

BUCKEYE OPTOMETRY

ALUMNI MAGAZINE

13 Hall of Famer
Dr. Robert Wright

16 Bailey
Medalists

21 Dr. Bob
Layman Leads AOA

**Congratulations
Class of 2021
Welcome to the profession!**

Summer 2021

BuckEYE Magazine Production Team



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The Ohio State University College of Optometry Alumni Society

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On the Cover: Graduates **Kirsten Sullivan (OD'21)**, **Emily Weakland (OD'21)**, and **Lacey Garvin (OD'21)** celebrate prior to the Convocation Ceremony.

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**Convocation 2021:
New doctors,
families celebrate
at in-person
Convocation
Ceremony.**

Graduates **Emily Rettew (OD'21)**,
Cassandra Salter (OD'21), **Taylor
Norris (OD/MS'21)**, and **Emma
Thompson (OD/MS'21)** pose for an
eye-conic O-H-I-O photo prior to the
Convocation Ceremony

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Dean's Message

"Never give up, for that is just the time the tide will turn."
– Harriet Beecher Stowe

Two August events have recharged my work batteries. The first was a meeting of the EF Wildermuth Foundation Board of Directors in the conference room of our new clinic building. It was a hybrid meeting with board members in person and on screen, and I was asked to welcome them. That simple welcome turned into a wonderful opportunity. The board members asked questions about their three significant areas of contribution to the college: student scholarships; Wildermuth professorship; and the Wildermuth research clinic. All programs are alive and thriving, and all make a big difference to our program. Then the conversation shifted. Questions came hard and fast. Applicant pool? Future of the optometric profession? Job market for graduates? I found myself energized by the opportunity to speak about our program and our profession to a group of smart, committed people. I'd planned on five minutes that quickly extended to 30. I owe them all a debt of gratitude for their engagement, energy, and enthusiasm.

In August we staged our first-ever Buckeye Launch. It's a program created by Associate Dean for Academic Affairs **Mike Earley (OD/MS'88, PhD'92)** and Student Services staff Jen Bennett, MEd, and Becca Roby, MLHR. The goal is to better prepare our first-year students for the rigors of optometric training. For example, one session included a lecture by **Bradley Dougherty (OD/MS'07, PhD'13)** detailing best practices for notetaking. Then Vondolee Delgado-Nixon, PhD, gave a typical pathophysiology while the students took notes, after which they critiqued their notes. I have a feeling this highly qualified group of incoming students (average GPA of 3.71!) hit the ground running from the first day of classes.

I had the pleasure of hosting the Buckeye Launch students for dinner in my backyard too. They were excited to see each other outside without masks on. When I asked the first group of students to arrive at dinner what the most important thing they'd learned during the day's formal sessions, one responded, "[Ohio State Optometry] really is a family!"

As we continue to ride the roller coaster of the COVID-19 pandemic (mask wear in the clinics and other indoor spaces, regardless of vaccination status), I am optimistic. The return to campus, of both students and employees, is on the near horizon. On a personal note, I managed a glorious two-week vacation on Nantucket island with my daughters and their families. Two weeks with our grandsons—two under two! On that little island, 30 miles out to sea, I did feel as if the tide will turn.

Karla Zadnik, OD, PhD

Dean

Glenn A. Fry Professor in Optometry and Physiological Optics





President's Message

I'm happy to be writing this article on a warm sunny Sunday afternoon. It feels as if the world is getting back to a sense of normalcy as we are safely seeing smiles again both indoors and out! I am really looking forward to more in-person events and hope to see many of you this fall at our Homecoming weekend. I personally cannot wait to step foot into the new College of Optometry clinic building.

I would like to congratulate the Class of 2021 and officially welcome them all into our alumni society. Their last year, though non-traditional, was certainly memorable with an in-person celebration. They thrived through unforeseeable changes and will continue to do big things in our profession as they start their careers. Congratulations, and we all look forward to having you all as our colleagues.

Another celebratory shout-out to our 2021 Alumni Award winners, Distinguished Alumna Awardee **Paulette Schmidt (OD'73 MS'76)** and Early Professional Achievement Awardee **Catherine McDaniel (OD/MS'08)**. I have a handful of favorite jobs that come with being on the alumni society board, and calling the award winners ranks in my top five. Not only do I get the pleasure of learning so much more about the great things our alumni do in their careers, but calling with the surprise news of this honor always makes me proud to be associated with such great Ohio State Optometry alumni.

The past year has taught us new ways to connect with both students and alumni virtually. I am happy that we can move on from some of that; however, it has been nice to connect from our own homes every now and then. Our virtual painting party in May was a lot of fun, and my very own original "Cool Brutus" now hangs in my office. I will not be quitting my day job for a new artistic career, but we were able to have a fun group gathering online. We all agreed refracting is quite a bit easier than color mixing.

Our Homecoming Weekend this fall is sure to be an event to remember, and I hope many of you will plan to join the festivities. With the collaboration of homecoming and the Ohio Optometric Association's EastWest Eye Conference, there will be a lot of time to catch up, enjoy some football, and earn some great continuing education hours. The alumni society also is recruiting new board members, so if you have any interest or just some curiosity in what we do, please touch base with me. As someone who has not lived in Columbus since graduating, I can tell you the commitment is very doable and even more rewarding. I look forward to seeing many of you this fall.

Go BuckEYES,

Stephanie M. Baxter (OD'08)

President

The Ohio State University College of Optometry Alumni Society



Celebrating In Person

Class of 2021 Doctoral Convocation

By Jennifer Bennett, MSED, *Director of Student Affairs*

On May 8, The Ohio State University College of Optometry's Class of 2021 gathered in person before their families and friends to mark the end of an unprecedented optometry school journey. Wearing customized Class of 2021 masks, they may have been socially distant, but they were finally together after a year like no other.

Family, friends, faculty, and staff, present at the ceremony and watching the event's online livestream, were filled with joy as graduates were presented with their doctoral hoods by Dean Karla Zadnik, OD, PhD, assisted by Associate Dean for Academic Affairs **Michael Earley** (OD/MS'88, PhD'92), and Associate Dean for Clinical Services **Gregory Nixon** (OD'96). The class selected **Aaron Zimmerman** (OD'06, MS'08) to read a personal sentence written by each graduate as they were hooded and crossed the stage. Class President **Emma Thompson** (OD/MS'21) ended the ceremony with reflections on the lifetime friendships and unforgettable experiences the Class of 2021 will carry with them into futures full of limitless possibility.

GRADUATION 2021



“Graduation weekend was a meaningful conclusion to a big chapter of my life! It was great to have my close ones there to mark the occasion.”

Maddie Howland (OD'21)



Top row: Maddie Howland and parents; the graduation auditorium

Middle row: **Abigail Beal (OD'21)**, **Nikki Auble (OD'21)**, and **Bethany Army (OD'21)**; **Audree Bass (OD'21)** being hooded by Dr. Earley; **Lakshmi Kolisetty (OD'21)** being hooded

Bottom row: Dean Zadnik addressing the crowd; Class of 2021 **Aditha Reddy (OD'21)**, **Bethany Army (OD'21)**, **Jeress Pendleton (OD'21)**, **Jessica DeLuca (OD'21)**, **Sean Cushman (OD'21)**, and **Lauren Stephens (OD'21)**.



