

BUCKEYE OPTOMETRY

ALUMNI MAGAZINE



RENOVATIONS COMPLETE!

Tour the New BV/Peds
and LVR Clinics

spring 2016



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The Ohio State University College of Optometry Alumni Society is a chartered alumni society of The Ohio State University Alumni Association, Inc.

on the cover:

The new patient reception area for the Binocular Vision/ Pediatrics and Low Vision Rehabilitation Clinics



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DEAN'S LETTER

"It's so easy to be average. It takes a little something to be special."

—Urban Meyer



I know that you all know that Ohio State Optometry and The Ohio State University in general are special, but I have a feeling most of you are a little biased. You can imagine, then, that our Office of Student Affairs and Admissions Committee members are always thinking about how to describe our special quality to prospective students. One of the noteworthy aspects of pursuing a Doctor of Optometry degree at Ohio State is the vast array of disciplines represented on this campus, most within a stone's throw of the college.

There are seven health science colleges: Dentistry, Medicine, Nursing, Optometry, Pharmacy, Public Health, and Veterinary Medicine. The College of Medicine also includes the School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences, where programs like Physical

Therapy, Occupational Therapy, and Athletic Training reside. Other colleges, like Social Work and Education and Human Ecology, also house health-related disciplines and degree programs.

The ability to offer true interprofessional education opportunities on this campus is unparalleled at schools and colleges of optometry. Last year with the Class of 2018, we initiated just such an educational program. Just before autumn semester 2014 started, **900** entering health science students participated in an orientation program. Small groups facilitated by a diverse faculty met in interdisciplinary groups to learn more about each other and discussed a book focused on cultural competency, *The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down*, that they had all been assigned to read over the summer.

Then, in January 2015, those same students came together in a session at the Ohio Union to learn about medical errors and how to deal with them. A keynote speaker and interprofessional table discussions, again facilitated by faculty, enriched that educational evening.

In February, optometry faculty Roanne Flom, OD, Don Mutti, OD PhD, **Heidi Wagner (OD'86, MPH)** and I had the opportunity to encounter this same cohort of students in a case discussion initiative designed for students who are now further along in their clinical education. I met with second year students from Medical Dietetics, Medical Laboratory Training, Optometry, Pharmacy, and Veterinary Medicine. The case was complex and described a 16-year-old Hispanic girl who had survived osteosarcoma but was coping with a plethora of postoperative issues including depression (being treated with Prozac), blurry vision, headaches, weight loss, and frustration that she had not yet been able to return to horseback riding.

I read the case aloud (think: children's storytime at the library, although I didn't make them sit in a circle on the floor), and we were off to the races. We learned about sudden weight loss in an adolescent, survivorship counseling, and the expanding picture of a pharmacist's role in the healthcare system. It turns out naturally-occurring osteosarcoma is common in certain breeds of dogs, and the veterinary medicine students educated us about how clinical trials in dogs might some day advance treatment in humans. The optometry students wanted to be sure the blurry vision did not represent a metastasis of the girl's cancer.

Also in February, Associate Dean of Clinical Services **Greg Nixon (OD'96)** graciously represented the college at a conference put on by the Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry on interprofessional education. He reported back that one of the keys to true interprofessional education was that the students in different disciplines are supposed to learn about, but also from, each other. I witnessed that kind of teaching and learning first hand and felt privileged to observe these talented young people in action and to get to preside over the optometry component of that learning at Ohio State.

Karla Zadnik, OD, PhD

Dean

Glenn A. Fry Professor in Optometry and Physiological Optics

Spring 2016



One of the things I've done quite a lot of lately since being in my third month of retirement from private practice is reminisce. I often think how fortunate I am to be an optometrist. I also think how fortunate we all are to have had The Ohio State University College of Optometry as our training institution. Have you ever thought much about how that happened?

As the optometry representative to the President's Alumni Advisory Council, I have heard our Ohio State president, Dr. Michael Drake (an ophthalmologist if you're not aware), address Ohio State's history as a land grant university on three different occasions. Now at times I am a little slow and maybe the third time's a charm, but I have since given it much more thought.

When I started on campus in undergrad in 1968, I did know Ohio State was a land grant university. At that time the only effect it had on me was that I wasn't going to have an ROTC requirement, as I was going into optometry without having to pursue a bachelor's degree. In that 1968 to 1974 timeframe, the military style haircut just didn't make it with many potential female friendships; however, I did accept an early commission from the Air Force so I did have to give in to the haircut during the last year of optometry. I think I had Jane on the hook by then, so it turned out just fine.

The Morrill Act of 1861 is the federal legislation that established land grant universities. Think about that for a minute. The Civil War was going on, and the legislature knew that coming out of the war our society was going to need well-educated citizens to serve our society. The key word in my mind is service. That's what prompts my reminiscing.

For 38 years of private practice, I thought mostly of running a successful practice that was driven by being profitable. Practice management lectures drive that into us. Today's practice environment makes that even more difficult than it was just ten years ago. The fact that I was serving my community and patients in a way that not many people could just didn't register as much as it should have.

My last four months of practice is what really triggered my appreciation of what was really going on. Each patient visit was bittersweet and surprisingly emotional, with many hugs and a few tears here and there. Cards and letters were received and greatly appreciated. I just didn't realize the impact that optometry and the service we provide has on our patients. A lot more was going on than just trying to run a profitable practice.

Please take the time to appreciate what you are really doing for your patients, and also appreciate the history involved in how you were provided the opportunity to do what you get to do each day as an optometrist.

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

Roger L. Saneholtz (OD'74)

President, Ohio State Optometry Alumni Society

A Prime Solution



Over the years, Columbus has developed into a foodie town. The competition for the dining dollar has become tough. The good news for those of us who live here is that fine meals can be found all over town. Whether you are looking for ethnic foods or daring taste sensations, excellent meals by chefs who understand the blending of flavors to make an outstanding meal are readily available.

Easily the most successful restaurant entrepreneur in Columbus over the last two decades is Cameron Mitchell. He has built a restaurant empire that started with a single restaurant, *Cameron's* in Worthington and now includes 12 different restaurant concepts across 25 units in 11 states. These concepts include *M*, *Marcella's*, *Cap City Diner*, *Hudson 29*, *Molly Woo's*, and *The Pearl*. To visit each of these is to go on a dining journey that allows you to savor entirely different menus and ambience. The two consistencies across the brands are the high quality food and service.

For years, we have celebrated a holiday dinner with each member of the staff and a guest. Early on, the meal was prepared in our home. Eventually, we moved to a restaurant for ease of service. We have gone to *Granville Inn*, *Worthington Inn*, *Glenlaurel Inn*, *Shaw's in Lancaster*, and *Ocean Club* among others. This past holiday season, we went to Cameron Mitchell's *The Barn at Rocky Fork*. This location used to be *Hoggy's*, a barbecue restaurant on US 62 just northeast of Gahanna. The name does not adequately convey the level of food quality or service inside.

There were 28 people in our party. It was a Saturday night, and the place was packed. We had a private room. If you have ever been at a banquet meal like that or tried to prepare the food for one, you know the challenge it is to have all the entrées come out at the same time. Some restaurants would not even try. As things turned out, I witnessed one of the meals was not ready with the others. I understand; stuff happens. Serving 28 meals ordered from the menu simultaneously is a feat for any kitchen. So one of the meals was not ready with all the rest.

The waiter went to the fellow whose meal was not ready, and said something like this, "Sir, your strip steak is going to be another three to five minutes. I apologize. The chef has asked that we serve this to you so that you have something to eat with everyone else. We are so sorry." On the plate was a piece of Prime Rib about the size of my hand. Just a little something to hold him over for the next five minutes until his steak was ready. Needless to say, we were all impressed by this level of customer service.

