with locations in Worthington and New Albany, Ohio. It is a full-scope optometric practice with emphasis in cornea, specialty contact lens fitting, primary eye care, and glaucoma diagnosis/management. While practicing, he oversees all marketing, accounting, and operational functions of the practice. In addition, he is a Clinical Assistant Professor for The Ohio State University College of Optometry. Since 2010, he has welcomed forth year Optometry externs to his private practice. He also serves as a lecturer to Optometry students in the areas of specialty contact lenses and business management.



Chris Smiley (OD'01) with his wife Melissa, son Morgan, Tigger, Winnie the Pooh, and daughter Kendall on vacation.

As a congenital heart defect survivor, his charitable focus centers around supporting children with congenital heart defects, and their families, through Nationwide Children's Hospital Heart Center and Adults with Congenital Heart Association (ACHA), along with other numerous community charities and educational programs. He is a Presidents Circle member of the American Optometric Foundation (AOF). He is a member of Church of the Resurrection (New Albany, OH) and a 3rd Degree Member, Knights of Columbus.

Dr. Smiley is a rising optometric star in Franklin County but still finds time for his passions. His hobbies and interests include fishing, automobiles, and personal fitness. He and his wife, Melissa have two children, Kendall (age 9) and Morgan (age 5), two Rhodesian Ridgebacks, and a beagle.

Thanks for your commitment and welcome to the OAF Board!



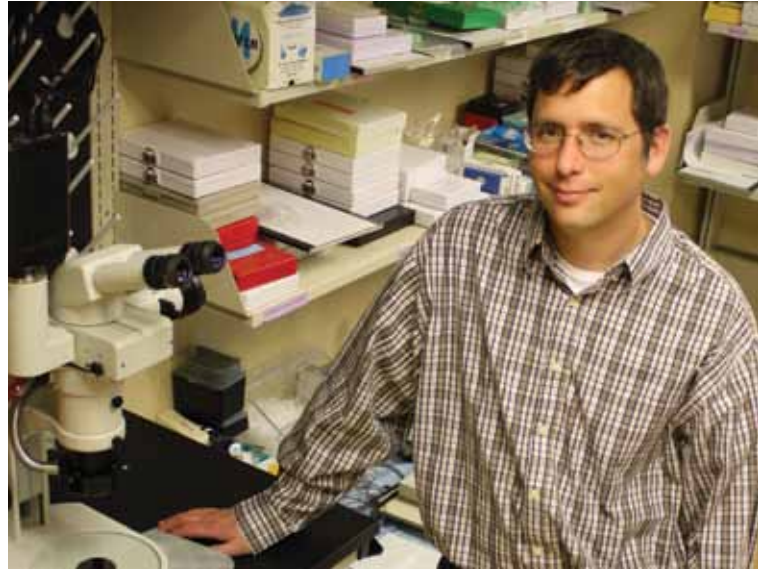
Chris Smiley (OD'01) and his wife Melissa posing with the toppled top at the Alumni Reunion Weekend.

New Faculty Member

Timothy F. Plageman, Jr., PhD

T.J. Plageman started as an Assistant Professor at the College this January. He came to us from the Cincinnati Children's Hospital, where he did a post-doctoral fellowship in the organogenesis program. He earned his Ph.D. in Molecular and Developmental Biology at the University of Cincinnati and his B.S. in Molecular Genetics from The Ohio State University. He will teach pharmacology to our students in the future.

His research involves studying the morphogenesis of the crystalline lens. Specifically, he is looking at how the cells of the surface ectoderm change shape as the lens vesicle is formed in embryonic development. His interest in developmental biology came at an early age, when he saw the film *Jurassic Park* as a child. He wanted to learn more about how an organism grew from a cell and how different cells developed different shapes and functions. His studies of the lens grew out of a proposal he wrote for his Ph.D. qualifying exams while he was working on the development of the embryonic heart.



