

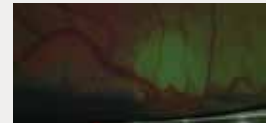


WANDERLUST ON OVERDRIVE

Dr. Becky Musick

spring 2015



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on the cover:

The first landfall for the Musick family after 28 days sailing the Pacific Passage from the Galapagos Islands to the Marquesas Islands in French Polynesia.



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DEAN'S LETTER



I'm writing this while sitting in the Ft. Lauderdale airport awaiting a flight home to Columbus. This is my third Florida airport this week, as Development Officer, Rachel Childress, and I just had an "excellent adventure" for 4+ days in this lovely weather. We spent the last few days immersed in Ohio State Optometry's history, renewing old friendships and making new ones, all infused by the love all those we met expressed for their alma mater.

We started in Jacksonville with breakfast with **Eric Ritchey (OD'01, MS'03, PhD'11)** and **Moriah Chandler (OD'03)** and their new baby, Madelyn Elise, sporting her "Future Optometrist" Block O

onesie from the college. At noontime, **Fred Armbruster (BS'60)** escorted us on a walk to the end of the Jacksonville Beach pier, replete with gulls, fishermen, and surfers, then to lunch at *Barbara Jean's*, a darling local waterfront spot, for shrimp and grits. Later that day, we hosted a big crowd, **Brian Armitage (OD'81, MS'83)** and his wife, Ann, **Brian Pall (OD'99, MS'01)**, **Ann Nguyen (OD'99)**, **John Buch (OD'92)** and his wife, Rebecca, **Ed Wygonik (OD'02)**, and **Pat Reardon (OD'67)** at the *Wine Cellar*, a favorite of the Armitages.

March 3 was just plain nutty, even by our standards. We started with lunch with **Michael Cady (OD'73)** in Ormond Beach, an early supper with **Kerry Giedd (OD/MS'00)** in Orlando, gratefully accepted a beautiful trial lens set from Joyce Knapke, widow of **Dan Knapke (BS'58, OD'77)**, in Zephyrhills, and drove into Sarasota very late that night in time for a 7:00 a.m. breakfast the next morning with **Gary Bockhold (OD'75)** and **Liz McVey (OD'08, MS'10)**.

After that, we decided to push our advantage and refuse to consume food without being able to see some body of salt water. First, it was the Gulf of Mexico in Naples with **Lowell Hone (BS'55, OD'77)** and then dinner with **Doug Bloss (OD'87)** at *Casablanca* on A1A in Ft. Lauderdale as the full moon cast dappled light on the Atlantic. This morning, our magical mystery tour ended with breakfast with **Michael (BS'61)** and Gail **Kirsch** at the lovely Ibis Golf & Country Club in West Palm Beach. The whole week was punctuated with reminiscing about teachers and classmates (Fred Hebbard and Jack King, your ears must have been burning!), the incredible changes in the practice of optometry since graduation, praise for the marching band, lots of "where are they nows," and 2015 Sugar Bowl and National Championship exaltation, plus stories and more stories. Laughter and tears alternately flowed!

I know what you're thinking. Wow, that dean job is tough! Some of you probably saw a couple of my Facebook postings, each of which featured a dozen raw oysters. I'm not saying that was a chore, but what this dean's job is—is a joy. I love meeting alumni and hearing their stories—from the first in a family to go to college to a testimony that, even in the late 1950s, Ohio State Optometry was held out as the best place to get optometric clinical training. I found it all uplifting and energizing and inspirational. It was so much fun that you should stay tuned. Perhaps the Karla and Rachel world tour will come to a town near you soon!

Karla Zadnik, OD, PhD

Dean

Glenn A. Fry Professor in Optometry and Physiological Optics

Membership: What's in it for me??



At our last Optometry Alumni and Friends (OAF) board meeting, membership was discussed and this is the question that seems to need an answer. It makes no sense to me that should be the issue that would keep someone from supporting their alma mater. I've been told I'm naïve on this subject, so please give me a couple of minutes to try to give you an older, experienced guy's opinion on why you should support OAF and your college without asking the "What's in it for me?" question.

My first thought in considering what it means to support OAF and our college is how wonderful it has been to be an optometrist, especially an Ohio State-trained optometrist. Yes, we are all biased that we are the best trained and most competent ODs in the world. As BuckEYE ODs, we know the hard work and sacrifices it takes to achieve our degrees. We share the distinction of being Ohio State College of

Optometry alumni and a part of THE Ohio State University. As membership renewal time arrives, I reflect on my optometric journey and realize that none of this journey would have happened if Ohio State had not provided the opportunity. My membership is a thank you for what Ohio State has done for me and what it is doing for those in the future.

Membership support of our College of Optometry is much more important than just dollars raised. Your donations indicate that you support our present administration and faculty. Your donation indicates that you are proud of your degree and value it deeply. Your donation indicates that you want to maintain that pride in your degree by helping to enhance the present student achievements so that they will carry on the strong traditions and reputation of an optometry degree from The Ohio State University.

The first two paragraphs are an old man's attitude. Younger alums (whom I categorize as those who graduated in the past 15 years) can especially show your gratitude and respect for Dean Zadnik's administration with your membership. You can say thank you to Drs. Zadnik, Earley, Mutti, Walline, Pierce, Nixon, Delgado-Nixon and the rest of the faculty on a yearly basis. Yes, they challenged you, but you are the best ODs because of it. Our faculty knows the importance of alumni support and greatly appreciates the enhancements to their programs that such support provides. Support dollars are crucial to attracting the best students to our program.

One other old man outlook: I've been contemplating retirement from full-time practice, and my main concern is how and who to recruit to take over my practice. It's been scary for me (and I think for my partner) and very concerning for my patients as they keep telling me I can never retire. My thoughts had always been that this person has to be an Ohio State grad, and things will be fine. Luckily, my son wants to come home, so I feel very blessed. All of you are going to face this situation someday and your support of our College can help guarantee that the best ODs will be available to continue what you have worked hard to establish over 30-40 years.

The best reason of all to make your donation? Since I'm going to have some extra time soon, you don't want me on your doorstep trying to shake a few bucks out of you to help keep our College and our reputation at the highest level possible. Hah! Or should I say LOL. Isn't it great to be a Buckeye?

Thank you for your consideration and past support.

As always, "Affirm Thy Friendship, O-HI-O"

Roger L. Saneholtz (OD'74)

President, Ohio State Optometry Alumni and Friends

Something for Nothing



There is no doubt that our culture is hooked on being able to have something of value for little investment, the proverbial “getting something for nothing”. The longest-running television show that I can remember centering on this theme is *Antiques Roadshow*. People bring old stuff from their homes to the show, hoping that it is a rare relic worth thousands of dollars. Usually folks have invested next to nothing for the item, or it was bought several generations ago, and they invested nothing. People leave the show astounded by the value of the item or disappointed by its ordinariness.

Today, there is an entire genre of shows focused on getting something for nothing, what I would generously call “treasure hunt” shows. On these shows, people work to find stuff for which they pay very little in the hopes of making a handsome profit. The genre includes *American Pickers*, *Storage Wars*, *Storage Units*, *Auction Kings*, and *Auction Hunters*. Shows like *Pawn Stars* and *Cajun Pawn Stars* are really just *Antiques Roadshow* with an appraiser who is willing to buy. Then there are the shows like *Gold Rush*, *Bering Sea Gold*, and *Under the Ice* that follow the gold chasers, who are investing something, sometimes a lot, in the hopes of a jackpot payoff. The proliferation of the shows and their copycats attest to their popularity.

Culturally, we love the story of someone who gets rich quick, with no investment. It is entertaining to watch and to dream about. Even people who don't play the lottery like to dream about what they might do with the \$300 million prize. Maybe it is because the truth is that there's no assured “something for nothing” deal out there.

Patients seem to want something for nothing when they arrive in our office, third party coverage in hand, with the expectation that they can get whatever they need or want and pay next to nothing. We get frustrated, to say the least, but isn't that the same attitude we take to the emergency room?

We all like a deal, a real value. Many of us use deals in our practices to promote sales of materials. Some feel they need to match what every other retailer is offering to attract patients, whether it is a “buy one, get one”, or eyewear that is less than the cost of a meal at McDonald's. There are certainly people who will go to any retailer to get an extra 5 cents off a product. Can you build a profitable practice when you give away every other piece of eyewear?

What do patients want? Patients want to know they have been cared for and cared about. They do want a good value on materials. Even though they will not say it, they would like for you to stay in the business of providing vision care. What should you do? Care for the person in front of you every time, treating them and making decisions for them as if they were family. Provide patients a value in their retail purchase. Most folks understand that getting something for nothing captures our attention because we know it is rarely true, but we love to dream.

Care for your patients and provide value, and when you are in the marketplace, don't expect to get something for nothing.

Jeffrey A. Myers (OD'84)
BuckEYE Editor

WANDERLUST ON OVERDRIVE

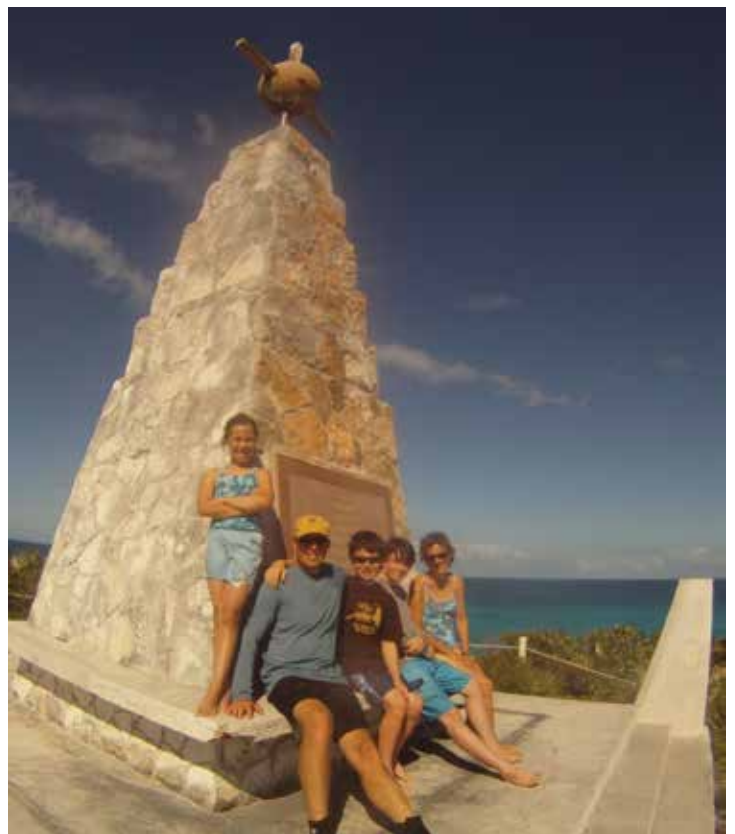
by Jeffrey A. Myers (OD'84)

Many of us have feelings of wanting to explore the world, to go beyond the borders of our country, and explore other lands. If we can get away for a week in Europe, or Hawaii, or the Caribbean, we are pretty happy. To get away for a couple weeks is a luxury. To consider a four- to six-week excursion is an extravagance that most of us will not enjoy until our retirement years. But what if you could plan a trip sailing the ocean with your spouse and three children and take more than 30 months to complete it? Most of us would consider that to be “crazy talk,” but that is exactly what **Becky Mikolajczyk Musick (OD'92)** did with her family over the last few years.

She and her husband, Bill, knew they shared a love of travel prior to marriage and planned to travel heavily prior to having a family. He wanted to sail, having experienced sailing earlier in life, though she had little sailing experience. As life would unfold, children arrived before the travel had been accomplished. The move of some dear friends to New Zealand was the impetus for a decision to making a sailing journey, a decision made when the children were 12, 10 and 8 years of age. They gave away or sold most of their stuff, rented their house, and in September 2011, left Walla Walla, Washington to pick up a boat in Annapolis, Maryland.

The boat was a Swedish-built Hallberg-Rassy Ketch 49', known for its ocean-going ability, and named “Water Musick.” It used a diesel generator for electricity onboard and had three cabins and two bathrooms with showers. Her two sons shared a cabin, her daughter had a cabin,

S/V Water Musick moored offshore in Fiji where Becky and Bill Musick spent their 18th wedding anniversary



Bahamas – Melody, Bill, Raymond, Joey, and Becky Musick. They followed part of Christopher Columbus' path in the Southern Bahamas, as part of the schooling instruction for the children.

and she and Bill had a cabin. The galley (kitchen) was spacious for a boat and the overall storage was excellent.