In our practices, mistakes will happen. Some are our mistakes; some are truly the fault of a vendor. To the patient, it really doesn't matter. They simply want things to be right. The example we witnessed that evening contained several critical elements to correct a lapse of high quality service. These include acknowledgment of the mistake before the customer (patient) knows, direct confession of the error, ownership of the lapse in service, a solution that wows the customer (patient), and disregard for the minimal cost of the solution.

This model is an excellent one for managing lapses in your normally high quality service. Maybe you will find a use for it someday.

Jeffrey A. Myers (OD'84)

BuckEYE Editor

RENOVATIONS COMPLETE!

A Visual Tour of the new Binocular Vision/
Pediatrics and Low Vision Rehabilitation Clinics

Thank you to M&A Architects for providing the photos for this story.



1

"Wow, we love your new digs," is commonly heard when patients enter the new BV/Peds and LVR Clinics.



2

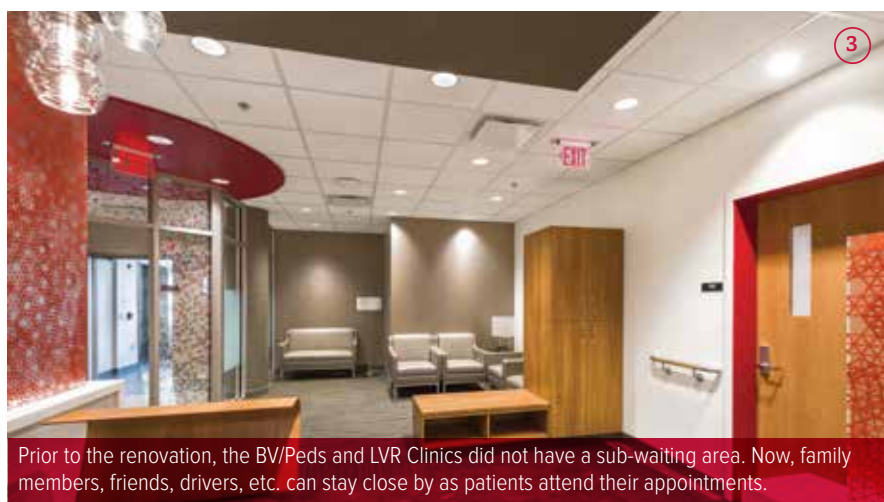
Patients have remarked that the new reception area is welcoming and inviting.



Clearly defined areas for BV/Peds and LVR patients provide a professional, personalized experience.



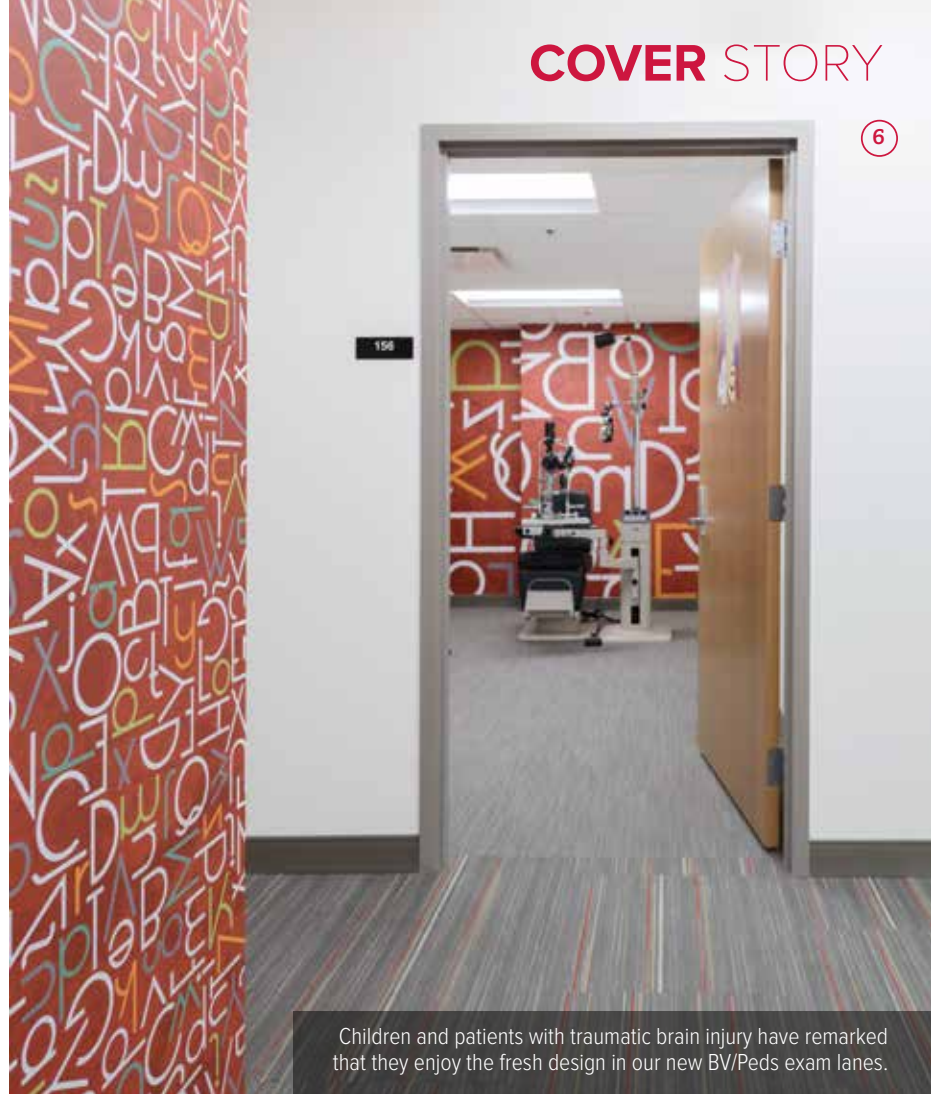
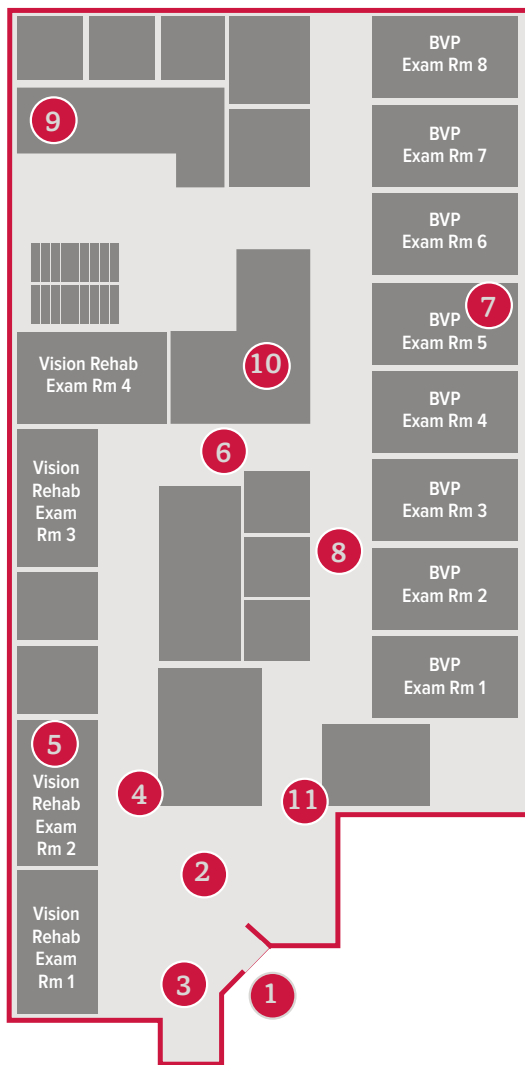
Special touches define exam lane doorways in the Low Vision Rehabilitation Clinic, including lighting over the doors, as well as contrasting paint and carpet colors.



