

BUCKEYE OPTOMETRY

ALUMNI MAGAZINE

7 AWARDS: 2019
Graduation Banquet

14 DONORS:
Visionary Appreciation
Dinner

26 LOW VISION:
High Priority at Ohio
State

Congratulations Graduates!

CLASS OF 2019

Summer 2019

BuckEYE Magazine
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Rachel Fenton (OD'19) and Tanya Rana
(OD'19) celebrate with family and friends
after the hooding ceremony.

On the cover:
Megan Rath (OD'19) and her fiancé **Dan Slavik (OD'19)**, celebrate post-convocation with Megan's father, **Ted Rath, (OD'91)**. During the ceremony, Dr. Ted Rath hooded Dr. Megan Rath, who then hooded Dr. Dan Slavik.



Dean's Perspective

“Far and away the best prize that life has to offer is the chance to work hard at work worth doing.” – Teddy Roosevelt

We staged a wonderful graduation weekend in early May. With our semester conversion, we have gone from being the latest optometry graduation in the country to the earliest. The month may have changed, but the joy has not.

The festivities began with the annual Student Awards banquet, ably emceed by **Nicky Lai (OD/MS’03)** and **Aaron Zimmerman (OD’06, MS’08)**. They and the faculty presenters were warm and funny, and their love and affection for every student in the Class of 2019 was palpable.

Saturday’s lunch was the Class of 2019 fast-forwarded to 2069. Assistant Director of Alumni Engagement Michael Haddock, MA, hosted seven members of the Class of 1969 and their families, along with then-college secretary, Jim Noe, for lunch at the Ohio Union. The table conversations were rich—from the memories (what looked like the shortest guy in the class standing next to what had to be the tallest guy in the class with both reminiscing about riding to class in a Volkswagen Beetle’s back seat) to the formal commemorations (Richard Nixon was supposed to be the commencement speaker, but they got Spiro Agnew and Bob Hope instead). I was overwhelmed with their pride for Ohio State and the great lives and careers that optometry has afforded them.

The main event—convocation and hooding—was the highlight, as it is every academic year. We presented graduate degrees and listened to the wise counsel from **“Buckeye” Bob Newcomb (OD’71, MPH)**, Distinguished Alumnus Award recipient, and **Timothy Fries (OD’04)**, Early Professional Achievement Award recipient. We applauded until our hands hurt during the crowning moments—the hooding and awarding of 65 Doctor of Optometry degrees to the deeply committed, funny, engaged Class of 2019, who have won Teddy Roosevelt’s best prize!

The dedication of the graduating students and the hard-working faculty is exceeded this weekend only by the staff who organize the marathon: Jen Bennett, MSED; Sarah Cupples, MA; Shawn Gilbert, MA; Justin Griest, MEd; Michael Haddock, MA; Kerri McTigue; Becca Roby, MLHR; and Carol Wilcox. They take immeasurable pride in honoring the graduates. All in all, we spend graduation weekend, this year and every year, working hard at work worth doing.

Although it feels like an ending, the Class of 2019 is just getting started on their careers, where they will influence, literally, millions of people’s vision and lives. Congratulations to them and their lucky patients.

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



President's Perspective

Greetings fellow BuckEYES,

I had the honor of officially welcoming the Class of 2019 as alumni at convocation this year. It was by far one of my proudest moments as your president. I'd imagine that each of you can think back to some moment during your own ceremony and remember excitement, nervousness and maybe a little hope that your family wouldn't embarrass you loudly. I had all kinds of thoughts sitting up there on stage wondering what would I do differently or what I would want to know. The thing that resonates with me constantly is to encourage others to promote our profession and to promote The Ohio State University College of Optometry, no matter what walk of life we are in.

We live in a world where convenience is key. For example, even though you can price shop multiple stores and make many trips to save on that weekly grocery bill, there's a good chance you may just sit down on your 20-minute lunch break and order groceries online from your local store. Then, you will pull into a spot on the way home where store employees put your groceries in your trunk for a small fee ... or better yet your purchases are at your door when you get home. Students entering now have a variety of schools to "shop" not only for price, reputation and extracurricular activities, but they also look at appearance, location and hopefully NBEO passage rates. Convenience to those interested students may be proximity to home, the best scholarship offered, or lowest cost of tuition. On the flip side, who wouldn't want a brand new clinic or the opportunity to be in sunny warm weather for a few years?

The college does a fantastic job of promoting the advantages of an Ohio State Optometry education, but as alumni we can add to that before and after students step through our doors. Mentoring an interested undergraduate or taking the time to sit down with a current optometry student are only small steps. With all the choices new grads have, we can become not only their colleagues but their friends. Even if you're not looking to hire or retire, they are the future of our profession. I guarantee that sitting down with them for even a cup of coffee, you'll not only teach them a thing or two with your advice, but you'll gain a new perspective on future optometrists.

Congratulations to the Class of 2019!

Go Bucks,
Stephanie M. Baxter (OD’08)
President
The Ohio State University College of Optometry Alumni Society



Alumni Editor's Perspective

What a Pain ... and What to Learn

Through my life, I have been blessed with reasonably good health. I have certainly had my fair share of minor aches and pains, but nothing that was truly debilitating. Earlier in life, 80+ mile backpacking trips were commonplace. Notwithstanding a 60th birthday this spring, most days I feel 37 years old. Truly, I have been fortunate.

In the last three months, terms like heel spur, plantar fasciitis, mildly bulging discs, sciatica, near-complete tear of the plantar fascia, and piriformis syndrome have all been added to my medical history. I have not been feeling 37 years old lately. Most every step for the last three months has been made with some level of awareness or pain. The pain has been debilitating enough that I was unable to walk and made an emergency room visit in an effort to get relief.

Twenty-four days of injected or oral steroids, two injections of Toradol, and maximum doses of ibuprofen have all been used to manage the pain/inflammation in an effort to make me comfortable. The use of a boot and massage therapy of the piriformis muscle by my wife have finally provided some relief. I believe I am healing now and recovering and seem to be better each day.

Clearly, I recognize that many of you have (bravely) faced much more significant diagnoses. Some of those have been life-threatening or more debilitating or longer lasting than mine. My sharing is not intended to diminish the impact of those issues in your life. Rather, I tell my story to provide a platform to share a few observations about clinical patient care that should serve as good reminders for us.

First, address your patient's chief complaint. Sometimes, we overlook the patient's original complaint. Be certain that you are doing something to bring relief to the chief complaint. If you cannot, find a practitioner who can. That is the whole reason the patient is in front of you.

Second, we cannot make progress in treatment until the correct diagnosis is made. Little progress was made in my case until we determined that there was a partial plantar fascia tear and that a spasm of the piriformis muscle was the source of the sciatica. Treatment for those issues has brought relief. Know that when you institute a treatment and the patient does not improve, that should indicate a review to be sure you have the right diagnosis. Conditions do not usually get better unless you are treating for the right one.

Third, sometimes there is more than one diagnosis. A chief complaint of pain following an ocular tree branch injury may be explained by a corneal abrasion, but don't overlook the iritis, and plan to dilate so you don't miss a retinal detachment. Manage all diagnoses. In my case, both the foot and the hip have needed treatment to get relief.

Lastly, being able to responsibly manage pain is a gift that we have to share with patients. Ocular pain can be debilitating, whether from abrasion or iritis. The provider who manages that pain will be the patient's hero.

I am grateful for the nine healthcare providers who have been a part of my case, for my wife's therapy and care, and my office staff who have helped me to miss virtually no work due to this episode.

Jeffrey A. Myers (OD'84)
BuckEYE Alumni Editor

2019 Graduation Awards Banquet

By Jen Bennett, MEd
Director of Student Services



On May 3, graduation festivities kicked off for the Class of 2019 with the graduation awards banquet. The graduates chose **Nicky Lai (OD/MS'03)** and **Aaron Zimmerman (OD'06, MS'08)** to host the annual evening of recognition, reflection, and of course, shared laughter with family and friends.