T.J. began life as a Buckeye. He grew up in Northwest Ohio in Jenera, near Findlay. His father was a wildlife biologist who worked for the Ohio Department of Natural Resources. While at the University of Cincinnati, he lived in his great grandfather's house in Hamilton, Ohio.

T.J. is married to Kari, and they have four children: Timothy (10), Emily (8), Matthew (5), and Ethan (2). He enjoys coaching soccer and basketball, and he anticipates spending time gardening this summer.

FACULTY PROMOTIONS

Congratulations to the following faculty who were promoted:

Andrew Emch (OD/MS'08) promoted to Assistant Professor of Clinical Optometry, effective December 2012.

Dawn Goedde (OD'04) promoted to Associate Professor of Clinical Optometry, effective January 2013.

Nicky Lai, (OD/MS'03) promoted to Associate Professor of Clinical Optometry, effective January 2013.

Cayti McDaniel, (OD/MS'08) promoted to Associate Professor of Clinical Optometry, effective January 2013.

ICO Visit

Arol Augsburger (OD/MS'71), president of the Illinois College of Optometry, and his Board of Trustees visited The Ohio State University College of Optometry in February 2013. Dr. Augsburger and his Board members are dedicated to learning how the role of governance is best accomplished at other optometry programs around the country, as a means to help them with continuous improvement as a Board of Trustees. The visit marked their sixth campus visit during the last six years and the first to a state university with an academic medical center.

Dean Shipp Elected to Royal Society of Public Health

Congratulations to Dean Melvin Shipp for being elected an Honorary Fellow of the Royal Society for Public Health. Dr. Shipp completed his term as president of the American Public Health Association in November and is now immediate past president.

The Royal Society for Public Health is an independent, multi-disciplinary organization dedicated to the promotion and protection of collective human health and well being. Through advocacy, mediation, empowerment, knowledge and practice they advise on policy development, provide education and training services, encourage scientific research, disseminate information and certify products, training centers and processes.

Upward Bound Students Visit the College of Optometry

Twenty students from Columbus-area high schools who are part of the Upward Bound program visited the College of Optometry on Saturday, January 12 for a morning of eye-related activities. The students were accompanied by Ms. Rabekah Stewart, Upward Bound program manager, and Mr. Marchem Pfeiffer, counselor for Upward Bound.



photo: Julie Megchelsen

Drs. Jackie Davis and Barbara Fink assist students with the intricacies of eye dissection.

Barbara Fink (OD, MS'85, PhD'87), chair of the Diversity Enhancement Committee, welcomed the students. **Jacqueline Davis (OD'81, MPH)** provided an interactive PowerPoint presentation on the eye in systemic diseases. The students used clickers to answer questions about ocular involvement in lung cancer, Marfan syndrome, diabetes, high blood pressure, and other systemic diseases. Dr. Vondolee-Delgado Nixon led the students through a guided dissection of cow eyes.

The Upward Bound Program is part of the federal TRiO programs, which are educational opportunity outreach programs designed to motivate and support students from disadvantaged backgrounds. The mission of The Ohio State University Upward Bound Program is to instill and foster necessary skills, talents, and motivation needed for each participant to successfully graduate from high school and then enroll in and complete their post-secondary education.

ALUMNI NEWS

Congratulations to the following:

American Academy of Optometry Fellows:

Laura Ashley (LA) E. Lossing (OD'11)

Nicole C. Ross, OD (residency '12)

Monica Roy (OD'11, MPH)

Nahrain M. Shasteen (OD'09, MS'12)

Anita Ticak (OD/MS'08)

Deyue Yu, PhD (Faculty)

Marta C. Fabrykowski (OD'11)

American Academy of Optometry

Diplomate in Public Health and Environmental Optometry:

Sandra Wang (OD'97)

AAO Board of Trustee Member:

Jeffrey Walline (OD, MS'98, PhD'02)

Irvin and Beatrice Borish Award Recipient:

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

H. Ward Ewalt Medal Awarded

Richard (Rick) Cornett, executive director of the Ohio Optometric Association (OOA), received the College's H. Ward Ewalt Medal during a surprise presentation at a January on-campus OOA function attended by faculty, staff, and students. The medal recognizes Rick's exceptional service to the College and the profession of optometry. He is the 10th recipient of the medal in the award's history.

