

Buckeye Optometry

ALUMNI MAGAZINE

SPRING 2023

WORLD VIEW:
LIANA AL-LABADI (OD'09)

ALUMNI FOCUS:
CHRISTINE SINDT (OD'94)

CLASS OF 2014
AWAY-GAME ADVENTURES

Driving Park's Positive Force for Vision

CLAYTON HICKS (OD'70)

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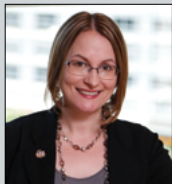
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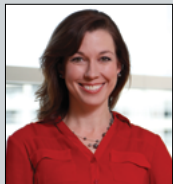
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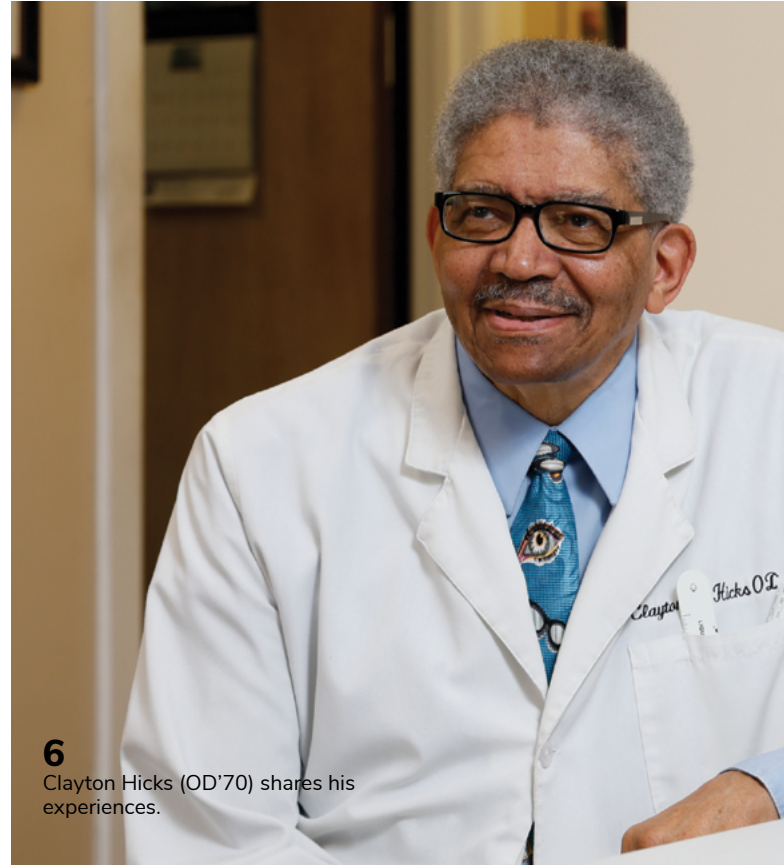
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on the cover:

Clayton Hicks (OD'70) in his Driving Park, Columbus
optometry practice

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Corrections

We regret the following errors in the previous edition of the BuckEYE Alumni Magazine:

- The omission of **Daniel Grangaard (OD'14)** and **Jenni Steinman (OD'18)** from the list of new American Academy of Optometry fellows.
- The incorrect degree listing of **Jerry Lowther (BS'66, OD'67, MS'69, PhD'72)**.

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Dean's Message

"Sometimes heaven is just a new pair of glasses." –Anne Lamott

We are still basking in the glow of the graduation of The Ohio State University College of Optometry Class of 2023. We staged a student awards reception, a graduation banquet, a luncheon to honor our Optometry Alumni Society awardees, convocation where we hooded 60 new optometrists, and the all-university commencement in Ohio Stadium. It was a whirlwind!

Highlights included a 30-person-strong Alumni Band appearance at the banquet. They were led by Shelley Graf, who was the drum major for the Ohio State Marching Band in 1981. She was the first woman drum major. I have long followed her and admired her at various alumni band events over the past couple of decades. And there she was! At our event! She led the graduates in a Block O march around the banquet room to the Script Ohio music, and I got to ... well, not dot the I technically ...but I certainly pretended to. The band included a legally blind trumpeter who does all the scheduling for the alumni band. Given the event and the presence of all the happy parents in the room, I was especially touched by their performance of *Sweet Child of Mine*.

The band was followed by the comedic stylings of our own **Mike Earley (OD/MS'88 PhD'92)**, as he introduced the audience to the Class of 2023's Monday Memes during the pandemic and summarized their cumulative number of examinations—in both academic and patient care settings. They have left an impressive legacy of education and eye care delivered, all against the backdrop of the pandemic.

I have had a couple of career developments recently. In February, The Ohio State University Board of Trustees extended my decanal appointment by a year, through June 30, 2025. Then, just this week, the provost announced that I will serve as the interim dean of the College of Public Health as of July 1, an appointment that will continue until the new dean arrives on campus. We have long had natural affinities between the Colleges of Optometry and Public Health, especially when Mel Shipp, OD, MPH, PhD, served as dean and president of the American Public Health Association.

As always, the future is bright for Ohio State Optometry. Our Class of 2027 rolls up in mid-August with stellar academic credentials. We welcomed five new clinical faculty members in February: **Zachary Coates (OD/MS'19)**; Jocelyn Daniel, OD; Carissa Janczak, OD; **Danielle Orr (OD/MS'17)**; and **Doug Widmer (OD'11, MS'16)**. Yueh-Shun (Walter) Wu joins us July 1 as a provost's fellow-to-faculty tenure-track faculty member to continue his University of Minnesota studies of vision impairment and quality of life. You'll hear great things from all of them in the months and years to come—stay tuned!

Go BuckEYES,

Karla Zadnik, OD, PhD

Dean

Glenn A. Fry Professor in Optometry and Physiological Optics



President's Message

Much effort is put into recruiting not only the very best optometry students, but also our profession's future leaders. We have branded this effort, "The Buckeye Advantage."

The Buckeye Advantage: Board Passage Rates

Ohio State Optometry consistently has one of the highest first-time NBEO passage rates. Notably, the Class of 2023 yielded a 92% pass rate on NBEO part 1 versus the national average of 65% in March 2022.

The Buckeye Advantage: Curriculum

Our current curriculum provides students with didactic preparation, an opportunity to hone their critical skills, and abundant patient care encounters (even during their first year). Throughout their optometric education, students are exposed to every subspecialty, as well as a comprehensive series of practice management courses. By the time they graduate, our students experience nearly 2,000 patient encounters. This curriculum is designed and delivered by world-class faculty, many of who not only have a passion for teaching, but also are experts in their respective fields of study.

The Buckeye Advantage: Leadership Development

Students participate in an I-CE (pronounced I-See)

leadership program developed in collaboration with faculty and alumni. We aren't only developing doctors of optometry, but also future leaders in our communities, practice leaders, industry leaders, future state association presidents, and future optometry faculty. This leadership journey is individualized starting as soon as a student is admitted and carried forth to where each of you is today.

The Buckeye Advantage: Alumni Support

Our alumni are the backbone of The Ohio State University College of Optometry. Each of you makes an impact with your time, talent, and treasure. Most of you have students shadow in your practice and write letters of recommendation. Alumni participate as preceptors in fourth-year extern programs and host students for summer jobs. Alumni often speak at student engagement opportunities sharing words of wisdom and inspiring confidence in the future.

Many alumni have supported fundraising efforts such as the building fund or scholarships that put us on the forefront to attract the best optometry students. Most of our alumni continuously renew annual sustaining alumni memberships with vigor by supporting a variety of funds. For those who may have overlooked this, I would encourage you activate your sustaining alumni membership now and renew annually. Each membership contribution to the college, no matter the size, keeps our Buckeye Advantage strong.

The future of optometry is bright, thanks to you and the Buckeye Advantage we create, nurture, and develop. I am proud to be part of The Ohio State University College of Optometry network of alumni.