Carolyn Chakuroff (OD/MS'19) and Greg Nixon (OD'96)

Joshua Morris (OD'19) and Dawn Goedde (OD'04)

Stephanie Shoults (OD'19) and Jeff Rohlf

Heidi Wagner (OD'86), Kelley E. Sedlock (OD'19) and Alicia Sims

Cayti McDaniel (OD/MS'08) and Kelly Morgan (OD/MS'19)

Beta Sigma Kappa Silver Medal
sponsored by VSP One
Carolyn Chakuroff (OD/MS'19)

Primary Vision Care Clinical Excellence Award
sponsored by Marchon
Joshua Morris (OD'19)

Eyewear Dispensing Award of Excellence
sponsored by Hoya
Stephanie Shoults (OD'19)

Advanced Ocular Care Clinical Excellence Award
sponsored by Unity and Volk Optical
Kelley E. Sedlock (OD'19)

Binocular Vision and Pediatrics Clinical Excellence Award
sponsored by The Good-Lite Company and Safilo
Kelly Morgan (OD/MS'19)

Excellence in Vision Therapy Award
sponsored by the College of Optometrists in Vision Development and Shamir
Marielle Blumenthaler (OD/MS'19)

Award of Excellence in Contact Lens Patient Care
sponsored by the Gas Permeable Lens Institute, VSP Global, Johnson & Johnson Vision Care and the American Academy of Optometry Foundation
Ryan Rutschilling (OD'19)

Low Vision Rehabilitation Clinical Excellence Award
sponsored by Mattingly Low Vision, Silhouette, Toledo Optical, and grateful patients
Shannon Morgan (OD'19)

Community Outreach Clinical Excellence Award
sponsored by Select Optical
Bryce St. Clair (OD'19)

The Dr. Lyle Aloysius John Gassman Memorial Award
Jordan Claboine (OD'19)

Graduate of the Year
sponsored by Optometric Educators, Inc.
Carolyn Chakuroff (OD/MS'19)

Michelle Buckland (OD'06, MS'08) and Marielle Blumenthaler (OD/MS'19)

Alex Nixon (OD'12, MS'14) and Ryan Rutschilling (OD'19)

Roanne Flom, OD and Shannon Morgan (OD'19)

Bryce St. Clair (OD'19) and Jackie Davis (OD'81, MPH)

Jordan Claboine (OD'19) and Greg Nixon (OD'96)

Karla Zadnik, OD, PhD, and Carolyn Chakuroff (OD/MS'19)

Class of 2019

Doctoral Convocation

By Jen Bennett, MEd
Director of Student Services

And just like that, four years seemed to have passed in the blink of an eye. The moment students and their families so eagerly anticipated finally arrived! On May 4, 65 new Doctors of Optometry received their doctoral hoods at the annual Doctoral Convocation ceremony. Congratulations Class of 2019!

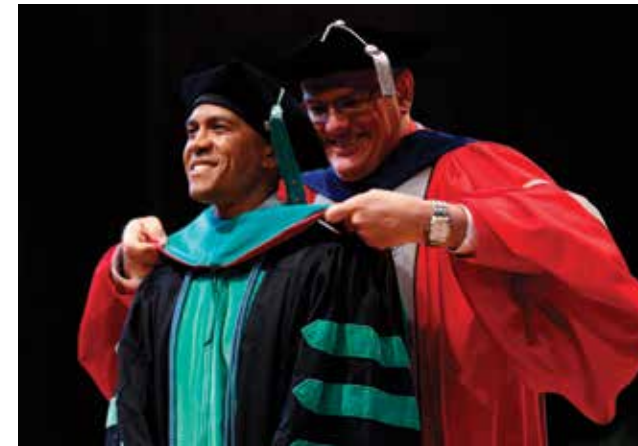


Dean Karla Zadnik, OD, PhD, and the Class of 2019.

Tim Fries (OD'04) accepts the Early Professional Achievement Alumni Award.

Caity Haring (OD'19) receives her doctoral hood from **Mike Earley (OD/MS'88, PhD'92)**.

"Buckeye" Bob Newcomb (OD'71, MPH) accepts the Distinguished Alumni Award.



Roanne Flom, OD, presents Master's in Vision Science graduate **Rebecca Deffler (OD, MS'19)** with a certificate while **Bradley Dougherty (OD/MS'07, PhD'13)** hoods her.

Megan Hurley (OD'19) is hooded by her father.

Jordan Claboine (OD'19) receives his doctoral hood from **Mike Earley (OD/MS'88, PhD'92)**.

An "Ohio State Moment" Distinguished Alumni Awards

Early Professional Achievement Award Timothy Fries (OD'04)

Timothy Fries (OD'04) is a passionate advocate for the profession of optometry. In addition to owning a multi-optometrist, multi-location private practice, he is an Ohio Optometric Association (OOA) Board of Directors Trustee and Chairman of the organization's Political Action Committee. He is working on master's degrees in both Business Administration and Public Health, and in October, he will sit for his American Academy of Optometry Fellowship.

Since graduating with his OD degree from Ohio State in 2004, Dr. Fries has served on several boards and committees, including the Ohio Optical Dispenser's Board and the Epsilon Psi Epsilon Alumni Board. He is an Assistant Clinical Professor at The Ohio State University College of Optometry, lectures across the country on optometric topics, has published articles in peer reviewed journals, and is an active volunteer with Real Eyes, the iSee program, and Better Vision Better Hope clinics. Dr. Fries is a two-time recipient of the OOA's Ohio Vision Project Student Loan Repayment Program, which recognizes doctors of optometry who are committed to treating underserved populations and ensuring they have access to a lifetime of comprehensive eyecare.

Distinguished Alumnus Award Robert D. Newcomb (OD'71, MPH, FAAO, DPNAP)

Robert D. Newcomb (OD'71, MPH, FAAO, DPNAP) received his OD degree from Ohio State in 1971. After three years as a U.S. Navy optometry officer, he began a 23-year career with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs in Birmingham, AL. He received his Master of Public Health degree from the University of Alabama in Birmingham (UAB) in 1975 and taught at the UAB School of Optometry for the next five years. During this time, he also supervised rotating optometry students at the Birmingham VA Medical Center and founded the National Association of VA Optometrists and their newsletter, Optimum VA. In 1980, he returned to Ohio to begin a nationally recognized program of patient care and education at the Columbus VA Outpatient Clinic. In 1997, Dr. Newcomb accepted a faculty appointment at The Ohio State University College of Optometry, where he served as a Professor of Clinical Optometry and the inaugural Vision Service Plan (VSP) Chair for the Advancement of Professional Practice. He retired from Ohio State in 2012.

Throughout his distinguished career, Dr. Newcomb has served on numerous local, state, and national committees, and received many accolades and honors. He was President of the American Academy of Optometry in 2001 and 2002, and received the Academy's Eminent Service Award in 2006. In 2012, he established an endowed fund at Ohio State to support optometry's annual White Coat ceremony. He has authored over 85 publications, including *Our History in Focus: The First 100 Years of The Ohio State University College of Optometry* for the college's centennial celebration in 2014. And in 2018, he received the prestigious Henry B. Peters Award from the Academy for his lifetime contributions to public health optometry.



Class of 1969 “Golden Grads” Celebrate 50 Years

By Michael Haddock, MA
 Assistant Director of Alumni Engagement

For the fifth straight year, the College of Optometry recognized the 50th reunion class, affectionately referred to as the Golden Graduates, as a part of the Convocation Weekend festivities.

The day began at the Ohio Union where **Ronald Cooke (OD’69), Lawrence Gill (OD’69), James Jambor (OD’69), Brice Musser (BS’67, OD’69), Theodore Nichting (BS’68, OD’69), Nancy Peterson-Klein (BS’67, OD’69) and J. Eric Vandemark (OD’69)** reunited for lunch to share memories from campus 50 years ago and celebrate this milestone achievement. However, a new surprise was incorporated at the luncheon - the attendance of former College Secretary Jim Noe, who remembered all of the attendees and especially what it was like to prepare for their graduation in 1969. Dean Karla Zadnik, OD, PhD, offered an update to the group about the new clinic construction and provided the members of the class with a certificate commemorating the 50-year mark.

After a tour of Starling Loving and Fry Halls, the Golden Graduates headed to Weigel Hall dressed in graduation regalia and were recognized on stage during the convocation ceremony.



