BUCKEYE OPTOMETRY

ALUMNI MAGAZINE

Examining COVID-19

through an OD/MPH Lens

Summer 2020

BuckEYE Magazine Production Team

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On the Cover: Ohio State Optometrists who also earned MPH degrees have valuable perspectives on COVID-19 and health care.

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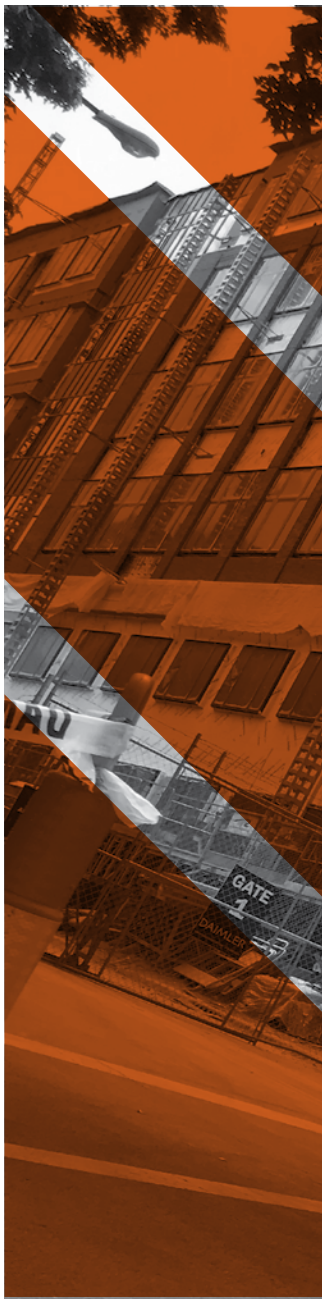

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DEVELOPMENT

EYE ON ALUMNI

Dean's Message

"Then indecision brings its own delays,
And days are lost lamenting o'er lost days.
Are you in earnest? Seize this very minute;
What you can do, or dream you can, begin it;
Boldness has genius, power and magic in it"
– Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

This sentiment greeted me on Gayle Wilson's (née Glanville, our former Development Officer) Facebook page. From the comments on Facebook, I learned that it always graced the desk of our former Director of Student Services, Sally Haltom. On first read, it has the rhythm of a *Hamilton* lyric. On second read, I wondered whether a *carpe diem* call to action was at odds with how many of us have felt since early March. I analyzed that thought and tried to find my way to the essence of Goethe's message.

At the beginning of this pandemic, I didn't miss travel much. I started 2020 with great lecturing trips to Berkeley and New York City. It was weird to be home during the weeks that would have been the ARVO and AOA meetings, but those organizations' virtual activities partially filled the gap. Then things got real. The Oregon Shakespeare Festival, which I attend for a week every July with my sister, niece, daughter, and great-niece, cancelled its entire 2020 season. We reneged on a rental house on Nantucket for an 80th birthday reunion with my extended family in August and didn't replace it with a different event. And I can't visit my pregnant daughter in southern California.

But Gayle and Sally are wise women. There are all sorts of important minutes we can seize and dreams we can work to achieve in our 2020 parallel universe. It turns out the College of Optometry unknowingly positioned itself for the current events. We have recorded our in-person lectures for students to use to review material and to gain a better understanding of a difficult topic. We converted to computer-based midterms and finals several years ago. Both those practices made the one-week conversion to virtual didactic teaching in the spring a little easier. It so happened that our new clinic building was far enough along that its construction work continued, uninterrupted. Our staff and faculty were well equipped with portable computing options. Our faculty have learned how to teach virtually and get better at it every day. Our students have learned how to learn using different modalities. Our return to our main clinic and externship rotations in mid-June have emphasized the value of skills like flexibility and stoicism in the face of new procedures required for clinical care. Our faculty who conduct research pivoted to data collection virtually when possible and wrote scientific papers and grant proposals when data collection was impossible. They are enjoying a phased return to research on campus now.

The near-term future is still uncertain. Yet the College of Optometry continues its bold path with genius and magic every day. Autumn semester brings new challenges as members of the Class of 2024 begin their optometry studies. We will move into our new building in October (yes, October 2020!). We teach. We learn. We discover and disseminate new knowledge. We deliver eye care. We are BuckEYES.

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

President's Message

As we move into the second half of 2020, I was hoping to personally see a lot of you at this year's Alumni Reunion Weekend. It has been "a year" to say the least, and spending quality time on campus each autumn with my fellow ODs has been one of my favorite traditions. As you can imagine, this year's events will be virtual rather than in-person. Fortunately for us, we have an amazing team at The Ohio State University College of Optometry, and they have pivoted to create a virtual Alumni Reunion Weekend that will allow us to reconnect, catch up, and celebrate the opening of the new clinic. I hope you will all take advantage of these experiences to reunite with classmates and fellow alums.

Virtual has been the trend this year for the safest social interactions, particularly in my personal and professional life. Platforms like Zoom have allowed me to be present in more ways than ever when it comes to Ohio State. I have been able to participate in several Alumni Society Roundtables to see what groups are doing to stay connected and engaged. I've had the pleasure of networking with over 40 pre-optometry students from all over the U.S. and encouraging them to continue their journeys toward becoming optometrists. I've also enjoyed The Best Damn Zoom Call in the Land with Dean Karla Zadnik and fellow Ohio State Optometry alumni. Toss in a few Saturday night Zoom dates with some of my favorite ladies from the Class of 2008 and a family Zoom on Mother's Day with my 90-year-old grandmother, and I now consider myself quite the Zoom pro!

As we continue these ever-changing times, something that stands firm in our Optometry Alumni Society is recognizing those who go above and beyond. This year I am happy to congratulate **Carol Alexander** (**OD'87**) as recipient of the Distinguished Alumni Award and **David Karpik** (**OD'05**) as recipient of the Early Professional Achievement Award. Upon speaking to each of them, it's easy to see they possess a strong commitment to their profession and patients and I look forward to celebrating with them soon!

Lastly, I would like to congratulate the entire graduating class of 2020. I was sad they could not attend an in-person convocation and watch them get the proper hooding they deserved. I would imagine they all have had such mixed emotions about the ending of school and beginning of their careers. I was able to speak to several students, and let me tell you how amazing they have handled all of this. If they thought being a 2020 graduate was cool when they first started school, it has a whole new meaning now and I'm proud to be an alum with all of you. Best of luck, Class of 2020!

Stephanie M. Baxter (**OD'08**)
President
The Ohio State University College of Optometry Alumni Society

Pandemic Viewpoints

from 9 public health optometrists

Compiled by Buckeye Bob Newcomb (OD'71, MPH)

Public health optometrists are uniquely positioned to offer thought-provoking observations on the COVID-19 pandemic. We asked our colleagues, "What did public health do right? How can public health respond better to future pandemics? How did their MPH degrees prepare them to better understand and cope with the situation?" We think you'll be intrigued by their responses.

Jacqueline Davis (OD'81, MPH)

Columbus, Ohio

Public health is a dynamic discipline that operates seamlessly in the background of our society, advocating for and ensuring healthy conditions within our communities. The COVID-19 pandemic, however, has illuminated the value and necessity of public health professionals who are invested in providing honest and accurate education in efforts of preventing morbidity and mortality.

Having a public health background has helped me understand that the steps we must take to successfully navigate this health crisis will not always be popular. Working in tandem with, listening to and learning from researchers, social services, epidemiologists, and clinical medical professionals will give us our best chance at presenting a strong united defense against this deadly foe.

I am proud of the way that the Ohio Vision Professionals Board, which I consider to be an arm of public health, stepped forward to present optometric telehealth language to the governor of Ohio. This adopted ruling allowed ODs to continue to provide vital services to our patients during such an uncertain time in our history.