Joey, Becky, Raymond, Melody, and Bill Musick at a Buddhist Temple in Indonesia, which was very well preserved in the predominantly Muslim country, suggesting a religious tolerance that put the family at ease.



Becky and Joey Musick ride an elephant in Thailand. After dropping their camera while riding, the elephant easily found the camera using its trunk in the tall (waist-high) grass.

Below is a list of some of the ports and areas they visited, with highlights of the stops in each. Each stop could have been for a few days, a few weeks, or a few months. Their entire story would easily fill a book. Note that the passage across the Pacific Ocean is about 3,000 miles, roughly the distance from Boston to Los Angeles, and takes three to six weeks. When sailing, weather and winds can significantly change the route and length of the journey.

St. Augustine, Florida – a month after leaving Annapolis, their final touch with the continental United States

Bahamas – realized their watermaker, which converts salt water to fresh water, was not functioning, resulting in the carrying of water onboard in jerrycans, and strict fresh water conservation; scuba certification at Harbor Island

Jamaica – celebrated their younger son's 12th birthday in Port Antonio

San Blas Islands, Kuna Yala, Panama – got to know some of the Kuna Indians and went fishing, snorkeling, and sailing in the Kunas' dug-out canoes

Panama Canal – two-day passage done at night in preference to the bigger ships

Galapagos Islands – repaired the watermaker, final provisions for the Pacific crossing, and saw the Aquarids meteor shower

Tahiti, Marquesas (French Polynesia) – worked on the windlass, refrigeration, water pump, and the outboard motor; spent about three months exploring

Cook Islands – visited what will become the Cook Islands Marine Park – part of the Pacific Oceanscape, and saw illegal fishing vessels

American Samoa – waited for homeschooling (boat-schooling) schoolbooks for six weeks, met people who had studied in Walla Walla, Washington and enjoyed a family feast with them

Tonga – enjoyed amazing snorkeling and diving, with visibility to 100 feet

New Zealand – saw a lunar eclipse, avoided the cyclone belt, stayed several months, exploring the North and South Islands, visited friends in Chirstchurch, and saw earthquake damage

Fiji – stayed as long as they could, enjoyed a Ferris wheel powered by a truck engine, and Dr. Musick and Bill celebrated their 18th wedding anniversary

Indonesia – joined a rally of boats that were met by then Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono and had dinner with the president

Thailand – met a former exchange student and his family

When making an ocean crossing in a sailboat, the boat is making progress 24 hours a day. There is really no convenient place to drop anchor for the night. Someone needs to be awake and guiding the boat. Dr. Musick and Bill would each take four hour shifts twice a day. Early on, their oldest son would take a four-hour shift twice a day, and later, their second oldest son would take shifts as well. Dr. Musick noted that other boats were making the Pacific crossing at the same time that they were.



Melody Musick making friends in San Blas, Panama. She is wearing traditional clothing. The center part is called a mola, which is a multilayered handstitched fabric used to decorate all sorts of things. They spoke some Spanish and their traditional Kuna language. Melody's dual immersion school experience for Spanish was very handy in allowing them to communicate.



Ray Musick is holding his food in a banana bark plate at a buffet in Tonga. These buffets were common in villages if enough boats were in port. All the utensils were biodegradable, an aspect that seems to be changing as these areas modernize



A little Buckeye Pride for the review of the President of Indonesia

Some of these other boats were just couples making the crossing, making the splitting of shifts more difficult.

Food procurement and preparation is a task that can take much of a day. When near a port, local fruits and vegetables were used. Interestingly, cabbage lasts longer than most other produce at sea. For the ocean crossing, lots of dry goods, including rice, beans, sugar, salt, and flour were stowed. Dr. Musick learned to make her own granola, bread, and yogurt using dry milk at sea. Not surprisingly, fish was the staple meat. Catching it was a daily task, and they would commonly troll behind the boat, hoping for mahi (dorado or dolphinfish) and tuna. Some fish literally jumped into the boat during their journey.

After two years sailing, Bill, who is a dentist, accepted a new position as Chief of Dentistry at the Alaska VA Healthcare System in Anchorage in January 2014. Dr. Musick and the children continued exploring southeast Asia, including Thailand, Cambodia, and Laos. They all joined Bill in April 2014 in Anchorage. After being boat-schooled by their parents for more than two years, the teenagers returned to public school in Alaska.

The gift that Dr. Musick and Bill have given their children, Joey (10th grade), Raymond (9th grade), and Melody (6th grade) is immeasurable. The intensity and breadth of experiences have shaped them in ways they may not realize for years. They all want to continue to travel. They have seen how people live in some of the more remote places on the planet and have seen areas



Becky, Bill, Raymond, Melody, and Joey Musick spent New Year's Eve in Bangkok, Thailand launching paper lanterns and watching fireworks. One of the reasons they visited Thailand was to visit a former exchange student, Tong, who is completing medical school now.



Fishing was a daily practice on the Pacific passage. Fish (Mahi, tuna and mackerel) was a big part of their diet, but was also used as gifts to present to chiefs/leaders on land.



The Musicks in Panama interspersed with two other boating families of five. One family was from New Zealand, and the wife of the other family was from Thailand. The Musicks stayed with both families in their home countries.



Becky and Melody Musick in front of the world's largest reclining Buddha.



Bill, Becky, Melody, Raymond, and Joey Musick at Komodo National Park. The family experienced many celebrations in Indonesia, as the country was promoting tourism. The largest was at Komodo Island where the family saw the giant Monitor lizards.

where access to medical care and other resources is minimal. Their oldest, Joey, wants to travel to see the coral before it is lost forever.

For Dr. Musick, the experience has been invaluable. While she certainly missed the ability to communicate with folks at home, by phone, email, and internet, the benefits far outweigh those inconveniences and challenges. She has appreciated her time with family on the boat, and boat-schooling them. She knows them better than she ever would have without the trip. Her epiphany was learning how much stuff she had

prior to the trip, and how attached she was to it, and ultimately learning how much she could do without. She discovered that by going into everything with the right attitude, things usually worked themselves out.

Is there more to the Musick family journey yet to be written? Perhaps. They are committed to Anchorage for a few years. The boat is for sale in Malaysia, but if it doesn't sell, maybe there is another sailing adventure in the future for them.



Bill, Joey, Melody, Raymond, and Becky Musick took a break at a white beach in very clear water.



Bill Musick with one of the bigger fish caught during the Pacific Passage that would feed the family for several days.



Joey, Raymond, and Melody Musick in Bora Bora, French Polynesia where the family spent three months enjoying fresh baguettes, good cheese and nice wine, and watching the children grow.



The first landfall after 28 days sailing the Pacific Passage with the family from the Galapagos Islands to the Marquesas Islands in French Polynesia.



Ray Musick diving to get a better look at a manta ray, in the water behind the boat at Suwarrow, Cook Islands.

*You can follow the Musick's blog of their journey,
which includes photos and videos at:
www.sailblogs.com/member/www.musickplanet.com*



INVESTING IN THE FUTURE

Ohio State faculty member is first recipient of AAO Career Development Award

By Sarah Cupples, MA
Director of Marketing and Communications

Recognizing that it can take years for talented, young optometric investigators to acquire federal research funding, the American Academy of Optometry (AAO) launched its Career Development Award in 2014 to direct pilot money toward innovative research. Dean VanNasdale, OD, MS, PhD, assistant professor, is the first recipient of this prestigious award.

Dr. VanNasdale will receive \$100,000 over two years from the AAO, a sum that will be matched by The Ohio State University College of Optometry. An AAO committee selected Dr. VanNasdale based on his potential for growth and future major extramural funding of his research.

“It is an extraordinary honor to be the inaugural recipient of the American Academy of Optometry Career Development Award,” says VanNasdale. “With this, we will be able to expand our lab’s resources and develop new, multi-disciplinary collaborations that include expertise in patient care, optical engineering,

and visual function. I am enthusiastic about this project and believe this award will help further our goal of developing and exploring techniques for early detection of pathological changes in sight-threatening retinal disease.”

At Ohio State, VanNasdale has established a research program centered on advanced imaging of the eye, which builds upon his existing body of research on photoreceptor and microvascular changes in normal aging, age-related macular degeneration and diabetic retinopathy. In addition, he is engaged in clinical instruction, teaches Public Health and Environmental Vision, and is chair of the Vision Care Section of the Ohio Public Health Association.

Dr. VanNasdale joined the Ohio State College of Optometry’s faculty in 2012. He earned his OD degree from the Michigan College of Optometry in 2003, and a master’s degree in Clinical Research and a PhD in Vision Science from Indiana University in 2011.

MEET OUR PhD STUDENTS

By Sarah Cupples, MA, Director of Marketing and Communications

By the time the average optometrist graduates with a doctor of optometry degree, he or she has spent about 20 years as a student. After crossing the finish line or capturing the prize, so to speak, why would someone want to return to the classroom to pursue a PhD?

Jeff Walline (OD, MS'98, PhD'02), chair of the Research and Graduate Studies Committee in the College of Optometry, counters with a question of his own, "Why not?"

"People pursue PhDs to quench their desire to answer questions that they find important," explains Dr. Walline. "Whether it's for improving vision care or understanding how the eye works, PhD students seek to better people's vision."

Dr. Walline took on this new position because he wants to encourage students to pursue careers in vision research, so they ultimately can mentor students who will in turn improve our understanding of the eye and vision.

"At Ohio State, we offer excitement and diligence that will help recruit and retain the best PhD students in vision science," says Walline.

Now let's meet these top students and learn more about the topics they're tackling.



Katherine M. Bickle

Research interests: Myopia, contact lenses, and the ocular surface

Clinical interests: Myopia control, specialty contact lenses, and dry eye

Hometown: Granville, Ohio

Degrees: OD/MS'13, The Ohio State University; BS'08, Molecular Genetics, The Ohio State University.

Why did you choose optometry? I grew up in the field, as my father is an optometrist. Optometry provides me the opportunity to improve patients' quality of life and vision.

How are you funded? In the near future, I will submit an NIH grant application.

Why are you pursuing a PhD? I developed a passion for clinical research as an optometry student, and a PhD will best allow me to expand on my skills and knowledge as I continue to pursue my research interests.

Why did you choose to concentrate your efforts on research? Clinical research allows me to investigate unanswered questions in our field with the goal of developing devices and treatments that will allow practitioners to better care for their patients.

What's next? What does the future hold for you? After completing my PhD, I plan to obtain a faculty position that will allow me to focus on my research interests and educate optometry students, the future of our field.

Favorite pastime: Attending Ohio State sporting events.



Tamara Oechslein

Research and Clinical interests: Binocular vision and pediatrics

Hometown: Independence, Iowa

Degrees: OD/MS'11, The Ohio State University; BS/BA'92 Biology/Chemistry, Iowa State University.

Why did you choose optometry? I became interested in pediatric optometric care during my previous career as a high school science teacher where I focused much of my curriculum around inquiry-based laboratories, a method that inspired an inquisitive attitude toward science.

How are you funded? My research on convergence insufficiency treatments is funded by the College of Optometrists in Vision Development, and I have been involved with several federally-funded projects studying hyperopia, convergence insufficiency, and other pediatric eye diseases.

Why are you pursuing a PhD? I decided to attend The Ohio State University College of Optometry because of the institution's strong commitment to both academics and research.

Why did you choose to concentrate your efforts on research? My research reinforced my interest and passion for pediatric vision care and showed there is much to learn about vision treatment and its effect on a child. Through exposure to other areas of the field during the past few years, my interests have expanded, yet my focus remains on researching needs specific to children – primarily optometric care in relation to academic and social success.

What's next? What does the future hold for you? After completing my PhD, I intend to seek an academic position and contribute to pediatric optometry with continued exploration of the relationship between vision development and reading readiness, and the clinical implications of the results.

Favorite pastimes: Throughout optometry school and my PhD work, I have worked at and taught knitting lessons at a local yarn shop. I enjoy taking the time to knit a few prayers and love into small gifts for others. Also, in the past two years, I have returned to running and trained for and completed a marathon and a few half marathons.