*Summer’s heat or winter’s cold,
 The seasons pass, the years will roll;
 Time and change will surely show,
 How firm thy friendship - Ohio*

Top row:
 Even a little rain won’t stop **Jessica Bergana (OD’19)** from celebrating!
Christie Locke (OD/MS’19) and Connor Smallwood (OD’19) sport the traditional optometry graduation glasses!
Lida Zeinalpour (OD’19), Brian Rashid (OD’19), Silva Hamade (OD’19) and Margaux Flaherty (OD’19) celebrate after convocation.
Justin Klimchak (OD’19) and Bridget Lorenz (’20)
Bottom row:
Dalya Qaisi (OD’19) and Rebecca Allen (OD’19)
Tyler Hamby (OD’19) celebrates with his family.
Caity Haring (OD’19) and Magnolia Ip (OD’19) pose for a photo.



Visionary Appreciation Dinner

Susan Quinn (OD'82), Tom Quinn (OD'79, MS'81), Nicky Lai (OD/MS'03) and Cara Frasco (OD/MS'03)

Five Alumni Inducted as Neal Bailey Medalists

By Rachel Childress
Director of Development

On April 6, we celebrated the College of Optometry's most generous alumni and friends, newest Bailey Medalists, and current scholarship recipients at our fifth Visionary Appreciation Dinner. Having an evening during which our supportive alumni and friends gather with our exceptional students is a great opportunity for both groups to learn about giving back to the college and to meet the individuals who are benefiting from these gifts.

Dean Karla Zadnik, OD, PhD, welcomed the group and spoke about the importance of alumni support in making a significant difference in the education we provide to today's students. She also gave an update on the construction process of our new clinic facility. She then asked student scholarship recipients to speak about how they chose optometry as a career and their experiences at the college. Third-year student **Erlein Tacastacas ('21)** shared her story about a family trip to the Philippines, where they emigrated from many years before. While there, she saw an optometrist named Dr. Maryann Superable, and from that positive experience she decided she also wanted to be a 'super-able' optometrist. Erlein receives her scholarship from the college's general scholarship fund.

Jaime Antonio ('22), came to us from California as a non-traditional student. He majored in music and although he loved it, he realized that he needed to find another opportunity that might be little more lucrative. He talked of his sincere appreciation for the way he was welcomed by our college community when he came to his interview. Even after receiving larger scholarship offers from other schools, he decided that Ohio State was where he wanted to call home. Jaime is the recipient of the Hummel Endowed Scholarship Fund.

Following the student testimonials, Dean Zadnik and **Michael Earley (OD/MS'88, PhD'92)** had the honor of inducting the newest Neal Bailey Medalists. The medals recognize individuals who have given a cumulative amount of \$50,000 and corporate or foundation supporters who have given \$250,000 to the College of Optometry. We had five new inductees this year.

Sandra Anderson (OD'82) and Paul Anderson

Dr. Anderson has been supporting the university since she graduated with her very first gift to optometric research in 1982. She also has supported the pre-clinic renovation and various other facility and scholarship funds. She and her husband, Paul, have most recently established a scholarship that will award the rising fourth year student with the highest GPA. This is a reflection of Dr. Anderson's student experience as being the top clinician in her class and realizing that most scholarships at that time (which were very few) went to incoming or graduating students. Dr. Anderson worked at the college for many years and recently retired in 2018.



Brian Armitage (OD'81/MS'83) and Anne Armitage

Dr. Armitage grew up in New York and was inspired to pursue optometry as a career thanks to one of our alumni practicing in his hometown – **Henry Baum (BS'57)**. After graduation, Dr. Armitage remained in Ohio working as an Assistant Clinical Professor at the college and in practice before moving to Florida. There, he spent time in both a corporate setting with Johnson and Johnson and in private practice. His first gift to the college came in 1981 to optometric research. He also generously supported the Larry Shaefer scholarship. A few years ago, Dr. Armitage was one of the first alumni to contribute to our White Coat Scholarship fund. This fund supports a second-year student after receiving his or her white coat, and then that same student receives a scholarship in their third and fourth years from the same donor. In addition, Dr. Armitage has added the college to his estate plan.





left to right:
Dean Zadnik and Robert Engel (OD'01)
Dean Zadnik and Kathleen Murphy (OD'82)
Dean Zadnik and Jeff Williams (OD'07)



Robert Engel (OD'01)

Dr. Rob Engel is one of two alumni honored this year for reaching the Bailey Medal milestone within 20 years of graduation. That's quite an accomplishment when we consider the debt that many of our students accrue during their educational years. Since graduation Dr. Engel has lived and practiced in Cleveland and has a strong partnership with the Cleveland Clinic. He reached out to us when the idea of the new building was just that – an idea. He asked how he could support the renovation of the Fry Bridge, and as we talked, the renovation was put on hold for the bigger dream of the new clinic. However that didn't deter him from making a gift. It was set up so that he could make a choice at a later date about supporting the building or a scholarship. We thank Dr. Engel for not only this gift, but for believing in the dream of the building before the blueprints were a reality and for trusting us enough to make a generous commitment without knowing exactly what it would end up supporting.

Kathleen Murphy (OD'82)

After graduation, Dr. Kathy Murphy opened a practice in Dublin - cold. At that time it was truly a village and not today's sprawling suburb. The practice eventually grew to employ three additional doctors (all of them Ohio State-trained of course!) and became Emerald EyeCare. Dr. Murphy's first gift was given in

1982 for optometric research, and she has supported various discretionary, building, and scholarship funds since then. Last year, Dr. Murphy made a significant gift to our building that will name the main lobby area. She has also named the college as a recipient of an estate gift that will benefit our students many years from now. We are so grateful for her generosity.

Jeff Williams (OD'07)

Dr. Jeff Williams is our other early professional who has supported the school in a generous way. Originally from New York, Dr. Williams was an undergrad at Ohio State and was very involved in the pre-optometry club. During his time in school he spent time getting to know many faculty and staff and understood how impactful they had all been on his education. Soon after graduation he reached out to talk about how to establish an endowed fund to support students. He ultimately decided that instead of having his name on it, that it should honor Sally Haltom, our former Director of Student Affairs, who helped him navigate the twists and turns of optometry school.

Thank you to all who attended this event as well as those who continue to philanthropically support the college. We look forward to seeing many more of you added to this prestigious group in the coming years.



Class of 2022 White Coat Ceremony

By Jen Bennett, MSED, *Director of Student Services*

On May 11, the Class of 2022 reached a significant milestone in their optometry career at their White Coat Ceremony. Founded by “Buckeye” Bob Newcomb (OD'71, MPH), the annual White Coat Ceremony marks the end of the first-year classroom experience and the beginning of clinical education. Don Mutti, OD, PhD, and Greg Nixon (OD'96) presented each student with their first white coat as families and friends looked on with great pride during a lively celebration of accomplishments so far and excitement for the journey ahead.

White Coat Sentiments

Compiled by David Moore
Instructional and Web Development Specialist

Each year since 2000, The Ohio State University College of Optometry White Coat Ceremony takes place, at which students, faculty, staff, family and friends gather to celebrate the first-year students' advancement into their clinical curriculum.

It is now tradition that immediately following the white coat being placed upon a student, the dean reads a short message provided by that student. At this year's ceremony, Dean Karla Zadnik, OD, PhD, asked the audience to listen for themes in the "wise wonderful words" provided.

Every class is distinct, and the messages shared

reflect that. The words they shared highlight many of the first-year experiences that will continue to bond these students together for a lifetime. Here is a compilation of quotes and themes gleaned from this year's ceremony.

Listen to their words by visiting go.osu.edu/whitecoat2019.

"This year I've been able to see what it's like to have professors who truly care about their students, classmates who treat each other like family ..."

Jenna Jamal from Akron, Ohio

"... I am thankful beyond words for my parents ... this coat will always remind me of them."

Kristen Borriello from Montgomery, New York

"... thank my friends and boyfriend for their constant words of encouragement and willingness to stress eat ice cream with me."

Christine George from Columbus, Ohio

"'Ohana' means family and family means Ohio State Optometry because that is what the people from year one of optometry school have become to me."

Ellen Smith from Plymouth, Indiana

"... and Chipotle for delivering to me in my darkest hours."

Sophia Araujo-Hernandez from Las Vegas, Nevada

Clockwise from left:

Kyler Camper ('22) receives his white coat from **Greg Nixon (OD'96)**.

Mary Curtis ('22) receives her white coat from her father, **Steven Curtis (OD'87)**.