Class of 2021

Megan Ahrns Fort Loramie, OH
 Helen Alemu.....Columbus, OH
 Bethany Army..... Van Wert, OH
 Nicole Auble Plainfield, IL
 Audree Bass Ypsilanti, MI
 Abigail Beal.....Willoughby, OH
 Kristen Bisig Loveland, OH
 Lindsey Brooks.....Winchester, KY
 Kirsten Canini Carroll, OH
 Jackson Carey.....Follansbee, WV
 Josh Curtisi Mesa, AZ
 Sean Cushman.....Midland, MI
 * Benjamin Cyphers.....Pittsburgh, PA
 Jessica DeLuca Pittsburgh, PA
 Danica DownardCanal Winchester, OH
 * Jaime Etterling.....Liberty Twp, OH
 Nicolette Evans..... Lima, OH
 Alisha Ferrari..... Bridgeport, WV
 Isidoros Fragoulis..... Westerville, OH
 Lacey Garvin..... Ellwood City, PA
 Paul Grigsby.....Seattle, WA
 Brandon M. Homan.....Napoleon, OH
 Auston Hood.....Bloomville, OH
 Madeline Howland Minneapolis, MN
 * Lindsey Hutchinson..... Russell, KY
 Alex Junglas Russell, OH
 Zachary Keese.....West Lafayette, OH
 Megan Kieffer Menomonie, WI
 Lakshmi Kolisetty Edison, NJ
 Alexander Lamorgese..... Westlake, OH
 Kody Lecurgo Powell, OH
 Kristian LeJeune..... Celina, OH

Rebecca Lifer Shelby, OH
 Francis Lister Tempe, AZ
 Ryan Loney Cuyahoga Falls, OH
 * Kelly M. Lutmer, MS Cincinnati, OH
 John McKinney Toledo, OH
 Katie Hamrock MerryColumbus, OH
 Dina Mubarak West Paterson, NJ
 * Taylor Norris Bemus Point, NY
 Sarah Pace..... Cranberry Township, PA
 Jeress Pendleton.....Mason, OH
 * Casey Ramirez Cortes..... Bracey, VA
 Aditha Reddy, MPHMason, OH
 Emily Rettew Dublin, OH
 Lisa Reyes Spencer, IA
 Cassandra Salter.....Pittsburgh, PA
 Veronica Schuver..... Lakewood, NY
 Patrick ShepardParma Heights, OH
 Jacob ShiptonRigby, ID
 Michael Sinopoli Weymouth, MA
 Jordan Spiess Bryan, OH
 Lauren StephensJohnston, IA
 * Emma Stewart-Bates, MS..... Moreland Hills, OH
 Mitchell Styczynski Bloomington, IL
 Kirsten Sullivan.....Doniphan, NE
 Preston Summerhays..... Salt Lake City, UT
 Erlein Tacastacas..... Cleveland, OH
 * Emma Thompson Westlake, OH
 Sara Wagner..... Cincinnati, OH
 Adell Walters, MS Stow, OH
 Emily Weakland Grand Island, NE
 Devin Webber Green, OH
 Lauren Weisgarber..... Bolivar, OH

* Completed both the Doctor of Optometry and the Master of Science in Vision Science programs

Master of Science in Vision Science

Megan Hurley, OD

Ryan Rutschilling, OD

Class of 2021 Award Winners

Graduate of the Year Award

Erlein Tacastacas, OD

Excellence in Advanced Ocular Care Award

Alexander Lamorgese, OD

Excellence in Ocular Disease Award

Emma Stewart-Bates, OD, MS

Excellence in Advanced Practice Award

Emma Thompson, OD, MS

Excellence in Community Outreach Award

Erlein Tacastacas, OD

Excellence in Primary Vision Care Award

Kristen Bisig, OD

Excellence in Eyewear Dispensing Award

Nicolette Evans, OD

Excellence in Binocular Vision and Pediatrics Award

Jessica DeLuca, OD

Excellence in Vision Therapy Award

Sarah Pace, OD

Excellence in Contact Lens Award

Emily Weakland, OD

Excellence in Low Vision Rehabilitation Award

Veronica Schuver, OD

Lyle Aloysius John Gassmann Memorial Award for Leadership

Audree Bass, OD and Lindsey Hutchinson, OD, MS

Beta Sigma Kappa Silver Medal

Erlein Tacastacas, OD



Previous page l to r: Dina Mubarak (OD'21) hooded by Dr. Mike Earley; Lacey Garvin (OD'21), Alisha Ferrari (OD'21), Kirsten Canini (OD'21), Danica Downard (OD'21), Jeress Pendleton (OD'21), Aditha Reddy (OD'21), and Veronica Schuver (OD'21); Megan Hurley (OD'19, MS'21) hooded by Dr. Dean VanNasdale

Top row l to r: Cassandra Salter (OD'21) and Veronica Schuver (OD'21); Isidoros Fragoulis (OD'21) being hooded by Maria Fragoulis (OD'89) and Evangelia Fragoulis (OD'18); Megan Kieffer (OD'21) and Rebecca Lifer (OD'21)

Bottom row l to r: Erlein Tacastacas (OD'21) being hooded by Dr. Earley; Helen Alemu (OD'21), Lakshmi Kolisetty (OD'21), Lisa Reyes (OD'21), and Dina Mubarak (OD'21); Ryan Rutschilling (OD'19, MS'21) with Dr. Nixon



2021 Alumni Awards



Early Professional Achievement Award

Catherine McDaniel, OD, MS, FAAO

Catherine “Cayti” McDaniel (OD/MS’08) is a 2008 graduate of The Ohio State University College of Optometry, where she completed the combined OD/MS program and received the Beta Sigma Kappa Silver Medal. Following graduation, she completed a residency in Pediatric Optometry at the University of Houston College of Optometry (UHCO) and was awarded the Terrance Ingraham Pediatric Optometry Residency Award by the American Optometric Foundation. Dr. McDaniel subsequently joined the UHCO faculty and founded the Brain Injury Vision Rehabilitation residency during her tenure there. In 2012, this proud Buckeye returned to Ohio State and is currently a Professor of Clinical Optometry, Chief of the Binocular Vision and Pediatric (BVP) Services, and founding Program Coordinator for the Pediatric Optometry, Vision Therapy and Rehabilitation residency.

Dr. McDaniel has a passion for working with children. She partnered with Alcon to co-author a book, *Howard and the Amazing Eye Exam*, which helps to prepare children for their eye exam experience. She also helped forge and get grant funding for a partnership with Ohio State’s Early Head Start Programs to provide eye exams for infants and toddlers in economically disadvantaged situations. Dr. McDaniel lectures nationally and enjoys educating her colleagues on topics related to pediatrics, binocular vision, and brain injury vision.

rehabilitation. She has used her clinical expertise to participate in and coordinate research related to visual sequelae of traumatic brain injury. She is honored to have been the winner of the 2017 Rising Star Award given by the Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry.

Distinguished Alumna Award

Paulette Schmidt, OD, MS, FAAO



As an undergraduate fine arts major at the University of Wisconsin, **Paulette Schmidt (OD'73 MS'76)** developed a deep interest in painters and sculptors whose vision disorders affected their work. This drew her to a career in optometry, and she came to The Ohio State University College of Optometry, earning an OD in 1973 and an MS in 1976.

Dr. Schmidt found inspiration in a variety of opportunities throughout her 37-year career, ranging from optometric education to working with governmental agencies and institutes at state and national levels. For example, at Columbus State Community College, she developed optometric assisting technology curriculum and facilities, which she integrated into Ohio State's clinic teaching program. Her efforts locally led to the national development of the American Optometric Association Paraoptometric Section, registry exams, and Optometric Technician Registry (OTR) designation.