Chris Smiley (OD'01)

President

The Ohio State University College of Optometry Alumni Society

An Optometry Legend Among Us

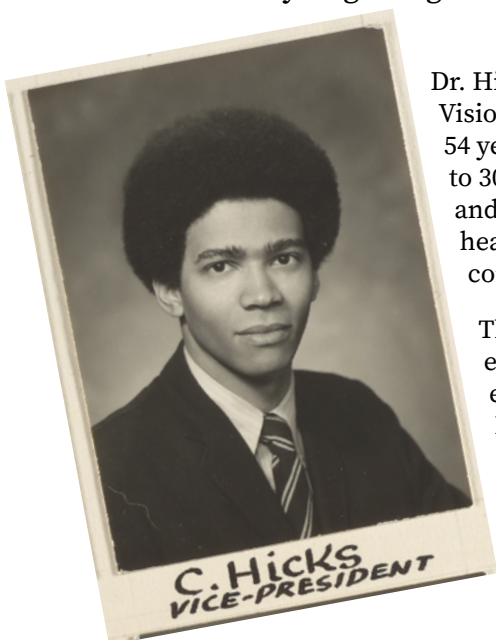
Clayton Hicks (OD'70)

By Sylvia Jones (OD/MS'06)

I have had the privilege of serving as a BuckEYE Alumni Magazine contributing editor for the past year; however, due to the growing demands of my entrepreneurial endeavors, I must now bid farewell. For my final article, I interviewed one of optometry's legends, **Clayton Hicks (OD'70)**, with whom I had the honor of working at his office during my time in optometry school. Dr. Hicks has imparted valuable lessons to me, such as the importance of always having business cards and the efficiency of getting it right the first time!

Dr. Hicks is the founder and owner of Driving Park Vision Center on the near east side of Columbus. For 54 years, Dr. Hicks has provided vision care services to 30,000 patients, including children, adults, and the elderly. He is passionate about reducing health disparities, especially in the Driving Park community.

The biggest question I had when taking on this endeavor was, "How can I capture such an extraordinary life in a simple magazine article?" I decided to do what my mom would normally advise. She would always say, "Honey, just do your best!" So, I decided that a timeline was appropriate. Here it goes!







1940s and 1950s: Clayton Nathaniel Hicks was born on May 2, 1943, in Columbus, Ohio, on the south side.

1960s: Dr. Hicks graduated from South High School in 1961. He immediately went to The Ohio State University, and in 1964 he graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Microbiology. In 1966, he was recruited into the optometry school. At the time, Dr. Hicks recalls that there were few African Americans in the health sciences at Ohio State, and there were efforts by the federal government to desegregate the university.

Dr. Hicks remembers, “I worked part-time [as a research microbiologist for the Ohio Department of Health], and I was lucky I got a scholarship to go to optometry school. It didn’t cost me a penny to get my degree, which was really kind of neat.” He credits this

scholarship as the primary reason for becoming an optometrist.

1970s: In the spring of 1970, Dr. Hicks graduated from The Ohio State University College of Optometry as a doctor of optometry. The Class of 1970 was one of the earliest classes to receive the OD title. Prior to that, it was a bachelor of science degree.

Of optometry school, Dr. Hicks recalls, “It was a pleasant experience. The thing I had going for me was that most of my classmates were from small towns, and they had no experience at all with Black folks. They looked up to me because I knew a lot, was older, and already had a degree. In fact, they elected me vice president of my class.”

Upon graduation, Dr. Hicks was only the fifth African American to graduate from the Ohio State Optometry program. He was the only

African American in his class, and he remembers that there were only two women.

In 1970, he started his own practice, Driving Park Vision Center. He continued to work as a clinical instructor at the College of Optometry for 16 years.

In 1976, Dr. Hicks assumed the role of Vision Care Consultant for the Ohio Department of Medicaid, where he played a crucial role in establishing the Ohio Medicaid Vision Program. Drawing from extensive research on vision programs in other states, Dr. Hicks provided recommendations that incorporated the best practices into Ohio’s program, resulting in improved access to quality vision care for millions of state residents.

1980s: Dr. Hicks received numerous accolades for his outstanding contributions to the field of

optometry. In 1981, he was honored with the Outstanding Service Award from his fraternity, Alpha Phi Alpha. The following year, he was named Optometrist of the Year by the National Optometric Association, and in 1983, he was elected as the association's president. Dr. Hicks has been actively involved in the National Optometric Association for many years, currently holding the position of executive director of the National Optometric Foundation, an organization dedicated to promoting visual health among minority populations.

1990s: Dr. Hicks recognized the increasing prevalence of obesity and cardiovascular disease and founded the Driving Park Walking Club in the '90s, which has since become a model walking club for the City of Columbus. When asked about the motivation behind starting the walking club, Dr. Hicks cited the high rates of cardiovascular disease in his neighborhood and his desire to make a positive impact on the community's health. Over the years, Dr. Hicks has received several awards for his community leadership, including the Outstanding Alumnus Award from The Ohio State University Black Alumni Society in 1995 and the Driving Park Area Commission's Distinguished Leadership Community Award in 1999. In addition, he was elected President of the Livingston Avenue Collaborative for Community Development in 1996.

2000s: Dr. Hicks continued to be recognized for his contributions to healthcare and community service. In 2003, he was awarded the Community Building Award by Ohio Governor Bob Taft, followed by the Theodore Berry Community Service Award from Alpha Phi Alpha in 2007 and the Cheryl Boyce Excellence in Healthcare Award in 2008. In 2010, he was honored with the Community Champions Award from Molina Healthcare of Ohio, and in 2011, he was recognized as an Esteemed

Alumnus in 100 Years of African American Achievement at The Ohio State University.

As of 2023, Dr. Hicks remains actively engaged in his private practice and continues to serve in various leadership roles, including his 60-year membership in Alpha Phi Alpha and his position as executive director emeritus of the Alpha Rho Lambda Education Foundation. He is a Life Member of the American Optometric Association and a Life Member of the Ohio Optometric Association, Epsilon Psi Epsilon, and the National

Coalition of Black Meeting Planners (Board of Directors).

When asked for advice to optometry students and young optometrists, Dr. Hicks emphasizes the importance of finding a mentor to receive guidance and avoid common pitfalls in the field. It has been a pleasure to reflect upon Dr. Hicks' exemplary life and career, and we gratefully acknowledge his unwavering commitment to his profession, his community, and his mentoring efforts in optometry. We sincerely thank him for his significant contributions.



Buckeye Optometrists Around the World

Liana Al-Labadi (OD'09)

By Kathy Rudolf (OD'09)

In our continuing feature, “Buckeye Optometrists Around the World,” we highlight **Liana Al-Labadi (OD'09)**. Dr. Al-Labadi lives in the West Bank, in the center of Ramallah City. She was born and raised here and returned home after completing her ocular disease residency in 2010. Dr. Al-Labadi attended Earlham College and The Ohio State University College of Optometry but knew that she wanted to return home eventually. When I interviewed her, we discussed the differences in practicing in her home country compared to the U.S. and how she has been able to use her Ohio State Optometry education and her personal drive to their fullest potential.



Upon her return home, licensing was the first step. “The scope of practice is so limited in Palestine,” Dr. Al-Labadi explains. “Practitioners here practice at level two (WCO model – see sidebar), which means they are only allowed to prescribe glasses and contact lenses. Most optometrists work in commercial optometry “stores.” They are not recognized as health care practitioners. No diagnostics or therapeutics are allowed. There is a very strong ophthalmology lobby here.”

It was particularly challenging for Dr. Al-Labadi to realize that she could not practice full-scope optometry after the rigorous education she had received in the U.S.

“It was even more difficult to realize that my degree was not recognized,”

she says. “I was the only OD living and practicing in the West Bank. I had to fight to have my degree recognized by the Ministry of Higher Education, which took about two years to accomplish. I then had to become a member of the Palestinian Council of Optometry, which was not an issue. I finally had to take an exam, which was a simple, easy exam. After realizing how tough it was to practice clinically with full scope, I decided to join academic institutions in Palestine. I initially worked at the Faculty of Medicine & Health Sciences at An-Najah National University for eight years, where I was appointed as the head of the optometry department.”

Optometric education is structured differently as well. “Optometry here in Palestine is a four-year bachelor’s



Liana Al-Labadi (OD'09)

degree,” she says. “I remember my first week teaching, when I realized that fourth-year students graduate without having any on-campus clinical training. So, I revamped the curriculum and developed a university clinic, similar to the one at Ohio State, but on a much smaller scale. I also worked on developing a pre-school vision screening program. We were able to travel with students across the country, even to remote and Bedouin areas to conduct vision screenings in disadvantaged communities. Through this role, I was able to practice optometry at its fullest scope, and at the same time I got the opportunity to provide education like the one I received at Ohio State to future generations of Palestinian optometrists.”

She is now working at the Arab

American University as the head of the optometry department, where she helped establish a bachelor of optometry program, as well as a master in clinical optometry program. She also opened her own private clinic in a neuropsychiatric rehabilitation center, where she works in a multidisciplinary team to provide comprehensive services to children with multiple disabilities and visual impairment.

