

Buckeye Optometry

ALUMNI MAGAZINE

SUMMER 2023

REMEMBERING DR. RICHARD
HILL (1935-2023)

WORLD VIEW:
DR. DOUG MCCLOY

CLINICIAN-SCIENTIST DEFINED:
DR. CHARLOTTE ENNS JOSLIN

Convocation Class of 2023

CONGRATULATIONS,
NEW DOCTORS!

THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF OPTOMETRY

*Doctoral
Convocation*

for the Class of 2023

May 6, 2023

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WEGEL AUDITORIUM

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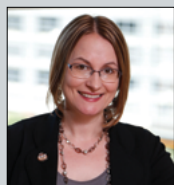
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on the cover:

The Class of 2023 recites the Optometric Oath.

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with his wife, Lee

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Dean's Message

"You've got to fight through some adversity. You've got to have some tough times. You've got to have some rainy days." –Tom Izzo

I know, it's shocking that I would lead this letter with a quote from a rival team's basketball coach, but he captures how I'm feeling at the moment.

I'm in my tenth year as dean of the College of Optometry and my 40th day as the interim dean of the College of Public Health. Both colleges are experiencing some challenges, along with opportunities.

Honestly, these are tough times. These are rainy days. The world is uncertain. University leadership is in flux. It's hot. I drove through the worst thunderstorm of my life a couple of weeks ago where I was grateful for the lightning because it lit up the road and I could see where I was going.

What Coach Izzo doesn't follow up with is what happens due to and after the adversity and the tough times. We are resilient. We are committed to excellence. We are engaged in our hard work with energy and dedication. We have umbrellas. Our windshield wipers have recently been replaced.

We competed to hire and then hired a fellow-to-faculty-member, funded by Ohio State's Office of Academic Affairs for five years. Read more about Yueh-shun (Walter) Wu, PhD on page 32.

We said good-bye to faculty members **Cayti McDaniel (OD/MS'08)**, **Tatevik Movsisyan (OD/MS'16)**, and **Kim Patton (OD'18 MS'20)** this summer. We welcomed Jonathon Ross, OD, MS from the University of California, Davis. We promoted Professor Heather Chandler, PhD and reappointed Clinical Professor Roanne Flom, OD. We promoted **Lisa Lex (OD'82)**, Tina Pawlikowski, OD, **Amanda Ransdell (OD'13)**, and **Bill Patton (OD'13)**.

We just opened our two classrooms and three teaching laboratories in the Interdisciplinary Health Sciences Center, just east of the Fry Tower. The facilities are beautiful, and we finally have teaching areas that equal the teaching acumen of our faculty and the learning abilities of our students.

Come join us on the college's—your alma mater's—journey. We are weathering the tough times!

Go BuckEYES,

Karla Zadnik, OD, PhD

Dean

Glenn A. Fry Professor in Optometry and Physiological Optics



President's Message

My social media feed recently has been filled with heartwarming posts featuring Ohio State Optometry awardees at the National Optometric Association (NOA) conference. This reminded me of a meaningful conversation I had with Sherrol Reynolds, OD, NOA's former president. We shared dinner at a conference during a tumultuous time when racial tensions were high, and the distressing scenes in the media deeply troubled me. Curious about how I could contribute positively to optometry, I asked Dr. Reynolds for her perspective on the matter. She emphasized the importance of creating more opportunities, having a seat at the table, and having a voice. Her words have stuck with me ever since.

Recently, I came across an eye-opening article that highlighted the lack of representation among Black individuals and women in leadership positions within the business and optometry fields. While progress has been made in terms of women's representation, the numbers are still dishearteningly low for Black women. In my own optometry school journey, I am forever grateful to professionals like **Cynthia Heard (OD'92)**, whose dedication as a clinical educator has shaped countless optometry students' careers, including mine. She is a true shining star in our profession.

Reflecting on Dr. Reynolds' advice and these concerning statistics, I believe it is crucial for us as Ohio State Optometry alumni to take individual and collective action to help foster a more inclusive and stronger optometry community. While I am not an expert in Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI), I have developed a strong sense of cognitive awareness and curiosity to better understand these issues.

As lifelong learners, we must approach DEI with an open mind, just as we would when learning new clinical techniques and concepts in optometry. One valuable resource to start with is the book, *The Conversation: How Seeking and Speaking the Truth about Racism Can Radically Transform Individuals and Organizations*, by Dr. Robert Livingston. This scientifically-grounded, story-driven book offers insights into racism, why it's a concern, and how we can take action against it. By exploring such resources, we can become better equipped to bring about positive change in our organizations.

Think back to when you first explored a career in optometry. There was likely someone who profoundly influenced your decision and guided you in the right direction. Pay this forward by mentoring aspiring optometrists from diverse backgrounds and connecting them with diverse leaders in your professional network and programs like Ohio State's Improving Diversity in Optometric Careers (I-DOC) program.

As Ohio State Optometry Alumni, let us be bold, courageous, and committed to continuous learning. Together, we can shape a more inclusive and thriving optometry community for everyone.

Chris Smiley (OD'01)

President

The Ohio State University College of Optometry Alumni Society

Icon: Remembering Dr. Richard Hill

Optometric legend leaves immortal legacy

By “Buckeye” Bob Newcomb (OD’71, MPH)

Richard Mather Hill, OD, PhD, Emeritus Dean of The Ohio State University College of Optometry, passed away on June 20, 2023 in Columbus. He was 88. Dr. Hill is survived by his loving wife of 65 years, Leonora “Lee” Hill, and daughter, Cindi Hill, MD, both of Columbus. Although he did not grow up in Ohio and did not attend Ohio State, he was a “Buckeye by Choice” – and we are all better for it.

Dean Karla Zadnik, OD, PhD, the Glenn A. Fry Professor in Optometry and Physiological Optics, observed that Dr. Hill had a profound influence on her when she first came to Ohio State as an Assistant Professor in 1996. She recalls, “Dr. Hill, having been a UC Berkeley graduate himself, graciously and generously gave me sound advice about navigating the transition to Ohio State from the West Coast. I recall that advice—and implement it—to this day.”

Associate Dean for Research **Jeff Walline (OD, MS’98, PhD’02)** says, “Dr. Hill was among the first people I met upon matriculation [as a graduate student] at The Ohio State University College of Optometry. He was a force to behold, with eminence in teaching, research, and service. I have nothing but love and respect for his character and diligence. Dr. Hill’s legacy will continue in the strong reputation of The Ohio State University College of Optometry that he helped to build.”