During the 1980s and 1990s, Dr. Schmidt served as Chief of Ohio State's Binocular Vision and Pediatric Services. Collaborating with faculty, she established a significant pediatric curriculum and primary care pediatric clinical service. Informed by cutting-edge infant/child vision research, she saw that future pediatric vision care needed an evidence base. From her longtime responsibility for the community-based school vision screening programs and related coursework at the college, Dr. Schmidt generated the critical research question that led to the Vision in Preschoolers (VIP) Study and ultimately to the University/Community Model Program. The VIP Study was a six-year, multi-center, inter-disciplinary, clinical study funded by the National Eye Institute/National Institutes of Health. Dr. Schmidt retired in 2009 and serves as Professor Emerita, Optometry and Vision Science.

Join the Alumni Society Board

Do you or someone you know have an interest in promoting the welfare of the Ohio State Optometry alumni community and having an active voice in the alumni events at the college? Consider joining The Ohio State University College of Optometry Alumni Society Board!

We are actively seeking new alumni volunteers who would like to join the board as a trustee. Benefits of joining this organization include building your network with other highly involved Ohio State Optometry alumni volunteers across multiple capacities in the profession, acting as a sounding board for college leadership, and having numerous opportunities to engage with the future leaders of the profession.

If your nomination is accepted, the commitments include a two-year trustee term, attending four or five annual meetings (virtually available too), and a personal financial contribution to a college fund of your choice.

Contact Michael Haddock at
haddock.15@osu.edu
for more information.

OSU-College of Optometry-1970



Golden Grads Celebrate Virtually

By Michael Haddock, MA
Assistant Director of Alumni Engagement

On June 9 and June 10, the Ohio State Optometry Classes of 1970 and 1971 gathered virtually for their 51st and 50th reunions respectively. The traditional in-person gathering as a part of the college's commencement weekend was cancelled due to COVID-19. The Alumni Office coordinated an hour-long ceremony recognizing classmates, sharing photos of old stomping grounds, regaling favorite Herb Mote stories, and providing opportunities to reminisce on how optometry has changed over the past 50 years.

In addition to classmates seeing one another (in contrast with their composite photos), a familiar face participated as well—Mr. Jim Noe. The attendees from the Class of 1970 included **Dana McQuinn (OD'70)**, **Robert Gerberry (BS'68, OD'70)**, **John Gunning, Jr. (OD'70)**, **Dennis Roark (BS'68, OD'70)**, **Jeff Blanchard (BS'68, OD'70)**, **Fred Heller (OD'70)**, **Bill Reeves (OD'70)**, **Terry Daniel (BS'69, OD'70)**, and **Leonard Goldstein (BS'68, OD'70)**. The attendees from the Class of 1971 were **Edward Grout (OD'71)**, **D. Blair Harrold (BS'70, OD'71)**, **Philip Keysor (OD'71)**, **Jay Klessman (OD'71)**, **Kenneth Kling (OD'71)**, **Andrew Mehas, Jr. (BS'70, OD'71)**, **Lee Mellinger (OD'71)**, **Bob Newcomb (BS'70, OD'71, MPH)**, **Mike Porter (OD'71)**, **Thomas Raffaele (OD'71)**, **Thomas Rees (BS'70, OD'71)**, and **Stephen Wheeler (OD'71)**.

In follow-up to the virtual event, we mailed letters and registration forms to members of the Classes of 1970 and 1971, inviting them to attend an in-person dinner on Friday, October 8 at the Faculty Club. Mr. Jim Noe plans to attend, and after dinner we will offer a tour of the new Optometry Clinic. If you would like to attend or have questions about your registration, please contact Michael Haddock at haddock.15@osu.edu.

OPTOMETRY CLASS OF 1971



Dr. Robert Wright

Inducted into ODI Hall of Fame

In celebration of the 50th Anniversary of The Ohio State University Office of Diversity and Inclusion (ODI), 12 members of the Ohio State community were selected as inaugural inductees into the ODI Hall of Fame.

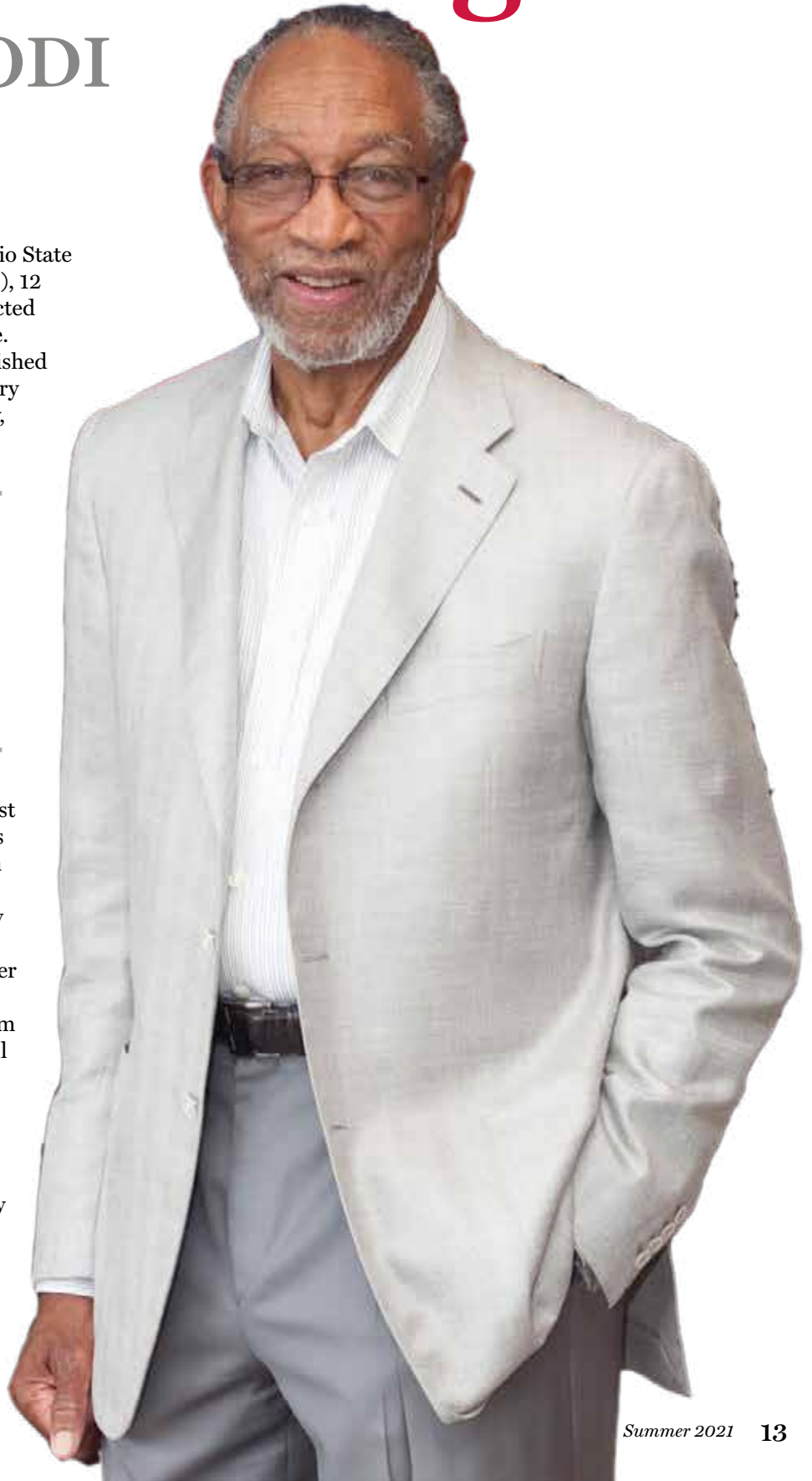
Robert Wright (BS'60) is among these distinguished honorees who have contributed through exemplary and sustained leadership to the ideals of diversity, equity, inclusion, and community engagement.