I am also proud of the stand that public health officials have taken on "Black Lives Matter," advocating for declaring racism a public health crisis. The pandemic has shone a light on the racial health disparities that exist in our society. Public health is not only concerned about our medical well-being, but perhaps even more importantly, public health is aware of and acknowledges the societal factors that impact all our lives.

Tim Fries (OD'04, MBA, MPH)

Columbus, Ohio

When I started my journey toward a public health degree over two years ago, I could never have imagined how relevant and topical it would become. I became interested in public health from a policy perspective because of optometry's status as a legislated profession. I wanted to have a better understanding of how health policy is made and to use that knowledge to promote and advance our profession. I never thought I would be navigating my practices and our students through a pandemic. However, through my public health program, I had classes on both pandemics and the legal aspects of public health, both of which prepared me and really made me understand the gravity of the situation.

As clinicians, we often are focused almost entirely on health as it relates to an individual. This pandemic has highlighted the importance of population health as well as its global impact. I think public health has done a good job identifying the disease process and communicating to the public through this pandemic and will likely play an even bigger role once a vaccine is discovered. I would, however, like to see increased funding for public health and an emphasis on improving the health care infrastructure in this country. I do feel we will get through this pandemic, and health care will be forever changed in the U.S. in a positive way.

Debbie Hettler (OD'80, MPH)

Daytona Beach, Florida

Many people in Florida do not believe the virus is a real problem. My patients say things like "I survived the war, so I am not worried about something like a virus. I need my eyes checked." Initially when the virus started to affect life, the front desk person in my building and my hairdresser both asked me how long I expected these problems to last, and they were both shocked when I answered them by saying a year or longer. As time went on, they started to understand why I answered the way I did. Everyone was hoping that after a month things would go immediately back to normal; that is not how it is playing out. One of my neighbors asked for more information about the Spanish flu history in 1918, but he turned out to be someone who did not believe that there was a lack of testing for the virus in Florida because he had two negative tests that he had no problem in obtaining. He does not wear a mask, even though we live in a town where masks are required indoors.

Working in the VA, I was luckier than most since I had a steady paycheck and had access to current information about the virus, but less lucky than most because I continued to see patients. The VA eventually pushed many patient encounters to phone and virtual visits, which was a smart way to handle many patient care needs in this high-risk population. The patients who were stuck at home appreciated the personal contact, and in far more cases than expected, mailing them artificial tears or a spare

"The patients who were stuck at home really appreciated the personal contact, and in far more cases than expected, mailing them artificial tears or a spare pair of glasses made it safe to postpone a routine office visit and keep them at home."

Debbie Hettler

pair of glasses made it safe to postpone a routine office visit and keep them at home. Unfortunately, as veterans became stir crazy, they began to resist staying home, and became more demanding of routine eye care in spite of our reduced face-to-face status for delivering care in the midst of an uptick in COVID cases. Since private practices began seeing patients and offering cataract surgery, they did not understand why the VA had again halted elective surgeries as ICU beds in our area of the country filled up. Our leadership began to demand that we see any patients who managed to make it into the building past the COVID screening for any reason, and then wandered over to the eye clinic with any eye complaint, whether it was urgent or not.

Justin Manning (OD'13, MPH)

Colorado Springs, Colorado

Do you remember your first retinal detachment as an optometry student or newly minted optometrist? That feeling of clinical excitement, despite the detriment to the patient? Well, that's what it feels like living in a pandemic with a Master of Public Health degree. It's not very often you see biostatistics and epidemiology take center stage at a national level. Completing an MPH made me realize something very important about our health care system. As a doctor, I see and evaluate the health care system from within. With a public health degree, I see and evaluate the health care system from the outside. Often, those two views could not be more different. It was with this understanding that, at Healthy Eyes Advantage, we were quick to communicate the COVID-19 risks to our members and continue to provide the resources necessary to protect their patients, their staff, and their practices.

The challenge with a brand-new virus is that we know nothing about it. Every week the science changes, treatment options change, and effective strategies are either proven or disproven. On the positive side, we quickly learned how readily the virus is passed from individual to individual and also realized our biggest risks were from the hospitalization and ICU rates. The phrase "flatten the curve" became a regular part of our vocabulary. Even in light of the recent increase in cases, a number of states have truly done well to flatten the curve and are continuing to reopen successfully. On the negative side, we've watched masks go from being considered ineffective

(to our detriment early on) to only lately becoming required by law in many states or local communities.

The other unfortunate reality is that the COVID-19 pandemic has been hijacked by partisan politics. To influence public health is to influence people, and effective leadership with clear, accurate, and empathetic communication is required for the behavior changes needed to both mitigate infection and preserve and protect the livelihood of our communities. When it comes to our health as a nation, we are among the least healthy of developed countries. We have substantial, unaddressed social determinants of health that put those of certain race and socioeconomic status at far greater risk of the disease. Despite the rapidly changing science, we have unfortunately failed to create consensus and community to both reopen successfully and continue to mitigate the risks of disease. This is, in part, is why we're one of the only developed countries still struggling to control this pandemic and must change for the future of public health when the next pandemic-potential virus hits.

Bob Newcomb (OD'71, MPH)

Columbus, Ohio

I knew this was big when they cancelled the Arnold Sports Festival in Columbus one day before it was supposed to start. And then "March Madness" was cancelled (and I was hoping Ohio State would advance to the Final Four this year).

My infectious disease lectures in graduate school included the need for public sanitation (clean air and water), personal hygiene (hand washing, cover your cough), contact tracing ("shoe-leather epidemiologists"), and isolation of cases (quarantine). They did not include discussions about social distancing, the international supply chain for personal protective equipment (PPE), potential shortages of critical hospital equipment like ventilators, or the need to convert convention centers into makeshift hospitals. Also absent from my class discussions were identification of specific risk factors for racial disparities and for people with co-morbidities.

We have learned a lot from the COVID-19 pandemic experience — and will continue to learn more over the next several years — about the diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of deadly infectious diseases. If you want to read a really scary book, I recommend *Deadliest Enemy: Our War Against Killer Germs* by Michael Osterholm and Mark Olshaker. Published in 2017, the authors accurately predicted the events and consequences that would occur from a global pandemic just three years later! They also recommend nine specific steps that need to be taken now to prevent future world-wide pandemics. The old adage "an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure" has never been so true.

Araba Otoo (MPH,'22)

Columbus, Ohio

Things worth commending public health for are efforts made to educate and inform the public on a novel virus and encouraging the practice of personal hygiene all the while trying not to cause panic. Suddenly conversations about the washing hands and not touching the face increased. I thought to myself "just as HIV prevention efforts left individuals in Ghana owning clippers and razor blades for their haircuts, COVID will leave us with a good habit, washing hands, especially if it was not previously practiced."

I think public health did an excellent job of informing the public as more information about the virus became known. One heavily discussed topic has been the increased risk among persons with pre-existing conditions and the elderly. This message seems to have translated differently, especially in the minds of young people, leading to carelessness and now the shift to increased cases among the younger population. Perhaps when faced with a novel infection that we know very little about, there should be more emphasis that all are at risk. Herd immunity is a tactic that has worked well for infectious diseases that we knew more about, were less severe and slower to claim lives. We cannot say the same for COVID-19, and that seems to be unclear to some.

With any pandemic, the cooperation of the public is dire in limiting the spread of infection and that is perhaps where we faltered. While other countries are speaking of the low mortality rates should a second wave occur, the U.S. is discussing a second wave during the peak of its first wave. The state of our emergency preparedness and lessons from previous pandemics and disasters revealed that a shortage of supplies and stress on health care systems is likely should a pandemic occur. Despite this knowledge, we

still waited for the foreseeable problem to occur and now trying to mitigate it. We failed to recognize the magnitude of the threat, somehow thinking we are immune and not taking prompt action. The state of our health care system makes it imperative that we have a plan and strategies ready for implementation should an epidemic/pandemic occur.