There are certainly pros and cons to practicing abroad. Among the pros, “I have had many opportunities that I probably wouldn’t have had if I were in the States,” says Dr. Al-Labadi. “I’ve worked on several projects funded by the European Union and by European organizations to develop curriculum and clinical skills in vision rehabilitation for

World Council of Optometry (WCO) scopes of practice categories

Level 1

Optical Technology Services

Includes management and dispensing of ophthalmic lenses, ophthalmic frames, and other ophthalmic devices that correct defects of the visual system.

Level 2

Visual Function Services

Includes Optical Technology Services plus Investigation, examination, measurement, recognition, and correction/management of visual system defects. (Note: practitioners at Level 2 are considered optometrists.)

Level 3

Ocular Diagnostic Services

Includes optical Technology Services plus Visual Function Services plus Investigation, examination, and evaluation of the eye, adnexa, and associated systemic factors; to detect, diagnose and manage disease.

Level 4

Ocular Therapeutic Services

Includes Optical Technology Services plus Visual Function Services plus Ocular Diagnostic Services plus use of pharmaceutical agents and other procedures to manage ocular conditions/disease. (U.S. optometry)



Dr. Al-Labadi with colleagues and patients.



“I am very grateful for the excellent education that I received at Ohio State and the clinical experience that I gained, especially during my ocular disease residency.”

Liana Al-Labadi (OD’09)

special needs population’s in the Middle East region. I was invited as a guest lecturer at many regional conferences and to other universities in the Middle East and in Europe--all of which have enabled me to have a professional network of colleagues and friends from all over the world.”

Among the cons, “The work here is challenging, stressful, and demanding. Not only because of the limited scope of practice, but living in a developing country means there is a lack of resources-- whether it is human resources, infrastructure, or financial resources,” she says. “My job involves wearing many different hats and handling many tasks and

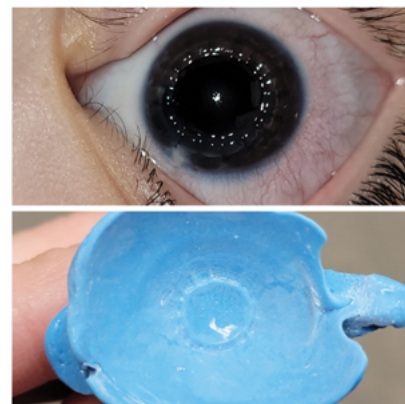
responsibilities, which can be overwhelming at times.”

Dr. Al-Labadi says she used to return to the U.S. each year to get her continuing education, as she wanted to keep her Ohio license valid. These trips gave her the opportunity to see classmates and former professors and catch up; however, for the past couple of years it has become difficult to travel back to the U.S., so, she has been traveling to nearby countries to complete her required CE.

Although she misses these opportunities to reconnect in person, Dr. Al-Labadi reflects, “I am very grateful for the excellent

education that I received at Ohio State and the clinical experience that I gained, especially during my ocular disease residency. I feel exceptionally prepared to deliver personalized and a high standard of eye care to my patients and to pass on my knowledge and clinical skills to my students. Despite the struggles and challenges that I faced, I know that I made a difference in the way optometry is taught and practiced in Palestine. I have had students graduate to open optometry practices in remote areas, where there is limited access to ophthalmology. It makes me proud to see these graduates provide emergency eye care and use diagnostics to provide their patient population with the high standards of care. I have also had several students graduate to pursue higher educational degrees in optometry locally and internationally, who now work with me in the university. I consider these graduates to be my success stories.”

Transforming Passion into the Pursuit of What's Next



An Interview with Dr. Christine Sindt

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



Christine Sindt (OD'94)

Only once in a great while does one cross paths with someone who exudes so much positive energy that it prompts you to stop and take notice. **Christine Sindt (OD'94)**, Director of Contact Lens Services and Professor of Clinical Ophthalmology and Visual Science at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics, is such a person.

An astute clinician, prolific writer, accomplished speaker, avid researcher, and holder of seven U.S. patents, including one for EyePrint custom contact lens technology, Dr. Sindt approaches every task with unbridled curiosity and enthusiasm.

How did this energetic woman from Buffalo, New York land in the home of the Iowa Hawkeyes? The answer: Through the halls of The Ohio State University College of Optometry.

Dr. Quinn: You earned your OD degree at Ohio State, then pursued a residency with the Veterans Administration. How did that come about?

Dr. Sindt: I did my student rotation through the VA hospital in Columbus, Ohio. I loved working with the veterans and the clinic chief, **Bob Newcomb (OD'71, MPH)**, so I decided to pursue the residency position at the Cleveland VA Medical Center; however, Cleveland had its sights on a graduate from the Illinois College of Optometry. They ended up accepting us both to the program. The other applicant was Steven Sindt, OD, whom I had met at an AOA convention during our second year. We dated long distance and got married after we graduated from optometry school. So, we went from a long-distance relationship to working with each other every day. It was a happy time.



The residency was wonderful because it was multidisciplinary. It gave me a well-rounded experience and set me up for success at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics.

Dr. Quinn: How did you find yourself at the University of Iowa?

Dr. Sindt: The AOA announced a position there. My husband is from Iowa and was excited by the prospect of being close to family. Another big reason was because of the wide scope of optometric practice in Iowa. My residency experience allowed me to walk the walk and talk the talk, so I got the position.

Dr. Quinn: How were you accepted in the hospital environment being only the third optometrist on staff and, for a period of time, the only woman?

Dr. Sindt: Because I came from Ohio State, where my class was half men and half women and did my residency at a VA hospital where the leader of optometry was an incredibly strong woman, **Stacy Yaniglos (OD'77)**, I didn't know there was a glass ceiling. No one in my new job ever tried to hold me down. They just didn't understand that I could rise.

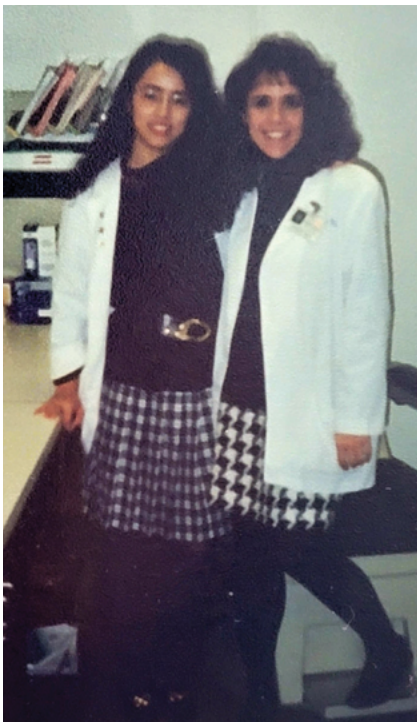
Dr. Quinn: You certainly have risen! Did you feel like you were breaking new ground when you were doing all this?

Dr. Sindt: Not intentionally. I was trying to rise to the occasion and follow my calling. I didn't know that I couldn't do something, so I did it. I felt like I had the ability, so why would I not do it?

I think a key to my success was, at first, I flew very much "under the radar" in my department. It gave me freedom. I just went around and did the things that I genuinely felt in my heart were the right things to do. I like to say I was a free-range chicken!

Dr. Quinn: You are not afraid to take on new challenges, which is a perfect segue into the topic of you holding seven patents. What's that process like?

Dr. Sindt: The first patent is the hardest to get, because you don't know how to do it. Coming up with the idea or creating the pathway to make the idea come to fruition is not the hard part. That's following your passion, your dream, your skillset. It's the things outside your skillset that are the hardest to do. I applied for and was awarded an unrestricted research grant offered by a contact

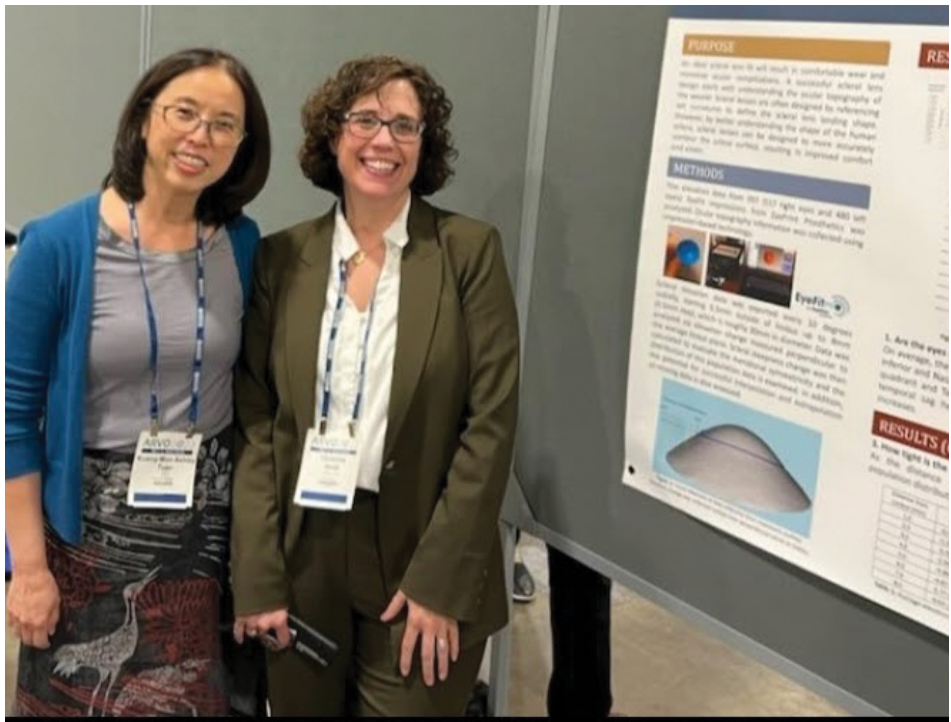


lens manufacturer. They had many resources to guide me through the process. I learned so much. You can't be afraid to fail. You only get better if you fail.