Dr. Hill was born in California’s San Francisco Bay Area on December 16, 1934. He earned his OD and PhD degrees from the University of California, Berkeley School of Optometry in 1958 and 1961, respectively. He worked at UC Berkeley as an Assistant Professor

research reputation – particularly in the area of contact lenses – as he rose through the academic ranks of Associate Professor from 1964 to 1968; Professor from 1968 to 1995; Associate Dean from 1978 to 1988; and Dean from 1988 to 1995. Throughout his career, he authored

“Every serious contact lens expert listened to his every word intently.”

Joe Barr (OD’77, MS’79)

of Optometry and Physiological Optics until 1964, when Glenn Fry, PhD, and Fred Hebbard, OD, PhD, recruited him to join the faculty at Ohio State as an Associate Professor of Optometry.

Dr. Hill came to Ohio State as one of the nation’s ascending stars in research on the neurophysiology of the visual system and the physiology of the eye. During Dr. Hill’s distinguished career at Ohio State, he continued to build his

more than 500 journal articles, books, monographs, and abstracts. His professional papers, memorabilia and research instruments are now housed in Ohio State’s Medical Heritage Center. A comprehensive list of his publications can be found at The Ohio State University John A. Prior Health Sciences Library and online at go.osu.edu/hillpublications.

During his tenure as dean, Dr. Hill





Then-Associate Professor Hill in 1964



Dr. Hill and then-Ohio State University President Gordon Gee



Lee Hill and Dr. Hill at the unveiling of his dean portrait

implemented an ambitious strategic plan that called for improvements in ophthalmic, clinical, and vision sciences. He expanded the scope of the curriculum to include diagnostic and therapeutic drugs and introduced the OD/MS program, which combines the Doctor of Optometry degree with a master's degree in vision science.

Dr. Hill was the recipient of many awards through his career. For research, he received the Fry Medal in Physiological Optics, the Gold Medal of the British Contact Lens Association, the Ruben Medal of the International Society for Contact Lens Research, the Bell Medal from the Contact Lens Society of Australia, the Herschel Medal of the International Society from Contact Lens Specialists, the Glenn A. Fry Lecture Award from the American Optometric Foundation, and the Charles F. Prentice Award from the American Academy of Optometry, in which he was a Life Fellow. He was president of the International Society for Contact Lens Research (1988-1990), and in 1996 he was designated Optometrist of the Year by the Ohio Optometric Association. He was inducted into the National Optometry Hall of Fame in 2005.

He served as co-chair of The Ohio State University Campus Campaign Council (1998-99), and he was president of The Ohio State University Retirees Association (1999-00). He received a Distinguished Service Award from the Ohio State University (2002) and was president of the Torch Club of Columbus, Ohio (2006-07).

Dr. Hill retired in 1995 after more than three decades as a prolific professor, respected researcher, and admired administrator. In 2015, Dr. and Mrs. Hill created a lecture series in their names that sponsors an annual lecture in vision science and research at the college.

American author William Arthur Ward (1921-1994) once wrote, "The mediocre teacher tells. The good teacher explains. The superior teacher demonstrates. The great teacher inspires." If Dr. Hill inspired your life and career, and you want to continue his legacy at Ohio State, memorial contributions may be sent to the Richard and Leonora Hill Endowed Lecture Series on Frontiers in Vision Research (Fund 603197) at The Ohio State University Foundation, University Square North, 14 E. 15th Ave., Columbus, Ohio 43201.

"He was an excellent mentor and provided encouragement, advice, and strategies throughout my career."

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



Dr. Hill was first - and always - a curious scientist.

Memories of Dr. Hill

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

"He had a significant impact on my career and on my life. He convinced Dean Hebbard to take a chance on me so that I could be the first woman to earn a PhD in Physiological Optics from Ohio State. He then had to fight pretty hard so that Dean Hebbard agreed to hire me as the first woman on the college's tenure-track faculty. When I was interested in being the first chair of what was then the Affirmative Action Committee, he supported me in this interest even though he was initially less-than-thrilled that I wanted to take on this challenge. He was an excellent mentor, and he provided encouragement, advice, and strategies throughout my career."

Jerry Lowther (BS'66, OD'67, MS'69, PhD'72)

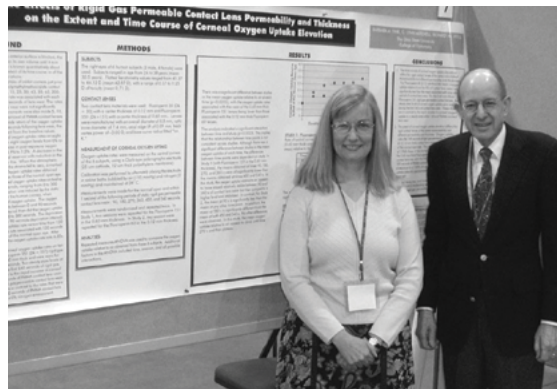
"I was fortunate to have worked in Dr. Hill's research lab as an optometry student and then to have him as my advisor for my master's and PhD degrees. I remember one situation in the lab where I was measuring the oxygen uptake with different experimental contact lenses. One acted as if there was no lens on the eye. I thought something was wrong with the instruments or my procedure. I went to him to see what the lens was and to have him see if what I was finding was correct. He was also surprised; however, it turned out to be a 100% silicone lens."

Josh Josephson (OD'68)

"I was very sad to learn of the passing of Dr. Hill. He was incredibly informative and fundamentally responsible for the early stages of my evolution as a practitioner. I learned so much from him, not just about eye care but ideas about attention to detail; he inspired me. He continued to inspire me through most of my life as a practitioner. He was indeed a remarkable person."

Mike Polasky (OD'69)

"He was kind and gentle and brilliant. He was very neat and incredibly organized. He often bought two of the same thing for his research projects. The second one was a backup in case something happened to the first. He would often describe a place or thing as being "top drawer" or "first cabin." As dean, he gave out an incredible number of award certificates, usually framed. I have one for surviving a flood we had at the college when a hot water line broke after a subzero day one January. He constantly wore a white lab coat when on duty at the college. He was a friend, and I never hesitated to talk with him on any subject."



Barbara Fink (OD/MS'85, PhD'87) and Dr. Hill



Cynthia Heard (OD'92) and Dr. Hill

Kevin Alexander (OD'76, MS'77, PhD'79)

"Dick was an unselfish mentor. While he was a taskmaster, he enjoyed seeing his students succeed and thrive as researchers, teachers, and clinicians. Along with Jack King, PhD, Dick was my co-advisor for my PhD work. Knowing my passion and desire to make ocular disease my career focus, he encouraged me. Shortly after I passed the general exam to qualify for the degree, he came to me and said, 'I'd like to turn my ocular disease courses over to you after you complete your graduate studies.' In fact, he allowed me to begin giving lectures even before I completed my degree - all the while sitting in the back of the classroom coaching me along the way. He was an incredible person, to whom I owe much."