Prior to the renovation, the BV/Peds and LVR Clinics did not have a sub-waiting area. Now, family members, friends, drivers, etc. can stay close by as patients attend their appointments.



Low Vision Rehabilitation exam lanes contain the latest equipment in an environment that puts patients at ease.



Children and patients with traumatic brain injury have remarked that they enjoy the fresh design in our new BV/Peds exam lanes.



The consistent design in the BV/Peds exam lanes is carried through the clinic.



A different animal (illustrated by Graphic Designer Kerri McTigue) graces each exam lane door in the BV/Peds Clinic.



New spaces for vision therapy allow us to continue our tradition of offering the best care.



A modern consult room allows attendings and interns to prepare and discuss cases.

THANK YOU

to all who made this a reality!



For the LOVE OF ENTERTAINING

Dr. DiFrangia playing at a Springboro Vision Center company picnic.



By Jeffrey A. Myers (OD'84)

During World War II, Mike DiFrangia, the son of Italian immigrants, served in the U.S. Navy. When he was aboard ship and had some down time, he would play the harmonica to entertain his shipmates. He continued to play after the war. While he rarely played publicly, he played for himself at home and was quite accomplished. He took the time to teach his son to play the harmonica in the mid-1960s. He could not have dreamed that his son would become a mechanical engineer, an optometrist, and would come to love the musical instrument that Mike shared with him. That is the story of **Ron DiFrangia (OD'88)**.



Mike DiFrangia, Ron's father and harmonica mentor, during WWII naval service



Dr. DiFrangia's dad Mike and mom Teresa



Three-year-old Ron in his dad's arms with older brother Jim alongside



Ten-year-old Ron in lower left posing for a family portrait

Growing up in the North Hill section of Akron, Ohio, Dr. DiFrangia didn't believe he would ever have a passion for the instrument. The turning point was a sixth grade summer camp. He didn't even take a harmonica with him, but others discovered his skill, and coerced him to play. He borrowed a counselor's harmonica and played for the entire camp. He received very good and encouraging feedback for his efforts. The appeal of applause and entertaining others resonated with him, and his efforts continued.

He graduated from Akron North High School, and later from the University of Akron with a BS in Mechanical Engineering. McDonnell-Douglas in St. Louis was the beneficiary of his engineering talents for a few years. An interest in optics and telescopes kindled, and the influence of an optometrist, Lawrence Jehling, OD, nurtured an interest in optometry. Dr. DiFrangia's goal was to have a small private practice.

While at the college, it was not uncommon for him to spend Saturday night in jam sessions playing the harmonica with others who played guitar and keyboard. The "Red-Green Blues Band" was the name of the group and included Dr. DiFrangia, **Joe VanKeuren (OD'88)**, **Larry Bennett (OD'88)**, **Jonathan Pflueger (OD'88)**, **Will Glen (OD'88)**, and **John Yu (OD'88)**. They even participated in the 1988 College Talent Show and placed second behind the group, "Bad Habits". Dr. DiFrangia graduated from The Ohio State University College of Optometry in 1988.

Following graduation, he bought a retiring doctor's practice in Springboro, Ohio, just south of Dayton. It wasn't long before he found a couple other harmonicaists and a guitar player and formed the "Carlisle Hayseeds Harmonica Band". They played many senior centers and summer festivals. Two highlights of their playing time included the Caesar Creek Pioneer Village Old Tyme Music Festival and the Carlisle Railroad Days Festival.

He also became involved in the Family Tree Dulcimer Band. This group included about 20 dulcimers, some guitars, a banjo, and just one harmonica. They would perform a couple events a month, including weddings and at church services. They even had the privilege to play the historic Abbeville Opera House in South Carolina.

Dr. DiFrangia explained there are three main types of harmonicas. The most common is the diatonic, which usually has ten holes, allowing the play of 20 notes, one when inhaling and another when exhaling. It is typically used in blues, rock, country, and folk music. The second type is the chromatic, which is most commonly used in jazz and classical music. These typically have 12 to 16 holes, allowing the playing of 24 to 32 notes. A small button on the side, when depressed, allows for playing the half-step notes, doubling the number of notes available to be played. The third type is the tremolo. It is primarily used for special effects, like note wavering or vibrating. It has two chambers like the chromatic and has two sets of holes, each containing two reeds tuned to the same note, one tuned slightly higher than the other.

Dr. DiFrangia retired from practice in 2006 to move closer to family in Akron and help care for his mother, Teresa, an Italian immigrant. The disappointment in giving up the bands and relationships built up in the Dayton area was deep, and Dr. DiFrangia was unsure if he could find an outlet for his playing in northeast Ohio. As luck would have it, the Rubber Capital Harmonica Club played at his mother's nursing home. Soon, he was an active member and has found a musical home in Akron. They practice weekly and perform two or three times a month. His repertoire from his long years of experience includes a wide variety of music. Watch him perform and you might get to hear love ballads from the 1960s and 1970s, waltzes, polkas, movie themes, or even the music of John Denver and Elvis Presley.



The Hayseeds doing the half-time show at one of the Lion's Club bluegrass events

Interestingly, harmonicas have a relatively limited lifespan. While Dr. DiFrangia currently has eight harmonicas, he has had a couple dozen over his lifetime. Generally, it is the reed-plate that suffers from metal fatigue, limiting their life. In some cases, the reed-plate can be replaced. He has learned how to repair and retune harmonicas as well. The musical quality in a single performance can be affected by the ambient temperature and moisture. Even the moisture of one's breath can sour notes during the time of a performance.

Today, when he is not caring for his mom, working on his car, or reading about his favorite topics of flight and the space program, you can find Dr. DiFrangia practicing his harmonica skills or performing in northeast Ohio individually or with the Rubber Capital Harmonica Club. If you are in the area, it's worth a listen.



"Carlisle Country Hayseeds" at Lowe Reunion in 1998 (l to r) Ron DiFrangia, Bill Rogers, Curt Noe, and Wilburn Centers



1988 Ohio State Optometry Talent Show - The Red-Green Blues Band



Portrait of Ron DiFrangia in 2010.



The Family Tree Dulcimer Band posing at their practice church



Elizabeth Brubaker ('17), Nicholas Green ('17), Jessica Bodamer ('18), and Kevin Rodda ('18)

STUDENT BLOG INITIATIVE

By Sally Haltom, MA, *Director of Student Affairs*
and Becca Roby, MLHR, *Program Manager*

In the summer of 2013, the Office of Student Affairs team was gearing up for another admissions cycle, and we were looking at ways to more effectively engage with prospective applicants. The *Day in the Life of a Student* page was outdated, yet we still wanted to present the student perspective on our program. The idea of appointing student bloggers to write about their ongoing experiences seemed the right way to go.

To read the student blogs, go to:
go.osu.edu/optblogs

"The blog has been great for me. I have always heard the upperclassmen telling me how quickly time flies by while in school, but I never imagined that it would fly by this fast. The blog has given me opportunities that have forced me to sit down, take a deep breath, and reflect on the past month. While writing them I have found myself reflecting on how much I have learned and improved from classes, especially in clinic. It also continually reminds me of the many opportunities that I have been given by this great college. Overall, I have been thankful to have been chosen to blog for the college, and it is something that I will always have to reflect back on."

Elizabeth Brubaker ('17)



Elizabeth Brubaker ('17) and Nicholas Green ('17)

The first two bloggers were hand selected from the Class of 2017. Elizabeth Brubaker had been the president of the Ohio State Pre-Optometry Club and was already emerging as a leader in her class. Nicholas Green had been blogging for OptometryStudents.com, a national student-led Pre-Optometry website, and had written a fantastic article about staying at the **EΨE** House for his interview. With a balance of female and male voices, in-state and out-of-state perspective, and established and developing Ohio State pride, Elizabeth and Nick set a high bar for the bloggers yet to come!