Chris Smiley (OD'01), Treasurer of the Optometry Alumni Society and **Elizabeth Muckley (OD'97)**, President-Elect of the Ohio Optometric Association, share advice and words of wisdom with the Class of 2022.

Class President **Kristen Zulliger ('22)** shares stories and insights from the first year in optometry school.

Anastasia Soulas ('22) receives her white coat from **Don Mutti, OD, PhD**.

Pat Dollenmayer (OD'91), **Michael Raies (OD'89)**, and **Tony Fenton (OD'89)**, known as Bad Habits, The Eye Docs of Rock, perform *Hang on Sloopy*.

The Class of 2022 singing *Carmen Ohio*.



Filling the Needs She Finds

By Jeffrey A. Myers (OD'84)



Christine Alison Wiles Sindt (OD'94), called Christy by her family, had what many would consider an all-American childhood. She grew up in Hamburg, New York, a suburb of Buffalo, with two loving parents, four older siblings, and a cat. Seemingly always on the go, she was active in 4-H, the dance team, piano lessons, Olympics of the Mind, school plays, Chamber Choir, and the First Aid Simulation Team and became an EMT.

After high school she attended The State University of New York at Geneseo. There, she found her campus home on the Emergency Squad, where she served as Lieutenant of Training. She also participated in Chamber Choir and served as a resident adviser. Although she planned to transfer to Upstate Medical Center to pursue Physical Therapy, she did not want to leave her Geneseo life early, so she continued her degree in Biology/Chemistry. She became active in research and received a small NIH-funded grant to study major histocompatibility complexes in mice – which led her to an epiphany: She loved the puzzle and thrill of discovery but hated being alone in the lab. She was also allergic to mice.

She had been considering a PhD in Immunology but was concerned about a career alone in the lab (and the mice), so she was open to other opportunities. It was during a research symposium where she first heard an optometrist speak about research opportunities in optometry. This was a pivotal moment in her career. After shadowing several ODs in practice, who all said they loved their jobs and would do it again, she knew this was the career for her (people, puzzles, and no mice!)

She applied to several optometry schools, but interestingly Ohio State was not on her original list. It was actually a transcription error that brought her to Ohio State. She thought she was writing down the phone number of the Illinois College of Optometry (ICO) and wrote down Ohio State's number instead. When Ohio State answered, she didn't hang up but followed through with an application, and received an interview. By the end of the interview, she knew that Ohio State was where she wanted to be. In addition to the College of Optometry, OSU offered that big university feeling with opportunities outside of the college, which she took advantage of by participating in the University's Chamber Choir.

While at Ohio State, she attended an American Optometric Student Association (AOSA) meeting in Chicago in 1992, where she met a young man who was attending ICO, Steven Sindt. As she completed her optometry education, they graduated, took board exams, married, and moved to Cleveland for post-doctoral Veterans Administration (VA) residencies.

Dr. Steven Sindt was an Iowa native and was looking for an opportunity to practice near home after residency. An opportunity presented itself for Dr. Christine Sindt at The University of Iowa Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences, which has a national and international reputation. She felt that the opportunity offered the type of career growth that she was looking for. While she was initially brought on as housestaff, providing primary care, low vision, and contact lenses, within a few short years, she held an assistant professor position and was Director of the Contact Lens Service. She also returned to her VA roots, providing contact lens care for veterans at the university clinic. As other optometrists were hired into the department, the bulk of contact lens care was moved to her schedule, especially the more complex cases.

Dr. Christine Sindt was the fourth woman to hold a faculty position within the Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences, and she is also one of the first two women to become a full professor. She was the first faculty member to give birth, being a pioneer in helping the university/department understand the needs of female faculty members in a male-dominated environment. She is proud of the young women faculty and residents in her department and how far things have come.

She adapted to the internet early, doing medical moderating of an internet keratoconus support group. This led to opportunities with industry speakers' bureaus, specifically Alcon, with the help of Dave Sattler. From there she continued to lecture nationally and internationally as a voice for dry eye and contact lenses. This developed into an opportunity to publish columns on contact lens care for *Review of Cornea and Contact Lens*, and general columns for *Review of Optometry* and *Contact Lens Spectrum*.

Dr. Christine Sindt was fitting scleral lenses in the late 1990s, placing her far ahead of the current resurgence in popularity. She will be the first to tell you she learned much from her clinical mishaps during her scleral lens learning curve – something she eagerly shared with her like-minded colleagues. Rob Breece, OD, was her primary mentor and deepened her understanding of lens design and manufacturing. Still, she thought there were patients she could help if she had a more adaptable 3D lens design.

After the passing of Dr. Breece, she put her



lens design plans on hold while she pursued other opportunities in research, including advancing her interest in corneal inflammatory modulators using confocal microscopy. Through a doctor-initiated grant from Alcon, Dr. Sindt studied dendritic cell migration into the cornea in relationship to contact lens wear, various materials and lens wear, contact lens solutions, and allergy. To analyze the voluminous data created by the confocal, and with the help of Jami Kern, PhD and Bruno Lay (a world-class software engineer), they created and patented the Rapid Confocal Analysis Software. Dr. Kern taught her much about research and publishing in the academic and commercial world.



Knowing a software engineer led her back to her original passion, 3D contact lens design. After years of development, stalking polymer chemists and removing her own epithelium (twice!), she found an FDA-approved proprietary, non-toxic, biocompatible polymer of polyvinyl and siloxane that takes a 26-mm, 360-degree mold of the ocular surface in less than one minute with no anesthetic and causes no corneal/ocular irritation.

As a University of Iowa employee, she disclosed everything to the University of Iowa Research Foundation, who with the help of the College of Business MBA class, wrote her business plan. However, the university chose not to pursue the project and assigned the intellectual property over to her, so she could move forward on her own.

RECOGNITIONS

- Dr. Rodger Kame Award – AOA Contact Lens and Cornea Section
- Practitioner of the Year – Contact Lens Manufacturers Association
- AOA Legends Award - AOA Contact Lens and Cornea Section
- Startup Launched Award – The University of Iowa Office of the VP for Economic Development
- Contact Lens and Cornea Section Achievement Award – AOA
- Honorary Member – Accademia Italiana Lenti Sclerali
- Theia Award of Excellence for Innovation
- Scleral Lens Practitioner of the Year – Scleral Lens Education Society
- National Keratoconus Foundation Optometrist of the Year- National Keratoconus Foundation

Partnering with Keith Parker NCLE, at Advanced Vision Technologies, they developed the patented EyePrint Prosthetics software with Bruno, to create a high-tech lens. It can easily be manufactured to manage toric, multifocals, prism, and higher order aberrations. The optics can be moved around (not constrained to the center of the lens), and the back and front optics are manipulated separately. Unlike other technology, the lens does not have to be round. EyePrint Prosthetics creates contact lenses designed specifically for patients with highly irregular ocular surfaces, including keratoconus, traumatic injury, corneal transplant, exposure keratopathy, glaucoma tubes, and post-refractive surgery.

In addition to complex ocular surfaces, Dr Christine also has literally “written the book [chapter]” on infant and pediatric lens fitting. Working with Advanced Vision Technologies in Colorado, and using ten years of infant fitting data with gas permeable contact lenses, she developed a 26-lens diagnostic fitting set called PediaSITE. This simplifies the fitting process for anyone fitting pediatric patients under the age of two years. The best part of working with infants, she says, is being part of a team that alters the natural progression of vision to the point where the child is completely unaware of how poor the vision would have been. Being “normal” is a great gift.

Along the way she has provided leadership and service in a variety of ways. She is a founding member and served as President of Women of Vision, a group dedicated to mentorship and support. She served on the American Optometric Association Contact Lens and Cornea Section Council and served as Chair in 2010-11, during a nationwide recall over solution-related *fusarium* and *acanthamoeba* infections. She and **Greg DeNaeyer (OD’98)** founded the Scleral Lens Education Society in 2009, to support the burgeoning scleral lens technology; she served as president from 2010-2012.