There was a moment of excitement watching public health come to light, thinking that public health has got this and will successfully nip it in the bud, but the pandemic has once again exposed our cracked public health infrastructure and the health care system. As I kept up with the news and stayed informed, my knowledge of disease outbreaks, epidemiology, clinical trials, and vaccine development made it easy to understand the discussions as the pandemic unfolded. My understanding of disease spread made it easy for me to heed public health advice and comply with rules without hesitation.

Monica Roy (MPH, OD'11)

Rockville, Maryland

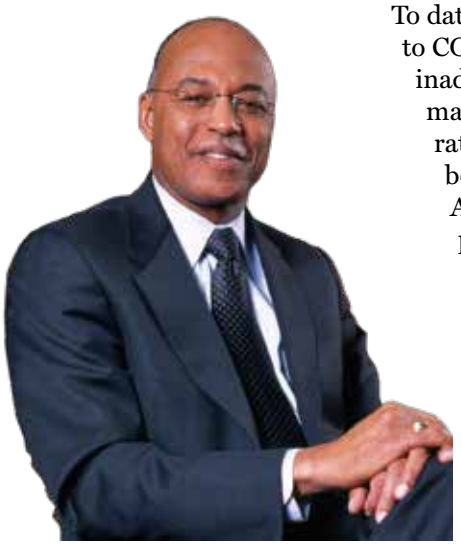
COVID-19 has undoubtedly made history by upending lives on a global scale. The pandemic has not only impacted everyday patient care, but it has also created a major disruption in drug development. Having spent most of my career in developing ophthalmic drugs, conducting clinical trials is the crux of how we deliver treatments to patients. As clinical trial execution is largely contingent on the state of public health, there is a sense of urgency in executing clinical trials for a COVID-19 vaccine, and even the need to assess virus transmissibility via tears and ocular surface. However, the current pandemic has left thousands of global trials in limbo, including ophthalmic trials.

As many sponsors are forced to suspend ongoing trials, they may also have to postpone the start of new trials, creating major delays in development programs. Even trials that are recently completed and are analyzing data may expect delays in navigating the regulatory process and eventually prolonging the time to get much needed therapies to patients. This has forced industry sponsors to rethink how we design, execute and manage clinical trials. The FDA recently released COVID-19 guidance on adapting trial designs and protocol changes and encouraged identifying new ways to capture data to cater to the fluid situation. Since patient commitment is essential to retain enrollment, transparency on safety procedures and communication between the sites and patients will be key to patients' comfort level. Being more mindful of ways to minimize patient visits and assessments, such as alternative methods of capturing data via in-home assessments or patient visits via telemedicine can increase patients' willingness to participate in new trials, although maintaining study integrity will be critical.

It is important now more than ever to reassess how we efficiently and effectively conduct research. The long-term impact of COVID-19 on clinical trials remains unknown. We must recognize and quickly adapt to the rapid developments brought on by the pandemic. As I currently lead a team to develop a gene therapy for retinal diseases, we will continue to explore ways to safely conduct our research and prioritize transformative therapies, all while keeping patient safety at the forefront.

Mel Shipp, OD, MPH, DrPH

Phoenix, Arizona



To date, America's response to COVID-19 has been inadequate. In contrast to many countries, incidence rates in the U.S. have been rising in spite of America's exceptional public health resources. Perhaps the most important resource is the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The CDC is America's "go to" public health agency. The goal of the CDC is "saving lives and protecting people." The CDC has developed and promulgated both individual and community-based guidelines to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 in the U.S.

There has been uneven personal compliance and a lack of effective community implementation of CDC recommendations. As a result, the U.S. has experienced

increasing COVID-19 infection rates, and rising morbidity and mortality. In summary, America's poor response to the pandemic is not the fault of CDC and other research institutions but rather the failure of individuals and communities to practice specific preventive methods.

As we await the development of new preventive and therapeutic measures for the pandemic, minimally, Americans should take individual personal responsibility and follow the CDC personal protective guidelines of social distancing, facial covering, and hand washing. These methods have proven highly effective, in the U.S. (e.g., New York) and globally (e.g., Taiwan), in flattening the curve, reducing infection rates, morbidity and mortality. Failure to do so will undoubtedly delay a "return to normal" in the U.S. and will lead to further economic and social disruption.

Sandra Wang-Harris (OD'97, MPH)

Arlington, Virginia

"Pandemic, epidemic, outbreak, community spread, cluster, herd immunity, public health emergency. Have we not all heard these words in recent months because of the current public health pandemic?" This is what I would say to my students in my public health class at the College of Micronesia. The students are the future public health workers of this small Pacific island nation of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM). To emphasize my point, I would bring up the history of Zika, Ebola, dengue, and malaria. The students nod with a slight understanding of something they remember hearing about in the news. I nod back, thankful the internet lent some credence to my teaching.

History is one point, but today's news is always the best teacher. In March 2020, Micronesia closed all influx of people and ships coming onto the islands in order to deter COVID-19. Not only were foreigners banned, but Micronesians were also banned from traveling to and from Guam and Hawaii. Cargo, which included shelf stable food, vegetables, fresh meat, and other goods, were also temporarily stopped. The FSM essentially quarantined itself. The implications of this are immense, as the FSM is highly dependent on importation of food, goods, and medicines. Four months later, this difficult decision has proven to be the correct move, as COVID-19 has stayed away from this isolated country.

My own MPH degree and especially my experience living in some of the poorest nations in the world knew that the FSM made the right decision. Having lived in Asia during the SARS pandemic, the Caribbean during H1N1, and West Africa during the Ebola crisis, I knew the FSM, like so many other developing nations, would never be able to handle a lethal virus. What I wasn't prepared for was that my own developed country, the U.S., would handle the virus so poorly. Data should not be manipulated, and public health experts should be allowed to do their jobs and advise the leaders of our communities to make sound decisions. I have a scientific epidemiological background, but in the case of most pandemics, science almost always lags behind the evidence. This is where the keen and perceptive public health expert needs to balance the evidence even before all the data are entered and the analysis is completed. Lockdown, wearing of masks and enforcement with fines would have avoided a lot of community transmission and the terrible spikes we are seeing now in the U.S. Time will tell how we fare at the end of this pandemic. Hopefully, we will be better prepared for the next pandemic.

"As we await the development of new preventive and therapeutic measures for the pandemic, minimally, Americans should take individual personal responsibility and follow the CDC personal protective guidelines of social distancing, facial covering, and hand washing."

Melvin Shipp, OD, MPH, DrPH

Construction Update

By Dean Karla Zadnik, OD, PhD

PROJECT 2020

We can't see the future without you.

Last month I had the chance to walk through our new clinical facility at the southeast corner of 11th and Neil Avenues, which is on time and on budget.

Greg Nixon (**OD'96**) and I, along with staff members Sarah Cupples, MA, Ashley Hill, MSW, Mat Johnson, and Carol Wilcox, donned fluorescent orange vests, goggles, hardhats and, of course, masks and toured our 50,367 assignable square feet housed on three floors. We saw spaces still being worked on and also carpet and accent paint. After almost three years of dreaming about this building and spending countless hours looking at floor plans, it felt real—really, really real.

The lead design architect, Mitch Acock, joined us. I asked him whether he ever tired of the excitement we felt—seeing his work transformed into brick and mortar. He grinned and replied,

"Never." And indeed, he was like a kid in a candy store, showing me the front door artwork and all the little features and details he'd worked so hard on.

Our space includes the Hoya Eyewear Gallery, patient reception, billing and other key clinic administrative personnel, our Vision Rehabilitation Service, the Binocular Vision/ Pediatric and Vision Therapy Services, and our Advanced Ocular Care, Contact Lens, and Primary Vision Care Services--57 exam rooms. The new facility 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.

Generous donations from alumni and friends (see accompanying list) have brought this concept to life. Although we look forward to expressing our gratitude in person eventually, we will mark the opening of the new clinic responsibly at a virtual ribbon cutting December 3 as part of our Alumni Reunion Weekend. More information about our virtual Alumni Reunion Weekend events can be found on page 29.

