

# BUCKEYE OPTOMETRY

## ALUMNI MAGAZINE



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Dr. Mawada Osman  
Leads Outreach

# Celebrating the Class of 2022

Summer 2022

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*On the Cover:* Fareedah Haroun (OD'22) and Kristen Zulliger (OD/MS'22)

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# Dean's Message

*"[They] seemed to walk in an atmosphere of things about to happen."*  
– L.M. Montgomery

July 1st marked the start of my 27th year at Ohio State and my ninth year as dean of the College of Optometry. A lot has happened in both those periods of time in all of our lives.

I love watching the progress of alumni lives and careers—celebrating practice openings and purchases, retirements, awards, marriages, babies, and all the other achievements that make up a rich professional and personal life.

We've awarded 2,331 OD degrees, 244 Master's degrees, and 32 PhDs since 1997. We created the popular White Coat Ceremony and launched hundreds of clinical trajectories. We abandoned a 100-year-old building and now occupy The Optometry Clinic, which still looks and feels brand new. We watch as our new classrooms and teaching labs rise from the Fry Hall rubble like a phoenix from the ashes.

We've worked under 10 university presidents and seven provosts, permanent and interim alike, and I'm the third dean in the past 26 years. Our faculty—soon to number 40—is at its high water mark in terms of numbers, all working harder and at a higher level of commitment and dedication than ever before.

We teach differently—and more--while continuing to emphasize optometry's traditional clinical strengths. We continue to weather the pandemic without students seeing delays in their academic paths because of it.

We've cared for hundreds of thousands of patients. We've imaged ganglion cells. We've discovered that outdoor activity prevents myopia onset and that multifocal contact lenses slow its progression. We've invented devices to improve patients' and doctors' lives. We've contributed to research that changes the clinical care of conditions like amblyopia and keratoconus.

In short, we walk and live in an atmosphere of things that have happened and will happen.

We are Ohio State Optometry.

**Karla Zadnik, OD, PhD**

*Dean*

*Glenn A. Fry Professor in Optometry and Physiological Optics*



# President's Message

Hello, fellow Ohio State Optometry Alumni!

I'm sure many of you have shared an experience in which a life lesson was delivered in a mysterious way. I want to share a surprising experience that actually came from writing for an optometry publication.

Ten years ago, *Review of Cornea & Contact Lenses* reached out and asked if I would write a point/counterpoint-style article comparing two-week to monthly contact lens replacement schedules, a contentious debate at the time. As a young optometrist wanting to get more involved in publishing, speaking, and research, I ambitiously said yes! I was assigned to write the two-week contact lens replacement side. One of our UC Berkeley colleagues, Melissa Barnett, OD, was tasked with writing the monthly side. While delighted to work with Melissa, I was borderline furious that I was assigned to write the two-week part, a viewpoint I did not share at the time.

I was committed and moved forward scouring (and initially scowling at) the research on the subject. As set as I was in my own thinking and beliefs, this literature review uncovered some key findings. Two-week contact lenses are not as problematic as I once thought and actually have some key advantages in certain areas. At first, my innate hardheadedness restricted my thinking. When I opened myself to learn more about a viewpoint opposite mine, I developed a better understanding of both sides of this divisive optometric issue. Let's just say I was clinically enlightened.

The process of digging deep into an opposing viewpoint served as an unexpected and unusual cathartic event for me. What if I could apply this experience and look more objectively at other things in life? All I had to do was to obtain knowledge and facts about viewpoints opposite of mine. In doing so, I would be able to more objectively look at any issue. I further wondered, what if every human being could apply this practice in everyday life? Maybe contentious issues in the news, social media (ODs on Facebook), or how we approach patients and people in general would be less combative or controversial.

My ask of Ohio State Optometry Alumni is this. When you find yourself having strong feelings on a clinical hot topic or even a social issue, rather than digging in your heels, just STOP! Take a break, and instead step back, understand, learn, and research the other side. Your opinion may not change, but your perspective will. The world is a much more beautiful place when you have a 30,000-foot view of any issue at hand. Between colleagues, this is our "two-week" challenge for ourselves and as leaders in our communities as well as professional organizations.

I hope this exercise brings a lifetime of growth, learning, compassion and understanding. This is the Buckeye way!

**Chris Smiley (OD'01)**

*President*

*The Ohio State University College of Optometry Alumni Society*





# Class of 2022 Convocation

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

The Ohio State College of Optometry's Class of 2022 gathered on May 7 before their family and friends to, at long last, officially become Doctors of Optometry.

All who were present at the ceremony and watching the event online via livestream were overjoyed as graduates were presented with their doctoral hoods by **Michael Earley (OD/MS'88, PhD'92)**, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, assisted by **Gregory Nixon (OD'96)**, Associate Dean for Clinical Services.

The class selected **Dawn Goedde (OD'04)** to read a personal sentence written by each graduate as they were hooded and crossed the stage. Associate Dean for Research **Jeff Walline (OD, MS'98, PhD'02)** recognized students who concurrently earned their Master of Science in Vision Science; and Dean Zadnik presented **Lauren Haverly (OD'14)** with the Early Professional Achievement Award and **Thomas Quinn (OD'79, MS'81)** with the Distinguished Alumnus Award. **Chris Smiley (OD'01)**, Optometry Alumni Society President, welcomed the graduates into our proud alumni community, and finally Class President **Kristen Zulliger (OD/MS'22)** ended the ceremony with reflections on the optometry school journey, the discovery of lifetime friendships, and the many fond memories that the class of 2022 will carry with them into the future as they begin their optometric careers.





*Top Row:* **Abby Almomar (OD'22)** hooded by Dr. Earley; **Scott Bauer (OD'22)** hoods his wife **KateLynn Bauer (OD'22)**; **Kyler Camper (OD'22)** hooded by Dr. Earley

*Middle Row:* **Kristen Zulliger (OD/MS'22)** speaking to the class of 2022; **Mary Curtis (OD'22)** hooded by her father **Steve Curtis (OD'87)**; **Jeskaren Deol (OD'22)** hooded by Dr. Earley

*Bottom Row:* Dean Zadnik and **Lauren Haverly (OD'14)**; **Thomas Quinn (OD'79 MS'81)** and Dean Zadnik; **Katherine Bickle (OD/MS'13, PhD'22)**





*Top Row:* **Fareedah Haroun (OD'22)** hooded by Dr. Earley; **Kelly Crews (OD'22)** with her dad **Kent Crews, MD**; **Evelyne Mechas (OD'22)** hooded by Dr. Earley

*Middle Row:* **Aarondeep Deol, DPM (Brother)**, **Sarbjit Deol (Mom)**, **Jeskaren Deol (OD'22)**, **Jarnal Deol (Dad)**, and **Nazmine Deol, DO (Sister-in-law)**

*Bottom Row:* **Nikki Zindl (OD'22)**, **Spencer Day (OD'22)**, **Ellen Larsen (OD'22)**, **Dan Helin (OD'22)**, and **Brittany Bodo (OD'22)**





*Top Row:* **Eriq Hall (OD'22)** hooded by Dr. Earley; **Katherine Bickle (OD/MS'13, PhD'22)** with husband Kevin and children Walter and William; **Lilly Tran (OD'22)** hooded by her cousin Kim Ly Pham, OD

*Middle Row:* Tom Raasch, OD, PhD, Roanne Flom, OD, and **Prathibha Srikantan Lakshmi (OD/MS'22)**

*Bottom Row:* **Stephanie Ly (OD'22)**, **Jehann Dagher (OD'22)**, and **Sophia Araujo-Hernandez (OD'22)**







*Top Row: **Megan Overberg (OD'22)** with parents Donald and Julie Overberg; **Eriq Hall (OD'22)** with brother Edmund Hall and sister Tatum Hall*

*Middle Row: **Stephanie Ly (OD'22)** with her husband **Jason Ro (OD'20)**; **Kalie Leone (OD'22)** and **Madeline Brillhart (OD'22)***

*Bottom Row: **Araba Otoo (OD'22, MPH)** and **Jacqueline Davis (OD'81, MPH)**; **Richard Wan (OD'22/MS'21)** with brothers Charles Wan and Patrick Wan*



# Dr. Melissa Bailey

## Ohio State's Innovator of the Year



**Melissa Bailey (OD/MS'01, PhD'04)** a professor in the College of Optometry, was named The Ohio State University's 2022 Innovator of the Year.

This university-wide honor recognizes Ohio State researchers who are actively working to promote commercialization of university intellectual property, through invention disclosures filed, patents applied for and/or received, technologies licensed or spin-off companies formed.

Entrepreneurs often are lauded as visionaries, but Dr. Bailey's pioneering work on contact lenses and eye exam software truly fits the definition of visionary research. Dr. Bailey was recognized for her work on two innovations she's developed at the university that have been the basis for two Ohio State startup companies: Lentechs and OcuDoc, Inc.

Dr. Bailey's award was announced virtually in April during the annual Research and Innovation Showcase, co-hosted by Ohio State's Office of Research and the Office of Innovation and Economic Development. Family in attendance included: Dr. Bailey's husband, Daniel; son, Luke; and parents, Darrell and Carol Holmes. Ohio State Optometry family in attendance included: Dean Karla Zadnik, OD, PhD; Don Mutti, OD, PhD; **Joe Barr (OD'77, MS'79)**; **Jeff Walline (OD, MS'98, PhD'02)**; Lisa Jordan, PhD; and Heather Anderson, OD, PhD.