Cynthia Heard (OD'92), Massala Reffell (OD'05), Sylvia Jones (OD/MS'06), Lee Hill, Dr. Hill, LeVelle Jenkins (OD'88), Clayton Hicks (OD'70), Melvin Shipp, OD, MPH, DrPH, Funmilayo Aranmolate (OD'08), Ravaughn Williams (OD/MS'07) at the NOA convention in 2004 in Hawaii.



Dr. Hill, Fred Hebbard, OD, PhD, Karla Zadnik, OD, PhD, John Schoessler (BS'65, OD'66, MS'68, PhD'71) and Mel Shipp, OD, MPH, DrPH, in 2014

Paulette Schmidt (OD'73, MS'76)

"As everyone knows, Dr. Hill was quite a storyteller. He had many memories from his time in California working at Forest Lawn Cemetery. He and Lee were married in the beautiful chapel there. I remember him telling me about a lonely widower visiting his deceased wife, and it always makes me smile. Seated at her gravesite, flask in hand, the widower offers little toasts to shared memories. And with each tippie, he pours a little on the grave for her. What a wonderful sense of humor he had!"

Roger Saneholtz (OD'74)

"I'll share one thing that I was so grateful for having learned from Dick. I was in the Air Force three weeks after graduation and his last pathology final. I was standing in the hall at the door of my office waiting on the next patient. A woman who lived three buildings away from me walked down the hall with her 11-month-old daughter in her arms. She saw me and came over and asked me about her daughter's eye. It was a different shade of blue. I put the penlight on her and WOW! amaurotic cat's eye pupil, which was on Dick's final (differential diagnosis question). It was a retinoblastoma. Three months later, I was out in the hall again and she came by with the baby. She wanted me to see how good the implant looked and thanked me for saving her child's life."

Ron Arenstein (OD'76)

"He was a true mentor and scholar. I will never forget how he juggled a pointer and two slide projector remotes. We all groaned when that beautiful picture appeared on the screen knowing it was a pop quiz. Then during his three-question midterms and five-question finals, you had to spill your brain to answer to get a decent grade. He will be missed by many!"

Kent Daum (OD'76, MS'77, PhD'79)

"Dr. Hill was an excellent teacher and in many ways equal to the great Dr. Fry. Although they were different, they both have a long line of successful students. Dr. Hill taught me science, but, just as importantly, he taught me kindness and grace. I am greatly indebted to him."



Emeritus Dean Hill at the 2014 Visionary Dinner for Neal J. Bailey Development Award recipients.



Arol Augsburger (OD/MS'71) and Dean Hill present certificates to **Bob Newcomb (OD'71, MPH)** and **Bill Schuller (BS'65, OD, MPH)** for teaching students and residents at affiliated VA facilities.

Joe Barr (OD'77, MS'79)

"Richard Hill, scientist, educator, administrator, leader, colleague, and tireless author taught us the relationships between contact lenses of all types and the physiology of the ocular surface and cornea like no other. Every serious contact lens expert listened to his every word intently."

Michael Lawson (OD'79)

"He was my mentor and hero throughout my optometry school years. He recruited me to work in his research lab on the first day of school in 1975. Due to my experiences in medical lab work in the military, Dr. Hill felt that I could work in contact lens research. It was great fun, and I idolized Dr. Hill. He will be greatly missed."

Gary Orsborn (OD'83, MS'85)

"Such an inspiration to many of us who went on to pursue careers in contact lens research and industry. A true gentleman and one who always made time for his students."

Yoongie Min (OD'89)

"A great optometrist, professor, researcher, and dean. But above all, one of the kindest and nicest human beings I've ever met."

Lisa Ciccarelli Testa (OD/MS'90)

"A brilliant researcher, a pioneer in optometry, and one of the kindest professors."

Mo Merchea (OD'97, MS'99, PhD'03)

"Fond memories of my admission interview and the dueling projector lectures from Dean Hill."

Amy Grimes (OD'98)

"Absolute legend. I did my very first ACOE site visit with him. Because he was my dean, I was so nervous. But he was so kind and helpful. I learned so much from him. Sweet, smart man who truly cared about people and our profession."

Congratulations, New Doctors

Class of 2023 Doctoral Convocation



By Jennifer Bennett, MEd, Director of Student Services

On May 6, 2023, alongside family and friends, The Ohio State College of Optometry Class of 2023 celebrated the conclusion of a transformative four-year journey through optometry school. Dean Karla Zadnik OD, PhD presided over the Doctoral Convocation Ceremony, which took place in the School of Music's Weigel auditorium, located in the new Timashev Family Music Building.

The ceremony was also an opportunity to honor alumni. **Shane Foster (OD'08)** was presented with the Early Professional Achievement Award, and **Robert Layman (OD'82)** received the Distinguished Alumnus Award. Additionally, on behalf of the Optometry

Alumni Society, **Terri Gossard (OD/MS'96)** welcomed the new graduates into our alumni community.

Then, the moment our graduates worked so hard to achieve finally arrived, as the graduates were presented

with doctoral hoods by **Michael Earley (OD/MS'88, PhD'92)**, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, and **Gregory Nixon (OD'96)**, Associate Dean for Clinical Services. The class selected **Aaron Zimmerman (OD'06, MS'08)** to read a personal message written by each graduate as they were hooded and crossed the stage.

The messages reflected the unique personality of the class and their promising futures.

The ceremony ended as Class President **Joshua Canavan (OD/MS'23)** reflected on the four years of learning and friendship that forever connects this outstanding group of new ODs.