Rick joined the OOA as executive director in 1997. He has served in senior-level healthcare management positions for more than 40 years, including top posts at several healthcare organizations. Previously, he was a clinical specialist in the United States Army from 1970 to 1974. He received a BA degree from Western Kentucky State University and an MA degree from Central Michigan University.

H. Ward Ewalt, himself, was the medal's first recipient in 1991. He was the first graduate from The Ohio State University optometry program to serve as President of the American Optometric Association (AOA). Dr. Ewalt was also instrumental in helping optometry gain recognition by the National Commission on Accrediting and helped form



Associate Dean Karla Zadnik, OD, PhD, Rick Cornett, Dean Melvin Shipp, OD, MPH, DrPH, and OOA President Brenda Montecalvo, OD

the AOA's Accreditation Council on Optometric Education and served as its first chair. Additionally, Dr. Ewalt served as the first optometric consultant to the surgeon general of the U.S. Army. In recognition of these accomplishments, this medal was struck in his name to recognize dedicated service to the profession of optometry.

PREPARING FOR THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF OPTOMETRY'S CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION IN 2014

Call For Reminiscences

Here's a question for our College alumni to answer. We'll collate the best responses and publish them in a future issue of this magazine. **What optometry professor do you look back on with the most regard, and why?** Perhaps it was the most difficult teacher who also taught you the most. Maybe an instructor helped you through a challenging lab session or in clinic, and you aspire to help the next generation of optometrists in the same way. Submit your answer to Associate Dean Karla Zadnik at zadnik.4@osu.edu. Accompanying photographs are welcome.