We can't see the future without you!

THANK YOU!

THANK YOU to the following alumni and friends who have made a gift to name a space in our new clinic. Your support has made our new facility a reality and we appreciate all that you do for the college.

Dave (OD'04) & **Staci Anderson (OD'02)**

Jim Bieber (OD'68)

Terry Bolen (OD'78)

Scott Bowser (OD'77)

Roger Boyd (BS'52)

Wayne Collier (OD'65)

John Conrad (OD'81)

Ron Cooke (OD'69)

Tim Fries (OD'04, MBA, MPH)

Lee Halsted (OD'77)

D. Blair Harrold (OD'71)

Dawn Hartman (OD'99)

Bryan Heitmeyer (OD'04)

Richard Hill, OD, PhD

Matt Ingram (OD'05)

Terri Gossard (OD/MS'96)

Susan Gromacki Lathrop (OD/MS'93)

Bob Layman (OD'82)

Carla Mack (OD'95, MBA)

Jen Mattson (OD'06)

Yoongie Min (OD'89)

Kathleen Murphy (OD'82)

Don Mutti, OD, PhD

Greg Nixon (OD'96) and **Vondolee Delgado-Nixon, PhD**

Kelly Raies (OD'88)

Daniel Runyan (OD'69)

Keith Sellers (OD/MS'83)

Frank Tangeman (OD'72)

Jeff Timko (OD'73)

Bill Thomas (BS'66)

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

Karla Zadnik, OD, PhD

Jenna Zigler (OD'11) and **Travis Zigler (OD'10)**

Aaron Zimmerman (OD'06, MS'08)

Jeff Ahrns (OD'81), Brian Armitage (OD'81, MS'83), and **Bruce Manning (OD'81)**

Michael Greenberg (OD/MS'72) and **Kaleel Shaheen (OD'72)**

Ronald Ling (OD'78) and **Mrs. Caron Lau**

Jason Miller (OD'99) and **San San Cooley (OD'09)**

Ralph Williams (BS'65), Khristopher Ballard (OD'11), Leah McConnaughey (OD'00)

Bad Habits - The Eye Docs of Rock

CooperVision

HOYA Vision Care

Luxottica Eye Care

Ohio Optometric Association

Optometric Educators, Inc.

Optometry Alumni Society

Gifts in Memory of **Rich Bell (OD'95)** Coordinated by Andy Feltz **(OD'95)**

Gifts in Memory of **Lyle Gassmann (OD'02)** - Coordinated by **Richard Lodwick (OD'02)**

Gifts in Memory of **Hazael Edward Welton (BS'38)** – Coordinated by **Jackie Davis (OD'81, MPH)**

Columbus and Chillicothe VA Residents from 1981-1997 – Coordinated by **Bob Newcomb (OD'71, MPH)**

Class of 1981 and Friends in honor of Jack King – Coordinated by **John Conrad (OD'81)**

Class of 1990 - Coordinated by **Julie Miavez (OD'90)**

Class of 2006 – Coordinated by **Sarah Watkins (OD/MS'06)**

Class of 2009 - Coordinated by **Katie Greiner (OD/MS'09)**

Class of 2020 and Friends in Memory of Jeannie Danker

There are 29 various spaces remaining and a little time yet to add your name to this special list.

Please reach out to Rachel Childress to learn more:

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

Time and Change

The Campaign for Ohio State

By Rachel Childress, *Director of Development*

For a few years, most of the college's development updates have surrounded the new clinic building. It's certainly been an exciting project to be part of, and fun to talk about with so many of our alumni and friends.

In this excitement though, we've not highlighted much about the university's new campaign – Time and Change, the Campaign for Ohio State. This campaign creates an opportunity to strengthen Ohio State's reputation, engage more alumni and volunteers, and raise sustainable philanthropic support for academic priorities. Here are some fast facts:

The timeline is set for October 2016 through June 2024; however, the end date may see some shifting as 2020 and 2021 fundraising will certainly be disrupted due to COVID-19.

Overarching goals are to secure $4.5 billion, and engage 1 million supporters, which is nearly double what the university currently has.

The college's portion of the larger goal is $15 million with $6.4 million already raised. Our goal in the previous But for Ohio State campaign was $10 million, and we ended in 2016 with just under $11 million.

The university has three key campaign priorities:

Student Success – scholarships, distinct student experiences, teaching and learning, engaged citizenship, lifelong learning opportunities

Discovery – basic and translational research across disciplines, creative expression, endowed positions, high quality spaces to support people and programs, evidence-based practices

Healthy, Vibrant Communities – a culture of wellness, world-leading health care, integrated health systems, decreased disparities, workforce and economic development

While these areas are all important, once we turn the page on 2020, much of our college's campaign focus will be on student scholarships. We raised $3.3 million in student scholarships in the previous campaign with a mixture of endowed and current use funds. This allowed us to support more students than ever before with greater awards that could have a significant impact on their extreme student loan debt. We've raised just about $1 million toward our $5 million goal for student support in this campaign. So if supporting the college with bricks and mortar hasn't been your area of interest, we hope that you'll strongly consider how you might make a gift that directly impacts today's students.

If you've been considering supporting the college with a gift, please reach out to Rachel Childress at **childress.35@osu.edu or 614-292-2100** to talk about all of your options.

Bridget Lorenz (OD'20) and family

Congratulations Class of 2020

Sarah Alquist, OD
Laura Andre, OD, MS
Brice Arnold, OD
Alyssa Ashley, OD
Jasmine Barker, OD
Colin Bloor, OD
Brett Bowers, OD
Taylor Michelle Brack, OD
Monica Braun, OD
Jacob L. Brown, OD
Ann Marie Cater, OD
Joseph Daniel Culp, OD
Jill Danker, OD
Austin Eckel, OD
Sawyer Ellis, OD
Julia Evanoff, OD
Brianna Farley, OD
Erin Filbrandt, OD
Dillon Fullenwider, OD
Todd Gardner, OD
Nathan Garlick, OD
Julianne Golinski, OD
Megan Hafner, OD
Farah Hamade, OD
Natalie Hartman, OD
Derek Heimlich, OD, MS
Isaiah M. Jordan, OD
Gentry Kerwood, OD
Zachary Laskovich, OD
Joseph Lehman, OD, MS
Yuming Li, OD
Bridget Lorenz, OD
Francesco Maiorca, OD
Kevin Mar, OD
Kyle D. Martin, OD
Samantha Meredith, OD
Karina Miller, OD, MS
Natalie Montecalvo, OD, MS
Fanita Muniz, OD
Amy Myers, OD
Gabrielle Nivar, OD, MS
Stevie Murimi Mathenge Njeru, OD, MS
Shaun O'Connor, OD
Mawada Osman, OD, MS
Lindsay Page, OD, MS
Lydia Pickrell, OD, MS
Angelica Polizzi, OD
Alexandra Potter, OD
Jason Ro, OD
Sloane Rudolf, OD, MS
Jacob Sander, OD, MS
Paige Scott, OD
Caitlyn Sharick, OD
Adam Smith, OD
Kayla Thieman, OD
Carolyn Alanna Thomas, OD
Nathan Turnwald, OD
Theresa Watt, OD
Kyle Williams, OD
Taylor Alexandra Williams, OD
Jessica Taylor Wolfe, OD, MS
Ryan Zaidinski, OD
Emily Marit Zimmermann, OD

Bottom photos left to right – **Ann Cater (OD'20)**, **Brett Bowers (OD'20)**, **Jason Ro (OD'20)**, and Addie Eckel (daughter), Kendy Eckel (spouse), Zoe Eckel (daughter), **Austin Eckel (OD'20).**