The Class of 2023

Muhassad Aljumaili
Cole Allen
Katherine Bracht
Aimee Brady Chilton
Carson Bruner
Samuel Calvert
* Joshua Canavan
* Jared Coleman
* Aprile Doubt
Mary Edwards
Isaiah Engstrom
* Curt Fritts-Davis
Kinsley Gossard
Hanna Grabowski
Leah Hazen

Marissa Heary
Erin Henson
Anna Hopkins
Samuel Horner
Andrew Humiston
Zachary Jacoby
Alexander Jones
Cole Jordan
Rami Khaldieh
Chelsey Kunkler
Brandon Lim
* Joanna Liu
Cassidy Marino
Rachel Mathie
Matthew McPheron

Brandt Miller
Stephanie Nahhas
Bobby Nestor
Allison Neuhaus
Karissa Newsom
Nghi Nguyen
Bradley Ortisi
Dylan Patel
* Serafima Petrenko
Aishwarya Pillai
Dillon Ragan
Irene Ravkin
Logan Reck
Madison Roth
Monica Sanago

Erin Seymour
Mariam Siddiqi
Emma Smiley
Ben Steinman
* Elizabeth Stern-Green
Rochelle Toulabi
Erica Treiber
Sadhvika Venkat
Alexa Vinh
* Emily Watson
* Emily Weatherford
Catherine Weeder
* Megan Wells
* Kendra Lynn Willhoite
Abigail Witmer

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



Dr. Earley hoods **Joanna Liu (OD/MS'23)**



Dr. Earley hoods **Brandon Lim (OD'23)**



Shawn Cushman (OD'21) hoods fiancée **Stephanie Nahhas (OD'23)**



Marissa Heary (OD'23), Abigail Witmer (OD'23), Matt McPheron (OD'23), Samuel Calvert (OD'23), Dylan Patel (OD'23), Carson Bruner (OD'23), Allison Neuhaus (OD'23), Emily Watson (OD/MS'23), and Mary Edwards (OD'23)

Aimee Brady Chilton (OD'23) and Dean Karla Zadnik, OD, PhD

Rochelle Toulabi (OD'23), Sadhika Venkat (OD'23), Rachel Mathie (OD'23), and Aishwarya Pillai (OD'23)

Ben Steinman (OD'23) and Elizabeth Stern-Green (OD/MS'23)

Dylan Patel (OD'23) and Lilly Tran (OD'22)

Class of 2023 Graduation Awards



Graduate of the Year

Curt Fritts-Davis (OD/MS'23)

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.

CooperVision

Denon

Hoya

IDOC

Interstate Optical

Ohio Optometric Association

Optometric

Management Group

Shamir

Walman

VSP



Top NBEO Part 1 Score

Samuel Calvert (OD'23)

Pictured with Dean Karla Zadnik OD, PhD



Beta Sigma Kappa Silver Medal

Madison Roth (OD'23)

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



Lyle Aloysius John Gassman Memorial Award for Leadership

Joshua Canavan (OD/MS'23)

Pictured with Michael Earley (OD/MS'88, PhD'92), Associate Dean for Academic Affairs

Clinical Excellence Awards



Excellence in Eyewear Dispensing
Brandt Miller (OD'23)
Pictured with Jeff Rohlf



Excellence in Community Outreach
Aishwarya Pillai (OD'23)
Pictured with Mawada Osman (OD/MS'20)



Excellence in Vision Therapy
Curt Fritts-Davis (OD/MS'23)
Pictured with Michelle Buckland (OD'06, MS'08)



Excellence in Advanced Ocular Care
Madison Roth (OD'23)
Pictured with Tatevik Movsisyan (OD/MS'16)



Excellence in Primary Vision Care
Erica Treiber (OD'23)
Pictured with Jocelyn Daniel (OD'12)



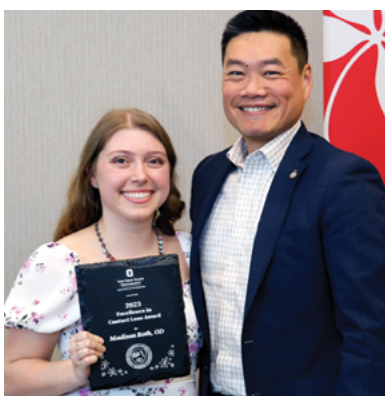
Excellence in Advanced Practice
Emily Watson (OD/MS'23)
Pictured with Dawn Goedde (OD'04)



Excellence in Ocular Disease
Sadhvika Venkat (OD'23)
Pictured with Dawn Goedde (OD'04)



Excellence in Binocular Vision and Pediatrics
Abigail Witmer (OD'23)
Pictured with Cayti McDaniel (OD/MS'08)



Excellence in Contact Lens
Madison Roth (OD'23)
Pictured with Nicky Lai (OD/MS'08)



Excellence in Low Vision Rehabilitation
Curt Fritts-Davis (OD/MS'23)
Pictured with Roanne Flom, OD



2023 Distinguished Alumnus Award **Robert C. Layman (OD'82)**

Dr. Robert C. Layman is a 1982 graduate of The Ohio State University College of Optometry.

Dr. Layman was elected to the American Optometric Association (AOA) Board of Trustees in 2013, and he currently serves as Immediate Past President. With over 35 years of continuous volunteer service, he has served as chair of numerous AOA committees and task forces.

Dr. Layman was honored with the AOA Optometrist of the Year award in 2006. He also has received the Ohio Optometrist of the Year, Ohio Young Optometrist of the Year, Ohio Key Optometrist of the Year, and Outstanding Senior Student awards.

He is a past president of the Ohio Optometric Association (OOA) and served as the OOA Electronic Health Records Task Force liaison to the Northwest Ohio Regional Extension Center/Health Information Partnership from 2010-2014. Dr. Layman chaired

the EastWest Eye Conference from 2009-2011. He has presented the Realeyes Classroom Initiative curriculum to elementary schools in his community since the program's inception in 2001.

He has served as a vision consultant to the University of Toledo Athletic Department for over 35 years. He has been an adult leader in Boy Scout Troop 87, a volunteer with the Mildred Bayer Homeless Clinic of Toledo, and a 10-year member of the YMCA Board of Managers. He has served as the President of the Kiwanis Club of West Toledo and the Toledo Jaycees.

In 2014, Dr. Layman was named one of Ohio State Optometry's 100 Notable Alumni as part of the college's Centennial Celebration.

Dr. Layman is an owner of Pinnacle Eye Group in Lambertville, Michigan and Great Lakes Vision Care in Monroe, Michigan. He lives with his wife, Barb, in Toledo, Ohio. They have four grown children.

2023 Early Professional Achievement Award **Shane Foster (OD'08)**

Dr. Shane Foster is a 2008 graduate of The Ohio State University College of Optometry. He owns two private practices in Athens and Logan, Ohio, where he practices primary care optometry with an interest in specialty contact lenses and children's vision. He is an Assistant Professor of Clinical Practice for the college and hosts fourth-year students in his office during their clinical rotations.

Dr. Foster is the Immediate Past President of the Ohio Optometric Association Board of Trustees, and he serves as a member of the State Government Relations Committee for the American Optometric Association. Dr. Foster is a Past President and current board member of the Ohio Optometric Foundation, which works to expand access to quality eye care for children and all Ohioans. He has been a driving force in expanding the Foundation's In-School Eye Exam (iSee) program, which has provided thousands of free eye exams and glasses to children all over the state.