Dr. Quinn: Inspiring! You are past president and founding member of Women and Vision (now Global Ophthalmic Women) and past president and co-founder of the Scleral Lens Educational Society. You are chief clinical editor for *Review of Optometry* and have served as associate editor for *Review of Cornea and Contact Lens*, are on the editorial advisory board for *Optometry Times*, and a contributing editor for *Contact Lens Spectrum*. How do you do it all?

Dr. Sindt: It's not really about what you do, it's about who you're surrounded by. It's really about doing things that you're passionate about. When you're doing them with the people you love, then it's just joy.

Dr. Quinn: I'd like to finish by asking how did you, from Buffalo, New York, end up doing your OD training at Ohio State?



Dr. Sindt: When I was a senior in college I discovered a couple things about myself. I love research, but I hate being alone. In the middle of that year, somebody talked to us about research opportunities in optometry, which was a revelation to me. I went around and talked to optometrists. They all loved their job. So, I started applying to schools. When I went to Ohio State, I thought to myself, I have found my people.

Dr. Quinn: What made you feel that way?

Dr. Sindt: One, there was a whole university surrounding the college. That gave me the opportunity to do things outside of optometry, like sing in the campus choir. Second, they offered research opportunities. Finally, when I talked to the students, they loved it! I felt like everyone I spoke with at the college would be genuinely happy to have me there. That's how I want to feel in my life.

Dr. Quinn: Chris, we are proud to have you in the Ohio State family.

Dr. Sindt: Go Buckeyes!



left to right:
Dr. Sindt and **Kuang-Mon (Ashley) Tuan (OD/MS'94)** as students at Ohio State

Ohio State 1994 grads staying connected through research and presenting an ARVO poster (2022) with Dr. Tuan

Dr. Sindt works hard to find work-life balance. Here she is with one of her children encouraging her to stop doing Zoom calls.

SocialEyes

Making Connections, Building Trust

By Sarah Cupples, MA, Director of Marketing and Communications

On the first day of optometry school, Ohio State students see their social circle expand immediately. Simultaneously wonderful and overwhelming, this influx of new friends and colleagues presents a once-in-a-lifetime chance to build bonds that have the potential to last well beyond their four years as students.

Dean Karla Zadnik, OD, PhD, sought to capitalize on this opportunity to create and strengthen ties, not only among students, but also between students and faculty members. She created the SocialEyes program, which **Mike Earley (OD/MS'88, PhD'92)** and the Student Services team launched in Autumn 2014. The program randomly assigns six-to-eight first-year optometry students to a faculty member (or in some cases, two faculty members), who are given a budget to plan and host meaningful monthly meet-ups.

"Having a trusted faculty member to lean on is essential to thrive in our program," explains Dean Zadnik.

"We've seen over and over again that when students feel connected to others who are going through the same challenges, they're better able to adapt and succeed."

When Heather Anderson, OD, PhD, and **Jeff Walline (OD, MS'98, PhD'02)** teamed up to lead a SocialEyes group, they planned excursions to Top Golf, OtherWorld, and Cap City Diner for end-of-semester comfort food, as well as home-spun activities that sparked creativity like pumpkin carving and Valentine's Day cookie decorating.

"The SocialEyes program allows faculty to connect personally with

students," says Dr. Anderson. "That is what sets Ohio State Optometry apart from other optometric institutions."

Dr. Walline found that the activities provided the perfect backdrop to spark conversations that might not have occurred otherwise. "We celebrate successes and empathize with challenges, which ultimately makes us more resilient as a group," he says. These experiences create a sense of well-being and belonging.

Phil Yuhás (OD/MS'14, PhD'19) agrees. "The SocialEyes program has become a cornerstone of the college's tight-knit community. Starting during the very first days of their first year,



Kevin Pollock ('26), Grace Olczak ('26), Dr. Anderson, Shital Patel ('26), Nina Kudimova ('26), McKenna Gardner ('26), Grace Scheresky ('26), Griffin Mason ('26) and Dr. Walline



(l to r): Nikhita Jacob ('26), Kayla Schisler ('26), Kelly Echeta ('26), Grace Johnson ('26), Hala Mahmoud ('26), Hallie Cox ('26), Dr. Lai, Dr. McDaniel, and Taylor Boyd ('26)



(back row l to r) Teddy Oliver ('26), Dr. Widmer, Olivia DiRuzza ('26), David Stout ('26), Nathan Fulton ('26), Dr. Damari (front row l to r) Ally Schmidt ('26), Hannah Rubinrott ('26), Briana Siale ('26) and Gabby Nguyen ('26)



(back row l to r) Dr. Yuhas, Dr. Coates, Adam Pirie ('26), Cannon Hoffman ('26), Michael Nye ('26), (front row l to r), Ashtyn Perrin ('26), Olivia Pyles ('26), Michelle Allen ('26) and Insam Alsanai ('26)

students are encouraged to see us, their professors, as people who genuinely care about their success and well-being and who have varied interests outside of the examination lane and laboratory. This perspective builds trust with the students that we are on their team."

This year, Dr. Yuhas teamed up with **Zac Coates (OD/MS'19)**, hosting a backyard barbecue, participating in an unsuccessful escape room outing, and attending a Columbus Blue Jackets hockey game, among other activities.

"The program prompts faculty members to think about the individuals behind the names on the class roll and to work with the understanding that the students are future peers," Dr. Yuhas continues. "It also reminds us that we are not as young or as cool as we would like to think."

Quantity and quality go hand-in-hand for SocialEyes outings, and faculty members have been incredibly creative when designing their excursions. Recent examples include: Don Mutti, OD, PhD, treats his

SocialEyes groups like a supper club – taking his groups to Columbus' most dynamic and interesting restaurants, and even hosting a dinner at his home; **Mawada Osman (OD/MS'20)** and **Bradley Dougherty (OD/MS'07, PhD'13)** took their group to Game Show Battle Rooms for a night of activities inspired by classic game shows; Vondolee Delgado-Nixon, PhD, and **Dawn Goedde (OD'04)**, took their group to Top Golf and iconic Columbus institutions like Jeni's Ice Cream; **Aaron Zimmerman (OD'06/MS'08)** and **Tim Fries (OD'04, MBA, MPH)** took their group to an

(previous page l to r) **Sonia Patel ('26)**, **Brendan Tribastone ('26)**, Dr. Mutti, **Hope Santangelo ('26)**, **Ally Sussman ('26)**, and **Lexie Robinson ('26)**

escape room and Top Golf; and **Ann Morrison (OD'14, MS'16, PhD'21)** and **Kim Patton (OD'18, MS'20)** took their group to a Columbus Blue Jackets game and Zoo Lights at the Columbus Zoo. **Cayti McDaniel (OD/MS'08)** and **Nicki Lai (OD/MS'03)** hiked with their group at Hocking Hills.

“Knowing that you have people you can count on makes it easier to seek help when you need it.”

Dean Karla Zadnik

Student feedback has been overwhelmingly positive. Ohio State Optometry student **Claire Rezai ('26)** appreciated the impact SocialEyes had on her first-year experience.



Claire Rezai ('26)

“SocialEyes allows us to see each other as people; not as professors, not as attendings, not as peers, but just as people,” she says, “It helps to humanize

the staff and my classmates, and it makes me feel more comfortable to be myself while removing any pressures of the classroom. Many of my fondest memories of this past year have been at SocialEyes, a dedicated time to put any school stress aside and focus on getting to know each other outside of the world of optometry.”