“We are incredibly fortunate to have Dr. Bob Wright as one of our most distinguished alumni.”

Dean Karla Zadnik, OD, PhD.

Born in 1937, Dr. Wright was a Civil Rights activist who became a federal administrator and business tycoon. A marcher from Selma to Montgomery in 1965 with Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Dr. Wright served three terms on the Columbus, Georgia city council before being tapped for a federal post in the Minority Small Business Administration. Later becoming a high-tech executive and CEO, he was instrumental in establishing the National Museum of African American Culture on the National Mall in Washington D.C.

“We are incredibly fortunate to have Dr. Bob Wright as one of our most distinguished alumni,” said Dean Karla Zadnik, OD, PhD. “We have valued his partnership with the college over many years and appreciated his generosity through his philanthropy that spans support of our students, facilities, and faculty.”



Homecoming Weekend

Friday, October 8 – Saturday, October 9



We're excited to announce that this year's Homecoming Weekend will be the same weekend as The Ohio State University's annual homecoming festivities and the Ohio Optometric Association's (OOA) annual EastWest Eye Conference – now in Columbus! With the alignment of these activities, this will be a packed weekend full of reunions, exceptional continuing education courses, and memorable Buckeye activities.

Friday

(6 – 8 p.m.)

Class Reunions throughout Columbus!*

**Prior to the OOA/EastWest-hosted Bad Habits: The Eye Docs of Rock concert located at Lower.com Field, Home of the Columbus Crew*

Saturday

9 a.m.

Pre-Game Tailgate at the Ohio Union Performance Hall & Potter Plaza

1739 N. High Street, Columbus, OH 43210

- On-site parking
- Spacious indoor and outdoor space in the heart of campus
- Food and drink included in registration price
- Cash bar available

Noon

Ohio State Buckeyes vs. Maryland Terrapins

Ohio Stadium

- Tickets are available for purchase, \$100 per ticket
- Each Ohio State Optometry alumnus has access to two tickets
- Seat location/block in stadium has been selected by the Ohio State Alumni Association
- Tickets will be mobile – link to order will be emailed after confirmation of tailgate order



Opportunities to tour our new Optometry Clinic will be available October 7 through October 9. More information will be emailed to alumni in the coming weeks.



Honoring the Class of 2020

In May of 2020, as most of Ohio State was holding virtual convocation ceremonies for their students, Dean Zadnik promised the Class of 2020 that they would have their graduation banquet and convocation ceremony in person as soon as it was safe to do so.

We are pleased to announce that we plan to honor the Class of 2020 in person during Homecoming Weekend with a banquet on Thursday, October 7, 2021 and a convocation ceremony on October 8, 2021. More information about specific times, locations, and other details will come from the Student Services team soon. Members of the Class of 2020 also were invited to participate in Ohio State's summer commencement ceremony on August 7, 2021 in Ohio Stadium.

We are beyond excited to recognize all that the Class of 2020 has accomplished!



New this year – In an effort to strengthen bonds among Ohio State Optometry diverse alumni networks, we invite those who identify in the Latinx, APIDA (Asian Pacific Islander Desi American), African American, and LGBTQ+ to gather for fellowship and networking prior to the tailgate on Saturday morning at 8 a.m. Each group will have its own room in the Ohio Union to network. If you identify with one of these groups and would like to learn more information, contact Michael Haddock at haddock.15@osu.edu.

Registration went live on July 26, but you still have time to make your reservation.

Register at go.osu.edu/eyegather

If you're interested in attending your class reunion, contact:

Michael Haddock

haddock.15@osu.edu

Class of 1961, 1966, 1976,
1980, 1986, 1991, 1995,
2000, 2005, 2011, 2015

Francesca Fuerman

fuerman.4@osu.edu

Class of 1975, 1981, 1985,
1990, 1996, 2001, 2006,
2010, 2016

If you haven't received information from the college about your class reunion, it's possible that your email address isn't updated on the alumni database and/or you are on the 'do not contact list.' Contact your class liaison to find out more.



Neal Bailey Medalists 2020 and 2021

A Virtual Celebration



By Rachel Childress, *Director of Development*

On April 8, 2021, we celebrated the newest Neal Bailey Medal recipients with a virtual ceremony highlighting their philanthropic accomplishments. Typically, this event is held in conjunction with our Visionary Appreciation Dinner, where we celebrate our generous donors, and alumni who support scholarships have the opportunity to meet scholarship recipients.

We plan to be back in person in 2022, but couldn't let another year pass without recognizing some of our top donors for both 2020 and 2021.

Kevin Corcoran (OD'83)

Dr. Corcoran is committed to optometric education, having founded the ocular disease residency three decades ago at the Cincinnati Eye Institute. He is the Director of Optometric Services at CEI and is a Clinical Associate Professor at The Ohio State University College of Optometry. He has supported the university for a number of years with his very first gift to the college in 1983. He recently made a significant gift that will support the college and our students.

Ron Ling (OD'78)

Dr. Ling comes to us from Hawaii where he grew up and returned after his time at the college. He made his first gift to our Optometry Research fund in 1978. In recent years he has been very generous to the college, creating a scholarship endowment along with his daughter, Caron Lau, for students who demonstrate clinical excellence, participate in community service, and have financial need. He and Caron have also named a contact lens exam room in the new clinic building. It's easy to find: The Hawaii Room of course! Additionally, Dr. Ling has graciously included the college to his estate plan, with that gift eventually being added to his scholarship.

"Everyone can make a gift like this. Over your career it's only a cappuccino per day, so I want to encourage all alumni to become Bailey Medalists. The initiation fee is modest and the rewards are invaluable."

Kevin Corcoran



"This honorable profession has enabled me to provide high quality vision care, to travel the world, and to give back to our college of optometry, helping prepare our future optometrists to provide state-of-the-art-care."

Ron Ling

Jim Thimons (OD'78)

Since graduation Dr. Thimons has had a prolific career as a nationally and internationally acclaimed speaker and educator and a leader in clinical education. He began his philanthropy to the college in 1978 with a gift to the Optometry Research Fund. Recently he created an endowed scholarship supporting a third- or fourth-year student from Ohio who demonstrates clinical excellence. Additionally, Dr. Thimons supported the new clinic as part of a group giving effort to name an exam room in Advanced Ocular Care for a special group of former VA residents.



"I can't believe it's been 30 years since I graduated. The experience Ohio State gave me, and the fact that my name and my presence will be there forever as part of the Bad Habits The Eye Docs of Rock Lounge, is beyond any award that I could ever receive."

Pat Dollenmayer

"I am absolutely delighted to understand the level of knowledge that I was given at Ohio State compared to any of the other programs I've been involved with, and the value that it's brought to my life, and this profession and the things I've done from the very day I graduated until now, so thanks to all of you."

Jim Thimons



Pat Dollenmayer (OD'91)

Dr. Dollenmayer has supported the college over many years with his first gift in 2000. We appreciate his talents that he hones through singing in a number of Columbus-based bands (not just Bad Habits!) and his ability to hit the high notes in 'Don't Stop Believin.'

Tony Fenton (OD'89)

Dr. Tony Fenton also made his first gift to the college in 2000 and has supported various funds at the university over 20 years. As the drummer of Bad Habits, he keeps the band rocking, and it's well known that he might be the world's biggest Buckeye fan.