*left to right:*  
**Melissa Bailey (OD/MS'01, PhD'04)** with husband Daniel and son Luke.

**Joe Barr (OD'77, MS'79)**  
with Dr. Bailey

# Graduation Awards



## Graduate of the Year

**Lauren Schneider (OD'22/MS'21)**

*Pictured with Dean Karla Zadnik, OD, PhD*

We would like to express our sincere gratitude to the many corporate donors who support the college with gifts to various programs, events, scholarships, and student awards. We especially want to thank those who continued to find ways to support our students throughout recent years, even without traditional events and face-to-face opportunities.

Thank you, and we look forward to partnering with all of you in the years to come.

Alcon	IDOC	Safilo
Allergan	Interstate Optical	Shamir
CooperVision	Luxottica	VSP Global
Denon Eyewear	Neurolens	VSP Optics
Essilor	Optometric Management Group	Walman
Hoya		



## Top NBEO Score

**Nate Woeste (OD'22)**

*Pictured with Dean Karla Zadnik, OD, PhD*



## Beta Sigma Kappa Silver Medal

**Natalie Wong (OD'22/MS'21)**

*Pictured with Kim Patton (OD'18, MS'20)*



## Lyle Aloysius John Gassman Memorial Award for Leadership

**Kristen Zulliger (OD/MS'22)**

*Pictured with Michael Earley (OD/MS'88, PhD'92)*



# Clinical Excellence Awards



**Excellence in Eyewear Dispensing**  
Jonathan Szczerba (OD'22)  
*Pictured with Jeff Rohlf*



**Excellence in Community Outreach**  
Shane Jones (OD'22)  
*Pictured with Marwada Osman (OD/MS'20)*



**Excellence in Vision Therapy**  
Lauren Schneider (OD'22/MS'21)  
*Pictured with Doug Widmer (OD'11, MS'16)*



**Excellence in Advanced Ocular Care**  
Derek Eibon (OD'22)  
*Pictured with Tatevik Movsisyan (OD/MS'16)*



**Excellence in Primary Vision Care**  
Thomas Krainz (OD'22)  
*Pictured with Jocelyn Daniel (OD'12)*



**Excellence in Advanced Practice**  
Laura Segraves (OD'22)  
*Pictured with Dawn Goedde (OD'04)*



**Excellence in Ocular Disease**  
Abby Almomar (OD'22)  
*Pictured with Dawn Goedde (OD'04)*



**Excellence in Binocular Vision and Pediatrics**  
Derek Eibon (OD'22)  
*Pictured with Cayti McDaniel (OD/MS'08)*



**Excellence in Contact Lenses**  
Richard Wan (OD'22/MS'21)  
*Pictured with Nicky Lai (OD/MS'03)*



**Excellence in Low Vision Rehabilitation**  
Nate Woeste (OD'22)  
*Pictured with Roanne Flom, OD*



# Alumni Award Winners

Thomas G. Quinn (OD'79, MS'81),  
Lauren Haverly (OD'14)

The Ohio State University College of Optometry honored **Thomas G. Quinn (OD'79, MS'81)**, winner of the college's Distinguished Alumnus Award, and **Lauren Haverly (OD'14)**, winner of the Early Professional Achievement Award, during the Class of 2022's Convocation Ceremony.

## About Dr. Quinn

Dr. Quinn earned his OD degree in 1979 and a Master's degree in Physiological Optics in 1981, both from The Ohio State University College of Optometry.

After serving on the college's faculty for two years, Dr. Quinn and his wife, **Susan Quinn (OD'82)**, established a group practice in Athens, Ohio, which proudly serves as an extern site for Ohio State Optometry students.





**“Dr. Quinn's contributions to the optometric profession in Ohio and nationally are legendary.”**

*Dean Karla Zadnik*

Dr. Quinn served as chair of the American Optometric Association's Contact Lens & Cornea Section (2014-2015) and was honored to receive their Legend Award (2016) and the Dr. Rodger Kame Exceptional Service Award (2017). He served as chair of the Ohio Optometric Association's (OOA) EastWest Eye Conference (2012-2017) and was presented with the OOA's Optometrist of the Year Award in 2016.

Dr. Quinn is a Fellow of the American Academy of Optometry and a Diplomate of its Cornea, Contact Lens & Refractive Technologies Section. He has served the Academy in various capacities over the years and currently chairs its Clinical Investigator Certification Program, leads the Mentorship section of the Flom Leadership Course Series, and serves as host of the Anterior Segment Portion of the Academy's Clinical Podcast Series. He was the 2019 Recipient of the American Academy of Optometry's **Vincent Ellerbrock (BS'40, MS'41, PhD'47)** Clinician Educator Award.

A passionate believer in the many benefits of contact lens correction, Dr. Quinn is a fellow of the Scleral Lens Education Society, an advisor to the Gas Permeable Lens Institute (GPLI), and a past recipient of its GP Lens Practitioner of the Year Award. He also directs the contact lens educational content for Vision Expo as a member of its Conference Advisory Board.

Both Drs. Quinn are avid supporters of the college and endowed a scholarship supporting third- and fourth-year students who have financial need and demonstrate a history of volunteerism. Dr. Tom Quinn currently serves on The Ohio State University College of Optometry Alumni Magazine's editorial team.

“I feel like I have always known Dr. Tom Quinn,” said Dean Karla Zadnik, OD, PhD. “His contributions to the optometric profession in Ohio and nationally are legendary.”



**“Dr. Lauren Haverly represents the best of the best from Ohio State Optometry. She is a jewel in our crown.”**

*Dean Karla Zadnik*

## About Dr. Haverly

Dr. Haverly has practiced in Minnesota ever since her graduation from optometry school in 2014. With terrible timing, Dr. Haverly opened her own private practice in March of 2020 and (with a bit of humble humor) is here to tell the story thanks to incredible family, friends, and colleagues.

Currently, Dr. Haverly serves as the President-Elect of the Minnesota Optometric Association (MOA), is a member of the American Optometric Association (AOA) Industry Relations Committee, and a Trustee of The Ohio State University Optometry Alumni Society. In 2016, the MOA awarded Dr. Haverly their Young Optometrist of the Year award due to her influence in jumpstarting the “Minnesota Young OD” program that provides new graduates with community and resources.

Advocacy – both personally and professionally – will always be a fundamental keystone in Dr. Haverly's life. Increasing quality access to eye care, minimizing healthcare disparities of all communities, and advancing the profession of optometry are some of her top legislative priorities.

Dr. Haverly lives in St. Paul, Minnesota, with her wife, Jessica, and their rescue dog, Luci. In her spare time, she enjoys yoga, boating, and splitting her allegiances between the Ohio State Buckeyes and the Minnesota Gophers.

“Dr. Lauren Haverly represents the best of the best from Ohio State Optometry,” said Dean Karla Zadnik. “She is a jewel in our crown.”

To nominate alumni for the 2023 Distinguished Alumnus Award and/or Early Professional Achievement Award, visit: **[go.osu.edu/OptAlumniAwards](https://go.osu.edu/OptAlumniAwards)**.



Kevin Rodda (OD'18) with Erica Shelton (OD/MS'18) and their dog Karla at a tailgate.



Stephanie Baxter (OD'08) and Chris Smiley (OD'01) at an alumni event.

# Serving The Ohio State University

By Kathy Rudolf (OD'09)

If you're reading this publication, you are likely very proud to be a Buckeye. Whether you're sporting your Ohio State t-shirt or participating in university-wide events, you're supporting the College of Optometry and university as a whole. There are multiple ways we can offer this support, but many of our colleagues have answered the call to university-wide service, and we spoke to some of them on their experiences.

**Kevin Rodda (OD'18)** is part of the Volunteer Leadership Academy, **Stephanie Baxter (OD'08)** has joined The Ohio State University Alumni Association Board of Directors, and **Chris Smiley (OD'01)** serves on the Alumni Advisory Council. We asked them how they've been involved at Ohio State, what inspired them to be more involved in supporting Ohio State, and what advice they have for those who want to follow in their footsteps.



## Kevin Rodda (OD'18)

Dr. Rodda practices in Columbus and maintains his connections to the college and university by donating, attending alumni receptions at national conferences and participating in the Volunteer Leadership Academy at Ohio State.

The Volunteer Leader Academy is a leadership development program for

Ohio State Advancement volunteers who want to serve the university and medical center and gain the tools, knowledge, and relationships to be effective and influential volunteer leaders. In its second year, the Academy is for volunteers with enthusiasm for building new connections and a passion for advancing Ohio State's mission. Dr. Rodda explained:

"My involvement with the group began with a recommendation from our past Assistant Director of Alumni Engagement, Michael Haddock. He and I have known each other since my first year in school and connected well. When the university reached out to him for people he'd recommend for the program, he suggested my name. I decided to get involved with the group because I've continued to support the College of Optometry since my graduation in 2018. Now that I live in Columbus again, I was interested in ways in which I could expand upon my leadership and volunteering at a perhaps larger, more university-wide level. We're halfway through the four sessions, and I'm excited to see what the last two entail and what tools and resources I'll be equipped with to help even further.