For student **Hope Santangelo ('26)**, her SocialEyes group has become family. She says, “SocialEyes has consistently been something I’ve looked forward to during my first year experience. To me, SocialEyes means trying different restaurants around Columbus with Dr. Mutti. My



Hope Santangelo ('26)

group talks for hours at dinner until we look up and see we’re the only table left at closing time. We’ve tried amazing foods and not-so-amazing foods and talk about a wide range of topics. Some are optometry-related, and others are more personal like our favorite TV shows or top bucket list items. As my first year comes to a close, I am truly grateful that my experience in SocialEyes has given me a lasting relationship with a faculty member that goes beyond the classroom. It’s invaluable to know that I have Dr. Mutti as a friendly face who I can go to for help and who I know is always cheering me on.”

Student **Elise Frazee ('26)** found that SocialEyes helped reduce stress. “I feel that SocialEyes was an integral part of my first-year experience, as it allowed me the opportunity to form meaningful relationships. With all the craziness of optometry school,

it’s easy to forget the importance of finding time for breaks and doing things you love. I enjoyed spending time with my classmates, especially those I don’t see much outside of the classroom, but I also really loved interacting with my professors during



Elise Frazee ('26)

SocialEyes. It made me realize that my professors will soon be my colleagues, and they really want to get to know me and want to see me succeed.”

While the SocialEyes group gatherings technically stop at the end of the first year, the friendships rarely fade. The formalized, planned outings make way for everyday exchanges that help frame how students approach life’s challenges.

“Knowing that you have people you can count on makes it easier to seek help when you need it,” says Dean Zadnik. “Ultimately, that’s what’s at the heart of SocialEyes.”



Dr. Anderson, **Grace Scheresky ('26)**, **Grace Olczak ('26)**, **Nina Kudimova ('26)**, **Griffin Mason ('26)**, **Kevin Pollock ('26)**, Dr. Walline

Don't Call It A Jinx

2014 grads focus on fun, fellowship despite brief losing streak

By Sylvia Jones (OD/MS'06)

Lauren Haverly (OD'14) and her fellow classmates from the Class of 2014 – **Ann Morrison (OD'14, MS'16, PhD'21)**, **Jessica Giesey (OD'14)**, **Milda Bandza (OD'14)**, **Jon Andrews (OD'14)**, **Joe Blake (OD'14)** and **Nick King-Smith (OD'14)** – started an annual tradition shortly after graduating from The Ohio State University College of Optometry. Along with their significant others, members of the crew meet up at an away Ohio State football game every year to catch up and root for their beloved Buckeyes. At each away game, their standard routine involves touring the campus, taking O-H-I-O photos in iconic locations, and



Front (at Michigan State): **Nick King-Smith (OD'14)**, Jessica King-Smith, Shelbi Sullenberger, **Ann Morrison (OD'14, MS'16, PhD'21)**, **Lauren Haverly (OD'14)**, and Tim Burr. Middle: **Jessica Giesey (OD'14)**. Back: **Jon Andrews (OD'14)**, **Joe Blake (OD'14)**, Jess Haverly and Colin Ulum-Morse.

“You can’t replace lifelong friendships among people who went through something as challenging as optometry school.”

Lauren Haverly (OD'14)

tailgating while blasting TBDBITL music and proudly flying a “Cool Brutus” flag for all to see.

This isn’t a particularly unusual tradition for Buckeye football fans or Ohio State Optometry alumni – away games provide a great excuse to gather and reconnect. What makes the 2014 group different is their presence at some of the Buckeyes’ most puzzling losses in recent memory, leading to speculation that the crew was a jinx.

This was not a leap of logic, considering the Buckeyes’ stellar record for winning.



Front (at Northwestern): Jon Eberle, **Ann Morrison (OD'14, MS'16, PhD'21)**, Katie Andrews, OD, **Jon Andrews (OD'14)**, Jess Haverly and **Lauren Haverly (OD'14)**.
Back: **Nick King-Smith (OD'14)**, Tim Burr, Todd Corbey, **Jessica Giesey (OD'14)**, Shelbi Sullenberger, and **Joe Blake (OD'14)**.



Front (at Wisconsin): **Lauren Haverly (OD'14)**, **Ann Morrison (OD'14, MS'16, PhD'21)**, Lauren Slutzky, **Jessica Giesey (OD'14)**, Tim Burr and **Nick King-Smith (OD'14)**.
Back: Jess Haverly, Zach Caruso, **Jon Andrews (OD'14)**, **Joe Blake (OD'14)**.

Dr. Haverly denies that there was a jinx in the first place. “However, my brother-in-law and many others would say otherwise,” she says. “He even jokingly planned to travel to Northwestern to prevent us from entering the stadium because he was so concerned that we were jinxed.”

“To be fair, we were present for two (very rare) losses – Ohio State at Iowa in 2017, and Ohio State at Purdue in 2018,” Dr. Haverly concedes. “Every game, we show up in our scarlet and gray, ready to root for our Buckeyes in the front row, and I know the team feels our support. You’ll be pleased to hear that we won in every game prior to 2017, 2019 at Northwestern, 2021 at Minnesota and 2022 at Michigan State. Our record would not indicate any said jinx.”

Apparently, the jinx was broken in 2019 when the Buckeyes began winning again in the group’s presence. All joking aside, the group sets a wonderful example, not letting their friendships fade with time.

“You can’t replace lifelong friendships among people who went through something as challenging as optometry school,” Dr. Haverly says.

“We supported each other and made each other better people and optometrists.”

Lauren Haverly (OD'14)

“To say we understand each other is an understatement. We spent most waking hours together during our time at Ohio State and experienced it all together - the ups and the downs. We were up late together in the library quizzing each other before a test the next day. We were there for each other when we had something affect our personal life. We supported each other and made each other better people and optometrists.”

What’s next for the group?

“So far, we have been to seven stadiums (COVID threw a wrench in our Illinois plans, and we did Minnesota twice since it’s free lodging in my home state),” says Dr. Haverly. And with USC and UCLA becoming part of the Big Ten, a trip to California is in their future.

The crew appreciates the gentle ribbing of those who’ve joked about the so-called jinx.

“At the end of the day, this tradition is about the bond we formed while in optometry school and the love and support we have for each other in every new phase in life,” says Dr. Haverly. “Win or lose, life is a wild ride, and we are fortunate to have each other to enjoy it with.”

Fall 2023

Virtual Career Fair

By Jen Bennett, MSED, Director of Student Services

In November 2022, the College of Optometry hosted its first Virtual Career Fair. The Virtual Career Fair provides a forum for students and potential employers to connect through online networking conversations. Interactions during the fair are not interviews but opportunities for employers to facilitate an introduction, start a conversation, and highlight the great opportunities available in their practices and communities. During the fair, employers may conduct 10-minute, one-on-one meetings with individual students or host a 30-minute group meeting with multiple students.

We plan to host the second Virtual Career Fair on November 8 from 6 to 8 p.m. ET. If you are interested in participating, please contact Jennifer Bennett, Director of Student Services at bennett.1075@osu.edu, and we will reach out to you with important details and registration information.

The Virtual Career Fair is just one tool to help facilitate student connections to practice opportunities. If you would like to explore the best way to share your practice opportunity with students, please contact **Tim Fries (OD'04, MBA, MPH)** at fries.17@osu.edu.



Dr. Fries serves as our first point of contact for employers and also is the instructor for the college's practice management curriculum.

Summer CE Ohio State Optometry Summer CE

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July 29-30, 2023
.....

In person at The Ohio State University Fawcett Center

7 hours of CE content each day!

go.osu.edu/summer-ce

2023 Macular Madness

By Rachel Childress, CFRE, Director of Development

The winner of Macular Madness 2023 is the Class of 1998 with 65.6 percent of classmates participating and 71.9 percent in the final round. They will celebrate their 25th reunion in October with free admission to our Alumni Weekend Tailgate event.

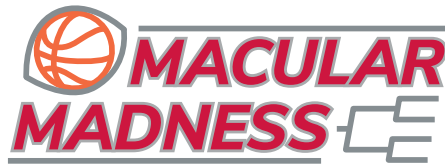
A special thank you to **Jay Henry (OD/MS'98)** for rallying his class all month to increase their participation in each round. Following the tournament he said, "Macular

Madness is such a creative way to have some friendly competition among classes and a great way to get alumni involved in supporting the College of Optometry. It's been so much fun and very rewarding to re-connect with classmates and rally together for such a great cause. I hope to see many of them on campus for our reunion in October." We'll be looking for more class ambassadors like him next year.