Andrew D. Pucker

Research interests: Tear film, ocular inflammation, myopia development, and contact lenses

Clinical interests: Specialty contact lenses and dry eye

Hometown: Fond du Lac, WI

Degrees: OD/MS'11, The Ohio State University; BS'05, Cellular & Molecular Biology, University of Wisconsin-La Crosse.

Why did you choose optometry? I decided to pursue a career in academic optometry because I found it to be the perfect blend of evidence-based medicine and direct patient care.

How are you funded? I am the principal investigator of a five-year National Institutes of Health K Award that is aimed at understanding the development of myopia. I also have industry funding that supports my dry eye research.

Why are you pursuing a PhD? I am pursuing a PhD because I wanted to acquire the skills and knowledge necessary to obtain my own research funding and a tenure-track position at a major optometric research institution.

Why did you choose to concentrate your efforts on research? I decided to concentrate on research because I enjoy learning and devising new methods for tackling the unknowns of optometry.

What's next? What does the future hold for you? I plan to obtain a tenure-track position at a major optometric research institution that will allow me to have my own laboratory, graduate students, and classroom. I also plan to continue my volunteer work with the American Academy of Optometry.

Favorite pastimes: I enjoy travel, running, biking, cooking, and home brewing.



Phillip Thomas Yuhas

Research interests: Intrinsically photosensitive retinal ganglion cells (ipRGCs)

Clinical interests: Traumatic brain injury, specialty contact lenses, and glaucoma

Hometown: Cleveland, Ohio

Degrees: OD/MS'14, The Ohio State University; BA'10, The University of Notre Dame

Why did you choose optometry? I chose optometry because I wanted to provide primary eye care to the community in which I live. Being on the front line of safeguarding a vital aspect of human life is a privilege and honor.

How are you funded? Our lab is funded through grants from the Department of Defense, Lions Club, and Prevent Blindness. I also participate in the NIH's Loan Repayment Program.

Why are you pursuing a PhD? I am pursuing a PhD to learn how to become an independent researcher and a better clinician.

Why did you choose to concentrate your efforts on research? I am concentrating on research because this aspect of our profession drives all of optometry forward. As eye care has become more and more dependent on evidence-based medicine, the importance of basic biological and clinical research has become paramount to delivering extraordinary patient care. I want to be someone who contributes to this advancement.

What's next? What does the future hold for you? I will continue to work on our lab's investigation of ipRGC influence over the mammalian visual system. Additionally, I will continue to work with optometry students in our Primary Care, Advanced Ocular Care, and Contact Lens clinics. My long-term goals include being an independent researcher and being involved in the education of optometry students.

Favorite pastimes: Spending time with my family, cheering for the Cleveland Browns and Notre Dame Fighting Irish football and basketball.



Erin Rueff

Research interests: Cornea and contact lenses

Hometown: Greensburg, Indiana

Degrees: OD/MS'12, The Ohio State University; BS'08, Purdue University, Biology

How are you funded? Currently, I am funded by the work I do teaching in the Ohio State Optometry clinics.

Why are you pursuing a PhD? After receiving my OD, I completed the Cornea and Contact Lens Advanced Practice Fellowship at

Ohio State. Through this program, I was able to provide patient care, perform Vision Science research, and teach optometry students. I quickly discovered that I was interested in more than just optometric patient care. Clinical care, research, and optometric education are incredibly intertwined. Being involved in research and teaching makes me a better clinician, while seeing patients in clinic allows me to ask better research questions. By pursuing a PhD, I hope to continue to refine my research and teaching skills so I can make the most valuable contribution to optometry throughout my career.

What's next? What does the future hold for you? After completing my PhD, I plan to continue in research and optometric education.

Favorite pastimes: Reading, running, and traveling

FAAO ... WOW

Becoming a fellow of the American Academy of Optometry represents that an optometrist has achieved the highest level of professional competence. The Ohio State University College of Optometry alumni listed earned this prestigious honor in Denver in November 2014. Congratulations!

In addition, congratulations to our newest student fellows, who earned the distinction in Denver.

Erin Andrews ('17)
Rawzi Baik ('16)
Joyce Cater ('15)
Harmin Chima ('15)
Marisa Ciamacca ('17)

Melissa Eckes ('17)
Jeffrey Fardink ('17)
Bradley Kubis ('17)
Erik Kuntzsch ('17)
Kate McClure ('16)

Danielle Alperin (OD'11)
Courtney Erin Andersen (OD/MS'13)
San-San Cooley (OD'09)
Andria Demosthenous (OD'11)
Lindsay Gibney (OD'10)
Derek Gresko (OD'12)
Lauren Grillot (OD/MS'10)
Erich Hinel (OD/MS'10)

Bridget McMurray ('16)
Tayla Meade ('15)
Ryan Millyard ('16)
Tatevik Movsisyan ('16)
Danielle Orr ('17)

Greg Hopkins II (OD'10), MS
Meredith Conner Jeffrey (OD'13)
Samuel Kimball (OD/MS'09)
Mallory Kuchem (OD/MS'12)
Jocelyn Laroche (OD'12)
Amanda Marks (OD/MS'12)
Morgan Marshall Murphy (OD'13)

Lauren Pallet ('17)
Dix Pettay ('15)
Winston Posvar ('17)
Kimberly Renner ('17)
Lindsay Salleechia ('15)

Tamara Oechslin (OD/MS'11)
Tyler Persson (OD/MS'13)
Renee Rambeau (OD'12)
Erin Rueff (OD'12, MS'14)
Amila Uppal (OD'13)
Katie Wulff (OD'06)
Susan Zacatelco (OD'04)
Jenna Zigler (OD'11)

Andrew Steele ('15)
Kelsey Steele ('16)
Brendan Tobler ('16)
Allison Treleaven ('16)
Heather Van Law ('18)
Alyssa Willig ('16)



Big 10 Vision Research Challenge

By Barbara Fink (OD, MS'85, PhD'92)

Front row: **Barbara Fink (OD, MS'85, PhD'92)**, Ann Elsner, PhD, Vince Billock, MS, PhD, Don Mutti, OD, PhD, Dean VanNasdale, OD, MS, PhD, and Chris Clark, OD, PhD
 Back Row: Brett King, OD, Andy Hartwick, OD, MS, PhD, Karla Zadnik, OD, PhD, **Melissa Bailey (OD/MS'01, PhD'04)**, Pete Kollbaum, OD, MS, PhD, Tom Raasch, OD, PhD, **Bradley Dougherty (OD/MS'07, PhD'13)**, Arthur Bradley, PhD, Stephen Burns, PhD

On the weekend of January 9-11, a carpool of nine members of the faculty of the College of Optometry visited Indiana University in Bloomington. The faculty included: **Melissa Bailey (OD/MS'01, PhD'04)**, Vince Billock, MS, PhD, **Bradley Dougherty (OD/MS'07, PhD'13)**, **Barbara Fink (OD, MS'85, PhD'92)**, Andy Hartwick, OD, MS, PhD, Don Mutti, OD, PhD, Tom Raasch, OD, PhD, Dean VanNasdale, OD, MS, PhD, and Karla Zadnik, OD, PhD. They were taking part in the Big 10 Vision Research Challenge, an opportunity to form collaborations between faculty from both institutions.

Pete Kollbaum, OD, PhD, Associate Dean for Research and Director of the Borish Center for Ophthalmic Research at IU, started the schedule of events by welcoming the faculty and outlining the day. Joseph Bonanno, OD, PhD, Dean of IU's School of Optometry, provided the first research presentation—a review of what is understood about corneal endothelial ion transport and the questions that remain to be answered. This was followed by 15 more rapid-fire presentations in which faculty briefly described their research, with IU and OSU faculty alternating.

Representing Ohio State, Melissa Bailey described her work in myopia and ciliary body measurement. Vince Billock, MS, PhD, provided an explanation of his work in sensory integration and the principle of inverse effectiveness. Bradley Dougherty is studying stress and depression in patients with age-related macular degeneration. Barbara Fink discussed her diversity work, particularly a program to increase STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) degrees for underrepresented minority students. A presentation on the measurement and significance of the responses of intrinsically photosensitive retinal ganglion cells was provided by Andy Hartwick, OD, MS, PhD. Don Mutti, OD, PhD discussed his work on finding explanations for why time spent outdoors is protective for the development of myopia. Tom Raasch, OD, PhD

described the measurement, design, and fabrication of freeform surfaces. The final Ohio State presenter was Dean VanNasdale, OD, MS, PhD, who talked about retinal imaging, retinal functional loss, and the use of multifocal ERGs to identify where functional losses are occurring in the retina.

Presentations by IU faculty included the following topics: visual perception and the impact of the eye's optics on visual function by Arthur Bradley, PhD, adaptive optics and image processing by Steve Burns, PhD, retinal imaging and diabetes by Ann Elsner, PhD, changes in retinal capillaries in glaucoma by Brett King, OD, advanced ophthalmic imaging by Don Miller, PhD, accommodation by Larry Thibos, PhD, and the visual development laboratory by T. Rowan Candy, MCOptom, PhD.

Dean Karla Zadnik, OD, PhD, provided a summary of the morning's efforts. She mentioned that Indiana and Ohio State are among only six schools and colleges of optometry that have a strong research effort and are based at universities. She emphasized that, in her experience, the best collaborations are formed through personal interactions. The proximity of our two institutions enables opportunities for these interactions. An annual conference, alternately between institutions and revolving around an Ohio State vs. Indiana men's basketball game, takes advantage of this and encourages faculty to get to know each other's research and think about ways to collaborate.

Following the noon IU-OSU basketball game, which Ohio State lost 66-69, faculty from both institutions broke into groups to discuss ways to work together. The event ended with dinner at FARMbloomington.

Essilor sponsored this first annual Big 10 Vision Research Challenge, with an award of \$10,000 for collaborative research proposals.



NEW FACULTY SPOTLIGHT:

Teng-Leng Ooi, Ph.D.

By Barbara Fink (OD, MS'85, PhD'92)

Being anisometric herself, it was inevitable that Dr. Teng-Leng Ooi would become a researcher in binocular vision. Our newest member of the faculty and a tenured professor, Dr. Ooi admits that her interest in binocular vision was strengthened when she provided vision training to patients with vergence and accommodative problems in the town of Kempsey in rural Macleay Valley, New South Wales, Australia and successfully improved their comfort and stereopsis.

Dr. Ooi's research focuses on the basic sensorimotor mechanisms of binocular vision and treatment paradigms to improve and restore visual function. She has employed psychophysical methods to determine the contributions of attention and surface boundary contour to binocular rivalry. This resulted in the design of a unique "Push-Pull" perceptual learning protocol that reduces sensory eye dominance and improves stereopsis in subjects with clinically normal binocular vision, as well as in patients with amblyopia. She discusses the use of the push-pull treatment for strengthening the "lazy eye" in amblyopia in a recent publication *Current Biology* 2013; 23(8):309-10.

Her laboratory conducts visual perception research in several topical areas including investigations of: 1) interocular inhibitory mechanisms, 2) attention and perceptual learning mechanisms, 3) mid-level visual mechanisms responsible for binocular surface perception and figure-ground segmentation, and 4) space perception in the intermediate distance range (2-25 m). She collaborates with neurophysiologists to image cortical activities underlying binocular rivalry and eye dominance.

She is the principal investigator for a grant from the National Eye Institute on "Improving Binocular Vision through Perceptual Learning," and she is co-investigator on another NEI grant, "Mid-level mechanisms of surface and binocular perception."

Dr. Ooi was previously at Pennsylvania College of Optometry at Salus University, where she was a member of the faculty since 2002. Prior to that, she was on the faculty at the Southern College of Optometry (1996-2002) and Northeastern State University (1994-1996). She has 20 years of experience in teaching various vision science courses in professional optometry programs. She particularly enjoys teaching courses in oculomotor functions, binocular vision, visual neural plasticity, monocular sensory processes, and visual perception.

She was happy to find a home on our faculty because she was interested in continuing her research at a research-oriented, university-based optometric institution and is excited to have opportunities to collaborate with faculty within the college and at The Ohio State University.

Dr. Ooi earned her Bachelor of Optometry degree in 1987 from the University of New South Wales, Australia. She received her PhD in Physiological Optics in 1994 from the University of Alabama at Birmingham.



INNOVATIVE CONTINUING EDUCATION OUTREACH

By Aaron Zimmerman (OD'06, MS'08)

One of Dean Karla Zadnik's top initiatives is to reconnect alumni to the College of Optometry. One way we are achieving this is through hosting continuing education events either at the College or at a campus venue.