"Broadly, I like to support the college because I got a great education that prepared me well for the highest level of optometric practice. Additionally, I know how challenging



student life can be. I hope my support as a recent graduate can help reduce anxiety or alleviate stress. I think volunteering for the college doesn't need to be difficult or time consuming. Small contributions add up, whether that's with your time or your money."



### **Stephanie Baxter (OD'08)**

Dr. Baxter has been an active board member on our Optometry Alumni Society since Spring 2009 and currently serves as the immediate past president. She has been selected to serve on The Ohio State University Alumni Association Board of Directors, and her four-year term will begin in September 2022. Dr. Baxter

has a passion for helping her community thrive and giving back to organizations that have helped her on her career journey. Dr. Baxter said:

"My time at Ohio State consisted of support from both the College of Optometry and the university as a whole. My professors and the staff from the College of Optometry always provided the guidance and encouragement I needed to better my education and future career. I utilized the Younkin Success Center to help manage my organizational skills and keep me focused on my priorities. Ohio State provided me with invaluable assets to be successful in my future.

"I think there is value in personal relationships. We can all make recommendations based on our experiences or donate based on our comfort level, but being consistently present helps improve our chances of making continued connections to Ohio State. I have personally found that there is so much Ohio State has to give to both students and alumni that being involved at any stage has significant value.

"Don't be afraid to take the leap and get involved. There are endless opportunities to help from simple emails and surveys, community or college-specific events, virtual engagements, and more. Involvement can be in many forms. Knowing what you have to give without spreading yourself too thin is also important. My volunteer time at Ohio State is enjoyable and rewarding, which makes the decision to continue very easy!"



### **Chris Smiley (OD'01)**

Dr. Smiley is a Central Ohio native and the second-generation owner of Vision Professionals in Columbus. He currently serves as the Optometry Alumni Society president and represents the College of Optometry on the Alumni Advisory Council. The council represents the academic

and administrative breadth of Ohio State and advises the university president and the alumni association's Board of Directors, promoting the general welfare and interests of the university. Dr. Smiley said:

"I served in student government on various levels while in optometry school (Class Representative, AOSA, EYE). I enjoyed being involved so much, I simply stayed engaged by attending most of the optometry alumni weekends and Ohio State-sponsored events at major conferences. One of my favorite parts is being able to interact with my fellow alumni. Because of my continued presence, engagement, and enthusiasm for Ohio State Optometry, I was fortunate enough to be asked to become a board member of our Optometry Alumni Society; I started serving as the Treasurer and have done so for the past decade. I was highly involved in the transition of our alumni society from a dues-paying model to the newer donation-based model that was rolled out by The Ohio State University Alumni Association (OSUAA). This benefits members in that optometry alumni no longer pay dues to both the OSUAA and the Optometry Alumni Society for membership. In addition, a donation to any optometry college fund now counts not only for membership in both organizations, but also toward lifetime giving levels. OSUAA has some upcoming changes to this program. Please contact Rachel Childress, Senior Director of Development at [childress.35@osu.edu](mailto:childress.35@osu.edu) for questions regarding your membership or life donor level.

"I currently serve as the Optometry Alumni Society President, representing the voice of all Ohio State Alumni to the college. I also represent the College of Optometry Alumni on President Kristina M. Johnson's Alumni Advisory Council, in which we discuss and advise on "hot topics" that relate to the university as a whole. It is quite fascinating seeing the evolution and growth across two optometry deans and two university presidents, as well as being engaged in these roles along with other very impactful alumni.

"I've learned some fun facts like our Women's Crew coach finds success recruiting athletes with a strong history of horseback riding. Apparently the muscle development and staying in unison are similar between the two sports. I also learned that Jersey cows make the best cream for milk, butter, or ice cream. Most importantly I have learned that this university has a strong commitment to creating opportunities for EVERYONE! This is consistent with the founding of THE Ohio State University (originally the Ohio Agricultural and Mechanical College) in 1870, as a land grant university in accordance with the Morrill Act of 1862. Our College of Optometry carries that mission today!

For those who want to be more involved in Ohio State and/or alumni activities, stay engaged just as I did. Show up at most major Alumni Association events. Those who share the Buckeye spirit will be noticed and have an opportunity to get involved when the time is right! Go Buckeyes!"

# Q & A Mawada Osman (OD/MS'20) Outreach Director

By Sylvia Jones (OD/MS'06)

After **Mawada Osman (OD/MS'20)** completed a Community Health/Primary Care residency at the Cherry Health Center in Grand Rapids, Michigan, she returned to Ohio State in August 2021 to assume the role of Outreach Director and serve as a clinical faculty member. Effective July 1, 2022, she was promoted to Assistant Professor of Clinical Optometry. It was a pleasure to learn more about her new role as I conducted the Q&A below, and I hope you are inspired by her responses.

**Q: What is your new position, and what are your new responsibilities?**

A: I am the Outreach Director for the college and serve as the chief of optometry services at two of our outreach clinics, Faith Mission Health Center and Lower Lights Christian Health Center. My responsibilities include working with leadership at each health center to optimize optometry services for patients. The two sites are also extern rotations for our third- and fourth-year optometry students. As chief of these rotations, I work to maximize clinical teaching and ensure our students receive excellent education while delivering high-quality care to a vulnerable population.

Although these two clinics are Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs), they are different in terms of their operations and patient bases. Faith Mission is an FQHC that provides a variety of health services such as medical, dental, vision, and other services to mainly the homeless population in Columbus, but also serves those who are uninsured or low income. Before retiring, the vision department at Faith Mission was run by **Joan Nerderman (OD'86)**, who served the homeless population for many years. "Dr. Joan" was and is a kind and caring provider, loved by both her patients and staff. She was also a role model. I used to volunteer at Faith Mission prior to starting optometry school. I knew very little about the eyes then and about the optometry profession in general, but during my time volunteering and shadowing, I admired Dr. Joan's relationship with her patients, the care she delivered, and the difference she made in their lives. I knew I wanted to have that type of influence one day. I never thought I would actually be in charge of the very place that solidified my decision in seeking a career in optometry. I feel that I have truly come full circle, and I am honored to be following in the steps of shining examples like Dr. Joan.

**Q: What are you most looking forward to in this new position?**

A: I look forward to continuing to serve those in need. One of my goals is to expand the types of vision services that are readily available such as including low vision services, specialty contact lens services, and surgical services. Although there are some resources out there, I think it is important to develop a way to streamline access to these services to avoid patient confusion and ensure continuity of care.

**Q: Why is this position important to the community?**

A: Everyone deserves to have access to high-quality eye care. It is especially important to have vision services readily available for the homeless and low-income communities. A lot of these patients are going through so many hardships already economically, socially, and medically, not to mention the COVID-19 pandemic or inflation. Thus, getting their eyes examined might not necessarily be on the top of their to-do list. Having easy and affordable access to vision care makes a difference.

**Q: What have been some of your challenges?**

A: Like with any position, there are challenges. For example, dealing with the no-show rate of patients and finding solutions to improve it and greater challenges like addressing the public health issue of preventable blindness. Many patients present to the clinic when their vision has become significantly affected and their ocular condition has reached a severe stage. Many of the reduced vision and blindness can be prevented if diagnosed and treated early on. I won't go into too much detail about vision care and ocular health as a public health issue, but I would just add, understanding the public health issue related to vision and ocular health and some of the disparities certain individuals face is very important to start working on finding sustainable solutions.





Dr. Osman outside of the Faith Mission Clinic.

**Q: What have been some of your best moments so far?**

A: Where do I even start?! There have been so many great moments. The patients are grateful and appreciative even for the simplest services. My most rewarding moments are those that I share with my students. We had a patient who was in his 60s come in for his first ever eye exam and report that he hadn't been able to see well for the past eight to ten years. He had dense cataracts and significant signs of glaucoma. Initially, there was a challenge referring him for cataract surgery and glaucoma procedures as he did not have health insurance; however, we were finally able to connect him with the right resources, and he was able to receive the treatments necessary. A few weeks later, he randomly showed up to the clinic without a scheduled appointment. When we asked what brought him in, he said "Well, it all started here, so I wanted to stop by and thank you and your students and let you know that I can see again!"

Another time, a son brought in his elderly mother for an eye exam and, no exaggeration, kept thanking my student intern and me every few minutes during the entire visit. He informed us that it was the first time anyone took the time to talk directly to his mother, who spoke a different language. He mentioned that her visits with other providers were often rushed. He was very thankful for the care and patience given. My student at the conclusion of that eye exam mentioned how he's

never been thanked this much his entire life and it felt good to have been such a positive influence.

Another patient was so grateful for the care she received, she held my student's hand and my hand toward the end of the exam and made a little prayer of blessing.

It is not always an easy job, and some days might be better than others. It takes time to build trust and requires lots of patience; at the end of the day you are working with patients who have been through so many challenges in life. Knowing that you are having a positive influence in their lives makes all the difference.