The Ohio State University College of Optometry

THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF OPTOMETRY

Class of 2020


Sarah Alquist


Alyssa Ashley
Class Representative


Taylor A. Williams
Secretary


Bridget Lorenz
President


Stevie M. Njeru
Vice President


Farah Hamade
Treasurer


Francesco Maiorca
Class Representative


Laura Andre


Brice Arnold


Jasmine Barker


Colin Bloor


Brett K. Bowers


Taylor Brack


Monica Braun


Jacob Brown


Ann M. Cater


Joseph Culp


Jill Danker


Austin Eckel


Sawyer Ellis


Julia Evanoff


Brianna Farley


Erin Filbrandt


Robert Dillon Fullenwider


Todd Gardner


Nathan Garlick


Julianne Golinski


Megan Hafner


Natalie Hartman


Derek Hemilich


Isaiah M. Jordan


Gentry Kerwood


Zachary Laskovich


Joseph Lehman


Yumes Li


Kevin Mar


Kyle Martin


Samantha Meredith


Karina Y. Miller


Natalie Montecalvo


Fanita Muniz


Amy Myers


Gabrielle Nivar


Shaun O'Connor


Mawada Osman


Lindsay Page


Lydia Pickrell


Angelica Polizzi


Alexandra Potter


Jason Ro


Sloane Rudolf


Mojdeh Samiei


Jake Sander


Paige Scott


Caitlyn Sharick


Adam R. Smith


Kayla Thieman


Carolyn Thomas


Nathan Turnwald


Theresa Watt


Kyle A. Williams


Jessica T. Wolfe


Ryan Zaidinski


Emily Zimmermann

not pictured: Colin Bloor, OD

Class of 2020
Graduation Award Winners

Graduate of the Year
Sponsored by Optometric Educators, Inc.
Bridget Lorenz, OD

The Dr. Lyle Aloysius John Gassmann Memorial Award
Sponsored by the Gassmann Fund
Joseph Lehman, OD, MS

Beta Sigma Kappa Silver Medal
Sponsored by VSP One
Jacob L. Brown, OD

Eyewear Dispensing Award of Excellence
Sponsored by Hoya
Theresa Watt, OD

Binocular Vision and Pediatrics Clinical Excellence Award
Sponsored by Safilo and Goodlight
Farah Hamade, OD

Excellence in Vision Therapy Award
Sponsored by Shamir
Taylor Michelle Brack, OD

Low Vision Rehabilitation Clinical Excellence Award
Sponsored by Silhouette, Walman Optical and Mattingly
Sloane Rudolf, OD, MS

Award of Excellence in Contact Lens Patient Care
Sponsored by AAOF and VSP Global
Jasmine Barker, OD

Community Outreach Clinical Excellence Award
Sponsored by OEI
Mawada Osman, OD, MS

Primary Vision Care Clinical Excellence Award
Sponsored by Marchon
Angelica Polizzi, OD

Advanced Ocular Care Clinical Excellence Award
Sponsored by Interstate Optical and Volk
Jill Danker, OD

Video links: optometry.osu.edu/congratulations-class-2020
optometry.osu.edu/dean-zadnik-congratulates-the-class-of-2020

Summer 2020

Ohio State-Affiliated Residents

Congratulations to this residency cohort, which finished on June 30, 2020.

Cincinnati VA
Tanya Rana (OD'19)
Zahraa Khan
Hafsa Mohiuddin (OD'19)
Logan Powers

Dayton VA
Kelsey Sanata (OD/MS'19)
Rachel Fenton (OD/MS'19)
Ryan Bretz (OD'19)

Cincinnati Children's Hospital
Christi Locke (OD/MS'19)

Columbus Ophthalmology Associates
Lauren Davis

Ohio State Department of Ophthalmology
Jacqueline Benoit

Columbus/Chillicothe VA
Zachary Coates (OD/MS'19)
Jessica Kreinbrink (OD'19)
Tracy Moor (OD'19)
Dalya Qaisi (OD'19)
Carissa Janczak

Cleveland VA
Sheila Soltani
Margaux Flaherty (OD'19)
Megan Hart
Joshua Walek
Samer Arafat

Cincinnati Eye Institute
Derek Phelps
Linh-An Nguyen (OD'19)
Erin Ross (OD/MS'19)

Erdey Searcy Eye Group
Colleen Gibson

The Eye Center of Toledo
Rebecca Fox (OD'19)

Ohio Eye Alliance
Nick Flebotte

Ohio State Optometry
Kelly Morgan (OD/MS'19)

New Adventures

Best wishes to the following doctors who began their residencies during the summer of 2020

Jasmine Barker (OD'20)
Ohio Eye Alliance, Alliance, OH
Ocular Disease

Brett Bowers (OD'20)
Chillicothe/Columbus VA Medical Center, Columbus, OH
Primary Eye Care/Ocular Disease

Taylor Brack (OD'20)
Indiana University School of Optometry, Bloomington, IN
Pediatric Optometry

Jacob Brown (OD'20)
Eyecare Professionals, PC, Hamilton Square, NJ
Vision Therapy and Neuro-Optometric Rehabilitation

Ann Cater (OD'20)
Cleveland VA Medical Center, Cleveland, OH
Ocular Disease (Hospital-Based)

Austin Eckel (OD'20)
Bennett & Bloom Eye Centers, Louisville, KY
Ocular Disease

Erin Filbrandt (OD'20)
Cincinnati VA Medical Center, Cincinnati, OH
Ocular Disease

Julianne Golinski (OD'20)
Chillicothe/Columbus VA Medical Center, Columbus, OH
Primary Eye Care/Ocular Disease

Megan Hafner (OD'20)
Gundersen Health System, LaCrosse, WI
Ocular Disease

Derek Heimlich (OD/MS'20)
Cincinnati Eye Institute, Cincinnati, OH
Ocular Disease

Isaiah Jordan (OD'20)
Chillicothe/Columbus VA Medical Center, Columbus, OH
Primary Eye Care/Ocular Disease

Kyle Martin (OD'20)
Illinois College of Optometry – IL Eye Institute, Chicago, IL
Cornea and Contact Lenses

Samantha Meredith (OD'20)
Dayton VA Medical Center, Dayton, OH
Ocular Disease

Karina Miller (OD/MS'20)
Chillicothe/Columbus VA Medical Center, Columbus, OH
Primary Eye Care/Ocular Disease

Gabrielle Nivar (OD/MS'20)

Stevie Njeru (OD/MS'20)
Chillicothe/Columbus VA Medical Center, Columbus, OH
Primary Eye Care/Ocular Disease

Mawada Osman (OD/MS'20)
Cherry Health, Grand Rapids, MI
Primary Eye Care/Community Health Optometry

Alex Potter (OD'20)
Cleveland VA Medical Center, Cleveland, OH
Ocular Disease (Hospital-Based)

Jason Ro (OD'20)
Erdy Searcy Eye Group, Columbus, OH
Ocular Disease

Jacob Sander (OD/MS'20)
Chu Vision Institute, Bloomington, MN
Refractive, Cataract, and Ocular Surgery

Adam Smith (OD'20)
The Eye Center of Toledo, Toledo, OH
Ocular Disease

Anthony Chiang (OD'18)
Cincinnati VA Medical Center, Cincinnati, OH
Ocular Disease

The Class of 2024

Zooms Toward Optometry School

Summer 2020 Student Services Update

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

The Ohio State Optometry Class of 2024 is blazing a unique trail – they are entering optometry school in the midst of a global pandemic. As part of the Ohio State Optometry family, you know that our community is one of a kind. We also know that building meaningful relationships with classmates, faculty and staff is key to success optometry school. So, how do you build community and relationships in an environment where interactions in classes and orientation will be a mix of online and small in-person meetings? If you have that figured out please let us know – meanwhile, we will be learning in this adventure as we go.