The first event was held the morning after the September Centennial celebration and included many current and former faculty members speaking in their particular area of expertise. Then in October, **Nick Fogt (OD/MS'92, PhD'96)** provided a talk titled "Universal Retinal Review" and dazzled the audience with retinal images that spanned the 30-foot diameter screen of the campus planetarium in Smith Lab.

Two nights after the Buckeyes' football team won the 2014 National Championship, the Sports Vision and Concussion CE event was held in the Recruit Room at Ohio Stadium (great timing!). **Cayti McDaniel (OD/MS'08)** spoke about concussions and **Aaron Zimmerman (OD'06, MS'08)** spoke on vision and baseball.

The plan is to continue these events approximately every two to three months, so keep an eye out for future events.



Cayti McDaniel (OD/MS'08) lecturing at the Ohio Stadium.



OPTOMETRY STUDENTS

Make Beautiful Music

By Sally Haltom, MA, Director of Student Affairs

First year students **Jennifer Scholz ('18)** and **Sandy Veres ('18)** are not only aspiring optometrists, they are also both accomplished musicians. Jen, originally from Chicago, and Sandy, a northeast Ohio native, have both played violin for a number of years. When they started here in the college last autumn, they learned about the College of Medicine student orchestra from **Jeffrey Walline (OD, MS'98, PhD'02)**, Optometry liaison for Arts in Medicine. The orchestra is open to students in the health profession and law professional programs. Sandy and Jen both decided to join, and they have enjoyed balancing their optometry studies with the ongoing pursuit of their musical interests. "I played violin in high school and have since missed the experience of making music with an orchestra," Jen said. "When I arrived at Ohio State, I was looking for a creative outlet, and I discovered the College of Medicine Orchestra."

The orchestra is led by Dr. Kristina MacMullen, assistant professor of conducting at Ohio State. Professional program students of all skill levels are encouraged to join. The group rehearses one hour per week and performs several times throughout the academic year. They gave a concert in December, and the program included arrangements of the *Game of Thrones* and *Jurassic Park* themes, the *New World Symphony*,

Nimrod by Edward Elgar, Jaques Offenbach's *Can Can*, the traditional *Sleigh Ride*, and *Carmen Ohio*.

Sandy said that she and Jen made a joint decision to join the orchestra. "We were both on the fence at first due to our busy schedules, but we decided it would be fun if we joined together! Music has always been a huge part of my life, and I didn't want to lose that in the midst of preparing for a career in optometry. School can be pretty crazy, so it was a great way for me to take a break from studying and do something fun. I love getting to spend time with other students who are passionate about music, while being in a low pressure environment where we are genuinely all there for the joy of it. Music is therapy, and I'm so thankful to have the opportunity to share it with others."

Added Jen, "I joined for the love of playing; but as an added bonus, I have met a lot of interesting people and I get to play with a group of really good musicians. Our weekly rehearsals are a nice break from the ongoing studies. The orchestra gives me a time and space I need to live in the moment, one note at a time. I am fortunate to be able to balance my academic life with the artistic expression of an orchestra."

SHIPP PORTRAIT

Now on Display

by Karla Zadnik, OD, PhD



"There's a whole lotta remodelin' goin' on" at the college, some of it on the fourth floor of Starling-Loving Hall. The dean's office has a fig tree growing in it, and the Chief Administrator's Office sports lovely new carpet for the first time in decades. The hallway has been painted a soft gray to provide just the right backdrop for the directors' and deans portraits displayed there: Charles Sheard, PhD; Glenn A. Fry, PhD; Frederick W. Hebbard, PhD; Richard M. Hill, OD, PhD; **John P. Schoessler (BS'65, OD'66, MS'68, PhD'71)**; and, newly, Melvin D. Shipp, OD, MPH, DrPH. Dean Shipp's painting is beautiful, well, handsome. The artist had a fantastic subject to paint.

If, like me, you've ever wondered how such custom paintings come to be, meet Michele Rushworth, the artist who painted Dean Shipp's likeness. She studied Fine Arts at the Ontario College of Art and Design and at Queen's University in Canada. She says, "My goal as an artist is to honor the people I paint, to depict them on their very best day. I believe there is no higher art form than the difficult challenge of capturing the human spirit, of conveying something of the inner life and depth of a person's character on canvas." Ms. Rushworth has been a professional artist for 25 years, creating portraits, landscapes, and still life paintings in oil and watercolors. Her commissions have included portraits of the U.S. Secretary of Commerce, the Air Force Chief of Staff at the Pentagon, the Commandant of the U.S. Coast Guard, nine state governors, several university presidents, federal judges, doctors, deans, philanthropists, CEOs, and prominent figures in sports and the performing arts.

Barron's, the *Washington Post*, *American Artist* magazine, and CBS's *The Early Show* have highlighted Ms. Rushworth's work. She has had pieces juried into national shows including the American Watercolor Society, Salmagundi Club show, and the Allied Arts



Club, all in New York City. Michele works with clients in a collaborative way, involving them in planning the portrait. In this case, Mel and his wife, Dr. Michèle Shipp, selected Ms. Rushworth through a local portrait agency. (There's no truth to the rumor that the Drs. Shipp made the selection solely on the merits of Ms. Rushworth's first name.) Dean Shipp then sat for a formal photography session with Kevin Fitzsimons, Ohio State University photographer extraordinaire, and Ms. Rushworth helped select which photograph would best lend itself to an oil painting.

The next time you're at the college, drop by the Office of Student Affairs on the fourth floor of Starling-Loving Hall. Take a stroll down memory lane with the historical portraits, and spend some time admiring the latest masterpiece to grace our walls.



AOSA Celebrates EYEBALL 2015

By Gil Pierce (OD '89, MS'92, PhD'94)

The Ohio State University Chapter of the American Optometric Student Association held its annual EyeBall on February 14 at the Columbus Athenaeum downtown. The EyeBall has been a College of Optometry tradition for many years. This year, more than 250 students, faculty (including Dean Karla Zadnik), staff, and guests attended a fun night of dinner, awards, and dancing.

Starting in 2007, AOSA began presenting their annual awards at the EyeBall. The award nominations and voting are done by all the members of AOSA, which at Ohio State includes all current students. This year's award winners were:

Student Leader of the Year – **Elizabeth Brubaker ('17)**
Distinguished Student of the Year – **Joanna Cammenga ('16)**
Faculty Member of the Year – **Michael Earley (OD/MS '88, PhD '92)**
Staff Member of the Year – Kerri McTigue (graphic designer)
Clinical Attending of the Year – **Dawn Goedde (OD'04)**

EyeBall 2015 was another great night of celebration for the Ohio State College of Optometry. Here's looking forward to next year's EyeBall!



2015 OAF Awardees Announced

The Optometry Alumni and Friends Distinguished Alumnus Award recipient for 2015 is **Richard Weisbarth (OD'80)**. He is the eighth recipient of this recognition. Dr. Weisbarth served as president of the American Academy of Optometry, is the current chair of the National Academy of Practice in Optometry, serves on the Optometry Giving Sight board, and serves on the college's Capital Campaign Committee. Professionally, he has spent the majority of his career at CIBAVision, and now at Alcon. Currently, he is Vice President for Professional Affairs – US Vision Care.

Jeffrey Hackleman (OD'01) has been selected as the third recipient of the Early Professional Achievement Award. A private practitioner and owner of Heritage Vision Center in Snellville, Georgia, Dr. Hackleman has served as president of the Georgia Optometric Association and was named Young Optometrist of the Year by the Georgia Optometric Association in 2007.

Both recipients will be honored at the 2015 College Doctoral Convocation on May 9 on campus in Weigel Hall, beginning at 6 p.m. Alumni who are interested in attending the Convocation should contact Kerry Gastineau at (614) 688-1363 or gastineau.5@osu.edu for information. Congratulations to these fine alumni.

Research Studies

Current Opportunities for Pediatric and Binocular Vision Patients

You can help us to answer important questions in vision care by referring potentially eligible children to the studies below. Please contact Dr. Kulp at 614-688-3336 or kulp.6@osu.edu for further information.

Research Project	Question	Who's Eligible?	Benefits Provided at No Cost
Convergence Insufficiency Treatment Trial-Attention and Reading Trial (CITT-ART)	Does office-based therapy for convergence insufficiency (CI) improve performance on tests of reading and attention?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children ages 9 to 13 years (Grades 3-8) Symptomatic when reading or doing close work Exophoria at near Receded NPC (≥ 6cm) Reduced near base-out vergence No prior vergence/accommodative therapy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reading testing 16 weeks of therapy 2/3 chance of assignment to real therapy; 1/3 chance of control therapy Paid study visits Additional therapy if symptomatic after 16 weeks
Amblyopia Treatment study 18	Is binocular iPad therapy as or more effective than patching?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children ages 5 to 16 Amblyopic eye acuity 20/40 to 20/200 Good eye acuity 20/25 or better Interocular difference of 3 or more lines 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Study visits at no cost Travel payments Glasses at no cost, if needed Parking pass
Intermittent Exotropia Study 3 (IXT3)	How effective are over-minus lenses for treatment of IXT?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children 3 - 6 years Intermittent exotropia with no prior treatment other than glasses in past 6mo. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ≥ 15pd exo at distance Spherical equivalent between +1D and -6D (inclusive, OD & OS) Willing to accept randomization to overminus or non-overminus for 8 weeks of treatment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Study visits at no cost Travel payments Glasses at no cost Parking pass
Treatment Response in Accommodative Insufficiency (TRAIn) - Pilot Survey	How well can a symptom survey differentiate accommodative dysfunction from normal binocular vision?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children and young adults, ages 9-30 Accommodative amplitudes 2D or more below age-normal (18.5-.3 (age)) 	Sensorimotor exam at no cost, parking pass, \$25 gift card upon completion
Imaging of Convergence Insufficiency Treatment Effects (I-CITE)	What changes are seen on fMRI after CI therapy? How do fMRI scans differ between CI's and normals when performing a vergence task?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ages 18 to 30 years Symptomatic when reading or doing close work Exophoria at near Receded NPC (≥ 6cm) Reduced near base-out vergence No prior vergence/accommodative therapy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12 weeks of therapy 2/3 chance of assignment to vergence/ accommodative therapy; 1/3 chance of control therapy Additional therapy if symptomatic after 12 weeks

A MOUNTAINTOP EXPERIENCE...

again and again

By Jeffrey A. Myers (OD'84)



The top of a Laguna Hanson Peak in Baja Norte, CA

They were deeply embedded in him as a child. His parents allowed him to get his first views. And once he saw them, he had to be around them. As time went on, he had to be on them and see the world from them as well. For **Earl Voight (BS'61, OD)**, it was a love of the mountains that took him to Colorado to practice, and later to climb them, and share that climbing passion with others.

Dr. Voight grew up in Kirkwood, Missouri, a far cry from the mountains he now calls home. His dad was a safety engineer at American Optical. The family took summer vacations to the various state parks in Missouri. Young Earl asked to go to the mountains, and his parents took him to the Smoky Mountains in the eastern United States. While he greatly enjoyed them, he asked if the family could go to some real mountains. So, the next summer, when he was 13, the family went to Colorado. On the way home, he told his parents he would live there some day.

It was that same year that he decided to become an optometrist. His optometrist was the son of his dad's boss, and his dad knew many optometrists through his work. Dr. Voight completed his undergraduate work at the University of Missouri. When trying to decide where to apply to optometry school, his dad asked the doctors that he knew where they went to school. Most had attended the Illinois College of Optometry or Southern College of Optometry. When those doctors were asked where they would have preferred to go, they all said they would have preferred The Ohio State University School of Optometry. So, that was the only place he applied.

After completing the program at Ohio State, he added a year at the University of Houston to earn the OD degree, as it was not yet available at Ohio State. He feels the two programs complemented one another quite well and prepared him for more than 50 years of practice.

Dr. Voight climbed his first mountain to the top on July 2, 1978. It was Handies Peak in the San Juan range in southwest Colorado. This first peak at 14,048 feet above sea level opened the door to a passion that burns brightly to this day. In the mountain climbing world, any peak is an achievement, but to reach the summit of a peak above 14,000 feet is a special achievement here in North America. They are called "14ers" and climbers count them the same way a sports team counts championships.