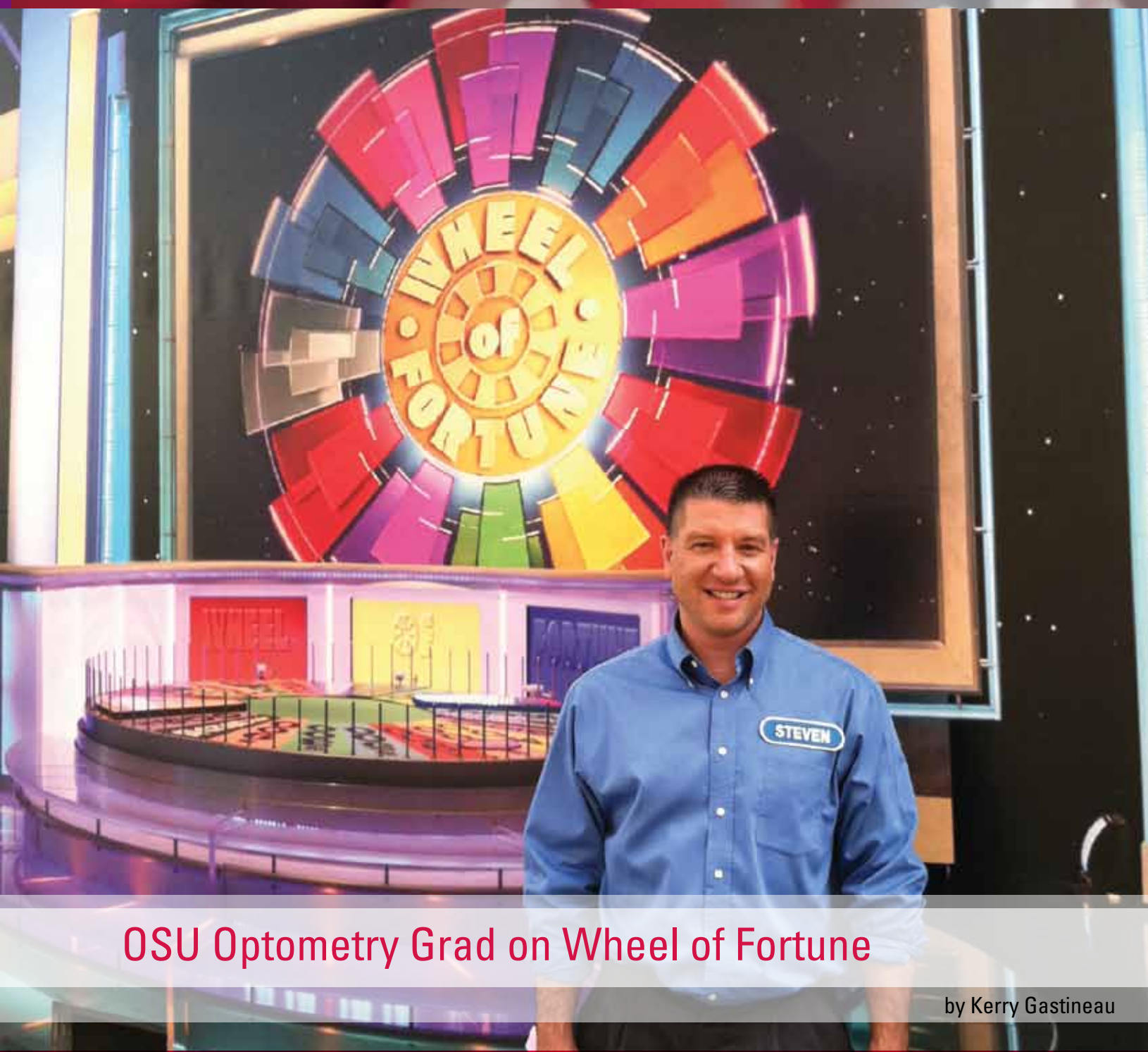
Order a Centennial Tie or Scarf NOW

As you know, The OSU College of Optometry will celebrate its Centennial Year in 2014. To mark this historic occasion, Optometry Alumni and Friends has commissioned a special necktie and scarf that will be available in the Fall of 2013. The cost of each is \$25.00.

Please order your tie and/or scarf NOW so they will be available at this year's Alumni Weekend, October 18-20. Send no money now - we just need to know how many to order. After payment, your purchase can be given to you at the tailgate, or mailed to you the following week.

Please place your order(s) with our Alumni Coordinator, Kerry Gastineau, at 614-688-1363 or gastineau.5@osu.edu before June 1.





OSU Optometry Grad on Wheel of Fortune

by Kerry Gastineau

On December 18, 2012, **Steven Landucci (OD'98)**, a lifelong resident of Moon Township, a Pittsburgh, PA suburb, became a contestant on the legendary show, *Wheel of Fortune*. Dr. Landucci pursued his undergraduate degree in Biology at Penn State University graduating in 1993. He is the first of his family to become an optometrist, currently practicing in East Liverpool, Ohio.

He chose Ohio State for its high quality of education and the appealing statistic, at the time, of a 100% board pass rate. His memories of optometry school were long days spent in Room 33 and waking up at 7am to make physiology class. He decided to practice optometry because he knew he wanted to be in the medical profession, and optometry offered the perfect combination of lifestyle and professional possibilities, with the potential to make a difference.



The Wheel of Fortune Wheelmobile.

As a child, his recollection of the Wheel of Fortune (WoF) was watching it on and off as a small child. His family did not regularly watch the game show but would have it playing in the background while sitting at the dinner table. One humid day last June a phone call from his friend, Donna, and daughter Noelle changed his life experiences. They invited him to accompany them to the "Wheelmobile" appearance at the local Meadows Race-track and Casino in Washington, PA.