One thing we knew was that having a head start on the orientation and relationship-building process would be important. To address this, we created a summer "online office hours" series. The bi-weekly, hour-long sessions that started in May and end in August, included topics such as meeting the Dean and the first-year faculty; a virtual tour of Columbus; a current student panel, a welcome from OOA President, **Beth Muckley** (**OD'97**) and Optometry Alumni Society President **Stephanie Baxter** (**OD'08**); and an introduction to how to get the most out of your required iPad. We also used an online tool called Flipgrid that allowed the class to introduce themselves to each other via short videos. Although things will look different this year, our tradition of community will extend to the Class of 2024 through the small groups and online spaces we inhabit until we can all gather as one again.

"I feel more confident stepping into this new chapter of my life already having met Dean Zadnik, the first year faculty, the upperclassmen, and my classmates. I know what to expect and what is expected of me in return, which will make for a productive semester."

Kaitlin Ackinclose ('24)

"During the 2020 Coronavirus Pandemic, students needed guidance and support to steer them in the right direction. Thankfully, the leadership and diligence provided by the college gave the Class of 2024 a thorough playbook, which included weekly meetings, campus resource tutorials, and an open phone line for any questions or concerns that students had about their matriculation process."

Dustin Dawson ('24)

"The online office hours have been a delight to attend. They keep me informed about next steps, and it is heartwarming to know that I will be joining a community that genuinely cares about each student and values remaining connected during these trying times."

Rose Hayes ('24)

Research Roundup

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

The COVID-19 pandemic interrupted everything, including research at The Ohio State University College of Optometry. In the middle of March, all on-campus research activities in the College of Optometry were suspended, except to maintain animal colonies and samples. Investigators were forced to creatively provide research supplies via mail, reimagine visit schedules, and delay important laboratory experiments. On May 1, a gradual return to research activities began. Longitudinal clinical trials with active participants were the first to return, with important clinical safety standards in place. Three weeks later, basic science research reintroduced experiments, with appropriate social distancing standards in place. The next stage of the return to research has begun and included cross-sectional investigations of human subjects. The final stage of the return to research includes initiation of new studies and subjects particularly vulnerable to the effects of COVID-19.

Through all of this, the scientific community in the College of Optometry has been productive, submitting a record number of grant applications and many manuscripts. They have also been creative in their approach to a safe return to research, for the safety of participants and personnel. These are trying times for everyone, but the patience and fortitude shown by all reminds me that 'time and change will surely show how firm thy research…O-HI-O!'

Nathan Doble, PhD, has been awarded a four-year, $2.3 million grant from the National Eye Institute. The grant, *Full Field OCT for Cellular Level Structural and Functional Retinal Imaging*, will allow rapid structural and functional measures of individual retinal neurons in the living human eye. The work will exploit the extremely high parallel image acquisition speed of Full Field OCT (up to 900 retinal volumes / per second) to study neuronal responses as short as a few milliseconds both in normals and subjects with age-related macular degeneration.

Andrew Hartwick, OD, PhD, received an award from the Department of Defense Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs in the amount of $590,468. Dr. Hartwick will work with **Cayti McDaniel** (**OD/MS'08**), and other colleagues to develop objective testing protocols to diagnose and monitor traumatic brain injury and associated photophobia. Specifically, Dr. Hartwick proposes to measure light-evoked pupil constriction and retinal electrical responses under changing background levels of illumination. They will test the theory that, after head trauma, certain retinal cells have an inability to adapt to increasing light levels, particularly in individuals that exhibit photophobia. This study could shed light on why photophobia frequently occurs after brain injury and stimulate research into new approaches for treating the condition.

Lisa Jordan, PhD, has been awarded a clinical trial planning grant from the National Eye Institute. Though vision disorders are common in adolescents following concussion, the natural history of vision disorders in concussion is unknown, and there is no standard of care for treatment. This two-year, $516,290 award is designed to determine the feasibility of a multi-center natural history study of vision disorders following concussion.

Ann Morrison (**OD'14, MS'16**) has been awarded the Ohio Affiliate of Prevent Blindness Young Investigator Student Fellowship Award for Female Scholars in Vision Research ($5,000) for her study, Emmetropization via Accommodation (EVA) Study. Infants that are born more farsighted than normal often do not emmetropize, putting them at risk for developing vision problems like amblyopia and strabismus. The study is designed to determine if early partial refractive correction and accommodative therapy can enhance emmetropization in highly hyperopic infants. The fellowship will allow her to screen for potential subjects at Riverside Pediatrics Associates located in Columbus.

Maureen Plaumann, OD, is the recipient of Beta Sigma Kapp-COVD Research Grant ($4,000). Dr. Plaumann will study suppression mechanisms using the Synoptophore, translating laboratory procedures into potential future clinical techniques. This work will also explore the relationship between suppression and other cortical phenomena in strabismus, such as anomalous correspondence, creating a more comprehensive understanding of these complex conditions.

T35 trainees

The College of Optometry is pleased to announce its summer 2020 NIH National Research Service Award (T35) trainees! These seven students have completed their first year of their study of optometry and spent the 13 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.

Joshua Canavan

Advisor: **Phillip Yuhas (OD/MS'14, PhD'19)**

Why T35 is important to me: The T35 program has helped me recognize the importance of optometric research and how it advances patient care. I have also learned some useful clinical skills and received great clinical and research oriented guidance from my advisors.

What I'm doing: I am investigating differences in ocular biomechanics between Black, Caucasian, and mixed race populations, both with and without glaucoma. We hope that evaluating differences in biomechanical properties will elucidate reasons for differences in glaucoma prevalence between races.

Curt Fritts-Davis

Advisors: **Marjean Kulp (OD'91, MS'93) and Andrew Hartwick, OD, PhD**

Why T35 is important to me: I want to be an active contributor to the knowledge base that has been established through clinical research, which is at the heart of proper evidence-based medicine. The path to becoming a competent researcher starts with proper training, and that's why the T35 experience is invaluable.

What I'm doing: All three systems involved in the visual near triad have been individually shown to be negatively affected after traumatic brain injury. I want to investigate the efficacy of using quantitative pupillometry as a screener for deficiencies in the accommodative and vergence pathways in patients that have experienced a traumatic brain injury.

Aprile Doubt

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

Why T35 is important to me: The T35 program has given me the opportunity to learn about the fundamentals of the research process. The knowledge and skills that I am gaining will help me continue to do optometric research in the future.

What I'm doing: I am working in Dr. Bradley Dougherty's lab. We are developing a protocol to test the feasibility of providing low vision rehabilitation via a new multi-visit telehealth model. We believe offering these services remotely would greatly benefit the low vision patient population. It could allow patients who are at high-risk for COVID-19 or have a transportation barrier to access rehabilitation services without leaving their homes.

Emily Watson

Advisor: **Dion Yu, PhD**

Why T35 is important to me: I am excited about T35 because it gives me the opportunity to learn the process of research and gain additional knowledge in the field of optometry and vision science. This additional education will help me to be a well-rounded optometrist. I am very grateful for this experience!

What I'm doing: I am working with Dr. Yu to design a survey to distribute to low vision patients to analyze possible patterns in subjective preferences on different settings to improve reading, like fonts, line and letter spacing, boldness and more. I will compare the preferences with laboratory findings relating the same factors and objective reading speeds.

Megan Wells

Advisor: **Andrew Hartwick, OD, PhD**

Why T35 is important to me: The T35 program is an excellent opportunity for me to learn how to conduct research and develop critical thinking and problem solving skills beyond the scope of a clinical setting. It has helped me develop a greater sense of appreciation for researchers and gain a better understanding of the numerous processes that must be accomplished in order to further understanding in the optometric field.

What I'm doing: I am working with Dr. Hartwick to examine light exposure data collected from individuals who developed photophobia after experiencing a traumatic brain injury. We are looking at the overall light exposure and sleep patterns for these individuals in their daily activities, as compared to an age-matched control group. We hope to further understand the role of ganglion cell photoreceptors, which play a key role in providing information to the brain about ambient light levels, in mediating photophobia.