Dr. Voight got the mountain climbing bug in a big way. After reaching the summit of Handies Peak, he did four more 14ers in the next two weeks and a total of 21 by the end of the summer, all solo. The first 10-12 peaks were selected from a book that detailed the hard 14ers in Colorado. Colorado has 55 peaks above 14,000

High camp Chopicalqui - Peru





Jeremiah's 1st mountain, Mt. Sheridan – a high 13er

feet, and Dr. Voight did them all by 1980. There are also about 750 peaks above 13,000 feet, and he still has about 90 to go. In the continental United States, he has climbed 63 of the 69 14ers. He has never had an issue with altitude sickness, which can be a problem above 8,000 - 9,000 feet for those not acclimated.

After getting accustomed to climbing, he decided he might need to learn more about mountain climbing and participated in both the Basic Mountaineering School and the Intermediate Mountaineering School offered by the Colorado Mountain Club (CMC). He climbs year round, finding snowshoes to be very helpful in the winter. He reports snowshoeing is easier than walking, though it is a little slower. Sharing the mountains with others is a passion for him. For a period of time, he led 25 trips a year for the CMC for all sorts of people who wanted to hike in the mountains. In 2015, he celebrates his 25th year leading mountaineering trips in Arizona. Over the last 36 years, he has been on the summit of peaks 3,000 times.

International trips have taken him to Peru, Bolivia, Chile (Patagonia), and Tanzania. Twice he has climbed

above 20,000 feet. In Peru, he climbed Chopicalqui (20,846 feet) in the Cordillera Blanca in the Andes Mountains. He traveled to Bolivia to reach the summit of Ancohuma (21,095 feet) near La Paz. The Torres del Paine Circuit in Chile is a nine-day, 81-mile trek that saw Dr. Voight become the oldest person to complete the circuit. The travel to Tanzania was to climb the dormant volcano, Mt. Kilimanjaro (19,341 feet), the highest point on the continent of Africa and the highest free-standing mountain in the world.

One of his favorite people to share a hike with (other than his wife) is his grandson, Jeremiah. Jeremiah promised when he was younger to climb a mountain with his grandfather when he was seven. They chose August 15, as that is their shared birthday, and Mt. Sheridan because they share the middle name of Sheridan. Once they got to the peak of Mt. Sheridan, they decided they could continue through a saddle and go to the top of Mt. Sherman as well. Jeremiah earned a t-shirt that day with all the Colorado 14ers on it. At the age of 10, he joined his grandfather in climbing Mt. Kilimanjaro, becoming the youngest American to reach the peak.



Dr. Voight and his wife Kathy dining at the wonderful Dionysos Restaurant – Athens, Greece



Summiting Peak One – 10 Mile Range - CO

Dr. Voight's favorite expedition so far was in the late 1980s in the Wind River Mountains of Wyoming. While Wyoming's highest peak (Gannett Peak) was below 14,000 feet (13,804 feet) he with five others, reached the summit of 16 peaks in two weeks, and only one of them was easy. The real challenge of this expedition was the glaciers and the need to practice glacial climbing.

Dr. Voight continues to climb and recorded 67 peaks in 2014. He notes it to be a great source of exercise and says he feels great and is in fine shape for being 77 years old. Still being able to help people see every day through the practice of optometry makes him feel lucky. He gets a big kick out of doing something that can positively affect people's lives.

He is married to Kathy, who is a climber as well. His family includes daughter Amy (John) and grandsons Jeremiah and Derek, who is a 2nd degree black belt in Tae Kwon Do, and son Karl. Dr. Voight practices in Centennial and Parker, Colorado and lives in Franktown. He has been a season ticket holder for the Denver Broncos since 1965. We wish him continued success as he keeps reaching for the top.



Dr. Voight climbing 1st pitch of Lizard Head



Jeremiah (age 10), Dr. Voight and others atop Kilimanjaro



Punta Union near summit with guides – Peru



Viewing the Urubamba River above Macchu Picchu, Peru

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

Pre-Clinic Celebrates its First Year with Five Additional Room Namings

by Rachel Childress, Director of Development

In February 2014, we celebrated the opening of our newly renovated pre-clinic on the second floor of Fry Hall. At this time, ten of our 22 spaces have been named with a few others currently in discussion. We want to say thank you for supporting this project in the past year and we hope to see more of our alumni step forward to leave a lasting legacy in this way. Here are five of our most recent gifts.



Robert Dittoe (OD'80) joins the other four graduates from the 1980s who have supported this project with a room. He and his wife Cynthia live in Lancaster, Ohio and Dr. Dittoe practices in New Lexington, which happens to be the only optometry practice in all of Perry County. It had been some years since the college had an opportunity to connect with Dr. Dittoe, and we were happy to have him call us to ask how he might get involved after seeing an article

about our renovated pre-clinic in a previous edition of the BuckEYE. We're delighted to have had the chance to get reacquainted with the Dittoes this past fall.

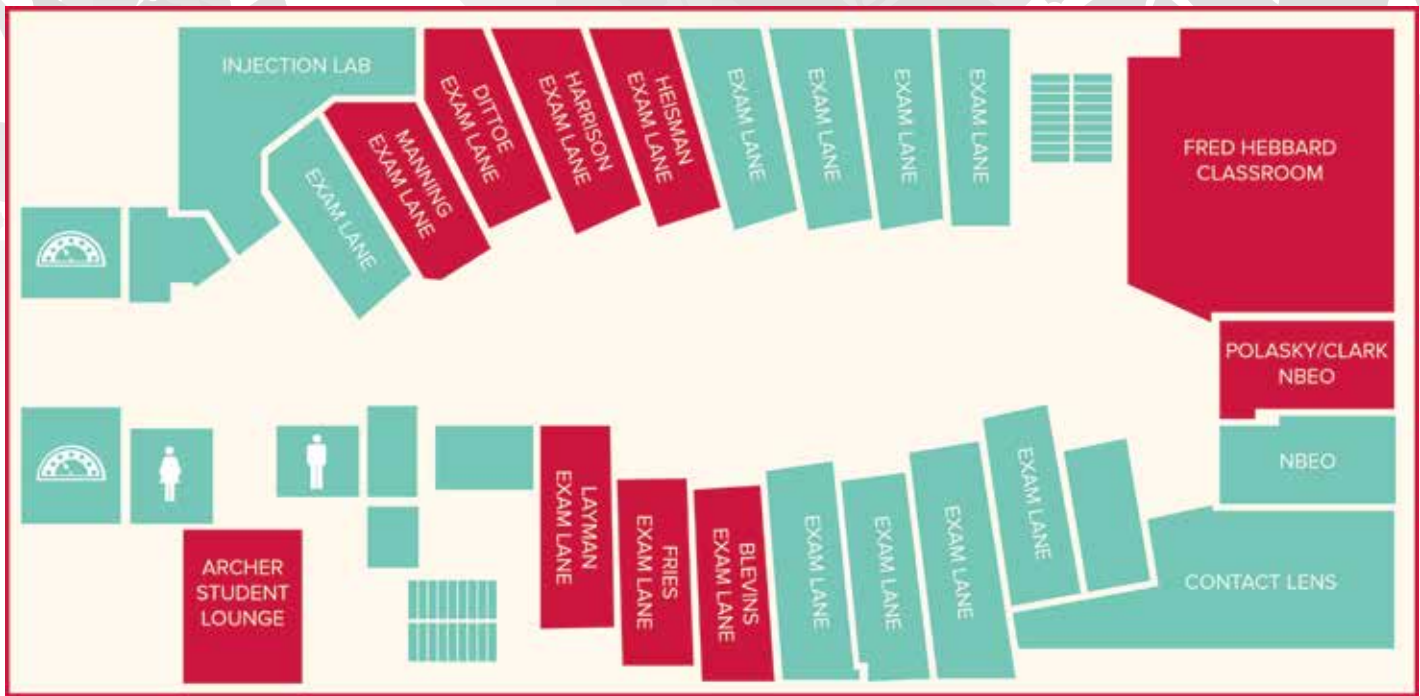
Lonny Harrison (OD'74) attended a dinner hosted by the college at Optometry's Meeting in Philadelphia, which gave us an opportunity to reconnect. We've been deliberate in the past year about reaching out to our alumni who live and practice outside of Ohio. We were fortunate to have Dr. Harrison and his wife Niki join us that evening from Pittsburgh where they live and Dr. Harrison practices. Dean Zadnik shared her vision

for the renovation of our facilities, and it resonated with Dr. Harrison. He and Niki decided to name a room and made their gift with appreciated stock – a great way to make a gift to the college.

Jean Heisman (OD'84) and her husband Elliott from Mullica Hill, New Jersey also were able to join us at the dinner we held in Philadelphia. The conversation about the renovation of the pre-clinic must have been especially interesting that evening, as the Heismans also made the decision to name an exam room. This is another instance of an alumna with whom we hadn't had an opportunity to connect in quite some time. We were happy to have her and Elliott join us for dinner and then come to Columbus in the fall to celebrate Dr. Heisman's class reunion.



Thank you all again for these significant gifts and for helping us to create this project and how you can get involved.



as of 3/2015

**Tim Fries (OD'04)**

and his wife Cheryl live in Worthington, and he practices in both Columbus and Washington Court House. We had an opportunity connect with Dr. Fries during the East/West Eye Conference in Cleveland last fall.

He was interested

in supporting the college and after presenting several options, naming an exam room in the pre-clinic was a great fit for him. With Dr. Fries' commitment, we now have gifts for the pre-clinic from alumni ranging from the 60s to the 00s. It's wonderful to see an important project like this resonate with alumni across multiple decades.

**Randall Blevins (OD'84) and Mary Lynne Blevins (OD'84)**

live in Louisville, Ohio with practices in Louisville, Canton, and North Canton. You may recall reading about them in a previous edition of the Buckeye newsletter where we featured their passion for breeding prize-winning racehorses. We had an opportunity to meet with Randy and Mary Lynne at a football tailgate this past fall and talk about the beautiful pre-clinic renovations. They decided that this was the right project for them to get involved with and made a commitment to name an exam room. With this commitment, half of the rooms in the pre-clinic have now been named.

te a culture of giving at the college. If you are interested in learning more about this involved, please contact Rachel Childress at 614-292-2100 or childress.35@osu.edu.

GILBERT INFLUENCE

Resonates Through OHIO

by Kerry Gastineau, Alumni Coordinator

Ronald Gilbert (BS'55) by all accounts is the patriarch of the Gilbert family. Dr. Ron was the first family member on his mom's side to attend college. He followed a neighbor to Ohio State to study architecture but quickly realized it was not the career for him. As a member of Alpha Epsilon Pi fraternity (with six frat brothers who were in optometry school already), he leaned toward the optometric field and had the support of a mentor, Professor Vince Ellerbrock. Dr. Ron worked at Baker's Shoes two days a week to pay for college and at the fraternity house serving meals. While at Ohio State, he met his wife, Shirlee, in 1953, who was a relative of a fellow fraternity brother.

After graduation, Dr. Ron served for three years as a U.S. Air Force optometry officer in San Antonio, Texas, fitting personnel and their families with contact lenses, a new technology at that time. After his military service, Dr. Ron went into private practice in Dayton with **Charles Thomas (BS'37)**, who started the practice in 1939 and was like a father to Dr. Ron. Dr. Thomas even let him use his personal Cadillac for trips.

Advice for current students:

“Make sure you are an excellent student, enjoy working with people, but also helping people.”