Shane Foster (OD'08), Dean Karla Zadnik, OD, PhD, **Robert Layman (OD'82)**, and **Terri Gossard (OD/MS'96)**



Buckeye Optometrists Around the World

Doug McCloy (OD'95)

By Kathy Rudolf (OD'09)

In this installment of Buckeyes Around the World, we go to the Caribbean as we feature **Doug McCloy (OD'95)**. Dr McCloy currently practices in both Jamaica and Chattanooga, Tennessee. He started his official internship for licensure in Jamaica at the Mandeville Public Hospital Eye Clinic in September 1995, and he essentially has practiced in Jamaica, either part- or full-time, ever since.

How did this Buckeye optometrist end up in Jamaica? According to Dr. McCloy, "All throughout my undergraduate education and even during my years at Ohio State, I coordinated spring break trips to Jamaica because I personally loved all that Jamaica offered in lifestyle and the warmth of the people. When I realized the significant need they had visually and the opportunity to practice there presented itself, it felt like a perfect match for me as a professional to make a difference and enjoy life at the same time."

For Dr. McCloy, becoming licensed in Jamaica required a six-month internship in the public health arena. Today, the requirements remain

largely unchanged, although there is an exception for individuals with a U.S., Canadian, or U.K. optometry degree who already have an active license to practice. In these cases, the internship can be waived. However, arranging for Jamaica's Medical Council to convene for new candidates is highly unpredictable and often challenging. Describing the process as frustrating would be a significant understatement, especially when considering the urgent demand for qualified optometrists in the country.

As with other Ohio State Optometry graduates featured in this series, the scope of practice in Jamaica differs from that of the U.S.

"I was given a dose of reality on the first day of my internship at the public hospital when I realized my exam room consisted solely of an old wooden chair and a window curtain to control room illumination," Dr. McCloy says. "Although our facilities have improved over time, almost 30 years later our legal scope of practice remains archaic and provides no therapeutic privileges. We have internally developed a co-management model with ophthalmology to hurdle the therapeutic issue, and to do our best for the patient. Daily we practice outside the boundary of the written scope of practice because the magnitude of ocular disease is significantly skewed from a



Top row l to r: Dr. McCloy welcoming OD's to Jamaica; Dr. McCloy with patients

Bottom row l to r: Dr. McCloy at work in Jamaica. Dean Karla Zadnik, OD, PhD, looks on as Dr. McCloy assesses a patient.

lack of access to quality care. The bureaucratic barriers to licensure and scope of practice make it almost impossible to care for all the need."

In the earlier days, Dr. McCloy and his family lived full time in Jamaica, but for most of his career they navigated life by doing school years in Jamaica and summers back in Ohio. In 2002, he opened Professional Eyecare in Western Jamaica and now has six locations around the island.

Professional EyeCare provides full scope eye care services to a population that is both underserved and economically challenged. From

2008 to 2013, Dr. McCloy worked with **Paul Gamertsfelder (BS'54)** to construct the Gamertsfelder Mission and Eye Surgery Center and form the Mission of Sight foundation. Mission of Sight is a volunteer organization with an emphasis on sustainable eye care that also employs and empowers Jamaican nationals. Mission of Sight is committed to eradicating blindness and other forms of visual poverty, helping Jamaicans who cannot see or struggle with impaired vision to get their life back by restoring their sight. Dr. McCloy continues as the Executive Director of the organization. After moving to Chattanooga in 2017, he says

he's morphed into a commuter to Jamaica and now spends on average of one week a month on island while overseeing the clinical model remotely.

"As our world becomes more global and virtual, the opportunity to participate in optometry abroad has become more feasible," he says. "But I would say before you pick up and move to your favorite holiday destination to practice, make certain 'you know that you know' because working in a foreign country is rarely as pleasurable or simple as vacationing there."

The Definition of Clinician-Scientist:

An Interview with Charlotte Enns Joslin (OD'97, PhD)

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

Charlotte Joslin, OD, PhD reviewing SOL Ojos LOCS II lens grading protocol images (photo by Lauren Kalinowski).

Those of us serving patients on the front lines of eye care are uniquely positioned to identify clinical questions that can only be answered through research. It is the rare clinician who has the means and the skill set to propose a research question and can set out to find the answer. Meet Buckeye graduate **Charlotte Enns Joslin (OD'97, PhD)**.



Charlotte Joslin (OD'97, PhD) with husband and SOL Ojos Co-Investigator, **Larry Ulanski, MD**.

Dr. Quinn: How did you find your way to The Ohio State University College of Optometry?

Dr. Joslin: I grew up in the northern suburbs of Chicago, and The Ohio State University College of Optometry was my top choice! On paper, I was very impressed with its reputation, and in person, I was even more impressed with its physical and academic presence within the larger medical and health sciences campus. Prior to attending Ohio State, I was totally naïve with zero connections to Ohio State; after matriculating, I quickly became a fully engaged Buckeye! And I continue to be so, despite my husband (MD) and brother-in-law (PhD) both being Michigan grads – hah!

Dr. Quinn: You are Director of the Contact Lens Service, Professor of Ophthalmology, Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences,

College of Medicine and Departmental Affiliate, Epidemiology & Biostatistics, School of Public Health at the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC). That's a mouthful! Did you always see yourself practicing in that kind of environment? Tell us about your journey.

Dr. Joslin: As a student at Ohio State, my interests were in medically-necessary contact lenses. I also had the opportunity while at Ohio State to work on the Collaborative Longitudinal Evaluation of Keratoconus (CLEK) Study, which exposed me to clinical research. Subsequently, I completed residency training at Chicago's Jesse Brown and Hines Veteran Affairs Medical Centers; together, these experiences led me to practicing at an academic medical center, which I have loved due to the complicated patients, the collaborations, and the opportunities. After a couple years of practicing and refining my clinical

skills, and continuing efforts as an investigator with the CLEK Study, I realized how much clinical research piqued my curious nature and that my tendency toward an introverted personality was better suited to a balance between clinical practice and research. I recognized I needed more research training, and pursued a National Institutes of Health/ National Eye Institute (NIH/NEI) K23 Mentored Career Development Award. With this award, I completed my PhD in epidemiology at UIC and embarked on the road of a clinician-scientist. I haven't looked back!

Dr. Quinn: Do you consider yourself primarily a clinician, a researcher, or a teacher?