Sadhvika Venkat

Advisor: **Stacey Choi, PhD, and Nathan Doble, PhD**

Why T35 is important to me: I'm honored and excited to participate in the T35 program because it will provide me a unique experience in which I will be able to further my understanding of conducting research and the direct implications it has in a clinical setting. Through the program I am confident that it will teach me invaluable research skills that allow me to contribute to optometric research with a unique perspective, and also help me to become a better optometrist in the future.

What I'm doing: I am working with Dr. Choi and Dr. Doble this summer to further investigate the benchmark parameters of the Stiles-Crawford Effect of the First Kind (SCE-I) that define cone photoreceptors in a healthy eye. It has already been determined what SCE-I function values are for certain wavelengths, but optical properties of photoreceptors cause variances when using different wavelengths of light. I will be further examining these differences. Through this, we hope to potentially provide further support for SCE-I testing for earlier detection of several ocular pathologies in the future.

Elizabeth Stern-Green

Advisor: **Phillip Yuhas (OD/MS'14, PhD'19)**

Why T35 is important to me: I have always loved the idea of being a scientist and exploring new ideas. In undergrad, I did some bench work and had begun to grow a bit tired of it, but now after doing literature review and seeing the clinical side of research, I have a reborn love for what I am doing. T35 has taught me clinical techniques, writing skills, and critical thinking skills that I never would have gotten any other way.

What I'm doing: My project is about how repeated mild traumatic brain injuries impacts and changes the retina. This summer obviously had a slower start than we initially intended, but because of that I have actually been able to start the process of writing a review paper on current literature on the topic. This has challenged both my writing skills and forced me to really understand the project I am working on. Now that my project is able to be in person again, I am excited to start running some OCTs, visual fields, SLP, and ERG on TBI patients and controls in the coming weeks to actually have some data to analyze myself!

Delgado-Nixon Named Chief Diversity Officer

Vondolee Delgado-Nixon, PhD, has been appointed to the role of Chief Diversity Officer for the College of Optometry.

In an email to faculty, staff and students, Dr. Delgado-Nixon stated, "I am committed to creating a diverse, equitable, and inclusive environment for all, whether it is in the hallways, the research laboratories, the classrooms, or the clinics. We are fortunate that we have a strong culture of inclusivity, but there is always room for improvement. I ask for your commitment to partner with me because we need to improve together-- for ourselves, for our students, for our patients, and for our community."

Dr. Delgado-Nixon is a native of Santa Fe, New Mexico. She is deeply connected with her family roots and self-identifies as Hispanic with Native American grandmothers (Tewa and Apache).

She earned her Bachelor of Arts degree in Biology from Cornell College, her PhD in Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology from The Ohio State University, and completed her postdoctoral work in Biophysics. In 2007 she helped develop the IDOC (Improving Diversity in Optometric Careers) summer program, the alumni of which include more than 60 students who have earned their Doctor of Optometry degrees across the nation.

In 2014, she was a member of the college's Diversity Enhancement Committee, which received The Ohio State University's Distinguished Diversity Enhancement Award for the IDOC program. She is the faculty advisor for NOSA (National Optometric Student Association), a group that serves the underserved in the Columbus area, and teaches Pathophysiology I, Pathophysiology II, Biochemistry for Optometry, and Microbiology for Optometry. Dr. Delgado-Nixon is a beloved teacher, known for her dedication to students. In 2015, the university recognized her with the Provost's Award for Distinguished Teaching by a Lecturer.

"The college is committed to creating a diverse, equitable, and inclusive environment for all," said Dr. Delgado-Nixon. "We need to be committed to consider the perspective of others, to work to decrease health disparities for our patients, and to recognize that our ability to treat diverse patients with equity and inclusivity is an integral part of our responsibility to provide the best care possible for all our patients. This is what it means to be a good optometrist."

Fareedah Haroun ('22) Joins Task Force

Third-year optometry student Fareedah Haroun has been appointed The Ohio State University's Task Force on Racism and Racial Inequities. The university established the task force to provide tangible recommendations to address issues of racism and racial inequities on our campuses and in our community. The task force has been charged with convening discussions and proposing action steps that will help Ohio State be a more equitable, healthy, supportive, and nurturing university community. The 17-member task force includes representation by students, faculty, staff and senior leaders, and it is committed to broad engagement across the university community.

Ohio State Leaders are American Academy of Optometry 2020 Award Recipients

By Sarah Cupples, MA
Director of Marketing and Communications

Although the American Academy of Optometry won't be able to laud its 2020 Award Recipients in person in Nashville as originally planned, the organization has woven opportunities for recognition into its robust virtual event platform. For more information and a full events schedule, visit aaopt.org.

Congratulations to the following Ohio State Optometry-affiliated award winners.

Karla Zadnik, OD, PhD

Charles F. Prentice Medal Award

The Charles F. Prentice Medal Award is awarded annually to a distinguished scientist or clinician scientist in recognition of a career-long record of advancement of knowledge in vision science. The award is considered to be the most prestigious of the Academy's awards for achievement in research. As the recipient of the Prentice Medal, Dean Zadnik will present a special virtual lecture at the annual meeting of the American Academy of Optometry related to her career achievements, highlighting her most significant scientific contributions. She also will submit a manuscript to *Optometry and Vision Science*.

Roanne Flom, OD

William Feinbloom Award

The William Feinbloom Award is an annual award presented to an individual who has made a distinguished and significant contribution to clinical excellence and the direct clinical advancement of visual and optometric service and thus the visual enhancement of the public.

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

Max Schapero Memorial Lecture Award from the Section on Cornea, Contact Lenses & Refractive Technologies

The Max Schapero Memorial Lecture Award is given to a clinician, researcher, or scholar who has made a significant contribution to the cornea and contact lens field by virtue of publications, lectures, or research efforts. As the honoree, Dr. Walline will present a lecture during the virtual meeting of the Section on Cornea, Contact Lenses & Refractive Technologies.

Gregory Good (OD'75, MS'79, PhD'81)

Henry B. Peters Award from the Public Health and Environmental Vision Section

The Henry B. Peters Memorial Award is given to an individual for his/her exemplary contributions to public health and/or environmental vision over many years. As the honoree, Dr. Good will attend the Section Awards virtual program and present a 30-minute address on public health and environmental vision.

2020 Alumni Award Winners

Two honors traditionally awarded during the College of Optometry's convocation ceremony – the Distinguished Alumni Award and the Early Professional Achievement Award – will be presented when it is safe to gather in person. In the meantime, we are highlighting the 2020 winners, **Carol Alexander** (**OD'87**) and **David Karpik** (**OD'05**).

Dr. Carol Alexander

2020 Distinguished Alumna Award Winner

In recognition of her career-long commitment to eye health, mentorship, and advancing the optometric profession, The Ohio State University College of Optometry Alumni Society has named **Carol Alexander** (**OD'87**) as the recipient of its 2020 Distinguished Alumna Award.

Dr. Alexander received her Doctor of Optometry degree from The Ohio State University College of Optometry in 1987, and after working for two Toledo-area optometrists, she established her own independent private practice in Sylvania, Ohio in 1991. Throughout her career in direct patient care, Dr. Alexander was involved in organized optometry, serving on various committees in local, state, and national optometric associations. Early in her career she was recognized as both the Ohio ('92) and national ('97) Young Optometrist of the Year. Her contributions included the active, successful pursuit of therapeutic legislation in the Ohio and spearheading quality assurance initiatives in the profession at both state and national levels, including chairing the American Optometric Association Commission on Quality Assessment and Improvement ('98-99). She was elected to the Ohio Optometric Association (OOA) Board of Trustees in 1994 and was the first woman to serve as President of the OOA in 1999-2000. During her presidential term, she chaired the Strategic Planning Committee to change the basic operations of the organization. She was named Ohio's OD of the Year in 2006.