Dr. Ronald Gilbert

Over the years, Dr. Ron has been a stellar leader in the Dayton community and participated in the Miami Valley Society of Optometrists, the Ohio Optometric Association (OOA), the American Optometric Association, the American Academy of Optometry, and Vision USA. He served as president of the OOA in 1977-78, and received the OOA's Optometrist of the Year

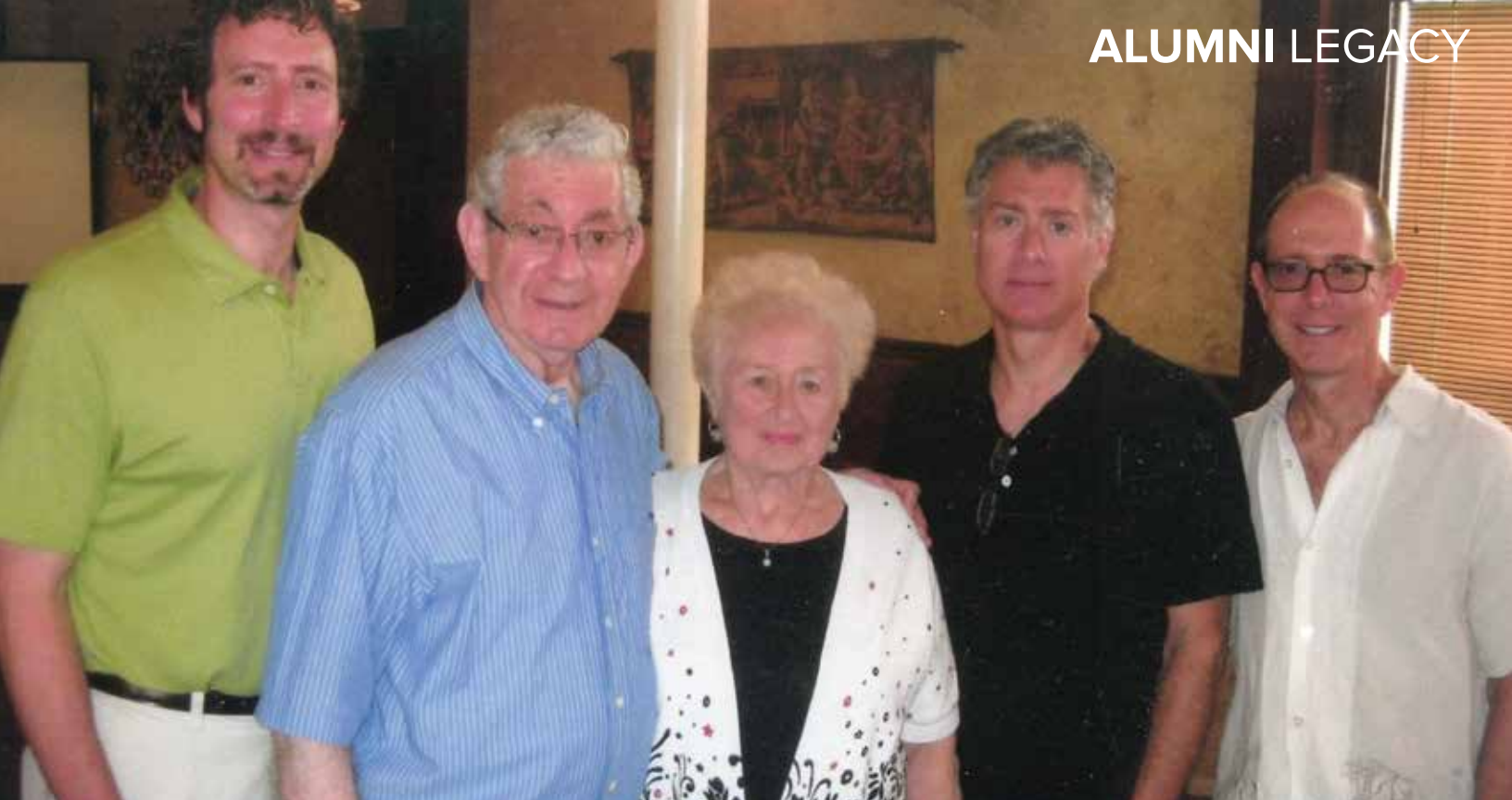


Ron Gilbert (BS'55), a USAF optometry officer, and his wife Shirlee with one year old son Marc in 1957.

Award in 1967. In 2004, he received OOA's Keyman of the Year Award for his efforts to connect and establish relationships with the legislators. His wife Shirlee served as president of the Women's Auxiliary to the OOA.

Dr. Ron's sons, Marc Gilbert, OD (Illinois College of Optometry) and **Heath Gilbert (OD'92)**, joined him in practice, along with **Kathy Simms Rudolf (OD'09)**. Dr. Ron also has a grandson, **Tuvia Gilbert ('15)**, currently enrolled at the college. Dr. Ron has always felt being surrounded by family in his optometric practice is great. “When you work with family like my sons, they listen and emulate you and also get involved in civic associations, which enhances the community. In the end, having a positive effect on our surrounding community leaves a legacy for decades to come. That's what it's all about.” Dr. Ron has another son, Jeff, a computer science graduate working at Ameriprise Financial and living in Hilliard, Ohio.

At the end of 2012, at the age of 82, and after 57 years



(left to right) **Heath Gilbert (OD'92)**, **Ron Gilbert (BS'55)**, Shirlee, Jeff Gilbert, and Dr. Marc Gilbert in 2012

of practice, Dr. Ron, a self-proclaimed workaholic, retired. He truly loved his work and most importantly, his patients.

He felt the instruction at Ohio State was top-quality. Everyone worked together as a team and the faculty educated their students to have a great attitude. He feels his alma mater graduates leaders who make their communities better for all concerned and is proud to be a Buckeye! He believes, "Ohio State means ... God's greatest gift to OHIO!"

Convincing oldest son Marc to pursue optometry was no easy task. Dr. Marc worked for his father every summer from age 15-22 and saw the practice flourish firsthand, but music was his passion, so he earned a degree in contemporary music from the Berklee College of Music in Boston. Dr. Ron was disappointed but supported Dr. Marc, who after graduation initially worked for a record company in California. Dr. Marc knew life could be more fruitful than he could make it with the music industry, so he decided to take preparatory courses to boost his chances to get into a career in medicine, dentistry, or optometry.

He knew he would be able to help others and make a difference if he pursued optometry. A spouse's job relocation moved Dr. Marc to Chicago, leading him to the Illinois College of Optometry. Finally, the journey to optometry had come full circle. Dr. Marc did a pediatric residency at SUNY during the summer of 1985.

Dr. Marc has been President of Zone 9, a member of the Kettering Rotary Club and has gone on eye mission trips to India, St. Vincent's and Puerto Vallarta. His dad has always been a mentor and inspiration. Dr. Marc even penned a song in the '70s, "A Man Like You Is What I Hope To Be" honoring his father, and performed it at the OOA convention in 1978. Dr. Marc loves music, golf and still plays music in coffee houses. Dr. Marc has two children, Erica, who received a BS in 2012 and MSED in 2013 from Ohio State and is now working at COSI, and son, Tuvia Gilbert, who is a student at the college.

"Optometry is such a great field with a lot of diversity and opportunities for both males and females."

Dr. Marc Gilbert

Dr. Heath also worked as a teenager in his dad's office. He thinks that if he had not become an optometrist, he would have been an educator. Dr. Heath knew he wanted person-to-person involvement and believes that the health care profession is where he can make a difference. With optometry, there are so many rewarding days when he advocates for those less fortunate. Dr. Heath said, "How lucky I am to see patients that my dad has treated since 1959?" He has been influenced over the years by **Arol Augsburg (OD/MS'71)**, **Michael**



Marc Gilbert and family: (l to r) Marc, Erica, Penina, Yehuda, Efrayim, Tuvia, and Esther

Polasky (OD'69), and Greg Kiracofe (OD'81). He also valued the internship experience gained at Professional Vision Care.

Dr. Heath was honored to join the practice of his father and brother directly after graduation. Dr. Heath served on the OOA Board, including a term as president in 2011. He and his father are the only father-son pair to serve as OOA president, which Dr. Heath said was a very meaningful journey to share. Throughout his career, he has been actively involved in advocacy programs such as InfantSEE, Realeyes, Vision USA, and Prevent Blindness Ohio.

Dr. Heath volunteers in the Dayton Jewish community and served as president of the Dayton Jewish Community Center. He has been happily married to wife, Rachel, for eight years and has a six year-old son, four year-old daughter, and an eight month-old son.

His advice for current students in the program, "It's never too early to start networking. If you know you are going to practice in a certain area, find out about local meetings and show you are interested. New graduates bring an energy and excitement to the profession."

The soon-to-be Buckeye alumnus, Tuvia Gilbert, considered becoming an orthodontist. He graduated from Northmont High School in 2006 as one of the

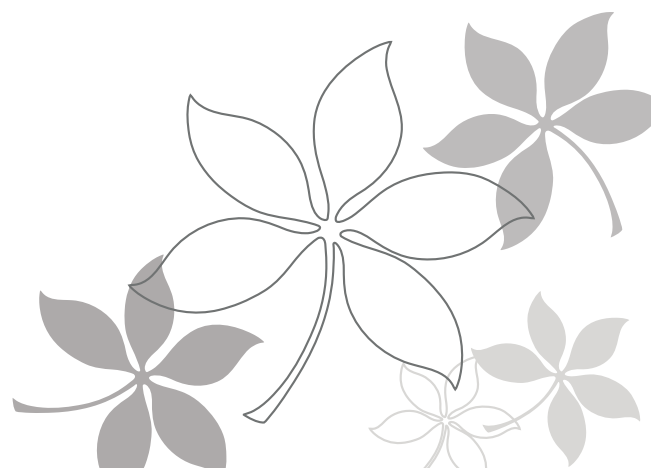


Zeke, Shirlee and Ron Gilbert

Ohio State means:

"I was so lucky to do undergrad and graduate school here with such a great group of friends. The OOA Presidency sealed it for me with getting involved with Dr. Shipp and Dr. Zadnik and connecting with the 'players' as a leader at the school. It is my home away from home."

Dr. Heath Gilbert



school's valedictorians. Tuvia received a scholarship to Miami University and majored in Zoology; his plan was then to go to Ohio State due to proximity to family in both Cincinnati and Dayton. Tuvia chose optometry because it deals with mostly healthy people. He had great memories of the positive, happy vibe in his father's office growing up. "I could tell patients enjoyed coming to see him, whereas I feel a medical doctor has more serious medical issues to discuss with patients that do not always end in perfect, restored health."

Tuvia's advice for current optometry students just getting started: "Spend time with multiple optometrists like I did at Dayton Optometric Center and Northwest Optometry led by **Joseph Studebaker, (OD'87)**. This allows you to see how doctors practice optometry in their own unique way, as well as getting an insider's view on the operations of an office."

Tuvia has tackled the tough courses through good study skills and balancing his time effectively while being married to Penina and starting a family. He is father to a three year-old son, a two year-old daughter, and a two month-old son. Tuvia admits, "Honestly, it was easier to get through school with a loving and supportive family. Being privileged to come home to a beautiful family is something special, especially after a tough day."

Tuvia intends to move to Israel in a few years after working with his father and uncle in their Dayton practice. His mission in Israel is to build a coalition with optometry and ophthalmology to promote comprehensive eye care. Tuvia wants to spread the word that optometrists do more than just glasses and contacts. "I want to promote a healthy relationship with ophthalmology in Israel so that the physicians can utilize their unique training and knowledge to handle cases that are beyond the scope of optometry. We can work together to make sure all citizens are seeing the best they can see."

To Tuvia, Ohio State means, "The more you know, the more you can help your patients. And do not forget to listen intently to your patients; often, all it takes is a thorough history to pinpoint a patient's problem."

The Gilbert optometric legacy, which began more than 60 years ago, undoubtedly has made the Dayton community a much better place. The legacy will continue for 50 plus more years with the upcoming graduation of grandson Tuvia. The Gilberts are all proud Buckeyes, serving the State of Ohio with great optometric care knowing the positive impact their service has made in advancing eye care. Who knows what future Gilberts may follow in their footsteps?



Heath Gilbert family photo: (l to r) Chava, Rachel, Zeke, Heath, and Avi Gilbert



Tuvia Gilbert family photo: (l to r) Tuvia, Efrayim, Penina, Yehuda, Esther

DR. JULIE LONG MIAVEZ:

Optometric and Military Leader Extraordinaire

by Bob Newcomb (OD'71, MPH)

"A ship is safe in harbor, but that is not what ships are for."

William G. T. Shedd, 1820-1894

In 1621, William Ford began the greatest adventure of his life when he left England and headed west for a new country called America. His sailing vessel, the Fortune, was the second ship to arrive in America after the Mayflower. Three hundred and twenty-three years later, one of his direct descendants, Joseph Bacon Long, was drafted during his freshman year at Michigan State University for service as an electrician's mate in the U.S. Navy during World War II. He served aboard the USS Hopping, USS Belet, and USS Chester in the war's Pacific Theater.

Today, Mr. Long's daughter, **Julie Long Miavez (OD'90)** continues her family's love for the sea by serving her profession and her country as a Captain in the Medical Service Corps of the U.S. Navy.