**Q: How has this new position changed you as a person?**

A: Working at Faith Mission is humbling to say the least. I think every patient encounter serves as a new learning opportunity for both my students and me. Although a part of our job is to teach our patients about their vision and ocular health, we also end up learning from them so much along the way. The strength, love, and perseverance of my patients is astonishing given what they have been through and what they are currently going through. I am grateful and honored to be in this position and blessed to be able to share this experience with my students.

# Legend Status Confirmed

## Joe Barr (OD'77, MS'79) Inducted into National Optometry Hall of Fame

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

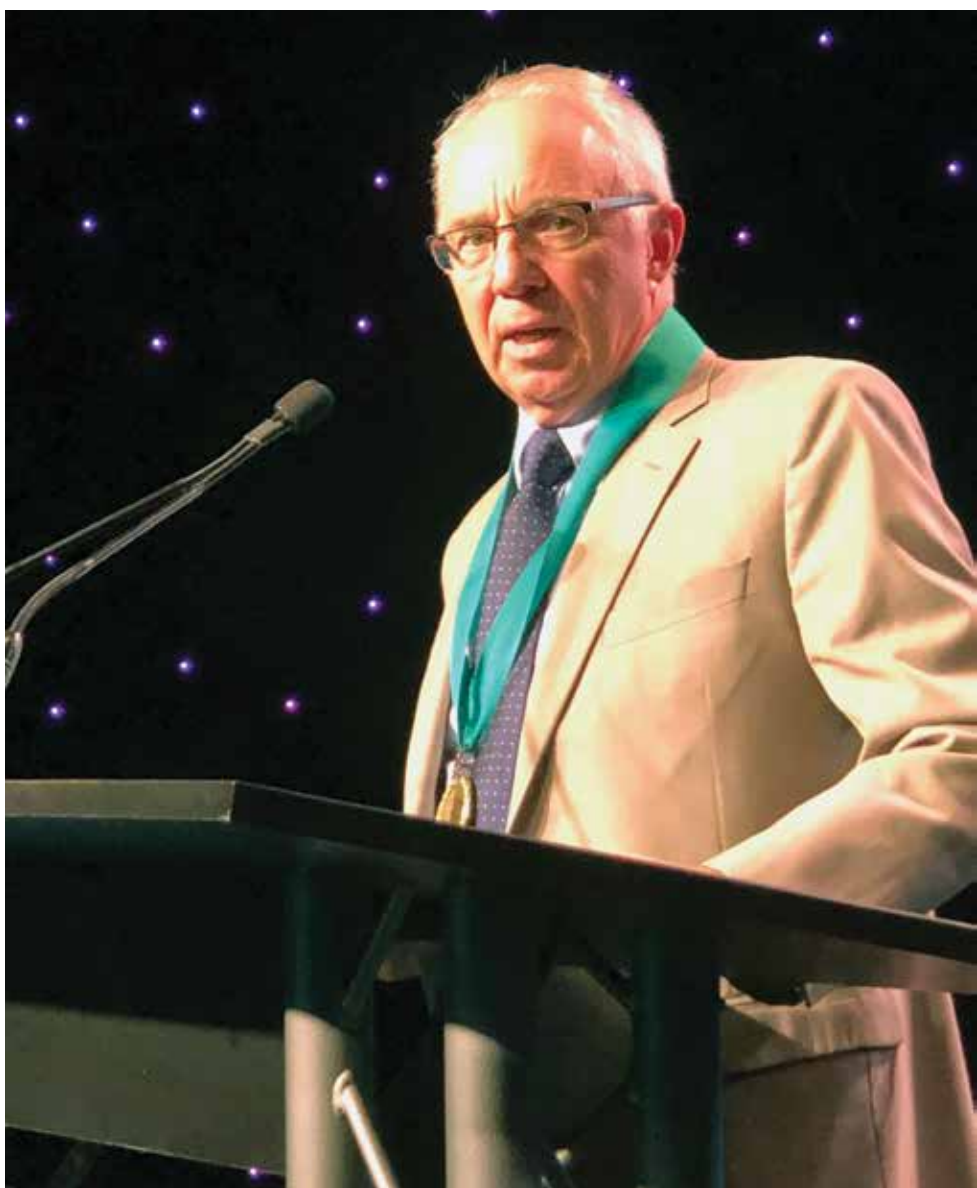
It's a rare honor to have the opportunity to interview one of your primary mentors. I had that good fortune with **Joseph T. Barr (OD'77, MS'79)** following his recent induction into the National Optometry Hall of Fame. Below are some excerpts from our conversation.

**Dr. Quinn:** Joe, congratulations on your induction into the Optometry Hall of Fame. I know your family has a history in optics (see Francis Pearl Barr, Optician in *Buckeye Optometry Alumni Magazine*, Fall/Winter 2021). Did you always want to be an optometrist?

**Dr. Barr:** My brothers were my high school basketball coaches. I wanted to be like them. I went to Grove City College for a year and half. I learned two things – I was a decent player, but not big and strong enough. My dad, an optician, wanted me to go to medical school. I then visited my optometrist, Dr. Fox, who took over my grandfather's practice. I especially liked him and how he fitted my PMMA contact lenses. I decided I wanted optometry and transferred to Ohio State.

**Dr. Quinn:** You and **John Pole (OD'75, MS'79)** were the first to graduate from Ohio State's post-graduate program in contact lenses. At the time only Ohio State and Berkeley had residency programs of any kind. How did the program come about?

**Dr. Barr:** **Gerald Lowther (BS'66, OD'67, MS'69, PhD'72)** and **John Schoessler (OD'66, MS'68, PhD'71)** had the vision for the combined MS-residency program. They set it



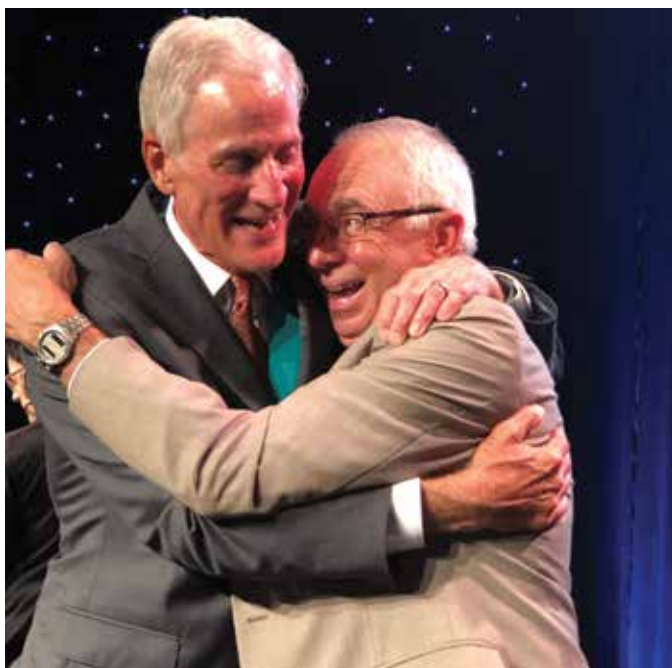
Dr. Joe Barr accepting his induction into the Optometry Hall of Fame

Following page L to R:

Dr. Joe Barr embracing fellow Hall of Fame inductee Dr. Ed Bennett

Dr. Joe Barr with daughters, Beth and Jennifer, following his induction in the Optometry Hall of Fame





up so we were in the contact lens clinic whenever we were not in classes. Whenever something really weird came in, we saw it. If we needed to discuss it we could go to our mentors and they'd help us understand it and made sure we got the literature to read deeper about it. They, along with Dr. Richard Hill, also made sure we got to know all the big names in contact lenses that came to the college. I think the other factor was that we identified and hopefully inspired the next batch of residents – **Gary Andrasko (OD'78, MS'80)**, **Jerry Paugh (OD'79, MS'81)** and you. The list goes on and on.

**Dr. Quinn:** You absolutely inspired me! What was it about contact lenses that sent you on a lifetime immersion into this area of optometric care?

**Dr. Barr:** At that time, the only thing optometrists did that impacted the eye directly was apply PMMA contact lenses, which induced cornea edema. That fascinated me! We did not have pharmaceuticals yet. I was intrigued by how all the big names had a philosophy or method – large was better, lid attached was better, small and steep was better etc.

**Dr. Quinn:** For two decades you were the face of the profession when it came to contact lenses as editor of *Contact Lens Spectrum*. How did it come about that you became editor?

**Dr. Barr:** During my residency I had the opportunity to work in **Neal Bailey's (BS'47, PhD'54)** office on Saturdays. He was a contact lens pioneer. A genius! He had a deep understanding and was as much an engineer as he was an optometrist. Nearly every instrument and contact lens modification apparatus in his office had been modified to help him. He knew everyone in the field who was a contact lens expert and made sure I knew them. I was amazed when Neal asked me to help him with the journal and then turned it over to me. He made sure I knew how to do it and how to work with the publisher and managing editor. This

also opened up more and more opportunities to get to know the various manufacturer leadership.

**Dr. Quinn:** You were in academia, then left twice to pursue a career in industry, only to return to academia. What prompted these changes?