Dr. Joslin: For me, the balance between patient care and research is most rewarding. My patients almost exclusively require medically necessary contact lenses. Probably 70% of them have a diagnosis of keratoconus (the rest have corneal irregularity, limbal stem cell deficiency, neurotrophic, severe dry eyes, etc.), which means I have enjoyed longstanding relationships with most of them, as they have significant chronic disease. In contrast, I especially enjoy the intellectual challenges associated with research: the discipline, curiosity, adrenaline, and extreme persistence required to succeed. The balance weekly between the two keeps work rewarding. Moreover, as a clinician-scientist I feel I can more readily bring real-life issues back-and-forth between clinic and research, to make a meaningful difference beyond treating the patient directly in front of me.

As I become more established, I have enjoyed becoming more involved with mentoring. For example, under my tenure as Director of UIC's Contact Lens Service, we established a fellowship in medically-necessary contact lenses, with our eighth trainee beginning this summer.

I also have mentored multiple individuals in research, especially with our current project, Study of Latinos SOL Ojos.

Dr. Quinn: I know just enough Spanish to recognize “ojos” means “eyes.” Tell us about the study and how it came to be.

Dr. Joslin: It is a multi-center NIH-NEI funded ancillary study to the Hispanic Community Health Study/Study of Latinos (HCHS/SOL) in Chicago and Miami. HCHS/SOL is a national resource of extensive, high-quality data, and is the largest ever, population-based, longitudinal, multicenter cohort study of Hispanic/Latino adults of diverse backgrounds, including those of Mexican, Cuban, Dominican, Puerto Rican, Central and South American, and other origins.

HCHS/SOL recruited 16,415 participants and has more than 900 accepted manuscript proposals, of which nearly 500 are published. Put simply, HCHS/SOL is **the** “Framingham Study” of Hispanic/Latinos, and one of the largest NIH/NHLBI-funded longitudinal cohort studies.

After formal proposal of an ancillary study to HCHS/SOL, SOL Ojos received approval, with NIH/NEI funding beginning in September 2019 and participant recruitment to start in March 2020. Needless to say, COVID-19 delayed recruitment; hence, we decided to accelerate the recruitment period to two years as opposed to the planned three years. I am proud that we completed our two-year recruitment on June 30, 2023 and delighted to say we over-recruited by nearly 10%!

Dr. Quinn: I know recruitment for studies can be a major challenge. Congratulations on your success!

Dr. Joslin: Thank you. SOL Ojos has a strong emphasis on health disparities/health equity, with the Primary Aims to assess the



SOL Ojos study staff celebrating the Chinese New Year (2023). Pictured left to right, front: Patrizia Chavero, MD; Banelly Mora, BS; back, Chunyu Guo, MD, PhD, MPH; Raiza Perez, MD; **Charlotte Joslin (OD'97, PhD)**; Giselle Sanroman Gutierrez, BS; Norma Del Risco; Angie Wang, PhD.

prevalence of chronic eye disease and the leading causes of blindness (e.g., diabetic retinopathy, glaucoma, macular degeneration, cataracts, visual impairment/blindness) across diverse backgrounds, as well as the novel associations between systemic disease including biomarkers and chronic eye disease.

Dr. Quinn: I recall that you were one of the key players to help us “crack the code” to what was happening during the *Acanthamoeba* Keratitis crisis in 2007. Please tell us your perspective on what happened.

Dr. Joslin: On a national level, the Environmental Protection Agency updated regulations shortly before the increase in *Acanthamoeba* keratitis cases to reduce the allowable amount of disinfection byproducts in the drinking water supply, as

they might be carcinogenic at high levels. Disinfection byproducts form when disinfectants, like chlorine, are added to the water supply to kill microbial pathogens and react with organic materials in the water. Surface waters such as rivers, lakes, and streams are more likely to have organic materials, and disinfection byproducts are of greater concern for systems that use surface water, including Lake Michigan. Methods to reduce disinfection byproducts include adjusting the type and amount of disinfectant used. If any contact lens solution is “permissive” of the survival of an *Acanthamoeba* organism, then an increase in the overall load of an organism would result in an increase in the absolute number of cases, with the most “permissive” solution resulting in the greatest number of cases.



SOL Ojos study staff at the UIC College of Medicine Dean's Distinguished Lecture hosting Michael Chiang, MD, Director of the National Eye Institute (October 2022). Pictured left to right: Banelly Mora, BS; Raiza Perez, MD; Chunyu Guo, MD, PhD, MPH; Patrizia Chavero, MD; **Charlotte Joslin (OD'97, PhD)**; Giselle Sanroman Gutierrez, BS.

Dr. Quinn: Did living in Chicago make you ideally suited in some way to be a player in the *Acanthamoeba* Keratitis study?

Dr. Joslin: *Acanthamoeba keratitis* is an incredibly rare eye infection. Statistically, most optometrists who provide care to the general population are unlikely to ever see a single case in their entire career. At UIC, as a tertiary care academic institution, we had a strong local corneal referral pattern due in part to the fact that UIC had the second installation of a commercial confocal microscope unit in the entire US, meaning UIC captured nearly all local cases. If the exact same scenario, including the referral pattern, occurred in a smaller metropolitan area, the sample size and study power to detect a statistically significant increase in disease would have been inadequate and the results non-significant. A strength of our study was the fact that this occurred in Chicago, with a unique referral pattern, a large enough population to study, and relative homogeneity in how the Lake Michigan water supply was treated.

Dr. Quinn: What an incredible career you have had and continue to enjoy! Anything else you'd like to share?

Dr. Joslin: As I look back, my career path started at Ohio State with numerous individuals that provided important guidance, and two incredible mentors, **Joe Barr (OD'77, MS'79)** and Karla Zadnik, OD, PhD. Additionally, I am proud to serve as a mentor to future generations, including recent Buckeye graduate **Mary "Araba" Otoo (MPH, OD'22)**. To the currently enrolled student body, this is your opportunity to seek mentors and collegial relationships that can offer guidance and sage wisdom throughout your career. I am incredibly proud of, and fortunate for, all my experiences with the entire Ohio State Optometry community and look back fondly on my years at Ohio State. Go Buckeyes!



Charlotte with Lolly (Dalmatian; yes, with one blue and one amber eye!) at Chicago's Race to Mackinac on Lake Michigan (July 2023).

Eye drops slow nearsightedness progression in children, study finds

Clinical trial suggests low-dose atropine is effective myopia treatment

By Emily Caldwell

The results of a new clinical trial suggest that the first drug therapy to slow the progression of nearsightedness in kids could be on the horizon.