The following autumn, Student Affairs opened the blogging positions up to any interested students from the incoming Class of 2018. Based on their well-written, honest and enthusiastic accounts of their first week of school, Jessica Bodamer and Kevin Rodda were chosen as bloggers. This year, we added two additional talented, articulate first year students, Rachel Fenton and Hannah Vollmer, to represent the Class of 2019.

Common themes of classes, exams, conferences, and Ohio State pride permeate the posts, but each of the bloggers has found their own distinct voice bringing an individual spin to their experience at the college. Kevin says, "It has been really encouraging to see all that progress happen as I write about it."

"Being a student blogger has been a great experience for me. Having never blogged before, this allowed me to take a step back from the stress of studying and reflect on the positive experiences and excitement that I have had while in the optometry program."

Rachel Fenton ('19)



Kevin Rodda ('18) and Jessica Bodamer ('18)

"Blogging for the college has been a great way for me to chart my progress through the program. Occasionally I'll look back at old posts and remind myself how much I've learned, all the great and fun times I'm having, and how far I've come in such a short period of time. It will be really entertaining to look back at my blog ahead of graduation in a couple years and think 'I thought BIO was hard?'"

Kevin Rodda ('18)

The student blogs have become an integral part of the college's recruitment efforts. Elizabeth says, "It has been rewarding to speak to prospective students at their interview day [and] hear them tell me that they have read my blog and enjoyed hearing what they have to look forward to." To date, all six bloggers have published 73 posts, have attracted 5,973 visitors, and reached 11,718 views. The Office of Student Affairs is excited for the next academic year when all four classes will have bloggers reporting!

"A large part of my life revolves around sharing experiences with others and bringing a smile to the world around me. Being a blogger for The Ohio State University College of Optometry has provided a great opportunity for me to share my student experience with friends, family, and prospective new students alike, while hopefully sparking some laughter along the way."

Hannah Vollmer ('19)



Rachel Fenton ('19) and Hannah Vollmer ('19)

Where have all the **CLASS COMPOSITES GONE?**

A favorite pastime at reunion weekends.

By Dave Moore, *Web and Instructional Specialist*

A favored highlight of any reunion weekend, The Ohio State University College of Optometry class composites have adorned the wall at the bottom of the stairwell of Fry Hall for ages. Simply by the addition of a new photo composite each year, the storage capacity of this location was finally exceeded. As photos in the collection were now reaching 100 years in age, a new preservation plan had to be conceived.

Amy McCrory, Digital Imaging Specialist photographing the class of 1938 class composite





It was decided to digitize the collection and then store the original photos with the university archives. With the help of the Knowlton School of Architecture, the younger, more durable prints in the collection were processed through a large flatbed scanner. The older photos, some perhaps susceptible to pictures popping loose due to age, were carefully photographed by the Digital Imaging Unit of the University Libraries. Once digitized, the entire collection was then evaluated and processed for long-term storage by staff from the University Archives.



Kevlin Haire, assistant curator and Karen Glenn, program assistant, measuring the composites to determine what sized containers each will need to be stored in



University Archives storage area, long-term storage for the class composites

All of the composites removed from the wall



Rachel Childress and Michael Haddock trying out the new touchscreen access to the class composites

The digitized photos are now accessible by touchscreen on the fourth floor of Starling-Loving Hall. The screen in the Pre-Clinic on the second floor of Fry Hall will soon be displaying this electronic collection of photos as well.

ALUMNI COMPOSITE PHOTOS



1916 - 1919	1920 - 1929	1930 - 1939	1940 - 1949	1950 - 1959	1960 - 1969	1970 - 1979	1980 - 1989	1990 - 1999	2000 - 2009	2010 - present
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WILDERMUTH OPTOMETRIC RESEARCH CLINIC

RESEARCH ROUNDUP

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

This Just In!

In the first large study to examine hyperopia and early reading skills of preschoolers and kindergartners with uncorrected vision, children with moderate uncorrected hyperopia (3-6 D) associated with reduced near visual acuity or stereoacuity performed significantly worse on a test of early literacy compared to emmetropic children. The study, funded by the National Eye Institute and led by **Marjean Kulp (OD'91, MS'93)**, Distinguished Professor of Optometry and Elise Ciner, OD, professor, at the Salus University Pennsylvania College of Optometry, studied children in Columbus, Boston, and Philadelphia. Although this study does not answer the question of how to treat moderate hyperopia in young children, it is an important step in that direction. Dr. Kulp hopes to initiate a follow-up study to compare farsighted children with and without corrected vision, which would then determine if correcting hyperopia with glasses leads to improved literacy outcomes. The Ohio State University clinical center team included **Andy Toole (OD'97, MS'00, PhD'08)**, **Tamara Oechslein (OD/MS'14)** and **Julie Preston (OD'85, PhD'88)**.

Why Research is Important to Clinical Practice

The study of hyperopia and early reading skills suggests that referral for assessment of early literacy skills should be considered in four- to five-year-old

children with moderate hyperopia who also have reduced binocular near VA or near stereoacuity.

The study is a follow-up to the NEI-funded multi-center Vision in Preschoolers study led by **Paulette Schmidt (BS'72, OD'73, MS'76)**, professor emeritus, which established the most effective tests for preschool vision screening and showed that well-trained non-professionals were able to effectively screen children. The study was influential in the development of the recommended practice guidelines by the National Expert Panel to the National Center for Children's Vision and Eye Health.

Yu Receives NEI Grant

Congratulations to Deyue Yu, BS, MS, PhD, assistant professor, on her recently funded grant from the National Eye Institute. The focus of her five-year, \$1.925 million award is the development of comprehensive and accurate assessment of residual vision for patients with loss of central vision, with the eventual goal of creating time- and cost-efficient clinical outcome measures that thoroughly and precisely assess patients' functional vision. With these metrics, she anticipates improved monitoring of disease progression, improved selection of optimal rehabilitation methods and strategies, and better evaluation of treatment and rehabilitation outcomes for the millions of Americans severely impacted by central vision loss.

FOCUS ON:

Michael Haddock, Alumni Coordinator

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

As someone who has never worn glasses or contact lenses, Michael Haddock jokes that he believed he was at a slight disadvantage when he applied for the Alumni Coordinator position at the College of Optometry. Now, as a member of our team, Michael has fully embraced the opportunity to learn about the field and strives to transition that curiosity into creating new ways to connect our alumni.

Although Michael grew up in Orlando, Florida, his roots can be traced to Columbus, as he was born at Ohio State's main hospital while his father was a medical student. His parents met while they were both undergraduate students at Ohio State in the early 1980s (his mother is from Reynoldsburg and his father is from Puerto Rico) and moved to Florida when Michael was two years old.

As the firstborn of Buckeye parents, Michael says he was, "highly encouraged – some might say 'brainwashed,' – to be an Ohio State fan."

In fact, there is a picture of his father holding his baby boy after he was born, facing a window that overlooked Ohio Stadium. "My father claims that he was talking to me about Ohio State tradition and what it meant to be a Buckeye in that moment, and it's hard to argue against that kind of unfiltered enthusiasm as a child," Michael explains.

When the time came to apply to college, naturally Ohio State was his top choice. Michael used Ohio State as a model for what all other schools "should have," but considering the different climate and overall distance, decided to apply without telling his parents. As you can imagine, he and his family were overjoyed when he was accepted. With his family's full support (and a lot of pride), Michael came to Ohio State to study strategic communications and entrepreneurship as an undergraduate, earning his degree in 2012.