Dr. Miavez grew up in Columbus, graduated from Beechcroft High School, and completed her undergraduate degrees in biology and chemistry at Bowling Green State University. Her introduction to optometry began in 1974 when her family's pediatrician told her mother, "She can't see!" The diagnosis of myopia led to numerous eye exams, changes in glasses, and ultimately wearing contact lenses over the next several years. At each step along the way, she learned more about the science of vision care and its profound effects upon her quality of life. According to her:

"My eye doctor was an ophthalmologist, Dr. Marilyn Huey. She graciously spent hours with me, showing me equipment and discussing procedures. Everyone knew I wanted to be an optometrist. I loved eyes. The biggest impact at that age was when she fit me with soft contact lenses after unsuccessfully trying to wear PMMA lenses for two years. I saved my allowance and earned income so I could buy my first pair of Soflens. In addition to the cosmetic appeal, I used them for functionality. I was an Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) springboard diver and could no longer see the end of the board, my coach, and the cool water awaiting my entry below. I thought my days of diving were limited due to my poor uncorrected eyesight. Contact lenses changed that and I was sold."



Dr. Miavez's father, Seaman Recruit Joseph B. Long, reporting for duty, Niagara Falls, New York, 1944.

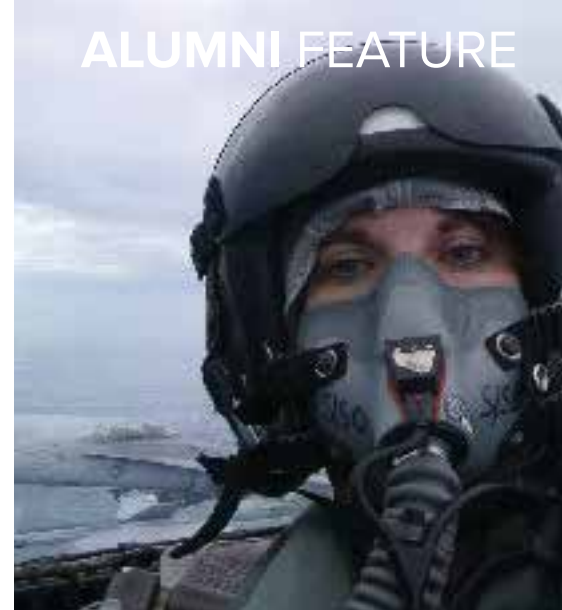
During her first year of optometry school, she remembers the Big Brother Lil' Sister program, and says "**Jeff Collins (OD'89)** was the best Big Brother and was key to surviving my first year. **Chris Lemley (OD'91)** was a joy to have as a Lil' Sister." Later during her externship with ophthalmology, she remembers almost fainting while observing a chalazion removal - but was perfectly fine during an enucleation. She also remembers attending various theme parties at the Epsilon Psi Epsilon (**EΨE**) fraternity house (Blues Brothers, Halloween, Toga, Hayride), beating Michigan in football, the annual Eyeball gala, and the birth of "Bad Habits: The Eye Docs of Rock." Most importantly, she remembers the faculty provided a positive, professional, caring and compassionate environment. "They were not



"These frames aren't for sale?" Student Dr. Miavez was wondering why none of her patients wanted to buy glasses that day back in 1989.



Accepting the duties as Officer in Charge during a traditional Navy ceremony at Naval Branch Health Clinic Key West in 2009.



Providing the best sight for flight and sight for fight for all Navy and Marine Corps Warfighters including aviation personnel, selfie in a F/A-18D backseat in 2001.

there to weed us out; they were there to keep us in," she recalled.

Some of her best memories of her optometric school days are of **Greg Good (OD'75, MS'79, PhD'81)**, teaching her to never give up, and working as a student employee in the private practice of **William Quelette (OD'71)** and **Ken Boltz (OD'85)**. During her fourth year of optometry school, she went to a recruiting office with **Melissa Tobias Berry (OD'90)**. Drs. Miavez and Berry, **Matt Newton (OD'90)**, and **Bob Wagner (OD'90)**, were all commissioned on the same day in June 1990 at Mirror Lake on the Ohio State campus. Dr. Miavez was commissioned by former US Navy Lieutenant **Robert Newcomb (OD'71, MPH)**.

Call to Duty

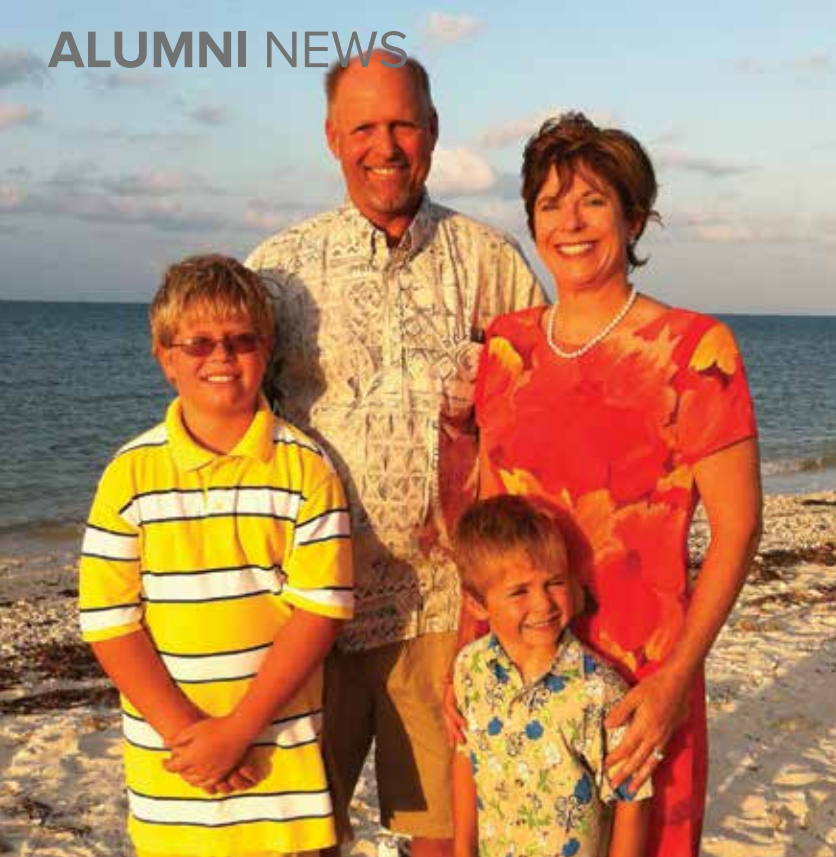
Dr. Miavez chose the Navy for several reasons: she was the proud daughter of a World War II Navy veteran, she had a passion for being near the ocean, she felt the Navy had the best-looking uniforms, and Navy optometrists practiced full-scope primary eye care – including the use of pharmaceutical agents and performing minor procedures. Also, her desire was to work in an interdisciplinary setting with other healthcare professionals co-managing ocular anomalies and ocular manifestations of systemic disease.

Initially, she had not planned on staying in the Navy after her first tour. However, very early in her career she had exceptional mentors and support from her parents. Senior optometrists including **CDR Mitch Brown (OD'86)** and **CAPT Ed Grout (OD '71)**, both now retired, and other respected officers would provide encouragement and advice necessary for her to excel as a Naval Officer. The reason she stayed in is because she works with so many great people. The Navy was a great fit for her educational skills, career goals, and

adventurous side. In addition, she has met lifelong friends and she has always had a passion for paying it forward. She spends a lot of her time mentoring junior folks who will be our future Navy medicine leaders and is a preceptor to civilian optometry students rotating through various military externship sites.

Her career as an optometry officer has also provided many unique opportunities to be stationed in Florida, Puerto Rico, South Carolina, Hawaii, Maryland, and Djibouti. Two of her most unique experiences were, in her own words:

- "1. In 1999, I was in charge of Naval Hospital Beaufort's largest department consisting of 16 medical specialties including Dermatology, Ear Nose and Throat and inpatient wards. This was my first major leadership job. While stationed in Beaufort, I was the refractive surgery liaison for a study administered by the Refractive Surgery Center in San Diego studying the effects of photorefractive keratectomy (PRK) in Navy and Marine Corps aviators. As a result, the Marine Corps invited me to fly backseat in a fighter jet (F/A – 18D Hornet), flying straight up, flipping upside down, and passing other fighter jets within inches, or so it seemed. The pilot achieved a speed of 731 mph, pulled 6.9G's and broke the sound barrier at Mach 1.03. I developed first hand an appreciation of how important it is to have precise vision while maneuvering or navigating an aircraft. Fortunately I did not get sick.
- "2. In 2007, I left my husband and two small children, one in diapers, at home after being selected to deploy as the Officer in Charge of an expeditionary medical team in support of The Combined Joint Task Force Horn of Africa and Operation Enduring Freedom. It was awesome to be the first Navy OD given the responsibility of leading such a



John, Dave, Jeffrey, and Julie Long Miavez, Truman Annex Beach, Key West, Florida, Easter 2011.

unit. Our primary mission was combat readiness. We took care of emergent, acute, and preventive medical and dental needs of the military and civilian government operators and coalition, joint, and allied warfighters on the U. S. naval base, Camp Lemonnier. Additionally, we helped the local Djiboutian community and military operations off base. We partnered with the French, German, and Djiboutian military medicine teams to share medical information to improve the way we took care of the medical needs of the eastern African people, their military, and our own. We also volunteered and assisted the Combined Joint Task Force Horn of Africa, a separate command located on Camp Lemonnier. Their team provided medical, dental and veterinarian care, school and medical clinic construction, and water development projects off base to the area of responsibility (AOR). We

frequently visited the local Djiboutian hospital, Le Peltier, and assessed the medical needs of their patients who have very different medical issues than patients back home. Frequently, our staff assisted French forces in performing surgeries and other medical procedures at Bouffard, the French military hospital. Our personnel also taught English in the local schools and assisted the nuns in feeding the local babies at an orphanage. We delivered soccer balls to villages while participating in medical and veterinary civic action humanitarian projects. Near the end of our deployment, the Commanding General in charge of the Ethiopian National Defense Force's (Ethiopia's military) hospital invited a few of our Navy medical staff and the Army special forces physician from Djibouti to fly to Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. We were honored to participate in a first-ever physician's exchange between the two militaries. During the visit, I met the uniformed ophthalmologist, toured the hospital, and gave a brief on anterior segment diseases to their military physicians."

Her husband Dave, a former Surface Warfare Officer, is employed by Booz Allen Hamilton. They have two sons, John (14) and Jeffrey (8). "Dave has been my rock; and he encourages me to find a balance between working full time, serving my country, and being a mom and a wife," she says.

They all enjoy the ocean and its tranquility. Dave's passion is surfing and offshore deep sea fishing. John loves scuba diving for lobsters and prefers staying close to shore while fishing. Jeffrey's hobbies include deep sea fishing, snorkeling, and playing Minecraft while video-strategizing with his best friend in Vermont. They all plan to improve their skills in tennis, continue bicycle riding, and compete in off-shore fishing tournaments in Florida next year. Julie plans on retiring from the Navy after 26 years of outstanding service to her country and to her profession.

Congratulations U.S. Navy Captain Julie Miavez!

Honors, awards, and memberships

- Meritorious Service Medal (three awards)
- Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal (two awards)
- Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal (two awards)
- Earned designators in Executive Medicine and Managed Care
- American Optometric Association
- Florida Optometric Association
- Fellow - American Academy of Optometry
- Armed Forces Optometric Society - past president
- Navy Optometrist of the Year - 2004
- The Ohio State University College of Optometry – Centennial Notable Alumni - 2014



Dr. Miavez serving others and other countries by providing the best health care possible while deployed in a local village in Djibouti, Africa in 2008.



ALUM AND LONGTIME UAB PROFESSOR “RETIRES”

Patricia and Joe Benjamin

by Bob Newcomb (OD’71, MPH) and Kerry Gastineau, Alumni Coordinator

Congratulations to **William J. “Joe” Benjamin (OD/MS’79, PhD’82)** on his retirement from the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB) School of Optometry. Joe had a long and highly productive career of teaching, research, service, and administration at UAB that included serving as a clinician in contact lens practice and primary eye care, senior scientist in the Vision Science Research Center, director of the Eye Physiology and Ocular Prosthetics Laboratory, chair of the Department of Optometry, and associate dean of the School of Optometry. His service to the profession was also significant as primary editor/author of the *American National Standards Institute (ANSI) Z80.20* and *International Organization for Standardization (ISO) 18369* standards on contact lenses, convener of the ISO Working Group on contact lenses and care products, chair of the *American Optometric Association’s* Commission on Ophthalmic Standards and the former Seal of Acceptance Program, and editor/author of *Borish’s Clinical Refraction*, among many others.