Even if an appearance on WoF was not on his life bucket list, it was still very cool and unique. During the first audition rounds, contestants were only on stage for 10 minutes, so making an impression quickly was key. Immediately, Steven wanted to show contestant enthusiasm and personality and was pleasantly surprised at how loudly the audience cheered when he mentioned he was a Buckeye, especially in Nitanny Lion territory. He also mentioned his love of hiking and a recent achievement of conquering the highest summit of 34 of the 50 states. Only two weeks later, his invitation to join Round 2 was in his mailbox. After one more audition success, Hollywood was in his sights.



Landucci on the show with Pat Sajak and another contestant.

The game show did not offer any advice on how to prepare. Steven practiced by playing the WoF game on the Wii and Ipad and challenging friends. The second round was held in a hotel ballroom, with 70 attendees playing for three hours in a more formal setting, where the contestant hopefuls called out letters trying to solve puzzles. A few must dos: dress nice and leave gum and cell phones at home. And just when he thought he had seen his last test...it was test time, a five-minute written test solving puzzles in various states of competition. The final group of 20 was selected, Steven was almost famous but almost doesn't guarantee him a spin at the wheel. Steven had to stand up at the front of the room, spin the wheel, clap like



Landucci posing with "Vanna White".



Landucci with Vanna White's star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.

he was attempting to break the clapping world record, while calling out letters and solving puzzles quickly. When it was his turn he solved the puzzle **WORLDWIDE SMASH HIT MUSICAL**. The final hurdle to stardom was surviving a mock interview with a stand-in Pat Sajak, aka talent assessor. In the interview Steven knew the power of being an OSU Buckeye had served him well from the first audition so another O-H was in order!

Two weeks went by. While a million attempt to audition for the show, only 600 make it! Finally, Steven had the prized invitation in hand. Steven jetted cross country to see the Hollywood Walk of Fame, Santa Monica Beach, and a trip to Disneyland while making an appearance on Wheel of Fortune, which aired December 18, 2012.

Steven offered some behind the scenes scoop. All contestants take a tour of the studio before the taping and practice spinning the wheel, which is extremely heavy and hard to get one revolution. Vanna White made a surprise appearance during practice with no make-up, hair in a pony tail, wearing jeans, not her usual glamorous

self. Steven taped the actual show in September, but the studio, which is the size of a college basketball arena, was decorated for Christmas. WoF tapes six shows a day, four or five days each month. There is also a used letter board out of TV sight that shows all the letters called already. The show is very critical of enunciation and dropping letters off, like "peppermint sticks" vs. "stick". The day of his show taping he was present for the infamous "seven swans a swimmin' vs. swimming" that caused national uproar of enunciation and pronunciation importance.

Steven did win a few thousand dollars and felt the overall experience was priceless. You may ask how it has changed an ordinary optometrist from Pittsburgh? Several patients recognize him from the show, and he was recently spotted by a Dunkin' Donuts employee when he was there buying a cup of coffee! He attributes his Wheel of Fortune success to his days spent in Fry Hall. Steven thanks the three girls in 33 Fry who sat in front of him playing Hangman during class, while he looked over their shoulders...it paid off!



Just the Facts

by Rachel Childress, College Development Director

Over the last year I have spent quite a lot of time meeting with our alumni and friends here in Ohio and across the country. In the six months since the public announcement of the university's "But For Ohio State..." campaign, I have answered many questions about optometry's piece of the pie and our goal. So here are the facts that everyone should know:



- The College of Optometry is responsible for raising \$10 million of the overall Ohio State campaign goal of \$2.5 billion.
 - The timeline for this campaign is seven and a half years, spanning from January 2009 through June of 2016.
 - We have now surpassed the half way point. As of February 28th the college has raised more than \$5.6 million toward our goal.
 - We received a \$1 million estate commitment from **Robert Wright (OD'60)**, which is the largest gift the College has ever received from an alumnus.
 - Our campaign priorities are \$2M for student scholarships; \$2.25M for faculty support; \$2M for facility upgrades and renovations; \$2.5M in increased research dollars and \$1.25M for outreach and engagement through the dean's discretionary fund.
 - Campaign dollars do not sit in one big account for years until we reach the goal. As gifts are made, they are designated to different areas throughout the College and are being utilized as soon as possible.
- The campaign committee has had the opportunity to meet a few times in the last year to strategize about the best way to reach our goal, and one of the first observations made was the number of alumni who have not considered the College in their philanthropic choices. The numbers are surprising when you consider that the College of Optometry has 2,878 living alumni.
- 76% of our alumni have given \$500 or less, and only 15% of our alumni have given \$1,000 or more – these are totals over the course of the donor's lifetime!
 - Lower than 10 of our alumni have made estate commitments to the College, and two of those have been just in the last year.
 - There are 850 alumni who have never contributed to the College.

For a number of years the College could count on state funding and tuition to cover many of the costs, but today that is no longer the case. State funding, which once made up almost two-thirds of University income, decreases each year and is currently less than 30%. We still have to provide our students with a top-notch optometric educational experience. This is why support from our alumni and friends is essential.

During this second half of the campaign, the committee and I will be reaching out individually to many of our alumni and friends to ask them to consider supporting the College in this important effort. Please say "yes" when you are invited to a College reception, dinner, or meeting. Come and learn about what we've been able to accomplish from the generosity of those who have already made a gift. We hope that you'll be inspired to think about how you can make an impact here for our students who are the future of the profession.

Here are a few gifting facts to get you thinking:

- You can make pledges over a period of time, up to 5 years.
- Annual giving totaling \$3,000 or more gives you membership in the President's Club, which provides the opportunity to purchase season football tickets.
- Donating the equivalent of one exam a month over a pledge period of 5 years adds up to \$20,000. (How many airline miles would you get if you used that credit card to pay your monthly pledge?)
- Creating an endowment such as a new scholarship gives you the opportunity to name the fund and help to set the criteria for the recipient.
- Giving with stock is an easy way to avoid capital gains taxes, and the transfer is a smooth process.
- An estate commitment can be a wonderful way to make a significant impact, and the options range from simple bequests, to gift annuities, to gifts of real estate and many others that can be beneficial to you, your loved ones and the College.

In the next issue of the *BuckEYE* we will begin to highlight some of the generous gifts that have been received since the beginning of the campaign. We will also discuss the many areas of support as well as the various ways in which gifts can be made.

The facts speak for themselves. As we move through these next three years of the campaign, I expect to see a change in our culture of giving here at the College, and I hope that you will want to join us in making this change.



Save the Date! 2013 Reunion Weekend October 18-20, 2013

Please plan to join us! Go Bucks!

Weekend Festivities include: Class Reunion Reception (Fri.), Distinguished Alumnus Awards Dinner (Fri.), OSU vs. Iowa Pre-game Tailgate (Sat.)

Classes celebrating reunions: 1963, 1968, 1973, 1978, 1983, 1988, 1993, 1998, 2003, 2008

If you have questions, please feel free to contact Kerry Gastineau by phone at (614) 688-1363 or by email at Gastineau.5@osu.edu



The College of Optometry had an "only had eyes for a Buckeye" contest for Valentine's Day for all alumni of the OSU College of Optometry. Alumni were asked to submit a photo of them and their significant other along with a short explanation of where and when they met on campus to enter the competition. Submissions were accepted through Valentine's Day 2013. Voting on Facebook ran through February 28th.

There were lots of great submissions! The winner was **Greg Hopkins (OD'10)** and his wife Dr. Katya Harfmann. Their story is here, along with several of the other lovebirds.

Thanks to everyone for your photos and stories!