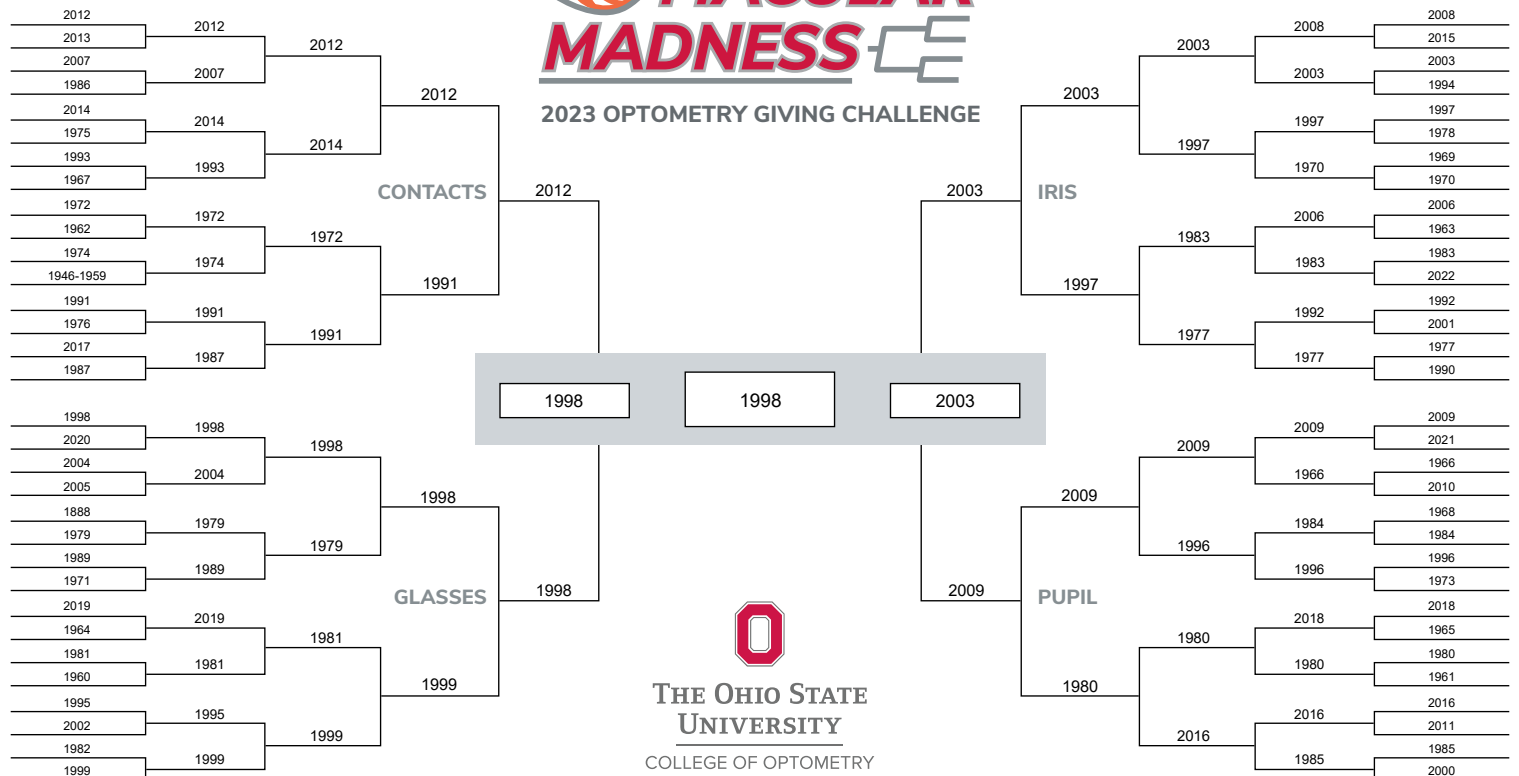
This was the second year for this class tournament. Overall we had 205 alumni participate in this challenge, raising more than \$6,080 for our college's general scholarship fund. This fund is important for recruiting top students and awarding current optometry students who excel in their education.

We're looking forward to making this bigger and better each year and already have some great ideas for 2024.

THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF OPTOMETRY



2023 OPTOMETRY GIVING CHALLENGE



Time and Change

Campaign heads into homestretch

By Rachel Childress, CFRE, Director of Development

As we head into the final months of the fiscal year, my thoughts are on our fundraising goal for this year while looking ahead at projections for next year. To do this, we use several pieces of information to try and make it a scientific process – past performance, number of meetings, who will be asked for a gift, number of asks expected, funding priorities, etc.; however, I often equate it to looking into a crystal ball and making my best guess based on the relationships we've built with our alumni and friends over the years.

Next year, July 1, 2023-June 30, 2024 (FY2024), will be our last full year in the Time and Change campaign. We don't have an official end date, but I predict it'll be in autumn 2024. We have a \$15 million goal for optometry out of the \$4.5 billion goal for the entire university. By the end of this fiscal year, I expect to have surpassed \$13 million. That means my crystal ball projections will have to add up to at least \$2 million next year.

Don't get me wrong, I have a good idea about where some of that funding will be coming from, but this creates an opportunity for you, whether you've given every single year since graduating or never before. Now is the time to consider all that the College of Optometry gave you and how you can help us continue this legacy of excellence in the years to come.

Here are some ideas for you to consider as you think about how you

can help us meet our goal for this important campaign. You can:

- Set up a monthly online pledge payment to any of our funds at the college. Most often these gifts are directed to scholarships, faculty recruitment, facility improvements, research, funds supporting diversity, equity, and inclusion, and our discretionary fund.
- Give back to those who gave to you. If you received a specific scholarship while in optometry school, why not make a gift to that scholarship fund to support students like you? Additional gifts to that fund will simply allow it to provide a larger amount to current and future students.
- Name a space. There are still spaces remaining in the new clinic in low vision, pediatrics, and vision therapy. There are also spaces available in the pre-clinic in Fry Hall. Students use this area 24/7 to practice their skills before heading to the main clinic.
- Create a new endowment supporting scholarships. These funds remain in perpetuity. You have the opportunity to name it and set the award criteria.
- Add us as a beneficiary in your estate plans, which can be accomplished in several ways, and can be as simple as designating a percentage of your assets to the college through your will.



For questions about any of these options or other ideas about how to support the college, please contact Rachel Childress at 614-292-2100 or childress.35@osu.edu.

Professor Frank Schaeffel Delivers 2023 Hill Lecture

By Don Mutti, OD, PhD, EF Wildermuth Professor

The Hill Lecture Series endowment makes in-person interactions with the luminaries of vision science possible. The College of Optometry had the pleasure of hearing about the latest in myopia research from Professor Frank Schaeffel, the 2023 Richard and Leonora Hill lecturer.

One of my vision science heroes, Professor Schaeffel has been a leader in myopia research for over 30 years. Visiting us from the University of Tübingen in Germany, Professor Schaeffel was generous with his time in meetings with graduate students and faculty. His love of science and spirit of collaboration are contagious.

His long career has been devoted to determining the visual signals that regulate the growth of the eye. His 1988 paper in *Vision Research* was the first to report that refractive error development of the chick could be altered by defocus from spectacle lenses. Lens-induced myopia was a true paradigm shift away from previous experimental models using deprivation of form vision, one that has led to countless experiments on the visual control of eye growth and that has a direct connection to today's optical myopia control treatments for children. His work has also been pivotal in establishing a role for dopamine release from the retina as a growth modulator, the foundation of the beneficial effect against myopia of time outdoors, established by the Orinda and CLEERE myopia studies.

His current work explores the theory that chromatic signals, from the same chromatic aberration underlying



the duochrome test, are powerful influences on eye elongation. The better the focus for blue, the stronger the signal for elongation, while red in focus means the eye is too long and elongation is inhibited. Professor Schaeffel predicted disappointing results from several investigational approaches to myopia control if their only effect was degrading peripheral vision rather than tapping into these

more important chromatic signals. Time will tell if his predictions come true.

Many thanks to Dick and Lee Hill for Professor Schaeffel's visit, educating us all on these important theories about myopia.

View the 2023 Hill Lecture at
go.osu.edu/hill

Research Roundup

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

Marielle Reidy receives Barr-Stiegemeier Award



Marielle Reidy (OD/MS'19), a PhD student in the vision science graduate program at The Ohio State University College of Optometry, has been

selected as this year's recipient of the Barr-Stiegemeier Award. This award will provide Dr. Reidy with funds to pursue research related to understanding the mechanisms of myopia control treatments, such as multifocal contact lenses, as part of her PhD dissertation project conducted under the mentorship of Don Mutti, OD, PhD. The Barr-Stiegemeier Award was established by **Joseph T. Barr (OD'77, MS'79)** and **Mary Jo Stiegemeier (OD'83)** to support the research of graduate students who have specific interest in cornea and contact lens education and knowledge.