**Dr. Barr:** Three things – expanding my understanding of materials and manufacturing – and money. I should add – everything was enabled by an understanding, loving wife – Janet. Our two daughters were born in Midland, MI when I worked for Dow Corning. Dow wanted me to travel more to launch the new silicone elastomer and GP silicone resin lenses, but that wasn't working with a young family. So, back to Ohio State. Then an awesome opportunity came up at Bausch + Lomb. I got to work with a team that included numerous former graduate students and someone I admire as one of the great contact lens research leaders of all time, George Grobe. It was too good to pass up.

**Dr. Quinn:** You've contributed so much to the profession. What advice do you have for those just embarking on their optometric journey?

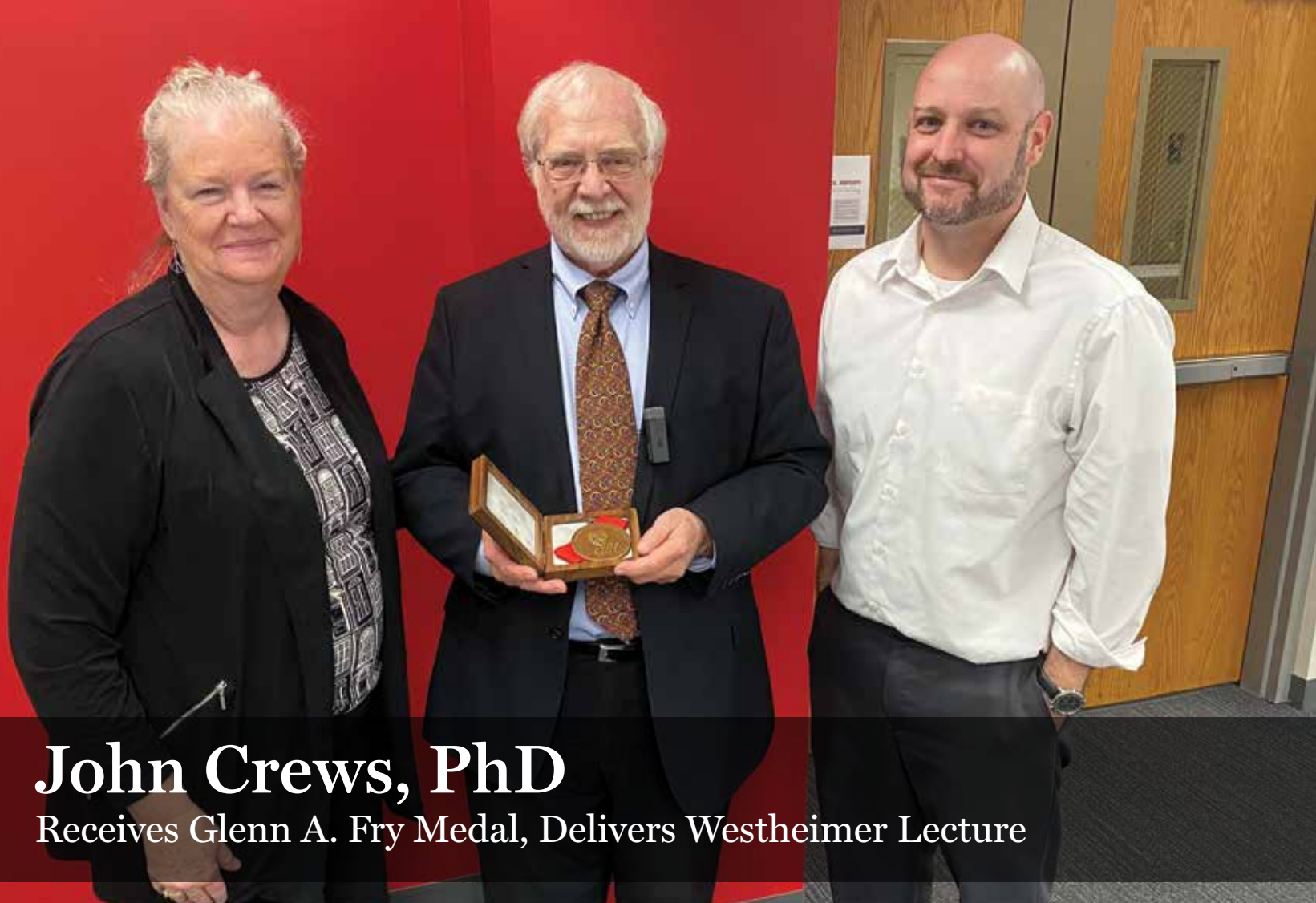
**Dr. Barr:** Read, read, and read more publications. Go to the major meetings. Listen to the experienced thought leaders lecture and get to know them. Find trusted colleagues you can learn from and debate.

**Dr. Quinn:** Ohio State has been a big part of your varied career. What, in your mind, makes Ohio State special?

**Dr. Barr:** Leadership. Teaching the fundamentals with excellence. Access to collaborators in other fields. An environment that encourages innovation.

**Dr. Quinn:** Anything else you'd like to share?

**Dr. Barr:** I hope to "retire-retire" soon to spend more time with our daughters and grandchildren. I could never have done all of this without Janet, the love of my life, at my side.



# John Crews, PhD

## Receives Glenn A. Fry Medal, Delivers Westheimer Lecture

By Dean VanNasdale, OD, PhD

Dean Zadnik with Drs. Crews and VanNasdale

In April, the College of Optometry awarded Dr. John Crews with the Glenn A. Fry Medal. This award is reserved for individuals who have truly distinguished themselves with long and exemplary records of vision research. As a retired senior scientist from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Dr. Crews has a considerable track record of contributions to the vision science and public health communities. The list of former Fry Medal recipients is impressive, and Dr. Crews is certainly worthy of this distinction.

For the past several years, Dr. Crews has been instrumental in advancing public health capacity in the College of Optometry. Since his first visit to Ohio State in 2015, Dr. Crews has been an extraordinary advocate for the program and worked to build collaborative opportunities with federal agencies, state agencies, and non-profit organizations. He has highlighted the existing capabilities and epidemiology expertise that the College of Optometry uniquely possesses, but he has also helped develop new capacity and opportunities. Even in retirement, he has worked tirelessly to help build a stronger public health foundation for the future. This path not only benefits the college but has the potential to

significantly impact the broader clinical and public health communities by emphasizing the important role vision care plays in our dynamic healthcare system. Dr. Crews' expertise, mentorship, and guidance has undoubtedly helped set the college apart as leaders in public health within the vision community.

As part of the Fry award recognition, Dr. Crews gave the accompanying **Gerald Westheimer (PhD'53)** lecture. Dr. Crews took this opportunity to share his insight into the need and benefits of multidisciplinary approaches to healthcare that include vision and vision rehabilitation services. Using health surveillance data, Dr. Crews outlined the magnitude of the public health challenge, underscoring the importance of preventing vision loss at the population level and the need to effectively manage blindness and low vision when they occur. Dr. Crews demonstrated the broad impact of vision loss and identified many of the upstream influences that are associated with it. Throughout the presentation, Dr. Crews shared his thoughts on the impact that could be made by further prioritizing vision care. His insights were particularly encouraging, outlining a bright future for the profession of optometry and the impact it can make.



# 2022 Visionary Appreciation Dinner

## Five Alumni Inducted as Neal Bailey Medalists

By Rachel Childress, *Director of Development*



L to R:  
**Jeff Myers (OD'84)** and  
**Bob Newcomb (OD'71,**  
**MPH)**



**Nathaniel Bankey and Amy**  
**Bankey (OD'09)**

**Gayle Glanville and**  
**Matthew Wilson**



On April 9, the college celebrated our most generous alumni and friends, newest Bailey Medalists, and current scholarship recipients at our seventh Visionary Appreciation Dinner. This special event is a wonderful opportunity for our students to understand the importance of giving back and for our benefactors to meet the future of the profession.

After two long years of not being able to hold this event in person, Dean Karla Zadnik, OD, PhD, welcomed the attendees and acknowledged that though 2020 and 2021 were tough years, the college kept moving forward. Gifts were given, students received scholarships, and we opened The Optometry Clinic. Following dinner, the conversation turned to the importance of scholarships. **Abby Almomar (OD'22)**, who received the **Dr. Carol Alexander (OD'87)** and **Dr. Kevin Alexander (OD'76/MS'77/PhD'79)** College of Optometry Student Leadership Scholarship, and **Zachary Bogosian ('25)**, who received the EF Wildermuth Scholarship, spoke to the crowd about their journeys to optometry, what they hope to accomplish in the future, and how their scholarships are a crucial part of their education.

Following the heartfelt student speeches, Dean Zadnik and **Michael Earley (OD/MS'88, PhD'92)** had the honor of inducting the six newest Neal Bailey Medalists.



Karla Zadnik with Jane Boynton

### Ms. Jane Boynton

Jane is an Ohio State graduate, having received both her Bachelor of Science in business administration and her MBA from Ohio State. Jane's career included 15 years in IT at General Electric and then 21 years in Global Service management at the Coca-Cola Company in Atlanta, retiring in 2009. Since retirement, Jane serves as the program director for the Georgia Radio Reading Service, which is the state's only radio reading service and is dedicated to improving the quality of life for every Georgian who is blind.