The three-year study found that a daily drop in each eye of a low dose of atropine, a drug used to dilate pupils, was better than a placebo at limiting eyeglass prescription changes and inhibiting elongation of the eye in nearsighted children aged 6 to 10.

That elongation leads to myopia, or nearsightedness, which starts in young kids and continues to get worse into the teen years before leveling off in most people. In addition to requiring life-long vision correction, nearsightedness increases the risk for retinal detachment, macular degeneration, cataracts and glaucoma later in life – and most corrective lenses don't do anything to stop myopia progression.

“The idea of keeping eyeballs smaller isn't just so people's glasses are thinner – it would also be so that in their 70s they don't suffer visual impairment,” says lead study author Dean Karla Zadnik, OD, PhD.

“This is exciting work for the myopia research community, which I've been part of for 35 years. We've talked about treatment and control for decades,” she says. “And it's exciting to think that there could be options in the future for millions of children we know are going to be myopic.”

The results of the CHAMP (Childhood Atropine for Myopia Progression) trial were published in June 2023 in *JAMA Ophthalmology*.

About one in three adults worldwide is nearsighted, and the global prevalence of myopia is predicted to increase to 50% by 2050. Though one federally approved contact lens can slow progression of nearsightedness,



Dean Karla Zadnik, OD, PhD

no pharmaceutical products are approved in the United States or Europe to treat myopia.

Animal studies years ago hinted at atropine's ability to slow the growth

of the eye, but the full-strength drug's interference with near vision and concerns about pupil dilation hindered early considerations of its potential as a human therapy for myopia. More recent research has suggested a low dose of atropine might be the ticket.

This new double-masked, randomized phase 3 trial assessed the safety and effectiveness of two low-dose solutions, with atropine concentrations of either .01% or .02%, versus placebo. Treatment for each of the 489 children aged 6 to 10 assessed for the drug's effectiveness consisted of one daily drop per eye at bedtime, which minimized the disruption of any blurring effects atropine might have on vision.

Researchers were a bit surprised to find that the most significant improvements at all time points compared to placebo resulted from the solution containing .01% of atropine. Though the .02% atropine formulation was also better at slowing progression of myopia than placebo, the results were less consistent.

"The .01% story is clearer and more obvious in terms of significantly slowing both the growth of the eye as well as then resulting in a lower glasses prescription," Dean Zadnik says.

Including a measure of the eye's growth was a key component of the study because "the field is actually moving toward axial elongation being as important as, or more important than, the glasses prescription in terms of the most meaningful outcome," she says. "If we're trying to slow eye growth to prevent bad outcomes for people in their 80s, measuring the eye growth directly is really important."

The drugs' safety was assessed in a larger sample of 573 participants that also included children as young as 3 and up to age 16. Both low-dose formulations were safe and



well tolerated. The most common side effects were sensitivity to light, allergic conjunctivitis, eye irritation, dilated pupils and blurred vision, although reports of these side effects were few.

The CHAMP trial was the first study of low-dose atropine to include placebo controls for three years and to involve a large, diverse population recruited from 26 clinical sites in North America and five countries in Europe. In a second section of the trial, researchers are evaluating how the eyes respond when the treatment is over.

The experimental drug is made without preservatives and, if federally approved as a therapy, would be distributed in single-use packaging for convenience and to prevent contamination. Off-label low-dose atropine that can currently be obtained at compounding pharmacies may contain preservatives that can lead to dry eye and corneal irritation, researchers noted.

The experimental product studied in the CHAMP trial is manufactured by Vyluma, a New Jersey development-stage biopharmaceutical company with a focus on pharmaceutical treatments for refractive errors of the eye. A subsidiary of Nevakar Inc., Vyluma sponsored the trial, has submitted a New Drug Application to the FDA to seek approval in the U.S. and has partnered with two companies to commercialize the product outside the United States.

Dean Zadnik led the study as a paid expert consultant to Vyluma. **Jennifer Fogt (OD, MS'97)**, assistant professor at Ohio State, also worked on the trial. Additional co-authors Erica Schulman of SUNY College of Optometry; Ian Flitcroft of the Center for Eye Research in Dublin, Ireland; Louis Blumenfeld of Eye Physicians of Central Florida; and Tung Fong, Eric Lang, Houman Hemmati and Simon Chandler of Vyluma represented the CHAMP trial group investigators.

Impressions of Impact

Visionary Appreciation Dinner Honors Donors; Sally Haltom Presented with Ewalt Award

By Rachel Childress, CFRE, Director of Development

On April 15, 2023, The Ohio State University College of Optometry celebrated our most generous alumni and friends and current scholarship recipients at our eighth 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 that they are supporting.

Dean Karla Zadnik, OD, PhD, warmly welcomed attendees and provided an update about the college. She mentioned that unfortunately the 2023 Bailey Medal recipients were unable to attend the gathering; they will be honored at the 2024 event instead. In light of this, the focus of this year's celebration was directed toward our student scholarship recipients. After a delightful dinner, the discussion shifted to emphasizing the importance of scholarships, and the audience had the privilege of hearing from three students who personally benefitted from alumni support.

First to speak was **Josh Canavan (OD/MS'23)**, president of the Class of 2023, who did his undergraduate work at Canisius College of Buffalo,



Don Mutti, OD, PhD, and students **Rachael Lux ('24)**, **Sidney Parks ('24)**, **Emily Magas ('24)** and **Jelissa Rozendaal ('24)**.

New York. He was the recipient of the **Tom (OD'79, MS'81) and Susan (OD'82) Quinn** Endowed Scholarship and received a White Coat Scholarship over the past few years, which has been supported by **Bruce Manning (OD'81)** and Joanne Manning. Following graduation, he began a residency at the Cincinnati

Eye Institute. He noted during his speech that optometry school can certainly be a financial challenge, but others in our lives make it easier when things get difficult.

The second student to speak was **Shihij Takoo ('24)**, who completed her undergraduate studies at Ohio State.



Shihij Takoo ('24)

She is a recipient of the Optometry General Scholarship Fund, which many alumni and friends have supported over the years. Often, we use it to recruit prospective students. It's rare for second- or third-year students to receive this award, making it quite prestigious. Shihij shared that she wanted a career involving science and has learned that she also has a passion for teaching and research. She thanked the optometry community for their collective support of this fund.

Our final student was **Adam Bayer ('24)**, who did his undergraduate studies at Brigham Young University. He is the recipient of the **Ronald Ling (OD'78)**, an Eagle Scout, and Caron Ann Lau Optometry Scholarship. Adam shared that originally he thought he might want to be an ophthalmologist but decided against it after a shadowing experience. He ultimately used a career selecting computer program to help him decide to head to optometry instead.