"I'm proud and honored to be associated with the new building."

Tony Fenton

Michael Raies (OD'89)

Dr. Michael Raies has been giving to the college since 1992, with his first gift supporting our discretionary fund. Most recently, he and Kelly Raies (OD'88) made a gift to name a room in memory of Kelly's dad, Ray Carson (BS'54).

Bob Glass, OD

Bob Glass is an OD with his degree from the Southern California College of Optometry. How does a California guy end up in an Ohio-based band? In Dr. Glass's words, "In 2003, the band advertised a contest in Las Vegas at Vision Expo West and they called it American Eye-dol. I signed up, sat in with them on a couple of tunes, and the rest is history."



"Thank you so much for having allowed me this privilege. I'm proud to join this group."

Bob Glass

Mark Schindler

Mark Schindler is the only non-optometrist in the band. He is originally from Columbus and an Ohio State alumnus. Mark knew Pat Dollenmayer growing up, and they ended up in a college band together. In 1992, Bad Habits needed a piano player for a gig in Youngstown, and he's been with the band ever since. Mark says that even though he's professionally the odd guy out, he's always been welcomed with open arms by the optometry community.



"The college has been so supportive of our band over the Years, and we're so proud to have the role of ambassadors of goodwill for the college. We're really honored to have a permanent home there in the Bad Habits Lounge."

Michael Raies



"It's been a blast, and we've had great times. I'm honored to be here and love playing with the guys."

Mark Schindler

Take Me Out to the Ballgame!

Larry Gill (OD'69) helped MLB players see and perform better

by Bob Newcomb (OD'71, MPH)

He grew up in Cleveland, and he was a big fan of the Cleveland Indians. But later in life, **Lawrence A. "Larry" Gill (OD'69)** helped the Columbus Clippers (a Triple-A New York Yankees-affiliated baseball team) win a pennant in 1996, and he has a championship ring to prove it.

After graduation, Dr. Gill joined the Columbus-based practice of the late **Ronald Rosen (BS'52)** on the near west side of town. His office location happened to be close to the old Cooper Stadium (now demolished and replaced by the modern Huntington Park in Columbus's Arena District) where the Columbus Clippers played their home games. In 1980, he had an opportunity to meet Ken Schnake, the Clippers' general manager, who asked him to provide vision care services to members of the team. This resulted in a 20-year relationship between Dr. Gill and the Columbus Clippers. He was held in such high esteem by Mr. Schnake and the organization that they honored him in 2008 by inviting him to throw out the first pitch in their final game at Cooper Stadium and also presented him with a championship ring in 1996 when the team won the International Cup!

Throughout his tenure with the New York Yankees organization, he got to meet George Steinbrenner, Derek Jeter, Bucky Dent, Stump Merrill, and many other professional baseball legends.

Dr. Gill now practices with another Ohio State Optometry alumnus, **Joe Leisring (OD'81)**, at the Ohio Vision Group in Grove City. He has been a long-time medical staff member of the Columbus Community Hospital and also served as a clinic instructor at the College of Optometry for 13 years. His interests in contact lenses stem from his role as an investigator for numerous FDA studies. These interests have also led him to membership in the American Optometric Association's Contact Lens Section and the National Academy of Sports Vision.

The next time you see him at a continuing education program, ask him to show you his ring!

To learn more about our Vision & Baseball CE session at Huntington Park on September 30, visit go.osu.edu/Eyeballs2Baseballs



Bob Layman (OD'82) becomes AOA President

By Bob Newcomb, OD'71, MPH

In June, Bob Layman (OD'82) began his one-year term as President of the American Optometric Association (AOA).

Bob has been a passionate and effective optometric volunteer during his entire professional career. It began immediately after his graduation when then-AOA President and fellow OSU alumnus **Tim Kime (BS'61)** appointed him to an AOA task force to increase student awareness of the importance of a lifetime of membership in organized optometry. Among many others, he credits Anatomy Professor Emeritus **Jack King (PhD)**, **Arol Augsburger (OD/MS'71)**, **Kevin Alexander (OD'76 MS'77 PhD'79)**, **Tom Quinn (OD'79 MS'81)** and **LaMar Zigler (OD/MS'81)** for teaching him professionalism, critical diagnostic and therapeutic skills, patient communication, and specialty contact lenses. He is a past president of the Ohio Optometric Association (OOA) in 2002; a recipient of the OOA's Warren G. and Ruth P. Morris Optometrist of the Year Award in 2005; and was named AOA Optometrist of the Year in 2006. When asked why he chose optometry as a career, he said "I wanted to make a difference in the quality of life for my patients." Bob and his wife Barb have four children and live in Toledo.

Dr. Layman is not the first Ohio State optometrist to lead our national professional organization – he is the sixth!



H. Ward Ewalt, Jr., (BS'29) was the first Ohio State alumnus to be AOA President in 1962-63. He practiced in Pittsburgh, PA, and specialized in vision training, low vision, contact lenses, and aniseikonia. Optometric history records from 1940 through 1971 show that almost nothing of consequence in the profession of optometry took place without his active involvement! He was

the author of numerous professional papers - and a presenter of more than 100 CE lectures - in the US and throughout the world. He helped establish national

standards for optometric education that were ultimately accepted by the National Commission on Accreditation and received the AOA's highest recognition, the Apollo Award, in 1965 for his many outstanding contributions. In 1990, he received The Ohio State University's Alumni Award for Citizenship. Dr. Ewalt passed away in 1995 at the age of 88.



The next Ohio State optometrist to serve as AOA President was **Henry Hofstetter (BS'39, MS'40, PhD'42)** in 1968-69. An energetic, creative, and beloved academician, Dr. Hofstetter was voted the student "most likely to succeed" in his high school graduating class, and succeed he did! After completing his PhD degree under Glenn Fry (PhD), he

taught six years at Ohio State and then moved west to become the Dean at the Los Angeles College of Optometry (now the Southern California College of Optometry at Marshall B. Ketchum University). In 1952, he moved to Bloomington, IN, to become the founding Dean at the Indiana University School of Optometry, a position in which he served until his retirement from academic administration in 1970. During his stellar career, Dr. Hofstetter authored four textbooks, and more than 500 scientific papers. He also served as editor of the Optometric Historical Society's newsletter for more than 30 years. He was recognized by almost every optometric organization, including the American Optometric Association, the American Academy of Optometry, the World Council of Optometry, the Armed Forces Optometry Society, and the National Optometry Hall of Fame. Dr. Hofstetter died in 2002 at the age of 88.



Tim Kime (BS'61) was the third Ohio State alumnus to serve as AOA President in 1983-84. As an optometry student, Dr. Kime traveled with the late Dean Emeritus Frederick W. Hebbard, OD, PhD, to numerous state optometric meetings, to other schools and colleges of optometry, and to the 1960 AOA Congress giving continuing education on glaucoma detection using the new MacKay-Marg electronic tonometer, which did not require the use of a topical anesthetic. He graduated summa cum laude from Ohio State Optometry in 1961 and established his optometry practice in Toledo, Ohio. Early in his professional career, he became a Zone Governor in the Ohio Optometric Association (OOA). He was the OOA President in 1970 and OOA Optometrist of the Year in 1972. Following his outstanding service to Ohio optometry, he was asked to consider becoming part of the leadership structure of the AOA. Over the next 19 years, he was either a member or the chair of 35 different organizational entities! In 1977, he was elected to the AOA Board of Trustees and spent the next nine years on that Board, serving as President in 1983-84. Dr. Kime is now semi-retired and lives in Toledo, but remains very active in his practice – except when he is chasing birdies at the Sylvania Country Club where he is a past president. He and his wife of 61 years, Barb, have three children and three granddaughters; their good health allows them to enjoy active sports like golfing, bicycling, gym workouts, hiking, and traveling throughout the U.S. and abroad.