Dr. Benjamin’s new career involves direct patient care as director of Advanced Refractive Services at the

Alabama Eye & Cataract Center, P.C. in Birmingham. He is also the president of an Alabama-based company he founded called Material Performance Assessments, LLC. He continues as president of the International Society for Contact Lens Specialists, secretary of the ANSI Z80 Committee on Ophthalmic Products, and delegation leader for ANSI Z80 Subcommittee for contact lenses and care products at ISO meetings. Dr. Benjamin seemingly doesn’t yet understand the concept of “retirement!”

In addition, he and his wife, **Patricia (OD’79)** remain loyal Buckeye fans who celebrated the win over Oregon in the national championship game and – as parents of an Auburn graduate – were ecstatic when Ohio State beat ‘Bama in the Sugar Bowl. He told me that Pat made candy buckeyes just before the Alabama and Oregon games, and they passed them out in small packages on both occasions to many of their acquaintances. Originally intended for the Auburn fans, he found that the Alabama fans accepted them in good nature, too!

Congratulations Dr. Benjamin!

1951 Morton Schomer (BS'51) passed away December 5, 2014. He practiced as a behavioral optometrist and served in the U.S. Army at Madigan Hospital in Tacoma, Washington. For more than 60 years, he evaluated and worked with children and adults with learning disabilities, and designed programs for their remediation. He also established Home Eye Care, traveling to senior and children's centers.

1952 Raymond Parker (BS'52) passed away August 8, 2014. He was a lifelong resident of Indianapolis.

1952 G. William "Bill" Speakman (BS'52) of Circleville, passed away Feb. 9, 2015 at The Kobacker House in Columbus. He was an optometrist for 47 years and was a lifetime member of the American Optometric Association and the Ohio Optometric Association.

1953 Nelson Edward Abrahamsen Jr. (BS'53) passed away January 24, 2015. Born in Cleveland, he followed his father's and grandfather's footsteps into optometry, enrolling at The Ohio State University School of Optometry. He and his father, **Nelson E. Abrahamsen Sr. (BS'30)**, practiced jointly in offices on Clark Avenue in Cleveland, Rocky River and Lakewood, where their practice is now called Madison Eye Care. He served as President of the Ohio Optometric Association and served on the Ohio State Board of Optometry for many years.

1955 Alan Gootenberg (BS'55) passed away October 9, 2014.

1955 Robert P. Harris (BS'55) passed away May 2, 2014 in Columbus. He was in private practice in Washington Court House for 38 years before retiring in 1993. He was a 50-year member of the American Optometric Association and the Ohio Optometric Association. Dr. Harris was a Lt. Colonel in the U.S. Army and served in Normandy, France during World War II.

1955 Irving J. Tanzman (BS'55) retired in June 2012 from private practice.

1957 Richard A. O'Heren (BS'57) passed away in July 2014. Following graduation, he served in the U.S. Army as an optometrist at Madigan Hospital in Tacoma, Washington.

1957 Gordon Cipra (BS'57) recently found himself reminiscing about Epsilon Psi Epsilon Fraternity Classes of 1956, '57, and '58. He relishes the privilege of being instructed by luminaries like Glenn Fry, PhD, **Gerald Westheimer (PhD'53)**, and Fred Hebbard, OD, PhD. He said, "Dr. Hebbard was instrumental in coaching **Jerome Brislin (BS'57)**, **Mickey Weitzman (BS'75)** and me to successfully pass the August 1957 California Board Exam. I am so proud of being a product of The Ohio State University School of Optometry and eternally grateful." Dr. Cipra retired in 2007 and lives in LaJolla, CA.



Some EPE members from the classes of 1956-1958.



Three Ohio State Buckeyes: (l to r) Chuck Fleenor, **Gordon Cipra (BS'57)**, and **Don Rasmussen (BS'57)**



Gordon's "selfie" from October 2014.

1964 Louis Shovels (BS'64) passed away August 8, 2014 in Michigan.

1966 David Charles Canfield (BS'66, OD'70) passed away January 18, 2015 after a brief illness. Born in Toledo, Dr. Canfield's military service began when he entered the Army Medical Corps in October 1966. He proudly served his country in the U.S. Army at the 24th Evacuation Hospital in Long Binh, Vietnam, achieving the rank of captain. Surviving injuries during the war, he was honorably discharged and returned to his Alma Mater, Ohio State, to earn his OD in 1970. He served communities in Virginia and southern Ohio before moving to the Mansfield area where he practiced for 27 years, most recently at Shawnee Optical.

1970 James R. Eakin (OD'70) passed away August 24, 2014. He practiced until June, 2014, in Laconia, New Hampshire, where he owned his business and thoroughly enjoyed his staff and patients. He had to give up working when he became ill with an aggressive cancer.

1971 Charles Allyn Uniacke's (OD'71, MS'71, PhD'73), wife, Sue K. Hammersmith, retired as president of Metropolitan State University in the Twin Cities. Their daughter, Paula Uniacke, is returning from India to start in the sociology PhD program at UC Berkeley this fall.

1973 Mark Rinkov (OD'73) was the recipient of a consumer choice award in optometry and serves as CEO of Rinkov Eyecare Centers, with eight offices in Central Ohio.

1973 Jeff Timko (OD'73) welcomed his son, Ryan Timko, to his practice in DeLand and New Smyrna Beach, Florida.

1974 James Hermann (OD'74) has retired after 40 years of practice. Dr. Hermann chose to locate his practice in the then small village of Pickerington, Ohio. The Toledo native also made Pickerington his home, became active in the community and 40 years after initially setting up practice, the practice now has a large patient base in Pickerington and surrounding communities. His daughter, **Bridget Hermann (OD'04)**, **Jay Henry (OD'98)**, and **Morgan Marshall Murphy**

(OD'13) are the other optometrists in the Hermann and Henry Eyecare practice making it truly a family affair.

1980 Robert Dittoe (OD'80) welcomed John Manard (OD'14) as an associate in his New Lexington, Ohio practice. Dr. Manard prefers the aspects of a small-town doctor compared to the more hectic pace of a large city practice. Dr. Dittoe said, "We are fortunate to have someone with his qualifications. He's an excellent clinician. He's warm and engaging and brings another dimension to the practice."

1981 Stephen James Pinder, (OD'81) passed away unexpectedly December 27, 2014. He opened Uniontown Vision Center in 1986. He was a member of the Ohio Optometric Association.

1983 CooperVision named Gary Orsborn (OD'83, MS'85) Vice President of Global Professional & Clinical Affairs, a position in which he is responsible for the development and management of the company's professional and clinical affairs strategy worldwide.

1990 Brian Burke (OD'90) was named Outstanding Citizen of Dawson in January 2015 for his involvement in Dawson County's WEE Book's Annual Leap for Literacy. Dr. Burke also is an avid cyclist and rode across Colorado to raise money for Dawson County Literacy.

1992 Pamela Bingham (OD'92) recently moved to Florida and unfortunately, will need to retake NBEO to apply for a Florida license. Great fun!

1992 Heath Gilbert (OD'92), wife Rachel, son Avi, and daughter Chava welcomed the newest member of their family into the world, Zeke Solomon. The kvelling grandparents are Ron (BS'55) and Shirlee Gilbert, Gary Haug and Vera Warner, and Sue and Ron Nelson.



Rachel Gilbert with new son, Zeke.



Members of the Class of 1984 celebrated one of their two reunions in the fall at The Pearl restaurant the morning following the Centennial. From left: Drs. Cheryl Shaw Archer, Roger Filips, Giselle Amsterdam Lander, Susan McGinnis Truitt, Susan Kurland Rapkin, Sarah Warne Yost, Susan Haldeman Kegarise, Daniel Koch, Janine Immel Flood, William Lapple, and Jeffrey Myers.



1993 Sherry Hogan Compston (OD'93, MS'95) married Todd Compston, a chemical engineer, in Athens, Ohio in July 2014. Dr. Compston is working at the VA clinics in Athens and Marietta, Ohio.

2003 Andrea DiNovo (OD'03) works in Marion, Ohio, where she specializes in Binocular Vision and Pediatrics. She resides in Sunbury, Ohio with her husband and three children, ages three, five and seven.

2003 Jessica Simon (OD '03) and Tyler Sutton welcomed daughter Lana Colette Sutton in August 2014.

2004 Dianne L. Williams (OD'04) joined the U.S. Air Force for full-time active duty in 2011. Her first tour was in Warner Robbins, GA, and she is currently assigned at Oklahoma City. She was promoted to major in December 2014.

2006 Philip Arner (OD'06) welcomed second son Nathan Josiah in August 2014.

Members of the Class of 1984 celebrated one of their two reunions in the fall at Plank's restaurant during Alumni Weekend. From left: Drs. Lawrence Roth, Steven Bilon, Jeffrey Myers, Mariann DiFrank Kvacek, Susan McGinnis Truitt, Jean Skoog Heisman, Randall Blevins, Mary Lynne Blevins, Robert Gerdes, Cheryl Shaw Archer, Joseph Bannon, Alan Gillogly, and James Berry



Andrea DiNovo (OD'03) and her family.



Griffin Ray Baxter



Dana McQuinn (OD'70), optometrist at the White Sands Missile Range McAfee Health Clinic; **Sarah Munther ('15)**, extern at the Fillmore Eye Clinic, Las Cruces, NM; **Jon R. Hall, MD** ophthalmologist at the Fillmore Eye Clinic; **Brandon Hicks (OD'10)**, optometrist at the Fillmore Eye Clinic

2008 **Stephanie Baxter (OD'08)** and her husband, Kevin, welcomed baby Griffin Ray Baxter on July 11, 2014.

2008 **Elisa Kurt (OD'08)** is the new optometrist at May Vision in Waunakee, WI.

2008 **Rachael Y. Miller (OD'08)** joined The Eye Care Center of Monroe County and Rob Christen, OD and Ed McDonald, OD in Woodsfield, Ohio in November 2014. Dr. Miller is a native of the area, having graduated from Barnesville High School. She completed her residency in ocular disease at the Cleveland Veteran Affairs Medical Center in 2009.

2008 **Crissi Myers Mikolaj (OD'08)** and her husband, Mike, welcomed baby Brian Myers Mikolaj on May 29, 2014.

2009 **Benjamin Collins (OD'09)** was awarded the 2014 "Young Optometrist of the Year" from the Colorado Optometric Association and was given an award for founding an optometric society in Western Colorado.

2009 **Tiffany Procaccini (OD'09)** and husband Brandon welcomed second baby, Josephine Maureen, into the family in September 2014. Big brother Vinny loves her so much.

2010 **James (OD'10)** and **Holly Hardie (OD'10)** are now partners with **Robert Layman (OD'82)**, and together they purchased an eye care practice in Monroe, Michigan from the retiring owner on January 1, 2015.

2010 **Travis (OD'10)** and **Jenna Zigler (OD'11)** moved to South Carolina and opened a two-location practice called Advanced Family Eye Care. www.eyecareadvanced.com.

2012 **Mallory Kuchem (OD/MS'12)** became a Fellow of the American Academy of Optometry in Denver in November 2014.

2013 **Victoria Piamonte (OD'13)** and **Derek Gresko (OD'12)** were married in San Diego, CA on July 5, 2014.



Crissi Myers Mikolaj (OD'08) and family



2014 Wedding of Victoria Piamonte and Derek Gresko

Front Row:

Danielle Schneider (OD'11), **Sandy Travaglianti (OD'12)**, **Karen Marshall (OD'12)**, **Krystal Long (OD'12)**, **Victoria Piamonte (OD'13)**, **Derek Gresko (OD'12)**, **Kim Nguyen (OD'14)**, **Melanie Clark (OD'13)**, **Katherine Bickle (OD/MS'13)**, **Kerri McTigue**

Back Row:

Andrew Noble (OD'12), **Lindsay Dieffenbaugher (OD'12)**, **Allen Bartholomew (OD'12)**, **Ryan Corte (OD'12)**, **Kevin Skidmore (OD'12)**, **Bryce Brown (OD'12)**



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