Michael appreciates the sense of shared identity that comes from being a Buckeye, and in the spirit of sharing, has answered the questions to the right.

What has impressed you most about our alumni?

I have been very impressed by how our alumni are some of the smartest people I've ever met, and are also genuinely "normal" at the same time. When I went to the EastWest Eye Conference, literally days after first starting at the college, I was very nervous about being in a room full of optometrists that I could not relate to on any level. I was delightfully surprised by how talkative and charismatic everyone was, especially on the dance floor at the Bad Habits concert later that weekend! The Ohio State University College of Optometry is truly a family-centered culture, and I could not be more thrilled to be a part of it.

Which alumni did you meet first?

Roger Saneholtz and "Buckeye Bob" Newcomb.

What is your dream event to plan and hold for our alumni?

My dream would be for all 2,914 of our living alumni to be able to attend reunion weekend. Additionally, I would love to see some sort of friendly competition or campaign created in the future so that classes would have the ability to interact with each other and further connect with the college.

Who inspires you?

Generally speaking, the inspiration for my work ethic comes from the idea of knowing that something that I do could have a lasting impact on someone's life. That is why I try to make every email, event, or interaction as personal and meaningful as possible.



What is your pet peeve?

Not so much a pet peeve, but I cannot handle the sound of Styrofoam pieces rubbing against each other. It gives me the chills.

What do you like better, cats or dogs?

Dogs, every time.

How old were you when you had your first eye exam?

The first one that I can remember was sophomore year of undergrad at Ohio State, where I received a free eye exam after helping an optometrist in my hometown (Orlando, FL) implement a new website and social media strategy for his practice. While I'm sure that my parents took me when I was younger, I do not actually remember. I know that my colleagues in the BVP Clinic may have a problem with this answer.

Who is your optometrist?

I am embarrassed to admit that I do not have one. I am the only one in my family who has "relatively perfect" vision, so I have never had to worry about it. However, I have volunteered to help out our OPT II students with their comprehensive eye exams next month. I sleep well

at night knowing that I have the contact information of more than a hundred optometrists who live in Columbus in the event that something does happen.

What are your hobbies?

In addition to serving as your Alumni Coordinator, I am currently pursuing a master's degree in Public Policy and Management at the John Glenn College of Public Affairs. When I am not in class, I have really enjoyed the opportunity to explore my backyard. Columbus is such a great city with so much to do, and I've been trying to check out the many new (and old) restaurants, gastropubs and local craft breweries in the area.

What is your favorite eye pun/joke?

Eye see what you did there.

What's the last thing you Googled?

Is a hot dog considered a sandwich?

What's your go-to karaoke song?

Typically my decision is based on how involved the crowd is and what kind of age group I am working with in the room. Regardless, "My Heart Will Go On," by Celine Dion generally gets people pretty excited.

HOYA VISION CARE
EYEWEAR GALLERY

HOYA Vision Care Eyewear Gallery

By Rachel Childress, *Director of Development*

Greg Hicks (OD'84), Director of Professional Affairs, Hoya Vision Care, David Dinenzio, Hoya Territory Sales Manager, Don Dakin, VP, Hoya, Karla Zadnik, OD, PhD, Phil Cummins, Hoya Training Manager, Barney Dougher, President / CEO Hoya, Kraig Black, VP, Hoya

For a number of years, the College of Optometry has been fortunate to partner with HOYA Vision Care and benefit from their support. For the last six years they have given the largest scholarship we award each year for the top incoming student, and for eight years they have been our sole sponsor of the BuckEYE Magazine. Their sponsorship transformed the magazine from a simple black and white newsletter to the beautiful publication we are able to produce today.

Last May, we began a conversation with Barney Dougher, president of HOYA Vision Care, North America to discuss other areas of the college where HOYA might like to have a presence. With the help of our campaign chair **Jeffrey A. Myers (OD'84)** we were able to determine that a facility project might be something they would like to do.

We use a number of HOYA lenses in the Eyewear Gallery, so it seemed fitting to have their name associated with this prominent space in our building.

HOYA made a commitment of \$250,000 to name the gallery, and this money will go to the college's facilities fund to be used in future renovations.

On November 20, 2015, we celebrated the naming of the HOYA Vision Care Eyewear Gallery with an unveiling of the new signage and brief comments from Dean Karla Zadnik, Barney Dougher, and Jeff Rohlf, assistant director for the Eyewear Gallery.

Following the naming ceremony, the crowd enjoyed a presentation from Tom Sullivan. Mr. Sullivan is a multi-talented and well-known performer who has been blind since birth as a result of retinopathy of prematurity. Through storytelling and original songs, his performance that evening discussed the importance of living a meaningful life and always learning from life's biggest challenges and accomplishments.

Thank you to Barney Dougher and HOYA Vision Care for this generous gift.

Ohio Scholarship Challenge

By Rachel Childress, *Director of Development*

As the university's *But for Ohio State* campaign begins to wind down, this is a good time to say thank you to a few very special scholarship donors.

Of the college's \$10 million campaign goal, \$2 million was for scholarships – both current use and endowed. Through December 31, 2015 we raised \$3.2 million for scholarships with a little more than six months left in the campaign. This is truly fantastic, and our scholarship awards have been more generous than ever.

So how did we surpass our scholarship goal by more than a million dollars? We have to thank our donors who took part in the Ohio Scholarship Challenge. This limited-time, university-backed program provides a way for a donor who creates a new endowed scholarship at the minimum level of \$100,000 to have the distribution doubled in perpetuity. Typically a scholarship at that level would provide just over \$4,000 annually, but scholarships that are part of this challenge will instead award closer to \$8,500.

We would like to say thank you to these generous participants:

- **Carol (OD'87) and Kevin Alexander (OD'76, MS'77, PhD'79)** – Endowed the Dr. Carol Alexander and Dr. Kevin Alexander College of Optometry Student Leadership Endowed Fund, which provides a scholarship to a student who demonstrates outstanding leadership ability.

- Donald Mutti, OD, PhD – Established the David R. Mutti Endowed Fund in the College of Optometry, in memory of his brother, which will support a student who demonstrates potential to inspire others.
- The Ohio Optometric Foundation – Established the Ohio Optometric Foundation Endowed Scholarship Fund for an Ohio student entering his or her fourth year, who is in good standing with AOSA, and demonstrates need, leadership skills, past achievement, and future potential.
- Donors to the Melvin Shipp Scholarship – Created the Melvin D. Shipp Endowed Scholarship Fund in the College of Optometry, which will support a student with current academic ability and future potential.
- Dean Karla Zadnik – Created the Ellen M. Henry Scholarship, in her mother's memory, which will be awarded to a student who demonstrates extraordinary achievements and potential.

The Ohio Scholarship Challenge ends in June. If you would like to learn more about this program, please contact Rachel Childress at 614-292-2100 or childress.35@osu.edu.



The initial donors (standing) to the Melvin D. Shipp Scholarship Fund when it was announced at Dean Shipp's retirement party in 2014.

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

Pre-Clinic and Pediatrics Rooms Named to Honor Donors

By Rachel Childress, *Director of Development*

In previous editions of the BuckEYE magazine, we highlighted individuals who have named newly renovated spaces in our pre-clinic on the second floor of Fry Hall. With our newest renovation on the first floor, we now have available spaces in the BV/ Peds and LVR areas. Since our last update, six additional spaces have been named through generous gifts from our alumni and friends.



Frank Bickle, Eva Pound-Bickle, Kevin Meenach, and Katherine Bickle

Frank Bickle (OD'78) and Katherine Bickle (OD/MS'13)

Frank and his daughter Katherine have named a room in the pre-clinic for the Bickle Family. Frank practices in Granville at ProCare Vision Center and has been a part time clinic instructor in the past. Katherine is currently working toward her PhD here at the college. They both heard about the room naming options during a campaign dinner in Cleveland and wanted to find a way to get involved as a family.