Jane has supported several areas at the university, but recently she reached out to the university to learn how she might support glaucoma research as this is a disease that has impacted her family. Stacey Choi, PhD and Nathan Doble, PhD have developed an adaptive optics scanning laser system that actually allows them to visualize individual retinal ganglion cells in vivo. Their research will greatly improve our ability to detect and monitor disease progression. Jane's gift is significant for more than just the amount. It's one of only a handful of gifts we've received from individuals to directly support research. We certainly appreciate the research grants from foundations and corporations, but a gift from an individual provides a special personal connection between the donor and the clinical researcher. At Ohio State Optometry we pride ourselves on doing research that will directly improve clinical care. It raises the bar when the research might have an impact on the life of the donor or their family.

### Bruce Manning (OD'81) and Joanne Manning

Bruce and Joanne have been supporting Ohio State from the time each of them graduated. Bruce has always been very generous with his time and served on the college's But for Ohio State campaign committee and was part of the volunteer group that helped the college raise \$10.7 million, which surpassed our goal and supported a number of college projects.

Bruce and Joanne have named a room in the pre-clinic for their family as both of their sons, **Justin Manning (OD'09)** and **Steven Manning (OD'18, MS'20)**, have joined the optometric profession as well. They supported the new clinic, partnering with classmates **Brian Armitage (OD'81, MS'83)** and **Jeff Ahrns (OD'81)** to name a room in the primary care clinic. Most recently, they support student scholarships through the White Coat Scholarship Fund.

Within their Wadsworth, Ohio community, they work with the local school superintendent, administrators and special education teachers to instruct them on vision and literacy findings to discuss how eye care could help improve the educational outcomes of the district's students. You want the Manning Family in your community, and we are proud to claim them as alumni and friends.

### Richard Orlando, MD

Dr. Orlando completed his ophthalmology residency at Ohio State in 1983 and then went on to establish a practice in Dublin, Ohio. His practice has long been a site for extern training and more recently for residency training.

Rich has supported the university for a number of years, but decided to make a gift to our college to name a room in the new clinic in honor of our alumna, **Dawn Hartman (OD'99)**, and Dawn's mother. Following that, he named another for his practice, Columbus Ophthalmology Associates. We're proud to have a reputation for partnership with our ophthalmology colleagues and hope that we can support each other more in the future. As Dr. Orlando is retired, he was spending the cold winter months in Florida, and Dawn accepted the award on his behalf during the dinner.



Karla Zadnik with Bruce Manning (OD'81) and Joanne Manning



Karla Zadnik with Dawn Hartman (OD'99) accepting on behalf of Richard Orlando, MD



The Neal J. Bailey  
Medal for Development  
recognizes exceptionally  
philanthropic  
individuals.



### Mike Polasky (BS'68, OD'69) and Wendy Clark

Dr. Polasky graduated from the college in 1969 and then spent the following 35 years teaching more than 1,000 optometry students. There are very few who have had such an impact on the profession of optometry in Ohio. During his time at our college, Mike wore many hats, from serving as assistant dean to chair of the admissions committee, assuring we always recruited the best.

Over the years, Dr. Polasky has also been a very generous donor to our college. Since 1979 he's given to no fewer than 16 different funds supporting the College of Optometry. Most recently, Mike and Wendy have given to our new clinic construction and to our White Coat Scholarship Fund that supports students in their second, third, and fourth years. Mike and Wendy have also dedicated a room in our pre-clinic that is set up with equipment specifically to allow our students to practice for the hands-on section of our national boards. We appreciate all they've done in service for the college.

### Dr. Jeff Walline (OD, MS'98, PhD'02)

Jeff graduated with his OD degree from the University of California, Berkeley School of Optometry, where he was the 1996 Gold Retinoscope Award winner and then headed to Ohio State to complete his Masters and PhD degrees. He's currently our Associate Dean for Research. Jeff started contributing to the college during the Raise the Roof Campaign in 2005. Since that time, he has been very generous, giving to numerous projects including the Karla Zadnik Lobby in Fry Hall.

Jeff is giving with his time as well. He's often one of the first faculty to volunteer when help is needed with student programing. Additionally, he's been a supporter of the Medicine and the Arts organization through the College of Medicine and currently sits on their Board of Directors.

### Essilor

The college has been partnering with Essilor for a number of years to support students. They've done that through scholarships, donations of innovative new equipment, and graduation awards. In 2017 they made a large commitment that added their name to our thriving satellite clinic in Upper Arlington. We look forward to continuing to work with them in the future. Aaron Goffinet, OD, accepted the award on Essilor's behalf that evening.

After the Bailey medals were given, we had one final award to bestow that has only been given 11 other times in the last 30 years. The H. Ward Ewalt Medal is awarded to individuals for outstanding dedication and service to the profession of optometry. Upon receiving a university award in 1990, Dr. Ewalt said that one of the most important things to him was "the effort to make the College of Optometry at Ohio State University the top optometric program in the world." Following that statement, a medal was established in his honor.



Karla Zadnik with Mike Polasky (BS'68, OD'69) and Wendy Clark



Karla Zadnik with Jeff Walline (OD, MS'98, PhD'02)



Karla Zadnik with Aaron Goffinet, accepting on behalf of Essilor



Karla Zadnik and Jim Noe

### Jim Noe

Jim Noe is the 12th Ewalt medal recipient. Jim was hired as the Secretary to the College and Assistant to the Dean by Fred Hebbard, OD PhD at about the time we transitioned from being a school to a college in 1968. That was a big project, and having Jim on a number of important committees was crucial to moving the college forward and ensuring that we were admitting the best and brightest students, who are now some of our most accomplished graduates.

Recently we've engaged Jim to help with our Golden Graduates events for our 50th reunion classes. Jim was one of the first people they met after being admitted as a new student, and is always one of the people they are most fond of catching up with when they return to campus. Having him there to also greet them following their lifelong career seems fitting.

Jim and his wife of 60 years, Liz, live in New Albany, enjoying travel and spending time with their four married children and seven grandchildren. Jim continues to volunteer and has served as a tour guide at the Ohio statehouse since retirement in 2002.

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



Kelly Raies (OD'88), Michael Raies (OD'89), Sheryl Dollenmayer (OD'94), Pat Dollenmayer (OD'91), Kendra Kucler, Tony Fenton (OD'89), Jackie Min, Youngie Min (OD'89).

## The Legacy of Neal Bailey

Dr. Neal Bailey, who received his Bachelor of Science in Optometry in 1947 and his PhD in 1954, was an outstanding clinician, educator, author, researcher, and entrepreneur who practiced optometry in Columbus and taught at the college for more than two decades.

In 1995, he and his wife, Florence, established the Neal and Florence Bailey Scholarship in Optometry to provide scholarships for students who demonstrated leadership ability, a high degree of academic potential, scholastic achievement, and

enthusiasm for learning. Since that time, 48 students have benefited from that scholarship.

At the time they made the gift, it was one of the largest endowments the college had ever received from an individual donor. Because of that, we established the Neal J. Bailey Optometry Medal for Development to recognize exceptionally philanthropic individuals who have donated a cumulative amount of \$50,000 or more to the college and we recognize corporate and foundation giving that has generously supported the college at the \$250,000 level and above.



# Macular Madness

By Rachel Childress, *Director of Development*

In March 2022 the college hosted our first Macular Madness tournament. Classes from 1946-2021 took part in this NCAA-style giving participation challenge. The final came down to the classes of 2008 and 2012. It was the Class of 2012 that took the title with 59.7% of their class making a gift in the final round. Overall, 38 members of the class participated in the competition, and seven made a gift in each round.

We saw gifts of all sizes from \$5 to \$1,000 over the six rounds, with all money supporting the college's general scholarship fund. We appreciate all of our alumni who joined in the competition, shared it on social media and reached out to their classmates.

Mark your calendar for March 1, 2023 when Macular Madness will return! We'll be looking for class ambassadors next year to help spread the word and encourage more competition.

## 279

OVERALL DONORS



## 41

CLASSES THAT PARTICIPATED

## 569

OVERALL GIFTS

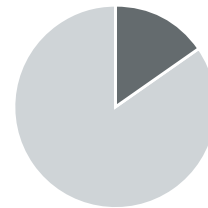


## 46

FIRST TIME DONORS

## \$12,150

TOTAL DOLARS RAISED



## 43

RE-ENGAGED DONORS WHO HADN'T GIVEN IN TEN OR MORE YEARS

THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF OPTOMETRY



# Research Roundup

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

**Erica Shelton (OD/MS'18)** received Prevent Blindness Ohio's Young Investigator Student Fellowship Award for Female Scholars in Vision Research for her work, *Assessing social determinants of health in the pediatric population's utilization of vision care services using data from the National Survey of Children's Health*. Her primary aim is to evaluate how social determinants of health impact children's vision testing rates nationally using the National Survey of Children's Health.

Dr. Shelton also received a grant from Vision to Learn for her work with the unique Ohio program iSEE with Vision to Learn. In addition serving as the co-medical director of iSEE Vision To Learn project, she sees patients in iSEE Vision to Learn's mobile vision clinic, and is designing a quality of life measurement tool that will allow for quantitative analysis of the benefits of glasses in school-aged children.