Erica Shelton selected to receive Arene T. Wray Fellowship



Erica Shelton (OD/MS'18), a PhD candidate in the vision science graduate program at The Ohio State University College of Optometry, has been

selected as the 2023 recipient of the Arene T. Wray Fellowship. The Arene T. Wray Fellowship was created to promote optometric research and is specifically designated for graduate students who "can do the best work in optometry." Dr. Shelton is pursuing her PhD under the mentorship of Dean VanNasdale, OD, PhD, to address vision health disparities through the investigation of population vision health statistics. Dr. Shelton notes that one of her career goals is "to improve public health education for optometrists and to improve vision-related public health programs that help improve the health literacy of the pediatric population." We congratulate Dr. Shelton on her efforts and, as the winner of this award, she will be recognized with a monetary scholarship.



Dean VanNasdale, OD, PhD, continues his long-standing study with the National Association of Chronic Disease Directors,

Population health assessments of vision impairment and associated co-morbid conditions, under a new \$60,000 award. He also continues his work, Development and distribution of BRFSS State-Added Vision Question Analysis, with a new \$8,000 grant from Prevent Blindness Ohio.

The Ohio State University College of Optometry awarded faculty member TJ Plageman, PhD the Research Innovations Grant award, sponsored by an endowment from Vision Service Plan. His study, *Identifying Shroom3 dependent mechanisms of outer retinal development and retinal dystrophies*, will examine the role of Shroom3 in photoreceptor degeneration in retinal dystrophies, such as retinitis pigmentosa and Stargardt disease. He will determine whether Shroom3 promotes normal rod and cone photoreceptor shape and whether the protein Crb1, in turn, directs Shroom3 function. Both proteins are active in the same area of the retina and abnormal Crb1 and Shroom3 proteins lead to similar retinal anomalies, suggesting a functional connection between the two exists.



Optometry Homecoming 2023

Join us on Friday, October 6 and Saturday, October 7 for a fun-filled Homecoming Weekend!

Friday, October 6

Class Reunions throughout Columbus

6 – 8 p.m.

1978, 1983, 1988, 1993, 1998, 2003, 2008, 2013, 2018

Please contact Francesca Fuerman-George for more information at fuerman-george.1@osu.edu

Saturday, October 7

Continuing Education

The Suzanne Scharer Room, Ohio Union

Speaker: **Katie Greiner (OD/MS'09)**

College of Optometry Alumni Tailgate

3 hours before kickoff

Cartoon Room, Ohio Union

Ohio State Buckeyes vs. Maryland Terrapins

Time TBD

Ohio Stadium

Sunday, October 8

Hazael Edward Welton Breakfast for African-American and Hispanic Alumni



Golden Graduates Weekend

September 8 – 10, 2023

We will celebrate 50 years of Ohio State Optometry spirit during our Golden Graduates Weekend for the Class of 1973, Friday, September 8 through Sunday, September 10.

We will kick off the fun on Friday at 6:00 p.m. with a special dinner at the Ohio State Faculty Club. Throughout the evening, we'll celebrate the Class of 1973's accomplishments, reminisce about their years on campus, and catch up with classmates. Mr. Jim Noe will be in attendance, along with college leadership.

On Saturday, September 9, the Buckeyes football team will face off against Youngstown State in the 'Shoe. Alumni have the option of purchasing football tickets from a college block while supplies last.

Before the game, College of Optometry students will lead alumni

on a tour of the new clinic building.

Jeff Timko (OD'73) is the reunion chair, and invitations have been mailed. If you did not receive one, or if you have any questions, please contact Francesca Fuerman-George at fuerman-george.1@osu.edu.

Dr. Linda Casser

Delivers 14th Annual Myers Lecture

By Karla Zadnik, OD, PhD

The Jeffrey and Joyce Myers Lecture Series was established through a gift from **Dr. Jeffrey (OD'84)** and Mrs. Joyce Myers. Their intent is to sponsor one lecture per academic year during the autumn semester featuring a guest speaker from outside The Ohio State University with special expertise across the domains of optometry and vision science.

On November 16, 2022, the inimitable Linda Casser, OD, delivered the 14th annual Myers Lecture. She treated us to her viewpoint on her optometric “pathways and perspective.” We learned that she interviewed at Ohio State Optometry back in the day but didn’t matriculate with us because of our self-imposed restrictions on the number of out-of-state students! She was one of the first residents in optometry at the Joseph C. Wilson Health Center in Rochester, NY and acknowledged many mentors, including previous Myers lecturer, Lou Catania, OD. Her closing rendition of *Carmen Ohio* brought down the house!

Dr. Casser’s decades of experiences in optometric education have reached far and wide through continuing education lectures: 400 presentations in 39 states and eight countries on the diagnosis, treatment, and management of anterior segment ocular disease. She is primary author of the textbook *Atlas of Primary Eyecare Procedures*, 2nd Edition



Dean Karla Zadnik, Dr. Linda Casser, Dr. Jeffery Myers, and Mrs. Joyce Myers.

(McGraw-Hill, 1997) as well as the eBook version of the Atlas (Ridgevue Publishing, 2017). She served in leadership roles at Indiana University School of Optometry, Pacific University College of Optometry,

and, ultimately, as dean of the Pennsylvania College of Optometry at Salus University from 2009-2013.

View the Myers Lecture at
go.osu.edu/myers

From the Optometry Archives

By Dave Moore, Instructional and Web Development Specialist

With football season fast approaching, we would like to highlight just a few of the alumni tailgating photos we have collected over the years.

Inside or out, by Winnebago or Buckeye Van, within a tent, college buildings or the Ohio Union, our tailgates have always brimmed with fun!

VIP guests have included Archie Griffin, Brutus Buckeye, and Bad Habits - the EyeDocs of Rock!

About the OptArchive

Our Optometry Archives consist of a variety of printed newsletters, photo prints, photo negatives, slides and videos. Many items have already been digitized and sent to the University Archives for long-term storage. Our oldest items, our class composites dating back to 1916, have all been scanned, and the originals are now safely kept in the University's Archive building on Kenny Road. We continue to digitize and store items in our collection to preserve them for the future.

If you would like to look through more of the college's electronically preserved historic treasures, please visit u.osu.edu/optarchives.





2018 – David Kuhlmann and **Tami Kuhlmann (OD/MS'83)**

1989 – Alumni Weekend Tailgate Party

1996 – The Schoesslers show Kurt and Karla Zadnik, OD, PhD how to have fun OSU-style.

2009 – **Michael Raies (OD'89)** and Mark Bullimore, MCOptom, PhD

2009 – Alumni enjoying the tailgate party.

1991 – The BuckEYE van

1989 – Alumni view of the game

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

2013 – Dean Mel Shipp, OD, MPH, PhD, Woody Davis, **Jackie Davis (OD'81, MPH)**, and David Kuhlmann

2002 – **Bruce Manning (OD'81)** and family cheer along with Brutus.

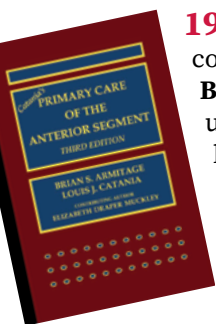
2008 – **Jan Huneke (OD'78)**, **Ronald Ling (OD'78)**, Archie Griffin, and Caron Ling.

2005 – Over 200 alumni then trekked over to Ohio Stadium to watch the Buckeyes beat the Red Hawks of Miami (OH).

More at
u.osu.edu/OptArchives

Alumni Notes

1977 W. Howard McAlister (OD'77, MA, MPH) received the James A. Boucher Award at the 2023 meeting of the National Academies of Practice. This award is given to a National Academies of Practice Optometry Academy member who has demonstrated exemplary contributions to the profession of optometry and healthcare field and has upheld the mission of the National Academies of Practice to advance science and the concept of interdisciplinary healthcare.



1983, 1997 After two years of hard work and collaboration, **Brian Armitage (OD'81, MS'83)** and **Beth Muckley (OD'97)** are proud to announce the upcoming publication of the third edition of the best-selling eye care textbook, *Catania's Primary Care of the Anterior Segment*. The first edition was originally published in 1985 followed by the second edition in 1995, which won Baron's Five Star (highest) Award for best medical textbooks.