In 2008, Dr. Alexander's career focus changed from direct patient care to prioritizing eye health within the eye care industry. Her current position as Head of North America Professional Relations for Johnson & Johnson Vision allows her to strengthen the company's relationship with the optometric community in the U.S. and to partner with national optometric associations and organizations to advance eye health and patient care. She has received several accolades as an industry professional. In 2018, she received the Dr. Rodger Kame Award for Outstanding Service to the AOA Contact Lens and Cornea Section, and she twice has been named one of Vision Monday's Most Influential Women.

Dr. David Karpik

2020 Early Professional Achievement Award Winner

The Ohio State University College of Optometry Alumni Society has named **David Karpik** (**OD'05**) as its 2020 Early Professional Achievement Award Winner.

Dr. Karpik received his Doctor of Optometry degree from The Ohio State University College of Optometry in 2005. After residency training in specialty contact lens management through Pacific University in 2006, Dr. Karpik set his sights north to Alaska, where he worked for a multidisciplinary ophthalmology practice in Fairbanks before joining Kenai Vision Center, which he currently owns, in 2014.

According to his nominators, Dr. Karpik is an excellent clinician and ambassador for the profession. One of his primary goals is to ensure eye care is available to all Americans, regardless of status or geography. To further this goal, he is an active member of the American Optometric Association and is on the board of directors for The Great Western Council of Optometry. He has also served eleven years on the Alaska Optometric Association board, several of which included acting as president of the state association. He was instrumental in the passage of several state bills, most notably Alaska's optometric scope of practice expansion statute.

Brunstetter Advances Understanding of the Effects of Space Flight on the Eyes

by Nicklaus Fogt (OD/MS'92, PhD'96)

One of our alumni, **Tyson Brunstetter (OD/MS'97, PhD'00)** of the U.S. Navy and the NASA Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas, is leading the way in understanding the effects of space flight on the eyes. Dr. Brunstetter and his colleagues recently published an extensive review of a group of associated ocular findings in astronauts in the journal NPJ Microgravity (2020, 6,7). The syndrome, called Spaceflight Associated Neuro-ocular Syndrome (SANS), was first described by Mader et al. in 2011 in astronauts who received eye examinations before and after a space flight. The primary findings in SANS are optic disc edema, flattening of the globe resulting in a shortened eyeball, choroidal and retinal folds, a hyperopic refractive shift potentially impacting near vision, and cotton wool spots. While all astronauts who demonstrate SANS have normal visual acuity, some of the pathophysiological changes can persist for several years. Although the etiology of SANS is unknown, the article describes a number of potential mechanisms. One theory is that SANS results from a rise in intracranial pressure. The findings in SANS have some unique features compared to those in idiopathic intracranial hypertension, so the etiology of SANS is likely due to multiple mechanisms and not just a rise in intracranial pressure. This brings up a second theory behind the development of SANS, namely that it may be related to cephalad fluid shifts brought about by the microgravity environment.

Along with pre-flight and post-flight testing of visual function and imaging of the head and orbit (for example with MRI) in astronauts, objective imaging including ultrasound and OCT are used on the International Space Station to monitor for SANS. Newer imaging algorithms available with the OCT should help in further explaining the mechanisms of SANS and the time course over which SANS develops. Dr. Brunstetter and his colleagues are on the cutting edge of research into how, why, and when SANS occurs. These are critical questions to be answered in order to develop preventive measures for SANS, and to project the potential effects of SANS as longer space missions (the authors mention missions "to the International Space Station, the moon, the asteroid belt, or Mars" as possibilities) are considered.

UPDATE: Alumni Reunion Weekend

For months, we've held out hope that we would be able to host Alumni Reunion Weekend (including a ribbon cutting event for our new clinic building) in-person this fall. As you may have read in an email to all alumni in July, the 2020 Alumni Reunion Weekend experience will be entirely virtual.

Although this isn't the outcome we envisioned – especially in 2020 – we know it is the best option for our Ohio State Optometry alumni family. Our Development and Alumni Engagement team members sought guidance from both the Ohio State University Alumni Association and Ohio State Optometry's executive leadership teams, and this decision was made based on one key factor – **safety**.

Our entire Ohio State Optometry team is determined to provide the alumni community with a memorable virtual experience. At this point, Assistant Director of Alumni Engagement Michael Haddock has reached out to many milestone class reunions about hosting a virtual class reunion for those interested groups. If you have not heard from your class or Michael and would like to be a part of a class reunion, contact him at haddock.15@osu.edu.

For those classes who were looking forward to celebrating their "milestone reunions" in person this fall, you will all be welcomed and recognized next year during the 2021 Alumni Reunion Weekend. Please reach out to Michael with college-specific event questions. More information about the university's response to COVID-19 can be found at **https://safeandhealthy.osu.edu**.

Important Reminder to Alumni

With COVID-19 putting many of our in-person fall events onto a virtual platform, it has never been more important to ensure that your email is updated with Ohio State Optometry. If you haven't heard from the college in a long time and/or are unsure if your email address is up-to-date, contact Michael Haddock at haddock.15@osu.edu.

Alumni Notes

To replace Homecoming, the University is doing a
"Celebrating Buckeyes" week from **Monday, September 28 – Friday, October 2**.
Details to come via email.

1 **1971** **"Buckeye" Bob Newcomb** (**OD'71, MPH**) and his wife, Pam, welcomed their second granddaughter, Danielle Jones Newcomb, on June 1.

1983 **James Edick** (**OD'83**) remodeled his practice in Mount Vernon, Ohio, during the COVID-19 shutdown.

1990 **Terry Schultz** (**OD'90**) opened a new practice in Lancaster, Ohio.

1997 **Beth Muckley** (**OD'97**) wrote an op-ed in the *Columbus Dispatch* addressing patients' concerns with COVID-19.

1999 **Malinda Pence** (**OD'99**) and her office staff were recognized by a local paper in their effort to create face shields for Cincinnati-area optometrists to safely interact with patients.

2008 **Caitlin Filips** (**OD'08**) opened a new practice in Berea, Ohio.

2008 **Catherine McDaniel** (**OD/MS'08**) was featured as a Health Care Hero by the World Council of Optometry (WCO).

2 **2012** **Ryan Corte** (**OD'12**) and his wife welcomed into the world their second child, Brody James Corte, on April 23, 2020.

2014 **Phillip Yuhas** (**OD/MS'14, PhD'19**) was cited in a Forbes.com article about the seven best eyewear products against blue light.

2014 Prevent Blindness awarded **Ann Morrison** (**OD'14, MS'16**) the "Young Investigator Student Fellowship," which provides support for outstanding female scientists pursuing biomedical, behavioral, or clinical research careers relevant to the mission of preventing blindness.

2019 **Aimee Violette** (**OD/MS'19**) has joined the team of optometrists at Shopko Optical in Wisconsin, where she will specialize in primary vision care, cataract and refractive surgery co-management, contact lenses and urgent care.

2019 **Kelley Sedlock** (**OD'19**) has joined Bennett and Bloom Eye Centers in Louisville, KY, where she practices expanded scope of Optometry, doing lasers and other small surgical procedures. In addition, she works alongside **Andrew Steele** (**OD'15**) and new resident **Austin Eckel** (**OD'20**).

2020 **Laura Andre** (**OD/MS'20**) has joined fellow Ohio State Optometry alumni **Kris Ballard** (**OD'11**) and **Leah McConnaughey** (**OD'00**) at their practice in Hillsboro, Ohio.

In Memoriam

1948 **Lawrence Burris** (**BSOpt'48**), age 96, passed away on April 3, 2020.

1951 **Richard W. Stang** (**BSOpt'51**), age 93, passed away on August 9, 2020.

1954 **Loyd Morris** (**BSOpt'54**), age 89, passed away on July 2, 2020.

1983 **Donald Gracon** (**OD'83**), age 65, passed away on April 14, 2020.

Email Alumni News updates to Michael Haddock at **haddock.15@osu.edu**

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College of Optometry
Alumni Society

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