Christopher Woodruff (OD'86) and Heidi Wagner (OD'86)

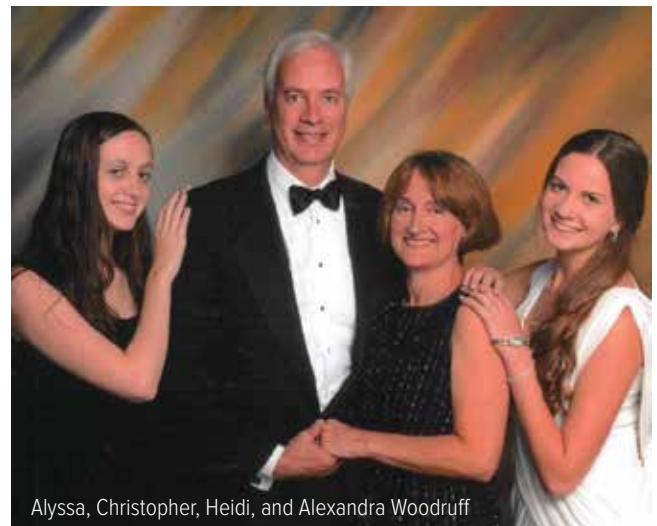
Chris and Heidi recently returned to the Buckeye state and the college after working at Nova Southeastern University in Florida for many years. They are both professors of clinical optometry. Chris teaches optics, and Heidi has taken over our extern program from **Greg Nixon (OD'96)**. Shortly after joining the college faculty, they spoke with our campaign chair **Jeffrey A. Myers**

(OD'84) and learned about the possibility of naming a room in the pre-clinic. We are always proud to have faculty make a commitment because our students will see those names and understand the dedication our faculty have to the college and the profession.

The Episcotisters

This group of alumni from the class of 1977 bonded over intermural student basketball and have been best friends ever since their college years. They each made a commitment that totals the cost of one pre-clinic exam room. Participating members of the Episcotisters are:

Clifton Poling (OD'77), Steven Eyler (OD'77), Michael Rader (OD'77), Andy Davidson (OD'77), and Joe Barr (OD'77, MS'79).



Alyssa, Christopher, Heidi, and Alexandra Woodruff



James Bieber (BS'64, OD'68)

Jim practiced in the central Ohio area for a number of years. He has also given years of service to the college on the Optometry Alumni Society Board. A couple of years ago, Jim and his wife Janet attended a campaign dinner and heard about the many options they had to give back to the college. Before an official decision could be made, Janet passed away in 2014. Jim recently named a room in Janet's memory and is the first person to name a pediatric exam room in the new BVP clinic.

Jennifer Mattson (OD'06)

Jenn splits her time between her practice in Galloway and our BV/Peds clinic. She is our first instructor to name a space in the pediatric clinic, as well as one of the youngest graduates who has taken advantage of a naming opportunity. All of the new pediatric rooms are associated with an animal character, making it very friendly for the children who come to see us. Before any gift specifics were decided for Jenn's commitment, she simply said, "I'll take the hippo room." What a fun way to leave her legacy.

Optometric Educators, Inc. (OEI)

OEI has been very generous to the college for many years. It was the lead donor on two recently endowed scholarships and is now turning its sites to the facility renovation projects. OEI's name will be associated with the BV/Peds Consult Room in the new first floor clinic. We especially thank **Michael Earley (OD/MS'88, PhD'92)** and **Gregory Good (OD'75, MS'79, PhD'81)** for helping to make philanthropic decisions for the OEI organization.

We want to thank all of these alumni and friends for their generosity and we hope others will consider doing the same. Naming opportunities don't come along too often in Fry Hall, but we still have some remaining in the pre-clinic space and a handful in the new BV/Peds and LVR spaces as well. Please consider how you might like to leave your legacy for the future The Ohio State University College of Optometry.



SALLY HALTOM RETIRES

The student affairs team: Becca Roby, Sally Haltom, Justin Griest, and Shawn Gilbert

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

Sally Haltom, Director of Student Affairs at the College of Optometry for the past 19 years, retired in March, after 35 years at Ohio State. Sally served the college as the leader of the small but mighty Student Affairs team, and oriented, counseled, mentored, and encouraged hundreds of optometry students over the years. Her positive and caring nature has helped develop the community atmosphere that is so important here at the college. Through her service on the Admissions Committee, she has interviewed almost every student admitted in the last 19 years, and then guided and supported them through to graduation.

As Director of Student Affairs, Sally has been instrumental in planning and executing all student-related events for the college, including the First Year Welcome Dinners, Admissions Visit Days (Open Houses), Student Awards Banquets, and Graduate Convocations. With particular care and attention, she always made sure these events were special, and they never failed to go off without a hitch.

Sally engineered the college's admission affiliation program with Penn State Behrend campus, the first program of its kind for the university. She also has been heavily involved in several committees at the college, including the Curriculum Committee, Functional Standards Committee, Student Special Events Committee, Student Advisory Committee, and BuckEYE Magazine Committee. She was also the advisor to the Ohio State Pre-Optometry Club and was personally responsible for recruiting some of the college's top student leaders.

Sally earned a Bachelor of Arts in English and a Master of Arts in Higher Education and Student Affairs from Bowling Green State University. In 2012, Sally was honored by The Ohio State University as one of the recipients of the University's Distinguished Staff Awards for her everlasting contributions to the Ohio State community. Sally will truly be missed by students, faculty, and staff, both past and current, of The Ohio State University College of Optometry.



James Warren Jr., associate professor of biology, Sally Haltom, and Mary-Ellen Madigan, director of admissions and financial aid, meet at Penn State Behrend.



Sally with then Dean Melvin Shipp, OD, MPH, DrPH receiving the Distinguished Staff Award in 2012