Births

- 6 📷 **1981 Jacqueline Davis (OD'81, MPH)** welcomed grandson Thiago Woodrow Davis in January 2023.
- 2009 Michele Avila Rhodes (OD'09)** and her husband Jared welcomed son Archer Lawrence Rhodes on January 5, 2023.
- 4 📷 **2012 Renee Rambeau Masin (OD'12)** and her husband Ryan Masin welcomed son Braddock on February 16, 2023. Big brother Rowan and big sister Elyse were excited to meet him.
- 7 📷 **2013 Betsy Kaminski (OD'13)** and her husband Michael Cushman welcomed son Lewis John in March 2023.
- 2014 Stephanie Pisano (OD'14)** and family welcomed daughter Lucia on September 30, 2022.
- 2015 Michaela Minichello (OD/MS'15)** and her husband Jared Lutes welcomed son Lincoln James on January 14, 2023.
- 5 📷 **2016 Julie Gossard (OD'16)** and her husband Justin welcomed daughter Joelle Grace on January 4, 2023.
- 2017 Thomas Bouscher (OD'17)** and family welcomed son Mohan.
- 2017 Valerie Korb Danford (OD'17)** and her husband Kevin welcomed daughter Eloise Violet on February 16, 2023.

- 3 📷 **2019 Ryan Bretz (OD'19)** and his wife Laura welcomed daughter Adalyn Grace in March 2023.
- 8 📷 **2020 Carly McLaughlin (OD'20)** and her husband Craig welcomed daughter Clara Jane on December 4, 2022.
- 1 📷 PhD Candidate Danae Johnson, OD, and her husband Justin welcomed twin boys Javi Makae (left) and Jiah Makas (right) on December 26, 2022.

Wedding

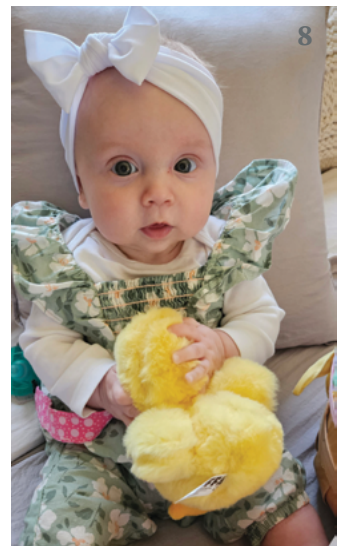
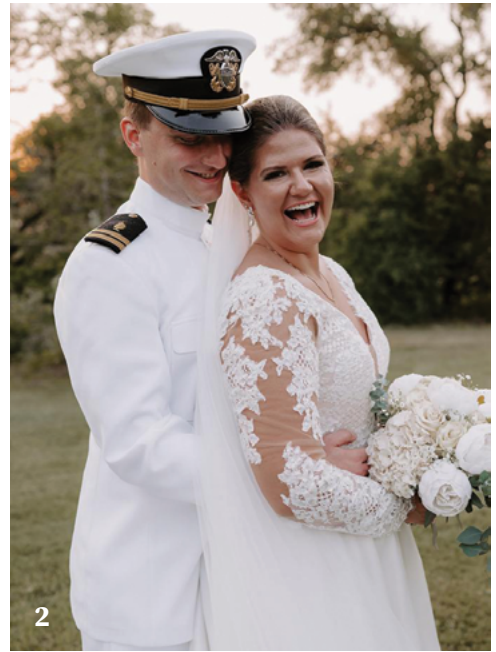
- 2 📷 **2021 Paul Grigsby (OD'21)** and Morgan Alexander PT, DPT, OCS, married in Aledo, Texas on May 14, 2022.

Retirements

- 1966 William Thomas (BS'66)** retired on his 80th birthday, April 30, 2023. After a nearly 57-year run, between Dr. Thomas and his father, together they had an 85-year practice.
- 1980** After more than 40 years in the optometric industry, **Rick Weisbarth (OD'80)**, Alcon's Vice President of Professional Affairs, retired on March 31, 2023.
- 1983 Mary Jo Stiegemeier (OD'83)** retired in January 2023.

In Memoriam

- 1954 Forrest Z. Miles (BS'54)** passed away on January 10, 2023. He was 92.
- 1957 Gordon W. Cipra (BS'57)** passed away on February 11, 2023. He was 89.
- 1957/1977 John Andrew Nabergall (BS'57, OD'77)** passed away on March 12, 2023. He was 88.
- 1959 John (Jack) Othmar Beigel (BS'59)** passed away on March 17, 2023. He was 88.
- 1968 Ron M. Beal (OD'68)** passed away on Feb. 17, 2023. He was 82.
- 1978 Jody Scott Foor (OD'78)** passed away on March 6, 2023. He was 70.
- 1980 Don Wallace Gunhus (OD'80)** passed away on December 25, 2022. He was 68.
- 1981 Craig Arthur Liebig (OD'81)** passed away on April 2, 2023. He was 66.



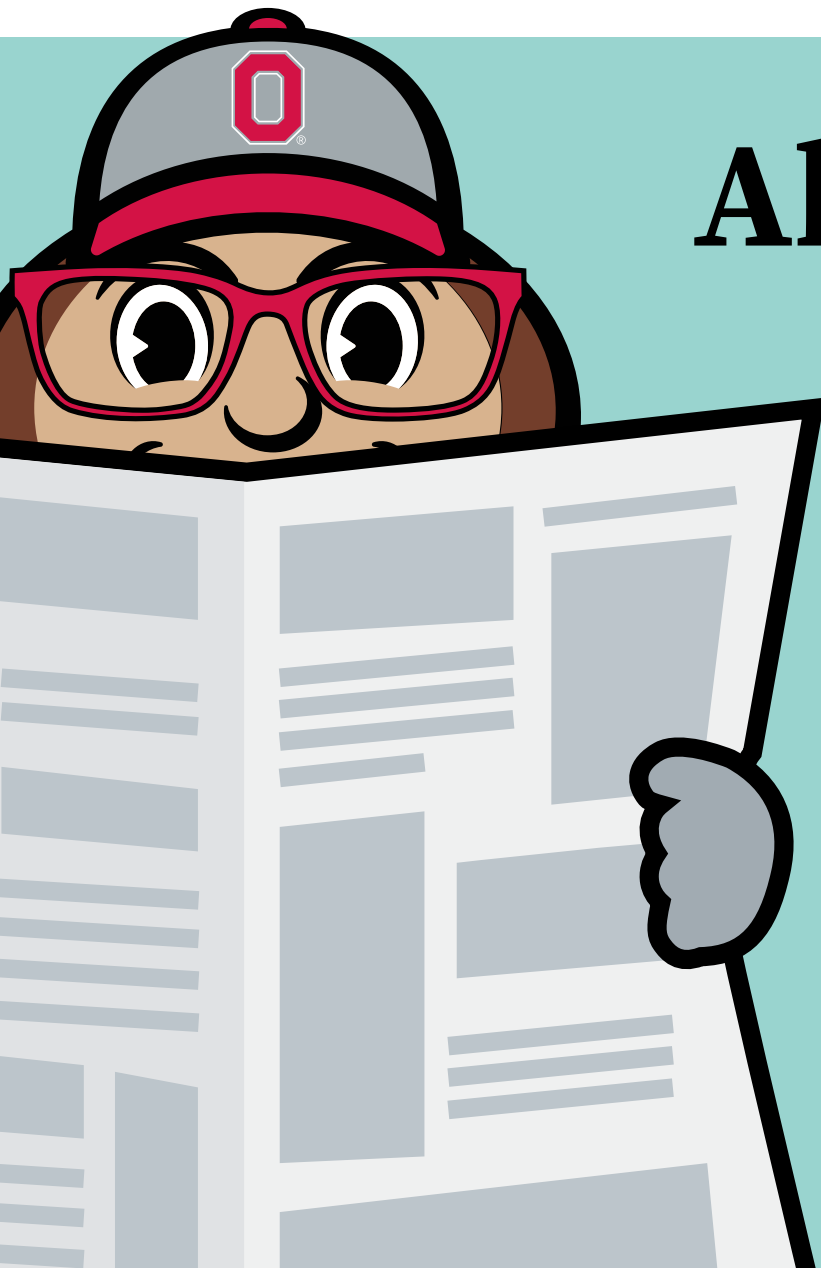


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Alumni News Updates

Share your news in an upcoming edition
of the BuckEYE Alumni Magazine!

Email story ideas to Sarah Cupples
at cupples.8@osu.edu

Email news about marriages,
births, retirements, awards, etc.
to Francesca Fuerman-George at
fuerman-george.1@osu.edu

Or use our easy online form at
go.osu.edu/ShareYourNews