Congratulations to T.J. Plageman, PhD, on his latest NIH grant, *Elucidation of Arvrf-dependent mechanisms required for lens function* (\$1,651,608)! The funded work seeks to understand the function of the protein Arvrf in the lens and how the generation and formation of lens fiber cell morphology contributes to and maintains lens function and to determine how cellular processes may go awry to disrupt the structure and transparency of the lens. Importantly, this research will facilitate our understanding of how cortical

cataracts develop. The gene encoding Arvrf is also missing in the disorder Velo-cardio-facial/DiGeorge Syndrome, so this research has the potential to elucidate the etiology of the ocular abnormalities characteristic of the disease.

**Maddi Fortman ('25)**, working with her advisor **Phillip Yuhas (OD/MS'14, PhD'19)** was awarded \$2,000 from Beta Sigma Kappa for her research, *Characterizing Biomechanical Parameters of Eyes with Keratoconus Using Two Dynamic Bidirectional Applanation Devices*. Her research focuses on the measurement of the biomechanical properties of the cornea as a way to better detect early keratoconus. She plans to evaluate the performance of the Ocular Response Analyzer G3 model as a first step toward incorporating biomechanical parameters into routine clinical care.

Additional congratulations to Dr. Yuhas for his award of \$96,000 from the Columbus Foundation's Ann Ellis Fund for his study, *Ancestry and Genetic Markers of Ocular Biomechanical Parameters in Healthy Subjects of European, Sub-Saharan, and Mixed-Race Descent*! His research aims to understand how corneal and scleral biomechanics contribute to racial disparities in glaucoma risk. In this study, he will use genome-wide association studies on saliva samples to identify differences in genetic markers associated with glaucoma and corneal biomechanical properties between European, sub-Saharan African, and mixed-race groups.

## 2022 T35 program

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 11 students spent 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.

### Ian Binns ('25)

Advisor: Marjean Kulp (OD'91, MS'93)

#### Why the T35 program is important to me:

The T35 program has afforded me the opportunity to explore optometric research during a summer term without the added pressure of the OD curriculum. The program allows aspiring researchers to build toward earning their Masters in Vision Science while also forming relationships

with faculty and staff outside of the classroom.

#### What I'm doing:

The Suppression and Vergence Evaluation (SAVE) study is investigating the effect of including a suppression check when measuring fusional vergence ranges and vergence facility. We will be investigating the effect of a suppression check in participants with normal binocular vision and participants with near binocular vision disorder.





Class of 2025 T-35 students, from left to right: Allie Noe ('25); Kaylin Gaudette ('25); Emily Koziczkowski ('25); Halea Kohl ('25); Maddi Fortman ('25); Tyson Montgomery ('25); Sarah Olen-Thomas ('25); Will Halling ('25); Sajini Jayakody ('25); Ian Binns ('25); and Aidan Go ('25)

### **Kaylin Gaudette ('25)**

*Advisors: Heather Anderson, OD, PhD and Ann Morrison (OD'14, MS'16, PhD'21)*

#### **Why the T35 program is important to me:**

The T35 program has allowed me to set aside time to devote to my research project and master's thesis that I never would have had during the school year. It has reignited my interest in research and given me an opportunity to not only expand the depth of knowledge of the field of optometry, but to provide information that could be helpful clinically as well. It truly has been an incredible experience.

#### **What I'm doing:**

The goal of our project is to objectively measure and compare the amplitude of accommodation in children using 0.05% atropine, 0.01% atropine, and those not on atropine. Measurements are taken using a Grand Seiko autorefractor three times over the course of the day in order to follow any amplitude changes as the cycloplegic effect of the drops wears off. Our hope is that sharing these data will help optometrists to decide which concentration of low

dose atropine would be best to prescribe in clinic, as we want to maximize its effectiveness while minimizing near blur.

### **Aidan Go ('25)**

*Advisor: Teng Leng Ooi, PhD*

#### **Why the T35 program is important to me:**

I want to be an optometrist on the forefront of new innovations and treatments. The T35 sets me up with the tools and experiences to pursue that goal. It also helps with balancing my interest in research, my coursework, and finances.

#### **What I'm doing:**

I am researching the viability of virtual reality (VR) programs to quantify motor and sensory eye dominance. What sets VR apart from in-person experiments is that we can program conditions that might be difficult to produce in real life. VR headsets already have applications in testing visual acuity, perimetry, and other ocular tests. It would be exciting to add eye dominance to that list. I am working on this project under Dr. Ooi, who has been a fantastic mentor.

### William Halling ('25)

*Advisor: Jennifer Fogt (OD'99, MS)*

#### **Why the T35 program is important to me:**

The T35 program provides an excellent opportunity to get a jumpstart on my master's degree throughout the summer when I can devote all of my time to research. I am also grateful to be able to work with such incredible mentors at the start of my optometric education and know that their guidance will be invaluable in my journey to become the best optometrist and clinician I can be.

#### **What I'm doing:**

I am working with Dr. Jennifer Fogt (OD'99, MS) on a contact lens study and hand/head/eye coordination study. We are researching how head-eye coordination tasks differ between presbyopes wearing multifocal contact lenses and progressive addition spectacles. This study is a follow-up to a previous studies with multifocal contact lenses and progressive addition glasses and examines a new way of assessing visual function and performance.

### Sajini Jayakody ('25)

*Advisors: Angela Brown, PhD and Bradley Dougherty (OD/MS'07, PhD'13)*

#### **Why the T35 program is important to me:**

The T35 program allows me to work one-on-one with a professor to fully immerse myself in a research project for a summer. It introduced me to the variety of fields of optometric research through both my own research and participating in the research of my fellow students. I believe that it will help me become a more well-rounded optometrist in the future!

#### **What I'm doing:**

My project this summer involves using Double Happy Cards, Ohio Contrast Cards, and the Pelli-Robson chart to see if people's ability to determine contrast sensitivity is comparable across methods. I work primarily with adults who are patients in the Ohio State Optometry Low Vision Clinic and the Bioptic Driving Clinic.

### Maddi Fortman ('25)

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

#### **Why the T35 program is important to me:**

The T35 program has been an extremely helpful

introduction to optometric research, as I had little research experience prior to beginning the program. It has taught me how to properly conduct a study, as well as the ways in which I can incorporate research into my future career. The opportunity to prioritize my research during the break from classes is invaluable.

#### **What I'm doing:**

My study is focused on characterizing the biomechanical properties of eyes with keratoconus using an old-generation and new-generation Ocular Response Analyzer. We will compare the predictive accuracy of the new-generation Ocular Response Analyzer to that of the first-generation model. This information may potentially help clinicians detect early cases of keratoconus.

### Halea Kohl ('25)

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

#### **Why the T35 program is important to me:**

As someone who has always considered a career in academia and education, the T35 program offered me a unique opportunity to work closely with a faculty mentor and see what their job is really like. This experience opened more doors for me to consider, and has certainly broadened my understanding of our field. For certain, the knowledge and skills gained from this program will be immensely helpful throughout my career.

#### **What I'm doing:**

I've spent my summer working with patients diagnosed with age-related macular degeneration (AMD) to compare their ability to detect hazards in a recorded driving scenario to normally sighted adults. We are investigating the relationship between hazard detection response time, self-reported driving habits, and vision to see what effect AMD has on their driving performance and safety.

### Emily Koziczkowski ('25)

*Advisor: Andy Hartwick, OD, PhD*

#### **Why the T35 program is important to me:**

The T35 program is important to me because it has exposed me to the research process while allowing me to gain a more in depth understanding of optometric topics. I am thankful for the opportunity to prioritize my project and data collection while not being enrolled in courses.

#### **What I'm doing:**

Starburst amacrine cells release acetylcholine in the retina in response to motion, and in rat models, acetylcholine has been shown to directly stimulate intrinsically



photosensitive retinal ganglion cells (ipRGCs) without stimulating melanopsin. This summer, I am working with Dr. Hartwick to better understand this mechanism in humans by observing pupillary response to flickering light, which simulates motion, and looking at how anticholinergics affect this. We are also using black and white checkerboards alternating at different frequencies as a more natural stimulus to observe pupillary response to motion.

### Tyson Montgomery ('25)

*Advisors: Kim Patton (OD'18, MS'20) and Phillip Yuhas (OD/MS'14, PhD'19)*

#### Why the T35 program is important to me:

The T35 program has given me the opportunity to fully immerse myself in the research side of optometry. Being able to dedicate all my time and attention to my research project without the worries of classroom commitments allows me to conduct high quality research. My time in this program has provided me with the chance to pursue my passion for research and to contribute to the advancement of optometric clinical practice.

#### What I'm doing:

My research project this summer is focused on characterizing intraocular pressure (IOP) variation beyond clinic hours in healthy patients and in glaucoma suspects. The purpose of this study is to characterize IOP variation profiles to determine a diurnal curve for IOP and when an individual's peak pressure occurs. This will be accomplished by training participants on how to use the iCare HOME rebound tonometer and having them record measurements five times throughout the day for a two-week period. This project will help determine if peak IOP pressures are occurring outside of standard clinic office hours.

### Allie Noe ('25)

*Advisor: Don Mutti, OD, PhD*

#### Why the T35 program is important to me:

The T35 has allowed me to observe what I learned in the classroom firsthand through clinical research and led me to ask questions that I might not have otherwise. It has exposed me to careers in academia that I had not considered before and helped me to conduct data collection for my thesis without distractions from being in class simultaneously.