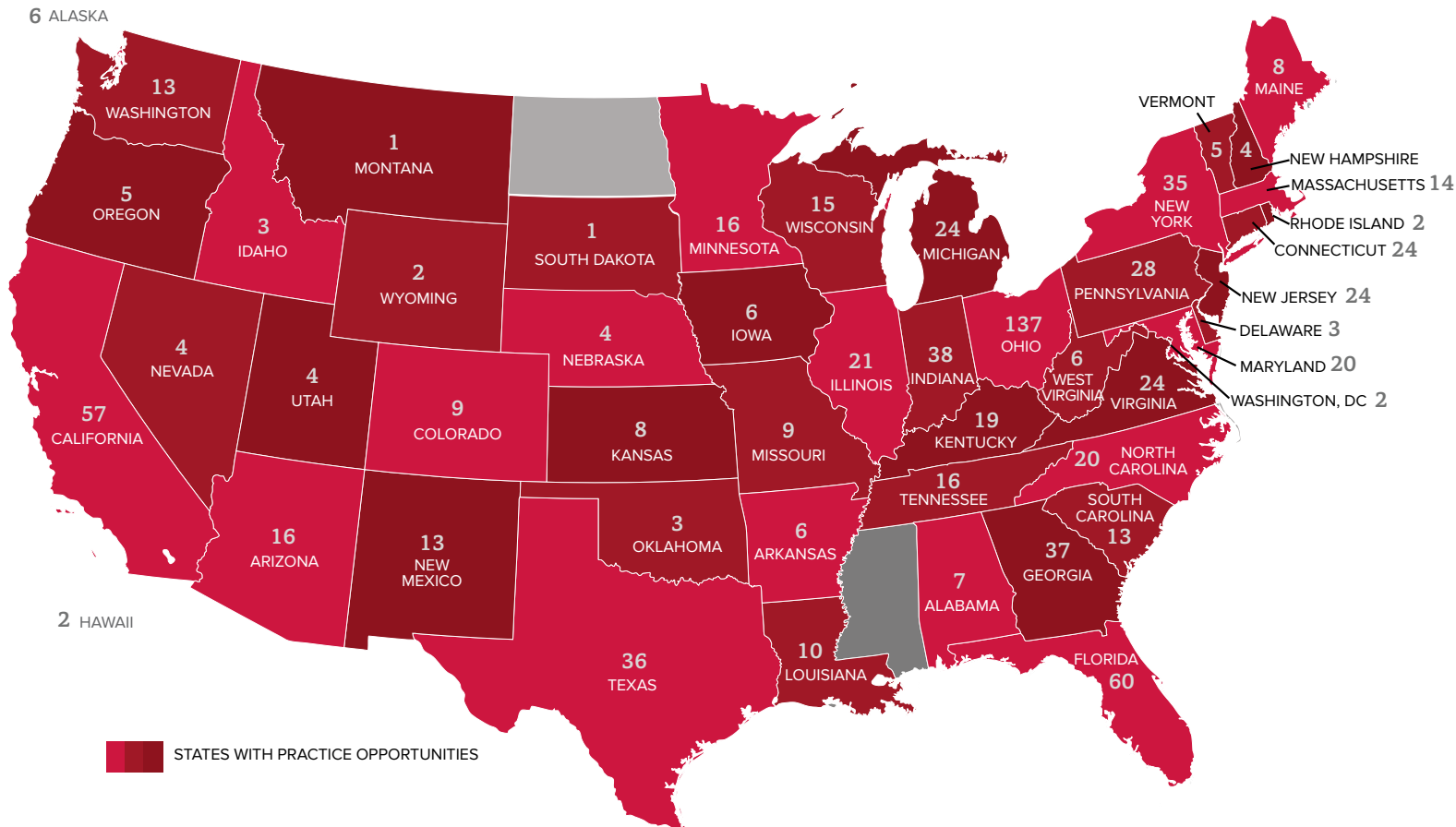
Sally Haltom with two students in the College of Medicine Orchestra – left is Bryce St. Clair ('19) and right is Brooke Weisenburger ('19)

Practice Opportunities Network

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

Whether you're a practice owner looking for a new doctor to join your team or a job-seeker in pursuit of a new challenge, The Ohio State University College of Optometry Practice Opportunities Network can help.

Located on the college's website at go.osu.edu/PO, the network (think Craigslist for optometrists) is a database that connects job seekers and providers, according to specialty, location, and job type. Regular users of the site may note that its appearance has changed as part of the college's overall web redesign, but the functionality of the site remains the same.



Congratulations 2015 American Academy of Optometry Fellows

Melanie Anspaugh (OD'11)
 Bryce D. Brown (OD'12)
 Michael-Vu Tran Do (OD'14)
 Lisa J. Draper (OD'14)

Diana Johns (OD'13)
 Rachael Y. Miller (OD'08)
 Chantelle Mundy (OD'08)
 James Omodio (OD/MS'08)



Alumni Society Name Change (But Friends Are Still Invited!)

As you may have noticed, especially if you received the 2016 membership mailing, The Ohio State University Alumni Association (OSUAA) implemented a new membership model for its clubs and societies across campus. This change, which promotes making donations rather than dues to these organizations, comes with a name change from “Optometry Alumni and Friends” to “The Ohio State University College of Optometry Alumni Society.”

While the name and the acronym may be different, the benefits are still the same. If you make a donation of \$75 or more to any optometric fund at the college starting January 1 of each year, you will be recognized as a **sustaining member** of BOTH the College of Optometry Alumni Society and the Alumni Association. As a sustaining member, you will have access to selecting a football game of your choice, will become eligible for bowl tickets, receive The Ohio State Alumni Magazine (from OSUAA), have access to the Ohio State golf course and will be invited to special events hosted by the Alumni Association.

If you would like to see a list of optometric funds at the college or make your donation for membership, please visit optometry.osu.edu/eyedonate.

New Football Ticket Lottery

In response to alumni feedback, The Ohio State University Alumni Association (OSUAA) has changed the way it provides football tickets to alumni, starting in 2016. Aside from the same procedures for Alumni Reunion Weekend, which operates on a first-come, first-served basis, if you are a sustaining member of OSUAA, you will have the ability to:

- Select which game you would like to attend
- Have the opportunity to purchase multiple tickets to a game
- Immediately know which game you are attending

The ticket process will begin in early July. For more information, including tax deduction information for sustaining members, visit go.osu.edu/TicketChanges.

Save The Date!

Sept. 30 - Oct. 1, 2016

The Ohio State University College of Optometry

2016 Reunion Weekend

By Michael Haddock, *Alumni Coordinator*

After receiving feedback from our past reunion weekend attendees and alumni all across the world, the College of Optometry is excited to introduce a new format for the 2016 Alumni Reunion Weekend!

Friday, September 30, 2016

Huntington Park

330 Huntington Park Lane, Columbus, OH 43215

The college will host a reception off-campus in the Left Field Hall of Fame Terrace at Huntington Ballpark in the popular "Arena District" neighborhood in downtown Columbus. This location will provide our alumni with the opportunity to mingle with College of Optometry classmates, friends and faculty before venturing out to class-specific gatherings afterwards. These will be planned by each individual class president/volunteers and shared with our Alumni Coordinator. The surrounding Arena District is home to a multitude of live-music venues, bars, and restaurants. Additionally, the ballpark is close to several other local districts, such as the Short North, Grandview, German Village, and downtown Columbus.



Saturday, October 1, 2016

Fry Hall, College of Optometry

338 W. 10th Ave, Columbus, OH 43210

The College of Optometry will host a tailgate at Fry Hall three hours before kickoff of the Ohio State vs. Rutgers football game. All alumni are welcome to celebrate and reminisce with friends, students and faculty. There will be food and beverages available. Tours of Starling-Loving and Fry Halls will be provided, including the new BIO simulator and renovations to the BV/Peds and LVR clinics. Football tickets will be available for purchase if you are a sustaining member of the Ohio State University College of Optometry Alumni Society. For more information, contact Michael Haddock at 614-688-1363 or haddock.15@osu.edu.

Let Your BuckEYE Flag Fly!



Epsilon Psi Epsilon FUNDRAISER

Only \$65 per flag! (Includes shipping)
Proceeds will be used to to make some
necessary repairs and improvements to
the EYE house.

*The only way to get a "Cool Brutus" Flag
is to purchase it through this fundraiser.*



Flag size is 3ft x 5ft

Name _____ Graduation Year _____

Mailing Address _____

Number of Flags _____ Amount Enclosed _____
(\$65 per flag)

*Orders must be submitted by
July 1, 2016 and will be mailed
to the address provided above
in August.*

Mail this form, with your check made payable to
"Epsilon Psi Epsilon" to:
Weston Tuten, 275 East 15th Ave., Columbus, OH 43201

1937 **Herschel Rubin (BS'37)** recently celebrated his 100th birthday, making him the oldest living alumnus of The Ohio State University College of Optometry. Upon graduating in 1937, Dr. Rubin returned to his hometown of East Liverpool, Ohio and practiced optometry until his retirement in 1985. East Liverpool Mayor Ryan Stovall recognized Dr. Rubin at a small gathering on his birthday this year, informing the audience that every year going forward, January 4 would be known as "Dr. Herschel A. Rubin Day."