The fourth Ohio State alumnus to serve as AOA President was **James Scholles (BS'59, JD)** from Cincinnati in 1988-89. As an optometrist and an attorney, Dr. Scholles not only served the profession as President of the OOA and AOA, but he has lectured and written extensively about clinicolegal topics. He helped to design strategies for the profession as a member and chairman of two AOA long-range planning committees as the profession expanded its scope of practice in the 1980s and 1990s. For six years, he chaired the Legal and Ethical Issues Committee of the National Board of Examiners in Optometry. In addition, he testified before the US Congress on optometry's role in Medicare co-management and also in the hearings of the Federal Trade Commission when the "Eyeglasses 2" debate was of paramount importance to our profession. In the area of practice management, he was a founding member and first president of an optometric buying group in Cincinnati (Diversified Ophthalmics, Inc.) that enhanced the buying power of independent ODs.

He was the President of Preferred Eyecare Providers, a preferred provider organization that achieved access to local insurance panels for optometrists in southwestern Ohio. He humbly credits his family, especially his wife Barbara and his practice associates and staff, The Ohio State University College of Optometry, and the community of Ohio optometrists for supporting his many volunteer activities over the past 60 years.



The fifth Ohio State OD to lead the AOA was **Kevin L. Alexander (OD'76, MS 77, PhD'79)** in 2007-2008. After serving on The Ohio State University College of Optometry faculty where he taught numerous courses and CE lectures in the 1980s and 1990s, Dr. Alexander practiced at The Eye Center of Toledo for seven years where he served as Center Director and Residency Director. Following six years with Retina Vitreous Associates, where he started an Optometric Retina Fellowship, Dr. Alexander was selected Dean of the Michigan College of Optometry at Ferris State University in Big Rapids, MI where he served from 2000 – 2008. In 2008, he and his wife, **Carol L. Alexander (OD'87)**, moved to Fullerton, CA, where he became the President of the Southern California College of Optometry (SCCO). From 2008 to 2013, Dr. Alexander's transformational leadership took SCCO from a single discipline college to a multi-disciplinary healthcare university, and in 2013, he was named the founding President of Marshall B. Ketchum University. Recognized many times for his outstanding contributions to Ohio State and to the profession, he received The Ohio State University Alumni Award for Distinguished Teaching in 1980; the Ohio Optometric Association's Warren G. and Ruth P. Morris Optometrist of the Year Award in 1989; was inducted into the National Academies of Practice as a Distinguished Practitioner in 2000; received The Ohio State University College of Optometry's H. Ward Ewalt Medal for Distinguished Service in 2007; and was inducted into the National Optometry Hall of Fame in 2012.

Congratulations, Dr. Layman! There is a long and distinguished history of service to the profession by these five fellow Buckeyes and so many others over the past 100 years. We celebrate all of their contributions and know you will add to the legacy of eminent Ohio State optometrists who have answered the call to leadership. Best wishes from your proud alma mater, THE Ohio State University College of Optometry.



I-DOC Celebrates 15 Years

by Vondolee Delgado-Nixon, PhD, *Chief Diversity Officer*

This year, we celebrated the 15th Anniversary the I-DOC program (Improving Diversity in Optometric Careers), a four-day pipeline summer program that aims to introduce underrepresented undergraduates to the field of optometry and to The Ohio State University College of Optometry.

I-DOC was the brainchild of Vondolee Delgado-Nixon, PhD, and **Jeffrey Walline (OD, MS'98, PhD'02)** and implemented by the college's Diversity Enhancement Committee, then chaired by **Barbara Fink (OD, MS'85, PhD'87)**.

The program has experienced unprecedented success. Over the past 15 years, there have been 85 I-DOC alumni who have matriculated into 16 of the 23 schools and colleges of optometry nationwide. In 2014, the college won The Ohio State University's Distinguished Diversity Enhancement Award in recognition of the committee's work.

I-DOC participants hail from states near and far. The College of Optometry has demonstrated its commitment to increasing diversity in optometry nationally by providing its own financial support and by securing sponsorship

from Vision Service Plan. In addition, we have committed to reserving two seats for students from historically black colleges and universities every year. Typically, 25-30 students attend the I-DOC residential program; during the pandemic, I-DOC has been a virtual program.

Here is what some of the alumni who attended the inaugural I-DOC in 2007 had to say about the program. **Amila Uppal (OD'13)** said, "The relationships I made in that short week with Dr. Walline and Dr. Delgado-Nixon helped me decide to attend optometry school, where not only did I gain an excellent education in a wonderful field, but I also gained lifelong friendships." **Michael-Vu Do (OD'14)** said, "I-DOC was the absolute reason why I chose to attend OSU for optometry school." And **Yuki Oda (OD'12)** said, "After the I-DOC program, I never looked back!"

Check out the College of Optometry's Instagram account, @ohiostateoptometry, to read about the I-DOC experiences of 2021 virtual participants Jaddey Feliz-Cabrera, Kennedy Cofield, Kelly Echeta, Shreya Mallajosyula and more!

If you know of an underrepresented undergraduate student, talk to them about optometry and encourage them to apply to the I-DOC program at u.osu.edu/IDOC



Todd Winkler (OD'89)

Authors Games Collection Book



Chess Beatdowns

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



Todd Winkler (OD'89)

The pandemic brought about a chess boom that was amplified by the success of Netflix's limited scripted series, "The Queen's Gambit." Online chess activity skyrocketed, as did sales of chess sets and books. One book that continues to gain popularity and win praise is "Chess Beatdowns" by **Todd Winkler (OD'89)**, available on Amazon. (Note: it was written under a pen name, so you'll have to search by title to purchase.)

"Chess actually can be as compelling as it appears to be on 'The Queen's Gambit,'" said Dr. Winkler, who has always loved the game but hasn't always had the time to play.

"I played chess as a kid and then pretty much didn't touch a board again until about 10 years ago," he said. "After owning my own optometry practice for many years here in Cincinnati, I still work full-time but have greatly scaled back my managerial responsibilities."

This flexible schedule has freed up time each evening for Dr. Winkler to play chess casually online. He typically plays games where each player has anywhere from three to thirty minutes to make all of their moves.

"Chess and optometry are both intellectual pursuits," said Dr. Winkler. "Becoming an optometrist involves a lot of hard work and dedication, as does becoming a good chess player."

"I was inspired to write this book after one particularly brutal victory where I just

completely annihilated this guy. I thought it would be fun to go back thru the database of games I'd won and catalogue my most memorable victories for future reference. I reviewed games going back over eight years and made note of the victories earned either through an unusual checkmate or a devastating tactic. When I finished sorting through them all, I realized that I had accumulated enough good games to fill an entire book, so that's exactly what I did! After just four months of writing, it was completed."

What sets Dr. Winkler's book apart from the nearly 15,000 other chess titles available on Amazon? "Most chess books read like they're a calculus lecture," he explained. "My book is much livelier, it's more like reading an article about a game in *Sports Illustrated*."

Dr. Winkler's book has received positive Amazon reviews for its explanation of how to read and understand algebraic notation, which is the preferred modern method used to describe chess games.