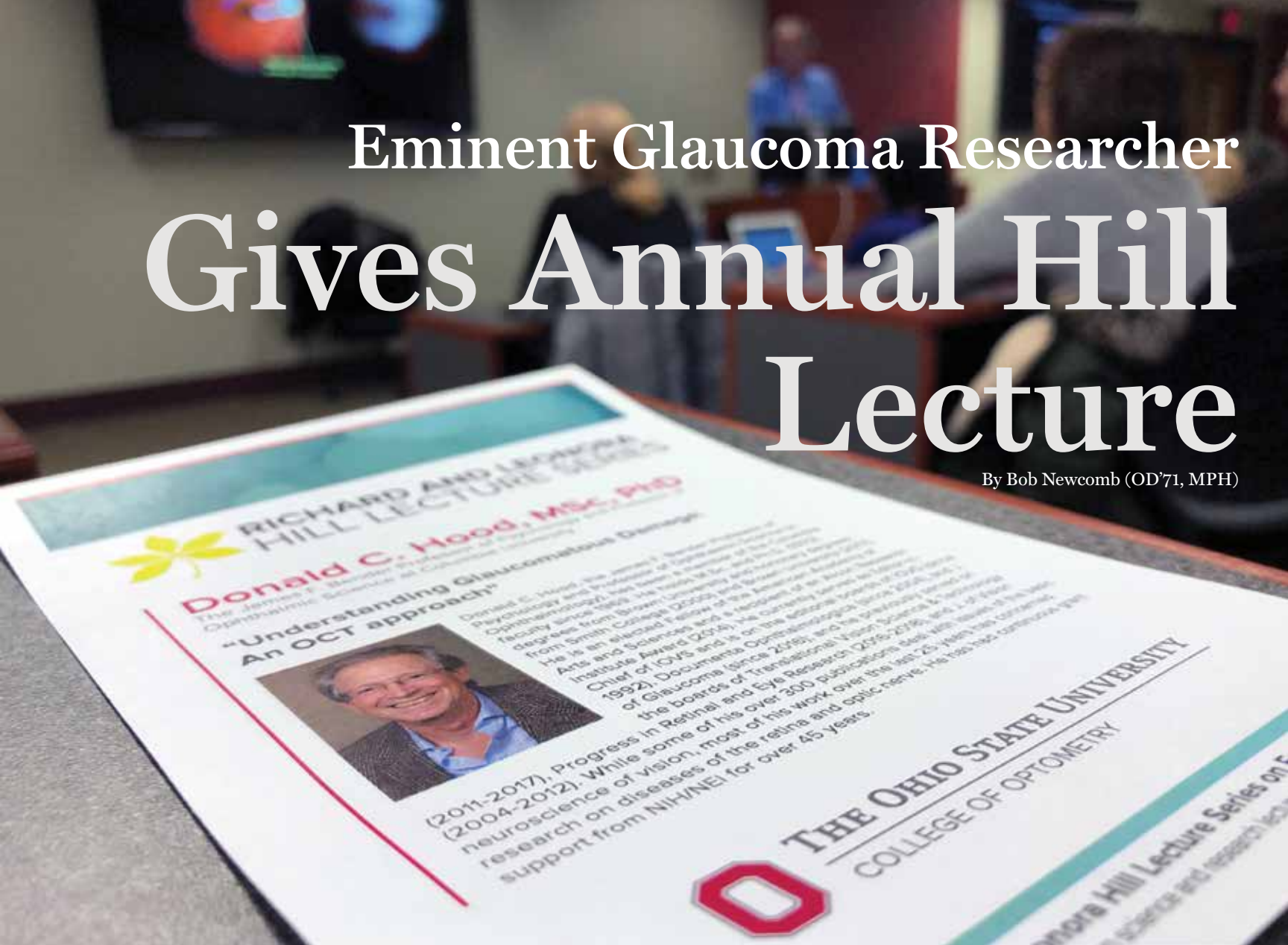
Her academic production includes three patents, more than a dozen peer-reviewed articles and chapters, 142 journal articles, 20 studies, dozens of conference presentations and invited lectures, and five instructional videos. Not unexpectedly, a career like this has been recognized numerous times.



Recently, she added an unexpected role when she examined her oldest son following his first year of college and diagnosed him with keratoconus. She now had a more personal experience to relate to patients. Her son received corneal crosslinking. Dr. Sindt was very much impressed with the support, love, and care she received from the optometry and ophthalmology communities. Interestingly, that same son is now a pre-optometry student.

Dr. Sindt’s husband, Steven, practices in Mt. Vernon, Iowa and is on staff at the Iowa City VA Medical Center. They have four children. Benjamin is a 22-year-old senior at Iowa State University studying pre-optometry. Matthew is a 19-year-old sophomore mechanical engineering student at the University of Iowa. Chloe is a six-year-old rising first grader, and Lincoln is three years old.

When asked how she does it all, she states “Well, I don’t do it ALL.” She credits most of her success to her partners, including her university staff (specifically Trudy Grout who has been her right hand for the past 24 years), her EyePrint partners who keep her “second job” moving forward, and her husband who is her rock on all levels. While she is still, seemingly, always on the go, she says her mother once told her, “Do one positive thing every day and you will be amazed at how much can be accomplished.”



Dr. Donald C. Hood, distinguished Professor of Psychology and Ophthalmic Science at Columbia University in New York City, has received many accolades over the past 45 years for his research on diseases of the retina and optic nerve. On March 5, he added to that impressive list by giving the 2019 Richard and Leonora Hill Lecture in the college's venerable room 33 Fry. Dr. Hood’s topic was “Understanding Glaucomatous Damage: An OCT Approach.”

After briefly reviewing the eye’s basic anatomy and neurophysiology, Dr. Hood discussed early glaucomatous disease from both a structural (using Optical Coherence Tomography) and functional (using visual fields) perspective. He said the old adage of “structural changes precede functional changes” is a myth. Based upon his research, about 80% of early glaucoma patients have some macular involvement caused by Nerve Fiber Layer thinning or actual damage.

According to Dr. Hood, clinicians typically test their glaucoma patients with either the 24-2 or 30-2 visual field testing protocols, both of which have only four test points in the patient’s macular area. He said if clinicians would use the 10-2 testing protocol, they would most likely find some early loss of macular function that can be correlated with new OCT imaging techniques. This could explain why some early glaucoma patients report vague visual acuity, distortion, or contrast symptoms. He recommends using visual fields and OCT to thoroughly evaluate both the optic disc and the macula in all early glaucoma patients.

Thank you, Dr. and Mrs. Hill for establishing this wonderful educational experience for our students, faculty and alumni. And congratulations, Dr. Hood for giving us a stimulating presentation.



Dean Zadnik, Dr. Hood, Dr. Hill, and Mrs. Hill

Construction Update



Construction is steadily progressing at 11th and Neil Avenues at Ohio State!

By Dean Karla Zadnik, OD, PhD

We are well out of the gates! Our new building on the southeast corner of 11th and Neil Avenues that will house our clinic and associated functions and personnel is underway. As of the third week of July, weekly—almost daily—evidence of progress can be seen as we walk or drive by that corner.

We will occupy the bottom three floors of the building. The first floor will house the Hoya Eyewear Gallery, patient reception, billing and other key clinic administrative personnel, and our Vision Rehabilitation Service. The Binocular Vision/Pediatric, Vision Therapy, and Advanced Ocular Services will occupy the second floor. Our Contact Lens and Primary Vision Care Services will occupy the entire third floor.

In addition to patient care facilities, the building will include clinical faculty offices and

open workspaces, a shared student/staff/faculty lounge, various conference and meeting rooms, IT, and a shop to service equipment. The building will look traditionally academic from the outside and will have an open, welcoming interior with lots of nooks and crannies for informal interactions among students, staff, and faculty.

Meanwhile, renovations in the Fry Tower are proceeding rapidly. The former patient-oriented research waiting areas on the fourth and fifth

floors are walled off. Behind them, those spaces are being converted to conference rooms. Room 33 is being altered to accommodate student life space with extra money from the university to subsidize that work. The anatomy and optics teaching labs are being created in the space at the north end of the Fry Tower basement (formerly “Multimedia” back in the day).



Drs. Mutti and Walline “twinning” in their shared office.

Through all this, the students, faculty, and staff are all good-naturedly occupying swing space. Four research study coordinators are cheerfully housed in one faculty office in Fry. **Jeff Walline (OD, MS’98 PhD’02)** welcomed Don Mutti, OD, PhD, to his office through autumn 2020.

The sixth floor will be internally remodeled to include the dean’s suite along with student services, advancement, communication, and financial/human resources staff.

We predict that all move-ins will be complete by autumn 2020.