1965 **Wayne Collier (OD'65)** was recognized as "Citizen of the Year" of Bucyrus at the annual Bucyrus Area Chamber of Commerce dinner awards on October 27. Among many of the recognitions for receiving such an award, *Crawford County Now* credited him with "personally taking care of those who could not afford to protect the precious gift of sight, having provided eye examinations and glasses to the needy – in conjunction with the Bucyrus Lions Club – at a greatly reduced cost, and sometimes for no cost at all."

1978 **John Nametz (OD'78)** retired after 37 years of practice. A graduate of Olivet College and The Ohio State University College of Optometry, Dr. Nametz has served as an adjunct clinical professor of the Michigan College of Optometry at Ferris State University. He also served on the Michigan Board of Examiners in Optometry, was the President of the North Central States Optometry Council, and was recognized as the Michigan Optometrist of the Year in 2002. You can learn more about Dr. Nametz's career on our website in February's edition of *Alumni Focus*.

1991 **Marjean Taylor Kulp (BS'86, OD'91, MS'93)** was recently recognized by the National Eye Institute and the National Institutes of Health for her study on how uncorrected farsightedness is linked to literacy deficits in preschoolers. The study, which compared 4- and 5- year-old children with uncorrected hyperopia to children with normal vision, found that children with moderate hyperopia did significantly worse on the Test of Preschool Early Literacy (TOPEL). This difference is linked to potential risks for later reading problems, based on similar studies done by the National Eye Institute.



Herschel Rubin (BS'37) with his family at the college's centennial gala in 2014.

1993 **James Rogala (OD'93)** has joined the faculty at the University of Pikeville-Kentucky College of Optometry as an associate professor of optometry. From 2007 to 2011, Rogala taught ocular pathology at the University of Auckland in New Zealand. Prior to that, he served as a clinical faculty member of the Michigan College of Optometry at Ferris State University while a member of the medical staff at a multidisciplinary health care center. Congrats on your new role, Dr. Rogala!

2000 **William McConarty (OD'00)** and his practice *Village Eye Center* were recognized in *The Washington Post* in an effort to encourage readers with flexible spending accounts to use their end of the year tax breaks to buy high-end eyeglasses.

2001 **Melissa Bailey (MS, OD'01, Ph.D'04)** was highlighted in The Ohio State University student newspaper, *The Lantern*, for her research optometry lab, called the EyePod, at the COSI Science Museum in Columbus.

2009 **Katie Greiner (OD'09)** is enrolled in a Healthcare MBA program through Baldwin Wallace College and is expecting her second child in July 2016.

2010 & 11 **Jenna (OD'11)** and **Travis Zigler (OD'10)** started a sunglasses company called "Eye Love" that gives profits back to those who need glasses/exams (www.eyelovellc.com).

2011 & 14 **Joshua Werling (OD'14)** and **Chad Otte (OD'11)** have purchased the three-generation Van Wert optometric practice of Dr. Dennis Miller, called *Miller Vision Center*. With their new leadership, the business will operate under the name *Van Wert Family Eye Care*. Drs. Otte and Werling also own a practice in Celina called *Mercer In-Sight*. Congrats on all of your recent success!

In Memoriam

John R. Gates (BS'48) age 88, passed away on April 8, 2015.



Thomas Hudson (BS'50) age 90, passed away on January 26, 2016 in Sparta, Michigan.

Dr. Hudson was a graduate of St. Mary's Memorial High School then served in the U.S. Army before graduating from Indiana University and The Ohio State University School of Optometry. After graduation, he practiced in St. Mary's until his retirement in 1985. He married his wife on June 20, 1948, and they were very involved in the St. Mary's community. They were longtime members of the Zion Lutheran Church, while Dr. Hudson was involved in the St. Mary's Jaycees, St. Mary's Rotary, Idlewild, the OFCC, the Shriners and a 32 degree Mason and a member of the Aug-Mer 32 club. Additionally, he was an avid fisherman, golfer and bridge player.



William Jones (BS'51), age 91, passed away on May 7, 2015 at the Essex House in Salem, Ohio.

Dr. Jones was born in Youngstown, graduated from Chaney High School in 1943, and enlisted in the U.S. Army. After returning from Europe following World War II, Jones enrolled at The Ohio State University School of Optometry. He graduated and married his wife in 1951. Afterwards, they moved to Columbiana, Ohio in northeast Ohio, where Dr. Jones practiced for almost 50 years. Dr. Jones was noted for "holding everyone who walked into his office in high esteem and all throughout his life spoke with true affection about the people and families he knew in and around the area." Throughout the years, he and his wife were actively involved in the community. He was a lifelong member of the Columbiana Rotary, a member and leader of the Salem & Youngstown chapter of Barbershop, and was a 50-year member of Salem Country Club. He was a notable sponsor and donor to many civic activities and believed passionately in supporting local businesses and causes.



Harvey H. Rosen (BS'52), age 88, passed away. While a student at Ohio State, he was involved in Zeta Beta Tau Fraternity and Hillel.

George E. Hall (BS'53), age 88, passed away January 29, 2016.

Dr. Hall was born in Washington Court House and as a child worked on a paper route and mowed lawns. He graduated from Washington High School and served in the U.S. Army Air Corps during World War II. After his service, he worked at Frigidaire in Dayton to finance his college education, receiving both his undergraduate and optometry degrees from The Ohio State University. After briefly working in Dayton upon graduation, he decided to "make his life in a smaller community" and opened up his own optometry practice in Covington, Ohio, where he stayed for 48 years. He retired in 2001.

Aside from running his practice, Dr. Hall was a member of the Covington Christian Church, served on the Board of Examiners for Optometry in the state of Ohio, was a member of the A.B. Cole Post #80 American Legion, and served on the Covington Board of Education. He enjoyed cheering for his Covington Buccaneers and Ohio State Buckeyes and enjoyed woodworking.



James Lance Wight (BS'64), age 79, passed away on October 31, 2015 in Lakewood, Ohio.

Dr. Wight was born and raised in Wellington, Ohio, graduated from Wellington High School and obtained his bachelor's degree from Ohio Wesleyan University. He entered the U.S. Air Force and was stationed in Topeka, KS for three years. Upon returning to Ohio, he entered The Ohio State University School of Optometry and graduated in 1964. He returned to his hometown to begin his optometric practice, where he served as President of the Ohio Optometric Association from 1974-1975. In 1990, he opened an additional practice in Vermillion, Ohio. He retired in 2011 and moved to Bluffton, South Carolina with his wife to be closer to family.



James Edgar Evans (BS'70), age 70, passed away on October 16, 2015 in Columbus, Ohio.

Dr. Evans was born in Columbus, Ohio and attended Wellston High School before Culver Military Academy, where he graduated in 1962. After completing his undergraduate degree from Ohio University in 1966, he attended The Ohio State University College of Optometry and graduated in 1970. As an optometry student, he was a member of Epsilon Psi Epsilon Fraternity. Dr. Evans was a veteran of the U.S. Navy, where he served for

four years, and the Ohio Air National Guard, from which he retired in 2005 with 34 years of service. He practiced optometry and was well known throughout Jackson and Vinton counties during that time. Additionally, Dr. Evans was active in his community, including being appointed to the Board of Directors of the Milton Banking Company; serving as an Elder of the First Presbyterian Church in Wellston, being a member of the Black Diamond Lodge #538 F&AM, Aladdin Shrine, Wellston Chamber of Commerce, Wellston Rotary Club, Wellston Lions Club, American Legion Post 371 of Wellston, Elks Lodge in Jackson, and the Fairgreens Country Club. In his spare time, Dr. Evans enjoyed golfing and cheering on the Ohio State Buckeyes.



Correction

The incorrect class year for **William Pfefferle (BS'50)** was included in our Fall 2015 edition. We regret the error.





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jamod@winchestervisioncare.com with feature story ideas.

Contact Michael Haddock at haddock.15@osu.edu with alumni news items.