"My book isn't an instructional manual per se," he said. "It's what is known as a games collection book – it's 50 notable games. If you already know how to play, it can help you improve tactics and strategies."

Dr. Winkler looks forward to the camaraderie of post-pandemic in-person chess tournaments.

Research Roundup

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

Congratulations to Deyue Yu, MS, PhD, and Heather Chandler, PhD, co-investigators for research projects chosen for President's Research Excellence Program funding at Ohio State! This program supports high-risk, novel work from interdisciplinary research teams at their beginning stages by funding the preliminary data collection and the conceptual work required to secure larger-scale external funding. Dr. Yu will work with Jingzhen Yang, MPH, PhD, and Thomas Kerwin, PhD, in their study, *Visual Function and Nighttime Driving Performance in Drivers Aged 65 or Older*, to examine the effects of mesopic visual function on night driving ability in older drivers using a high-fidelity driving simulator. Dr. Chandler collaborates with Katelyn Swindle-Reilly, PhD, Colleen Cebulla, MD, PhD, and Eric Miller, MS, DVM, on their project, *Local antioxidant release to prevent cataract after vitrectomy*. They will study the role of antioxidant and oxygen concentrations in the vitreous to prevent oxidative damage in the eye. Biomimetic hydrogels with nanoencapsulated antioxidants are being explored to restore antioxidant levels after vitreous removal, potentially preventing cataracts.

Dean VanNasdale, OD, PhD, continues his ongoing work with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the National Association of Chronic Disease Directors, and Prevent Blindness Ohio to analyze state and national population health datasets to improve our understanding of the underlying determinants, health outcomes, and quality of life considerations associated with vision impairment. Dr. VanNasdale recently received an additional \$113,000 to support continuing data analysis with Lisa Jordan, PhD, Matt Robich, MPH, John Crews, DPA, and Sherry Williams. In addition, these funds will support the update of previously released state profiles used by the CDC to illustrate the impact of vision impairment (<https://www.cdc.gov/visionhealth/data/state-profiles/index.htm>).

Rebecca Deffler (OD, MS'19) has been awarded the Ohio Affiliate of Prevent Blindness Young Investigator Student Fellowship Award for Female Scholars in Vision Research (\$4,725) for her study, *Automated Collision Risk Detection and a Novel Driver Training Program for People with*

Central Vision Impairment. Dr. Deffler's research will assess the hazard perception skills of bioptic drivers and will use naturalistic recordings coupled with an automated collision risk detection program to study contributing factors to near-collision events when driving.

Don Mutti, OD, PhD was awarded a research award to support his multi-year collaboration with Dr. Tawna Roberts of Stanford University for their NIH-funded project, *Afferent and Efferent Visual Systems During Abnormal Vision Development*. Dr. Mutti will advise the project on the process of emmetropization and how elements of the accommodative response might influence refractive error outcomes.

PhD Students Earn 2021 William C. Ezell Fellowships



Ohio State Optometry PhD students Rebecca Deffler (OD, MS'19), Maureen Plaumann, OD, and Erica Shelton (OD/MS'18) have been named 2021 William C. Ezell Fellows. The William C. Ezell Fellowship is the flagship program of the American Academy of Optometry Foundation and was established to encourage talented persons to pursue full-time careers in optometric research and education in a school or college of optometry. This award is one of the most prestigious awards given to graduate students in optometric research.



Back Row (l to r):
Kelly Klimo, Steph George,
Heather Anderson, OD, PhD,
Cora McHugh, and Shihij
Takoo

Front Row (l to r):
Pearson Miller, Dustin
Dawson, Charlie Bahr, and
Sidney Parks

Each year the College of Optometry selects first-year optometry students interested in optometric research to participate in its National Eye Institute-funded summer research training program (T35).

These eight students are spending the 13 weeks of summer exploring their interest in research with College of Optometry faculty mentors. The goal of the program is to encourage professional students to embark on a career in eye research.

Shihij Takoo ('24)

(Advisors: Angela Brown, PhD, Andy Toole, OD'97, MS'00, PhD'08)

Why the T35 program is important to me:

The T35 is important to me because I'm able to dedicate my time to doing research, rather than having to split my focus between research and school. It's also a great way to learn about the basics of research conduct and to gain early experience, since I've never done research in the past.

What I'm doing: My research involves testing contrast sensitivity in the general pediatric population, so I get the opportunity to hang out on the pediatric floor of our clinic a lot. I also conduct similar contrast sensitivity research at Nationwide Children's Hospital on premature infants who are at risk for retinopathy of prematurity. It's really exciting to work with kids, learn about children's visual development and the role contrast sensitivity plays in visual perception, and experience different research settings!

Sidney Parks ('24)

(Advisors: Heather Anderson, OD, PhD, Marjean Kulp, OD'91, MS'93)

Why the T35 program is important to me:

The T35 program is important to me because it has given me the opportunity to become involved in optometric research that aids in advancing the field of optometry and vision science. This program allows me to gain invaluable skills that I will continue to use to do optometric research in the future.

What I'm doing: This summer I am working with Dr. Heather Anderson and Dr. Marjean Kulp to do research on the comparison of techniques for objective measurements of accommodative amplitude. Currently accommodative amplitude is found during routine eye exams using the "push-up" test. It has been proven from previous research that this method grossly overestimates the true focusing ability of the eye and that an objective method using a Grand Seiko autorefractor portrays a

more accurate measurement. It is not feasible to implement these lengthy protocols into routine exams. So, I will compare a streamlined protocol using the autorefractor to the full objective protocol. If we find that the streamlined approach is an acceptable substitute, this method may be useful for clinicians and clinical researchers to incorporate objective measurements of accommodative amplitude into their patient exams and studies in the future.

Charlie Bahr ('24)

(Advisor: Tom Raasch, OD, PhD)

Why the T35 program is important to me: The T35 program is important to me because it gives me the opportunity to explore and learn about important topics in vision science and get my feet wet in research in optometry.

What I'm doing: My research involves developing and testing alternate methods of refraction in patients with high levels of aberration, with the expectation of obtaining a more accurate corrective prescription for them.

Pearson Miller ('24)

(Advisor: Teng Leng Ooi, PhD)

Why the T35 program is important to me: The T35 program opens doors to explore academia, a modality of optometry that can have significant barriers to entry. I also appreciate the opportunity to devote my attention fully to my research without the pulls of additional optometric curricula.

What I'm doing: This summer I am working in Dr. Ooi's lab, which focuses on sensory eye dominance. I am investigating if training designed to only reduce suppression will also result in increased motor facility.

Kelly Klimo ('24)

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

Why the T35 program is important to me: The T35 program is important to me because I want to push the boundaries of optometry by learning, by discovery, and by researching. I have hopes of intertwining my passions of neuroscience and optometry, and I truly believe that we are just scratching the surface of what connections and networks the eyes and the brain are capable of forming.

What I'm doing: The research I am doing this summer investigates how repeated traumatic brain injuries affect the structure and function of retinal ganglion cells. Currently, there are no true biomarkers to properly detect and diagnose TBIs, but we hope our research will provide insight as to how traumatic brain injuries manifest in the eye. With this research, we aspire to assist future clinicians to better diagnose and treat head injuries.

Cora McHugh ('24)

(Advisors: Phillip Yuhas, OD/MS'14, PhD'19, and Cynthia Roberts, PhD)

Why the T35 program is important to me: Having a dedicated time to collect data and work with Dr. Yuhas, Dr. Roberts, and the research team at the Department of Ophthalmology and Vision Science is a great opportunity. I think the T35 program is a great stepping stone to a thesis project, and offers a lot of insight into optometric research.