We can’t see the future without you!

PROJECT 2020

We can’t see the future without you.

New Optometry Clinic Fundraising Update

By Rachel Childress, *Director of Development*

As the shovels (and bobcats and backhoes) are now in the ground, the new clinic building at 11+Neil is feeling more like a reality. We have a little more than a year until we’re ready to move in, and we want to count you among the alumni who have generously supported our facility efforts. As of August 30, we’ve raised more than \$1.3 M, with \$950,000 just from room naming gifts.

Additionally, we have a handful of other alumni and groups considering gifts to name spaces. Right now there are two classes coming together to work on a space, and this would be a great way for your class to leave a legacy – or honor a special faculty member – with a room that will be used by students, faculty, and patients for many years to come.

Once again, our goal is to have commitments for all 80 of our namable spaces by the autumn 2020 ribbon cutting. If you’re interested, I’d be happy to send you more information and discuss the impact you’d like to make in this important project for the college.

Please reach out to Rachel Childress to learn more:

**614-292-2100 or
childress.35@osu.edu**

Low Vision is a High Priority at Ohio State

By Sarah Cupples, MA
Director of Marketing and Communications

As Joel Mariotti approached his 50th birthday, he reflected on his life. He had a lot to celebrate – a loving family and a successful career with the Ohio Department of Health. But one thing kept nagging at him – he wasn’t able to drive due to vision problems associated with albinism.

His wife, Susan, prodded him to explore the Central Ohio Bioptic Driving Program at Ohio State Optometry, where he was met with the expertise and care of Roanne E. Flom, OD, and her low vision team. With training and the right equipment (he was found to have only a mild to moderate visual impairment), his former limitations became surmountable hurdles.

“It was a prescriptive process with many steps,” remembers Mariotti. “Dr. Flom initiated the process, which included seeing the optometrist at the training site, driving along with an examiner in the passenger seat while using my bioptic device and reading road signs aloud, a written driver’s test, and bioptic driver training for multiple two-hour sessions.”

Thanks to his thorough training and custom-fit bioptic device (a small telescope affixed to a pair of glasses), Mariotti successfully passed the driving tests required by the State of Ohio for people who are visually impaired.

“I was ecstatic. The whole experience changed my life, and it’s all because of Dr. Flom. Besides my marriage and the birth of my children, this was the most important occurrence of my life,” he says.

It’s no surprise that Dr. Flom chose to study optometry, as both of her parents were optometrists. Her service-oriented mother, Bernice C. Flom, OD, ran a free clinic in Oakland, California during the 1960s for children and underserved populations, recruiting other optometrists to volunteer their time. Her father, Merton C. Flom, OD, PhD, specialized in strabismus and amblyopia and was an acclaimed educator, researcher, and clinician.

Meeting unmet needs felt natural and familiar to Dr. Flom, as did the thrill of discovery of learning and teaching. But she also knew that all of those enterprises only matter if they help clinical care. This realization led her to focus on low vision, combining her call to serve with her desire to advance knowledge.

Dr. Flom and her husband, Thomas W. Raasch, OD, PhD, share interests in low vision rehabilitation. They met while studying at UC Berkeley, and both joined the Ohio State Optometry family in 1995.

Led by Dr. Flom, Ohio State’s Low Vision Rehabilitation Service serves 800 patients each year. The current clinical team is made up of staff members Alysia Benson and Freda Dallas, clinical attendings **Rebecca Deffler (OD, MS’19)**, and **Greg Hopkins (OD’10, MS’14)**, and all interns in each fourth-year class.

Ohio State’s team has been instrumental in advancing the care of low vision patients. For example, Dr. Hopkins recently has taken over major responsibilities in the Central Ohio Bioptic Driving Program involving the fitting and evaluation of bioptic telescope glasses. He is the college’s fourth faculty member to have become a Diplomate of the Low Vision Section of the American Academy of Optometry, following in the footsteps of Dr. Flom, **William Brown (OD, MS’76, PhD’77)**, and **Jack Fugate (BS’51, OD’66)**.

“The diplomate process was an opportunity for me to get to know some of the most established and dedicated low vision optometrists in the country,” says Dr. Hopkins. “It was a way to compare best practices and showcase the carefully curated school of thought gained through my two year Advanced Practice Fellowship training at The Ohio State University College of Optometry. My mentors instilled evidence-based and principled approaches paired with a deep passion for quality care delivery. For me personally, the diplomate examination gave me opportunities to grow empathetic patient communication skills.”

Also, Dr. Hopkins is working with **Bradley Dougherty (OD’07 PhD’13)** on a grant from Research to Prevent Blindness to evaluate head-mounted devices for reading and wayfinding. Dr. Dougherty is working with Dr. Deffler on a grant from the Ohio Lions Eye Research Foundation on the socioeconomic status and vision of people with age related macular degeneration.

College faculty member Deyue (Dion) Yu, PhD, is the Principal Investigator for a \$2 million grant from the National Eye Institute on new methods for testing vision among people with low vision. She is a named inventor on five U.S. patents for vision testing methods.

Dr. Raasch recently became an Associate Editor for *Optometry and Vision Science*, a leading journal in optometry, and Dr. Flom is a past chair of the Academy’s Low Vision Section, has led its Diplomate Program, and founded the Low Vision Educator’s Special Interest Group in the Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry.

Accolades aside, low vision is all about working with individual patients to meet their needs and goals, explains Dr. Deffler, a clinical attending who works closely with students.

“We see a diverse group of patients, ranging from those with age-related eye disease to those with very rare ocular disorders,” says Dr. Deffler. “It’s a great mix that allows students to expand their knowledge, both in ocular disease and low vision care.”

Fourth-year intern **Lindsay Page (’20)**, is the second president of the Low Vision Rehabilitation Club, for students who want even more exposure to the field.

“Helping low vision patients appeals to me because it allows me to apply my knowledge of ocular diseases and determine their impact on the unique life circumstances of the patient,” says Page. “I believe the Low Vision Rehabilitation Club has demonstrated to students the impact that we can make on our patient’s lives and reinforces why we are working so hard to learn the skills necessary to provide for these patients in the future.”

When Dr. Flom looks at a classroom full of students like Lindsay Page in her Low Vision Rehabilitation course, she thinks about the future patients her students will help, like Joel Mariotti.

Nearly 15 years later, Mariotti is still driving and loving it. Dr. Flom and her interns have continued to be a resource. At one point, Mariotti bought a new hybrid car and initially was not able to read the digital control panel’s screen, so he visited Dr. Flom, who made a few adjustments to his bioptic so he could properly see the screen. “They just continue to problem-solve. They’re like Energizer bunnies,” Mariotti says of the Low Vision team. “It’s just the coolest thing ever.”



Joel Mariotti and Dr. Flom

Second Nixon Wins Distinguished Teaching Award



Dr. Nixon is in excellent company, as Ohio State Optometry currently has five distinguished teaching award winners. They are, from left to right: **Nick Fogt (OD/MS'92, PhD'96)**; Don Mutti, OD, PhD; Vondolee Delgado-Nixon, PhD; **Greg Nixon, (OD'96)**; and **Mike Earley (OD/MS'88, PhD'92)**.

“You’ve given my students something they’ve wanted all semester ... you’ve rendered me speechless,” remarked Associate Dean for Clinic Services **Greg Nixon (OD'96)** upon learning that he received Ohio State’s Alumni Award for Distinguished Teaching.

The surprise brigade that interrupted Dr. Nixon’s class to announce the award on March 4 included his wife, Dr. Vondolee Delgado-Nixon (who won the distinguished teaching award for lecturers in 2015) and their sons, as well as Provost Bruce McPheron, Senior Vice Provost Kay Wolf, Alumni Association Assistant Vice President Don Stenta, and Dean Karla Zadnik, OD, PhD. Dr. Nixon is the fifth professor from the College of Optometry to win a distinguished teaching award.

In both the classroom and the clinic, Dr. Nixon teaches with intensity and passion, making it possible for his students to understand the most complex concepts.

For example, in his course on glaucoma, he hosts two educational seminars—one in which doctors with extensive knowledge on glaucoma present cases to the students and then spend several hours discussing the cases in small groups, and another where six to eight patients with glaucoma sit as patients in a grand rounds seminar. The combination of doctors sharing their real-world knowledge

and the hands-on examination of patients enables students to grasp and retain information about this challenging topic.