Drs. Greg Hopkins (OD'10) & Katya Harfmann, MD'10

Katya and Greg met as OSU undergrads in The Best Damn Band in the Land, where she played trumpet and he marched the snare drum. The photo above was taken just prior to their last pre-game ramp entrance in Ohio Stadium against Northwestern on November 12th, 2005. The following summer, Katya entered OSU Medical School as Greg began Optometry school across the street. They married in 2008, graduated together in 2010, and welcomed their daughter Adelaide into the world at the OSU Medical Center in 2011 ("Born a Buck-eye"). In 2014, Katya will finish her residency training in dermatology at The Wexner Medical Center, as Greg completes an advanced practice fellowship in low vision rehabilitation in the College of Optometry. They reside in Worthington and are expecting to bring home Adelaide's baby sister in June!



LOVE STORIES

Alumni Love Stories



"I first laid eyes on my wife Bailey in the patient reception area of Fry Hall. It was the winter of 2006, and I was "working" as a fourth-year clinician. She was working as a dietitian at the James Cancer Hospital."

Brian J. Hale (OD'07)



"We met when Jenny was a sophomore living in the Epsilon Psi Epsilon Fraternity house when John, a freshman, moved in. We fell for each other over pinball . . . and are still happily working together!"

Jenny Fagedes (OD'89)
and John Garrity (OD'90)



"'Crash into Me' by Dave Matthews Band was the first song that we danced to at our wedding. This was a fitting song because my husband and I met right before our senior year at Ohio State when I almost hit him in my car as he was crossing 15th and High Street."

Corrie Ziegler Weitzel (OD/MS'07)
Todd Weitzel, BS/MAcc'03



"My girlfriend, then later wife, Mary Ellen Roth, and I met on a hot, summer night in 1982 when I was living in the EYE house. I ended up proposing years later under the hoop at the EYE house. How's that for romantic!"

Larry Roth (OD'84)
Mary Ellen Ague Roth (OD'85)

"It was 1950 at the AEPi fraternity house at Ohio State University during a usual Sunday get-together. I walked in and started to talk to Carol. Since I was enrolled in the College of Optometry, I asked Carol if she wanted to have her eyes examined. She said yes, and this is how we started our 63-year love story."

LOVE STORIES

Alumni Love Stories



For all love stories, go to
www.facebook.com/OSUoptometry



"Bill (OD'84) and I met his first year in optometry school, which was my second year. It was 1980. We saw each other at the EYE house and as soon as we talked, we knew we had something special."

Deb Shelts Boshinski (OD'83)
 William Boshinski (OD'84)

"I was a senior at University of Michigan when I met Ohio State College of Optometry student Travis Zigler at McFadden's in November of 2006. We began dating in fall of 2007 when I came to Columbus for school. Despite our football team preferences, we were married in 2011."

Jenna Stelzer (OD'11)
 Travis Zigler (OD'10)



"But for Ohio State...our love story would have never started. We met at the end of our undergraduate days while playing volleyball on the North Campus courts with mutual friends. After getting engaged on a bench outside Independence Hall, we now go back each year to take an anniversary picture."

Aaron Zimmerman (OD'06, MS'08)
 Amanda Zimmerman, BA '02, MA '04

"Love blossomed between Harry Fagedes and Dee Fitzburgh in the lunch room at Baker Hall where Harry ran the dishwasher and Dee was a dormie. They married on 12/31/55 and left on a six-month honeymoon courtesy of the USS Intrepid, meeting in ports where the ship docked."

Harry Fagedes (BS'54)



1950 Philip Levy (OD '50) retired completely in 2005 after 55 years of practicing Optometry. He spends time sailing on Lake Erie and recently celebrated his 65th wedding anniversary in August 2012.

1952 Jay Erwin (OD'52), in addition to practicing part-time, recently published a self-help book, *How to Take Back Control of the 7 Most Important Areas of Your Life*. His daughter Robin Jay wrote and produced a movie with Jack Canfield, *thekeeperofthekeys.com*. The book can be ordered online at Amazon.

1955 Will Stamp (OD'55) retired after 54 years in Salem, Ohio. He is enjoying family, friends and traveling.

1955 Ronald Gilbert (OD'55) lives in Dayton, Ohio. His two sons are in practice with him and his grandson, Travis, is currently a student here at the College.