What I'm doing: The goal of the UnEYEd study is to better understand how ocular biomechanics vary between people of different races. Glaucoma has been found to be more prevalent in Black populations, and it's possible this higher prevalence is related to differences in biomechanical properties of the cornea and sclera. Previous work has shown that there are some differences in the corneal biomechanics of Black, Caucasian, and mixed-race individuals without glaucoma. This summer, we are expanding on previous work by recruiting patients with newly diagnosed glaucoma.

Steph George ('24)

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

Why the T35 program is important to me: The T35 program is important to me because I want to incorporate basic science research into my career as an optometrist. I find the translational aspect of research fascinating and want to contribute to scientific knowledge of cellular processes within the eye.

What I'm doing: I am investigating the role of SHROOM3 and the Hippo pathway on lens epithelial cell proliferation in response to mechanical strain, which will provide information on how protein interactions may result in age-related changes and/or pathology in the lens.

Dustin Dawson ('24)

(Advisor: Don Mutti, OD, PhD)

Why the T35 program is important to me: T35 research has been a blessing for this aspiring researcher. The program not only allows me to take steps toward earning my Masters in Vision Science, but it also allows me to better understand my field of study and get to know the faculty outside of the classroom setting.

What I'm doing: My research focuses on assessing pupillary light reflex through the use of pupillometry. Indirectly, this light response is used to accentuate the physiological activity of intrinsically photosensitive retinal ganglion cells and how their activity influences the more traditionally understood photoreceptive mechanisms of rods and cones. Furthermore, I am working to evaluate the effectiveness of two particular pupillometers and determine which provides a more favorable observable outcome in terms of subject response to stimuli.

Welcome to Ohio State Optometry Research

The Zad

Jeffrey Walline (OD, MS'98, PhD'02), Don Mutti, OD, PhD, and **Michael Earley (OD/MS'88, PhD'92)** with Optometric Educators, Inc. teamed up to name the lobby of the college's new research space in Fry Hall in honor of Dean Karla Zadnik, OD, PhD. Already nicknamed, "The Zad," the Karla Zadnik Lobby welcomes research participants, students and scientists to our college.



Don Mutti, OD, PhD, Karla Zadnik, OD, PhD, **Mike Earley (OD/MS'88, PhD'92)** and **Jeff Walline (OD, MS'98, PhD'02)** in the new Zad Lobby.

"Karla has been all about patient-based clinical research, especially studies that can change practice, since the days we were operating out of the basement in Berkeley. Since coming to Ohio State, Karla has been at the heart of clinical research here. The CLEK and CLEERE studies make her one of the best funded and most influential clinician scientist optometrists in the world. She's been awarded the Fry and the Prentice [Awards] from the American Academy of Optometry. We just thought she'd like to have a nice place to sit when she surveys the tower that she, the National Eye Institute, and the EF Wildermuth Foundation built."

Dr. Mutti

"Dean Zadnik has established Ohio State as the school future optometrists attend to learn the most recent evidence-based optometric practices directly from the people who ran the clinical research that established those practices. The 'Zad' is the reminder to both current and future students, faculty, and staff of her leadership in placing us in this prestigious position."

Dr. Earley

"Like the Zad Lobby, Dr. Zadnik has been the gateway to new adventures in science and optometry. Under her leadership, the college has gained considerable momentum and stands at the front of optometry. The Zad Lobby is just a small token of our profound appreciation for her clear vision of where the college needs to be."

Dr. Walline

Winter CE

Save the Date:

The Ohio State University College of Optometry
Winter Conference

.....
December 4-5, 2021
.....

Fawcett Event Center


Keep an eye on your emails for details!


Virtual Gatherings Connect Alumni


Following the success of the Land Grant Brewery virtual gathering in February, the college's alumni office has sought new and different ways to provide unique, interactive events for alumni. On May 18, the college partnered with Studio 614 for a virtual painting event of our beloved "Cool Brutus" artwork. An artist provided step-by-step guidance on how to paint your very own masterpiece to adorn one's home or office. The virtual gathering had 20 attendees from Ohio, Tennessee, Kentucky, and Indiana!


On June 30, the College of Optometry Alumni Society partnered with the Ohio State College of Veterinary Medicine for a crossover virtual event, "Examining Dog Vision: Common Eye Conditions and Therapies." Led by Francesca Fuerman, Program Assistant for Ohio State Optometry, and Dr. Georgina Newbold from the College of Veterinary Medicine, this gathering offered educational and entertaining insight into common eye problems between humans and our furry friends. With 135 attendees and interactive trivia, this was a memorable experience for all!


Alumni Notes


1  **1951 Spencer Meckstroth (BS'52)** age 91, is still an ardent Ohio State football and basketball fan. After graduating from Ohio State, he served as an optometrist in the U.S. Air Force and then practiced in Ohio and Florida. He was President of the Palm Beach County Optometric Society from 1972-1973, has made over 80 medical mission trips to help the poor see, sold his practice to Dr. April Jasper in 2002, and was named "Outstanding Local Society Member" by the Florida Optometric Association in 2008. In 2011 he published *Life and Adventures on Mission Trips*.

2  **2013 Victoria Piamonte (OD'13)** and **Derek Gresko (OD'12)** welcomed their second daughter, Emily Rose Gresko, on January 30, 2021. The future Buckeye sisters are representing Ohio State in their optometry shirts courtesy of Dean Zadnik!

3  **2014 Michael Do (OD'14)** and his wife Elaine Hernandez, OD, welcomed their daughter Mikayla to their family September 14, 2020.

4  **2017 Mark Ortiz (OD'17)** and **Christi Locke Ortiz (OD/MS'19)** were married on June 12, 2021 in Smyrna, Georgia, where they now live.

5  **2019 Laura Hamman (OD'19)** and her husband welcomed daughter Drew Hamman on April 26, 2020. She clearly loves her "Future Optometrist" onesie!

6  **2019 Brooke Mathie (OD'19)** married Robert Hyde (photo A) on May 28, 2021 in Cincinnati. She was surrounded by her family and friends, including (photo B) **Kelly Morgan (OD/MS'19)**, **Kelley Sedlock (OD'19)**, and **Marielle (Blumenthaler) Reidy (OD/MS'19)**.

In Memoriam

1949 Marvin Whitman (BS'49) passed away on March 9, 2021 in Columbus, Ohio. He was 95.

1952 Troy Fannin (BS'52) passed away on June 23, 2021 in Kerrville, Texas. He was 96.

1952 Ronald H. Rosen (BS'52) passed away on May 30, 2021. He was 91.

1961 Michael Feldman (BS'61) passed away on April 14, 2020 in Tallmadge, Ohio. He was 82.

1969 Lyman Norden (BS'68, OD'69) passed away on June 17, 2021 in Birmingham, Alabama. He was 75.

1974 James Hermann (OD'74) passed away on August 10, 2021. He was 72.

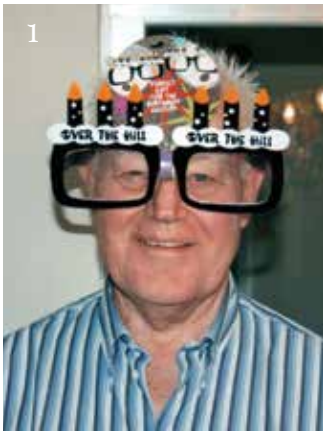


Alumni News Updates

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

Use our easy online form at
go.osu.edu/ShareYourNews

or email Michael Haddock at haddock.15@osu.edu





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