Students praise his approachable yet challenging teaching style. “Dr. Nixon doesn’t ask if anybody has questions,” says a former student. “Rather he invites questions—and won’t move on until students ask. He understands introverts may take longer than extroverts to raise their hands ... and that certain topics take longer to grasp. He inspires all his students to push themselves to be the best they can be.”

The impression Nixon has made on his students continues long after graduation. Says a former student, “He is a definitive role model for what an optometrist should aspire to.” Says another alumnus, “Dr. Nixon is an exceptional role model and personifies what a Doctor of Optometry should be.”

In addition to teaching multiple courses in the College of Optometry, Dr. Nixon is a prolific administrator, tackling all aspects of the clinical experience, ensuring that students receive an unrivaled education.

Research Roundup

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

2019 Ezell Fellowship Awards

College of Optometry Vision Science PhD students **Kelsy Steele (OD'16, MS'18)** and Maureen Plaumann, OD, are among 13 recipients of 2019 American Academy of Optometry Foundation William C. Ezell Fellowships.

Dr. Steele has been named the AAO Section on Cornea, Contact Lenses and Refractive Technologies Ezell Fellow. Dr. Plaumann has been named the Baycross Christian Family Foundation Binocular Vision and Pediatrics Ezell Fellow.

“The Ezell Fellowship is the most prestigious award given to students who are pursuing vision science graduate degrees in optometry,” explains **Jeff Walline (OD, MS'98, PhD'02)**, associate dean for research. “The award helps make graduate stipends easier to manage financially, and it automatically places the student among luminaries of the profession.”

Dr. Steele is working with Karla Zadnik, OD, PhD. Her research interests are complications associated with contact lens use, including corneal infection and inflammation, hygiene and compliance issues, and water exposure. Dr. Plaumann, who is advised by Teng Leng Ooi, OD, PhD, is interested in abnormal binocular vision. Her research focuses on adult amblyopia, and she is developing a more



Ezell Fellows Dr. Plaumann and Dr. Steele

“The Ezell Fellowship is the most prestigious award given to students who are pursuing vision science graduate degrees in optometry,”

Jeff Walline

sensitive measure of intraocular suppression that she hopes will one day lead to better treatment of the condition.

Ezell Fellowship funding is provided by leading optometric companies, private endowments, and other generous business organizations that represent most sectors of the industry.



Left to right, back row: Elton Angoni ('22); Thomas Krainz ('22); and Prathibha Srikantan ('22). Middle row: Aaron Koons ('22); Jennifer Chlam ('22); and Lauren Schneider ('22). Front row: Natalie Wong ('22); Krista Roberts ('22); and Jeffrey Walline (OD, MS'98, PhD'02), T35 Director.

T35 trainees

The College of Optometry is pleased to announce its summer 2019 NIH National Research Service Award (T35) trainees! These seven students have completed their first year of their study of optometry and spent the 12 weeks of summer working with College of Optometry faculty to explore their interest in research by completing a research study. The goal of the program is to encourage professional students to embark on a career in eye research.

Elton Angoni ('22)

Advisor: TJ Plageman, PhD

Why the T35 is important to me: I hope that by immersing myself in research through the T35 program I will be able to increase the depth of my understanding of the field, thus allowing me to explore what a career in research in the future might hold.

What I'm doing: I am working with Dr. Plageman to investigate the mechanisms by which Shroom3, a cytoskeletal protein, regulates collagen expression in the cornea. Specifically, I am investigating the role of a protein interaction domain found solely in the longest isoform of Shroom3 and that is encoded by a region within the human SHROOM3 gene that harbors a missense mutation linked to keratoconus.

Jennifer Chlam ('22)

Advisor: Thomas Raasch, OD, PhD

Why the T35 is important to me: I am excited to have the opportunity to explore my interests in optometric research this summer! The T35 program will allow me to develop my research skills and will give me the chance to learn about the new and exciting things that are happening right now in optometric research.

What I'm doing: We will be designing and evaluating a new objective refraction technique that is based on the measurement of aberrations of the eye. The results of this new technique will be compared to the gold-standard of subjective refraction. This form of refraction may be especially helpful in determining the refractive error of highly aberrated eyes.

Aaron Koons ('22)

Advisor: Cynthia Roberts, PhD

Why the T35 is important to me: The T35 program allows me to gain experience in both a research and clinical setting beyond what I could receive in the traditional OD program. Having these opportunities to pursue research and help to improve the lives of our future patients is a major reason why I chose to come to The Ohio State University College of Optometry. The skills and techniques that I will be learning this summer will help me to become a better optometrist in any career path that I decide to pursue in the future.

What I'm doing: Intraocular pressure (IOP) is a measurement taken at every comprehensive eye exam, however, the underlying corneal biomechanics are still largely misunderstood. My research this summer will use cutting edge technology at Ohio State to record various measurements related to IOP in order to get a better understanding of corneal properties in healthy populations and in patients with ocular pathologies.

Thomas Krainz ('22)

Advisors: Heather Chandler, PhD, and TJ Plageman, PhD

Why the T35 is important to me: T35 is important because it affords me the opportunity to explore the physiological underpinnings of lecture-based concepts. Experience acquired in this program can then be utilized to provide the most comprehensive and research-supported healthcare.

What I'm doing: I'm working with Dr. Chandler and Dr. Plageman to explore the involvement the protein Willin/FRMD6, a protein typically associated with mechanically-induced cell proliferation, has on lens epithelial cell mitosis. This research has prospective applications to the management of presbyopia.

Krista Roberts ('22)

Advisor: Teng Leng Ooi, PhD

Why the T35 is important to me:

I'm excited to explore optometric research this summer and to learn about how research leads to clinical innovations. I'm hoping my experience and new knowledge will help me to excel in the field.

What I'm doing:

I will be testing ocular disease patients with both central and peripheral visual field loss through binocular methodologies. This binocular visual field screening can be administered in seconds by a technician, is portable, and does not require an eye patch. Results of the screenings will be compared to the Humphrey Field Analyzer, the gold standard for testing visual field loss.

Lauren Schneider ('22)

Advisor: Don Mutti, OD, PhD

Why the T35 is important to me: The opportunity to directly contribute to current optometric research and scientific understanding, and to work closely with our amazing mentors is why I feel T35 is a wonderful experience, and I am very honored to be a part of this cohort!

What I'm doing: I am working with Dr. Mutti to assess the effect of different text contrast conditions on pupillary responses to red and blue light. It has been shown that white text on a black background and black text on a white background have different effects on the choroid that might be due to how much dopamine is released from the retina. Dopamine is also released in response to bright outdoor light, which has been shown to be an important factor in myopia development. We hope this project will contribute to our understanding of conditions indoors that affect dopamine release, pupillary responses, and their connection to myopia.

Prathibha Srikantan ('22)

Advisor: Bradley Dougherty (OD/MS'07, PhD'13)

Why the T35 is important to me: The T35 is important to me because the program will allow me to grow as a clinician and a scientist while hopefully benefiting and furthering optometric knowledge.

What I'm doing: The project I am working on involves testing an electronic device that may help patients with low vision read faster and comprehend better, which is a necessity in daily life. The device is worn atop the head and has an attached camera with multiple functions. Both low vision patients and normally sighted individuals will be tested and the results will be compared. The ultimate goal for the future is to enable low vision patients to function with ease every day.

Natalie Wong ('22)

Advisor: Deyue Yu, PhD

Why the T35 is important to me: I'm excited to participate in the T35 program so that I may learn more about the process of conducting research and then apply my newfound knowledge to conduct research of my own! As our current understanding of vision and our evidence-based clinical practices are due to well-designed and well-conducted research, I'm incredibly grateful for the opportunity to contribute to this ever-expanding field.

What I'm doing: Reading performance is dependent on many factors such as letter size, spacing and field of view. I will evaluate the impact of different types of magnification on reading speed.

Alumni Notes

1968 Mark Eger (OD'68) has been appointed to the Council on Optometric Practitioner Education (COPE) Governing Committee. This group is tasked with assuring collaboration and ongoing advancement of the quality of optometric continuing education.

1969 Brice Musser (OD'69) has retired after serving the Putnam, Allen, and Hancock, Ohio counties for 50 years. He was also recognized for this milestone at the College of Optometry's "Golden Graduate" ceremony on May 4, 2019.