1962 Jack Kepple (OD'62) pictured with Morgan and Reece (Bubba) and dogs Buc and Chuck.



Ted Rath (OD'91), Brian Mathie (OD'90), Brady Kail (OD'95) and Mark Newman (OD'91) at the OSU-Duke Basketball game at Duke in November 2012.

1977 Bob Limbird (OD'77) is practicing part-time with his daughter, **Rachel Bostelman (OD'07)**, and enjoying golfing, snow skiing, and time spent with his six grandchildren.

1987 Todd Chontos (OD'87) is proud of daughter Katelyn, who graduated in December 2012 with her MS in Education from The Ohio State University.

1991 Anne-Marie Lahr (OD'91) has been appointed Director of Education at HOYA Vision Care.

1993 Sherry Hogan Crawford (OD'93, MS'95) has accepted a full-time position with the Veterans Administration, splitting time between the Athens and Marietta VAs.

In Memoriam

1937 Arthur A. Slobod (BS'37) passed away April 16, 2011, at age 100 years, 9 months. His parents immigrated from Czarist Russia around 1905. His father and uncle were 1910 graduates of The Ohio State University with degrees in engineering.

Arthur graduated from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in 1931, attending on a New York State Regents Scholarship and earning



Bob Limbird (OD'77) seated with his wife and the rest of his family of 14 surrounding them. **Rachel Bostelman (OD'07)** is standing on the left.

an engineering degree. Finding engineering jobs difficult to find during The Great Depression, he came to The Ohio State University and earned an MS in Physics in 1932. Jobs still being difficult to find, he returned to OSU and earned a BS in Optometry in 1937. While here, he tutored many of his classmates in math and optics, including Robert Graham (BS'37). Graham founded a company called Armorlite in 1947, which pioneered CR-39 (plastic) spectacle lenses. It was the sole provider of CR-39 resin in the world for 6 years. Slobod invested about \$1000 in that venture in 1948.

As World War II began, the need for technical people was greater than the public's desire for vision care, so Slobod returned to

engineering, working for General Electric on the Manhattan Project in Berkeley, California, developing a highly refined uranium product for the eventual atomic bomb. He traveled with the Freedom Train in the late 1940s as it toured the country. Later employment with North American Aviation allowed him to work on the Minuteman Missile guidance systems and the Apollo missions.

The sale of Armormite to 3M corporation in 1978 gained him 18000 shares of 3M stock, valued in excess of \$1million, allowing him to completely retire. He is survived by his daughter, Beverly Slobod King, and his son, Clifford Slobod, two grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren. Depending on the source, the atomic bomb and manned flight to the moon are two of the top five American innovations/inventions. This alumnus spent a portion of his life working on each of them. We extend our belated condolences to the Slobod family, as we were only just recently informed of his passing.

1949 Dominic Pinzone (OD'49)

passed away on August 3, 2012 at age 88 in Wheeling, WV. He practiced in Bellaire, OH for more than 35 years before retiring.

1979 Peter D. Liane (OD'79)

died December 30, 2012, from injuries sustained in an auto accident. Dr. Liane served as Florida Optometric Association President, FOA Legislative Chair, and Florida Board Of Optometry Chair. Dr. Liane was recognized by the Florida Optometric Association as Optometrist of the Year in 1992 and Optometrist of the Decade in 1997. He is survived by his wife, Nancy, daughters Kimberly (2nd year optometry student at NOVA), and Kristen (kindergarten teacher).



Peter Liane (OD'79)

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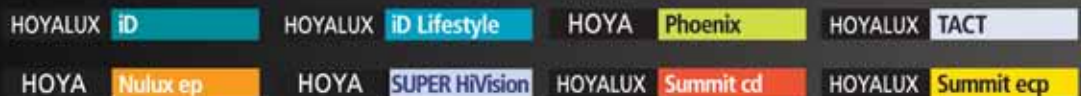


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