#### What I'm doing:

I am working to determine whether adaptive pupillary responses to repeated stimuli of red and blue light occur locally, at the retinal level, or display inter-ocular transfer and are integrated within the central nervous system. It has been demonstrated that time outdoors is protective against myopia development, and intrinsically photosensitive retinal ganglion cells are most responsive to short wavelength, blue light. I am alternately occluding participants' eyes during repeated exposure to red and blue light and quantifying their pupillary responses to determine whether inter-ocular transfer has occurred.

### Sarah Olen-Thomas ('25)

*Advisor: Melissa Bailey (OD/MS'01, PhD'04)*

#### Why the T35 program is important to me:

I was drawn to the T35 program because of the unique opportunities it offers. I'm grateful to work closely with welcoming and award-winning faculty while learning the basics of clinical research. Entering a graduate program on top of a professional program can be overwhelming, so having a whole summer to settle into it before classes begin again is extremely valuable. I'm so excited to be pursuing a career in academia and contributing to optometric advancement!

#### What I'm doing:

I'm working under the mentorship of Dr. Melissa Bailey to improve the fitting of soft contact lenses. I've been looking into the practice of using an anterior segment OCT as a tool to assess contact lens fit; however, the lens causes the corresponding images to be optically distorted. In addition to finding the best way to correct for this distortion, I've also been looking for trends between ocular sagittal depth and contact lens sagittal depth. We believe this might be the key to optimal contact lens fit and a more efficient clinical contact lens selection process. Lastly, I will be clinically testing Dr. Bailey's recent invention, a suspended presbyopic soft contact lens. With this research, we hope to market a novel lens that improves the sight of those who haven't had success with presbyopic contacts in the past.

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# Optometry Homecoming 2022

Join us on Friday, September 30 and Saturday, October 1  
for a fun-filled Homecoming Weekend!

## Friday, October 1

### Class Reunions throughout Columbus (6 – 8 p.m.)

1982, 1987, 1992, 1997, 2002, 2007, 2012, and 2017

Please contact Francesca Fuerman-George for more information at [fuerman-george.1@osu.edu](mailto:fuerman-george.1@osu.edu).

## Saturday, October 1

Tours of The Optometry Clinic will depart at 8:30, 9:00, and 9:30 a.m. Tour length is estimated at 45 minutes.

### 11 a.m. – Noon

**Continuing Education: The Co-  
Management of Glaucoma Surgery  
with presenter Beth Muckley (OD'97)**

*Traditions Room  
Ohio Union*

### Noon – 3 p.m.

**College of Optometry Alumni Tailgate**

*Performance Hall  
Ohio Union*

### 3:30 p.m.

**Ohio State Buckeyes vs. Rutgers Scarlet  
Knights**

*Ohio Stadium*

Learn more at [go.osu.edu/eyegather](https://go.osu.edu/eyegather)



## Golden Graduates Weekend

September 23 - 25

We will celebrate 50 years of Ohio State Optometry spirit at our Golden Graduates celebration for the Class of 1972, Friday, September 23 through Sunday, September 25.

We will kick off the fun on Friday at a 6:00 p.m. dinner at Due Amici (67 E. Gay Street, Columbus) where we'll celebrate your accomplishments, reminisce about your years on campus, and give you ample time to catch up with your classmates. Mr. Jim Noe and Dr. Jack King will be in attendance along with college leadership.

On Saturday, September 24, the Buckeyes football team will face off against Wisconsin in the 'Shoe. Alumni have the option of watching the game together at the SpringHill Suites on television or attending the football game in person.

**Kaleel Shaheen (OD'72)** is the reunion chair. Please contact Francesca Fuerman-George for more information at [fuerman-george.1@osu.edu](mailto:fuerman-george.1@osu.edu).





# Dr. David Damari

## Joins Ohio State Optometry

David A. Damari, OD, has joined The Ohio State University College of Optometry as a Clinical Professor, effective July 1, 2022.

After graduating from SUNY College of Optometry in 1983 and completing a residency in Vision Therapy Rehabilitation there, Dr. Damari was in private practice in Rochester, New York.

Throughout his time in private practice, Dr. Damari maintained his connection to optometric academia as an Assistant Clinical Professor at SUNY, a consultant to the National Board of Medical Examiners (NBME) to assist in providing access to the United States Medical Licensing Examination for medical students with visual disabilities, and as a Peer Reviewer for the NBME Medical Education Research Fund. He embraced academia full time in 1997 at Southern College of Optometry, eventually becoming a Professor and Chair of the Department of Assessment, responsible for institutional review, measures of academic outcomes, and regional and professional accreditation.

From 2013 to 2021, Dr. Damari was the Dean at the Michigan College of Optometry at Ferris State University. He is a past president of the Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry, a Fellow and past president of the College of Optometrists in Vision Development, and a Fellow of the American Academy of Optometry. He is the only active optometrist to have completed a Fellow-in-Residence program at the National Board of Examiners in Optometry (NBEO).

At Ohio State Optometry, his focus is on the assessment of patients with visual dysfunction and disabilities that limit individuals' capabilities at work, school, or athletics. He can

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**“Dr. Damari’s enthusiasm is matched by the College of Optometry. We are delighted that he has joined our clinical faculty and look forward to our students benefitting from his experience and expertise.”**

*Dean Karla Zadnik*

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partner with those patients to overcome those obstacles through vision therapy and effective accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Amendments Act.


“I am thrilled to join the remarkable faculty and staff at The Ohio State University College of Optometry,” said Dr. Damari. “For over 100 years, Ohio State has been educating some of the finest doctors of optometry and vision scientists in the world, and I am gratified to now be part of that tradition of excellence.”

Dean Karla Zadnik, OD, PhD, noted, “Dr. Damari’s enthusiasm is matched by the College of Optometry. We are delighted that he has joined our clinical faculty and look forward to our students benefitting from his experience and expertise.”

# Alumni Notes

1  **1976 Kevin Alexander (OD'76, MS'77, PhD'79)** retired in June 2022 after serving as the founding President of Marshall B. Ketchum University in Fullerton, California.


**1977 W. Howard McAlister (OD'77, MA, MPH)** received the Henry B. Peters Memorial Award at the American Academy of Optometry Meeting in Boston in November 2021. The Henry B. Peters Memorial Award is given to an individual for their exemplary contributions to public health and/or environmental vision over many years.

9  **1988** Buckeye Optometry graduates **Jennifer Planitz (OD'88)**, **Craig Clatanoff (OD'85)**, **John Archer (OD'75)**, and **Cheryl Archer (OD'84)** visited the Cape of Good Hope (photo).


**2008 Chantelle Mundy (OD'08)** was named the 2022 top optometrist by the National Keratoconus Foundation. Every year, the foundation celebrates one optometrist and one ophthalmologist nationally who represent the best in patient care for the keratoconus community, and Dr. Mundy was selected as the top optometrist.

**2010 James Hardie (OD'10)** has been named President of the Michigan Optometric Association for the 2022-2023 term.


**2014 Lauren Haverly (OD'14)** has been named President-Elect of the Minnesota Optometric Association for the 2022-2023 term.

10  **2014 Jason Ro (OD'20)** and **Stephanie Ro (nee Ly) (OD'22)** were married on June 4, 2022 in Sugar Hill, Georgia.


## Births


5  **2013 Phil Dickey (OD'13)** and his wife, Allison, welcomed a son, Bryce.

3  **2013 Courtney Andersen (OD/MS'13)** and family welcomed a son, Coen Gerald.

6  **2013 Kimberly Lust (OD'13)** and her husband, Lindy Rueb, II welcomed a new baby.

8  **2015 Megan Rutledge Krebs (OD'15)** and her husband, Jon, welcomed a daughter, Wren Renee Krebs.

2  **2015 Abigail Menner (OD'15)** and husband, Luke, welcomed a son, Landon Benjamin.

7  **2017 Kelsey Doering (OD'17)** and **Ben Doering (OD'17)** welcomed a daughter, Charlotte Ann.

**2017 Corrie Leshner (OD'17)** and her husband, Jordan, welcomed a son, Cohen.

4  **2019 Ryan Rutschilling (OD'19, MS'21)** and his wife, Abbey, welcomed a daughter, Eleanora Kate.

**2020 Dillon Fullenwider (OD'20)** and family welcomed a son, Robert.

## In Memoriam

**1961 Jack Hagan Hess (BS'61)** passed away on December 4, 2019. He was 88.

**1963 John R. Spaniol (BS'63, OD'76)** passed away on May 6, 2022. He was 90.

**1983 Philip Winkler (OD'83)** passed away on May 14, 2022. He was 71.

**1990 Keith Alan Huelsman (OD'90)** passed away on May 2, 2022. He was 57.

**1991 Peter A. Studebaker (OD'91)** passed away on June 21, 2022. He was 57.







College of Optometry  
Alumni Society

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# Winter CE

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The Ohio State University College of Optometry  
**Winter Conference**

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**December 3-4, 2022**  
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**Fawcett Event Center**

Learn more at  
**[optometry.osu.edu/winter](http://optometry.osu.edu/winter)**