1971 Arol Augsburger (OD/MS'71) received the 2019 Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry Lifetime Achievement Award for his exceptional leadership to optometric education over the past 45 years. Dr. Augsburger recently retired as President of the Illinois College of Optometry.

1980 Rick Weisbarth (OD'80) received the 2019 Industry Leadership Award from the Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry.

1982 Susan Quinn (OD'82) and her husband, **Tom Quinn (OD'79/MS/81)**, retired from their clinical practice, Vision Source, in Athens, Ohio.

1986 Heidi Wagner (OD'86, MPH) has been selected to Chair the Nominating Committee of the American Academy of Optometry for the next two years.

1992 Loretta Szczotka-Flynn (OD/MS'92, PhD) is a new Board Member of the American Academy of Optometry Foundation.

1992 Jeff Weaver (OD, MBA, MS'92) is a new board member of the American Academy of Optometry Foundation.

1994 Ashley Tuan (OD/MS'94) was appointed to the Board of Directors for The Vista Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired in Palo Alto, California.

1996 Greg Nixon (OD'96) is the Chair of the American Academy of Optometry's Lectures and Workshops Committee for the next two years. Dr. Nixon is also Ohio State's representative on the Academy's Faculty-Student Liaison Committee.

1998 Jeff Walline (OD, MS'98, PhD'02) was elected to serve another two-year term on the American Academy of Optometry's Board of Directors.

2000 Kerry Giedd (OD/MS'00) was elected to serve another two-year term on the American Academy of Optometry Foundation's Board of Directors.

2002 Kathryn Richdale (OD'02, MS'05, PhD'11) is a new Board Member of the American Academy of Optometry Foundation.

2007 Bradley Dougherty (OD/MS'07, PhD'13) was selected by Epsilon Psi Epsilon for the 2019 Herbert G. Mote Award. The award is "presented to the faculty member who has contributed most to the furtherance of professional, ethical optometry through teaching at the College of Optometry."

2008 Shane Foster (OD'08) became the full owner of Vision Source in Athens, Ohio, on January 1, 2019. As of July 1, the practice was renamed Athens Eye Care.

2011 Marta Fabrykowski (OD'11) is serving a two-year term as the Chair of the American Academy of Optometry's Membership Committee.

2011 Rachel LeFebvre (OD'11) and her husband welcomed a baby girl named Stella in May.

2011 Ian Whipple (OD'11)'s practice in Farr West, Utah was named a CooperVision Best Practice for 2019.

2012 Natalie Gresko, daughter of **Derek Gresko (OD'12)** and **Victoria Piamonte (OD'13)** turned one on July 7. Both Derek and Victoria currently work for the U.S. Navy as optometrists, and Derek was recently selected for Lieutenant Commander.

2014 Nicholas King-Smith (OD'14) and his newborn son, Asher Charles, visited dad at work at two weeks of age. Asher was four months old in August and is finally opening his eyes. Dad says this kid loves his sleep!

2014 Ann Morrison (OD'14, MS'16) won the 2019 Michael Polasky Award from Epsilon Psi Epsilon because she "excels in the instruction of clinical procedures at the College of Optometry," according to her nominators.

2015 Hannah Davidson (OD/MS'19) has joined Athens Eye Care as an associate.

2015 Tatevik Movsisyan (OD/MS'16), **Ann Morrison (OD'14, MS'16)**, **Danielle Remington (OD'14)**, and **Kate McClure (OD'16, MS'18)** sharing their Buckeye pride in Greece!



Retirements

Sandra Anderson (OD'82)

Susan Nippert

Barbara Fink (OD, MS'85, PhD'87)

Mark Wright (OD'80)

In Memoriam

1955 Larry Spitz (BS'55), age 89, passed away on March 14, 2019.

1991 Jeff Kovesdy (OD'91), age 54, passed away April 30, 2019.

INCOMING Class Stats

OD Class of 2023 Profile

503 Applications Received

68
Students
accepted



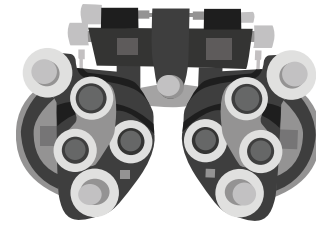
41 Women



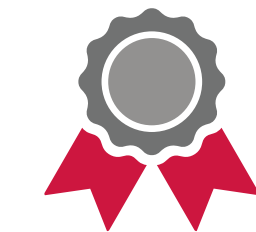
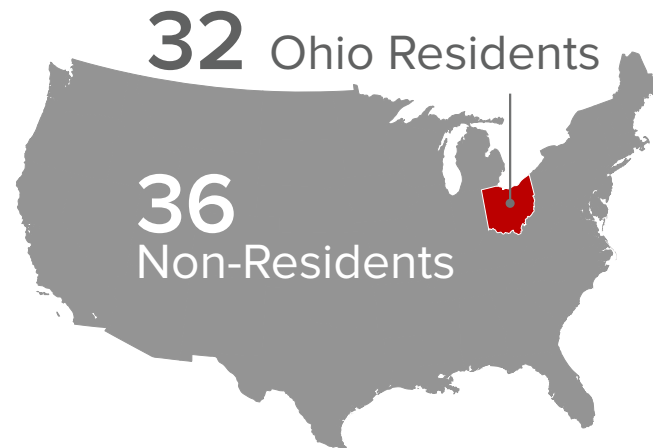
27 Men



\$135,500
College Merit-Based
Scholarships Awarded



3.53
Average Science GPA



AA: 339
(Academic Average)
TS: 335
(Total Science)
Average OAT



3.65
Average GPA

Homecoming Weekend 2019 Fall Events Preview

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 4 – SATURDAY, OCTOBER 5

Friday, October 4

- 4:45 - 6:00 p.m.** **Continuing Education Session***
"Innovations in Contact Lenses"
Presenter: Dr. Jason Miller (OD'99, MBA)
Fry Hall, Room 33
**Complimentary 1 HR COPE*
- 8:00 p.m.** **Alumni Concert with *Bad Habits: The Eye Docs of Rock***
The Bluestone Event Venue (583 E Broad St, Columbus, OH 43215)
Parking available on-site and behind the venue. (Doors open at 6:30 p.m.)

Saturday, October 5

- 4:00 p.m.** **Tailgate and tours at the College - Visit Starling Loving for the last time!**
338 West 10th Avenue, Columbus, OH 43210
Catering and refreshments by Schmidt's Sausage Haus (vegetarian and gluten-free options available upon request)
- 7:30 p.m. Kickoff** **Ohio State Buckeyes vs. Michigan State Spartans**
Ohio Stadium

NOTE: If your class is celebrating a special "milestone reunion" year, we encourage you to gather as individual groups for dinner or happy hour prior to the concert on Friday or before the tailgate on Saturday. If you have not heard from your classmates about a meetup, contact Michael Haddock at 614-688-1363 or haddock.15@osu.edu, as he helps each class with details.

New for 2019 - The \$50 Weekend Pass!

(includes all events except football tickets)

Please note that this is not a physical pass you will receive at any point, but rather a registration option. We ask that you still register for the events you plan on attending so that the College of Optometry staff can plan accordingly (especially for the continuing education lecture, which has a room capacity).

For more information, visit u.osu.edu/eyegather • To register, call 1-800-762-5646

Are your friends missing out?

Have you ever been chatting with fellow Ohio State Optometry alumni, and when you mention a great piece of news you read in the BuckEYE Alumni Magazine or a fun event you learned about in an email from the college, they don't know what you're talking about? Your colleagues might be missing out because they are on Ohio State's "Do Not Contact" list. If they've ever asked to be removed from a university communications list or to not be called, it's possible they were taken off of the College of Optometry's contact list as well. If you have a colleague who feels like they haven't heard from the College of Optometry or The Ohio State University in a while, have them contact Michael Haddock at 614-688-1363 or haddock.15@osu.edu to verify their communication preferences.

Upcoming CE

September 24
Boutique CE
(Recruit Room at the Ohio Stadium)

December 7-8
OEI Annual Winter Conference

Contact Denise Turner at
614-292-4451 or turner.1545@osu.edu for more information.



College of Optometry Alumni Society

338 West Tenth Avenue
Columbus, OH 43210-1280

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