After the students spoke, we had one final award to bestow that has only been given 12 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



Josh Canavan (OD/MS'23)

world." Following that statement, a medal was established in his honor.

Sally Haltom, MA, is the 13th Ewalt Medal recipient. Sally spent her 35-year career encouraging and guiding thousands of Ohio State students along their academic paths. The College of Optometry was fortunate to be her final career stop, and she stayed with us for nearly a decade of service until she retired. Many of our graduates remember her for her sage advice and mentoring as they moved through our challenging college curriculum. In fact, one of our Bailey



Adam Bayer ('24)

Medalists, **Jeff Williams (OD'07)**, named a scholarship in honor of Sally because of her dedication to the success of our students.

Sally received her English Education degree from Bowling Green University and then went on to receive her master's degree in Higher Education and Student Affairs. Following graduation, she became an Academic Advisor for the Ohio State Lima Campus. She soon made her way to the main campus and continued her advisor role for University College. During her time



Sally Haltom celebrating with her family: (l to r) son Mike, granddaughter Lexi, daughter-in-law Racheal, Sally, and husband Wayne.

there, she advised more than 500 students, coordinated orientations, and taught two classes.

She then spent time at the College of Nursing as an academic counselor. Her role included coordinating all college recruitment, retention, and career planning functions. In addition, she served as academic counselor to prospective and enrolled undergraduate nursing students and was the advisor to the Nursing Student Council.

Sally made a move to the College of Pharmacy with the same title of academic counselor but with an expanded list of responsibilities. She coordinated the development of the recruitment and admissions processes and programs for a new entry-level Doctor of Pharmacy degree program and managed the college's participation in the Young Scholars career exploration program.

Over her career, she's also received various awards including the Mortar Board Outstanding Faculty and Staff Award, Research Apprenticeship Program Distinguished Service Award, the Ohio State Distinguished Service to Student Development Award, and the prestigious Ohio State Distinguished Staff Award.

We are thrilled to add one more award to that impressive list with the College of Optometry H. Ward Ewalt Medal. Congratulations to Sally for this honor.

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.



Kendra Fenton, Ryan Fenton, and **Tony Fenton (OD'89)**



Tom Quinn (OD'79, MS'81), Karla Zadnik, OD, PhD, and **Jim Thimons (OD'78)**

The Ohio State Fund for the College Optometry

By Rachel Childress, CFRE
Director of Development



For the past decade, our fundraising efforts have focused on building a new clinic and significantly increasing scholarship dollars for our students who are excelling in the classroom and community. While we will always have a need to support these efforts along with research and faculty development, we want to take this time to highlight The Ohio State Fund for the College of Optometry.

This essential fund is used at the dean's discretion and allocated for various programs and events throughout the year that help keep our alumni engaged in the life of the college. Some uses include:

- The **Gil Pierce (OD'89, PhD'94)** Memorial Event – Our beloved faculty member and friend, Dr. Pierce passed away in 2022. This fund was utilized to provide for the college's memorial service that honored Gil and celebrated the clinic room named in his memory.
- Milestone Gifts – The college feels that celebrating our alumni by recognizing special life milestones is an important piece of what we do. We send Cool Brutus flags for marriages, onesies and t-shirts for new babies, and cookies for retirements.
- Golden Graduates – This weekend event gives us a chance to celebrate our 50th reunion class. Friends gather for dinner and a college tour to reminisce about their time in optometry school and how much their optometry degree has enriched their lives.
- College receptions at conventions of the American Optometric Association, American Academy of Optometry, and National Optometric Association – These are funded annually to provide an opportunity for our alumni, faculty, and students to meet, mingle, and network. These receptions are highly anticipated events each year for people to meet up with their Buckeye friends and colleagues.
- The Hazael Edward Welton Breakfast for African American and Hispanic Alumni – This is an opportunity to bring alumni and current students together who share a common identity, providing a place for them to build and foster meaningful connections. Dr. Welton was our first Black graduate, and in 1985 he endowed a scholarship in his name to support students from diverse backgrounds.
- Visionary Appreciation Dinner – This annual exclusive dinner allows us to celebrate some of our most generous donors but more importantly provides an opportunity for our scholarship donors and recipients to meet and share time together.



To support this important fund today, please use the QR code on this page to take you directly to our giving page or go to give.osu.edu/optometryfund. More information will be arriving by mail and email this fall. Consider how you can make an impact in the life of the college and our efforts to continue to engage our optometry family in meaningful ways now and in the future.

(l to r) AOA Reception, Visionary Appreciation Dinner, and the Hazael Edward Welton Breakfast for African American and Hispanic Alumni

Clinic Achievements

Congratulations to the following Ohio State Optometry clinical faculty members, who were appointed during the last academic year.



Michelle Buckland
(OD'06, MS'08)

Associate Clinical Professor



Zac Coates (OD/MS'19)
Assistant Clinical Professor



David Damari, OD
Clinical Professor



Jocelyn Daniel (OD'12)
Assistant Clinical Professor



Carissa Janczak, OD
Assistant Clinical Professor



Danielle Orr (OD/MS'17)
Assistant Clinical Professor



Mawada Osman
(OD/MS'20)
Assistant Clinical Professor



Doug Widmer
(OD'11/MS'16)
Assistant Clinical Professor

Congratulations to the following clinic patient services staff members, who are first among the entire clinic staff to become Certified Paraoptometrics (CPO). CPO certification requires passage of a comprehensive exam conducted by the Commission on Paraoptometric Certification (CPC) and the American Optometric Association (AOA). The time, energy, and effort these individuals put forth to study for and pass the exam is indicative of their level of commitment to learn and grow to better serve our patients.



Alysia Benson



Carolynn Bructo



Holly Lee



Ally Lowe



Hannah Storer



The Buckeye Advantage

Insight Into Today's Competitive Optometry Job Market

By Jennifer Bennett, MSED, Director of Student Services

The optometry job market is changing rapidly. Each year, the number of optometry school applicants and graduates stays relatively the same, yet the demand for new optometrists in the job market continues to increase. As a new generation of students becomes the next generation of optometrists, it is essential for optometry practices to have a strong understanding of both the current job market as well as the career aspirations and values shared by current students and new graduates seeking practice opportunities.

When we recruit prospective students, we talk about the “Buckeye Advantage,” which is our way of describing how students benefit from what differentiates Ohio State from the other schools and colleges of optometry. The Buckeye Advantage is this: Each year we select the best students from a national applicant pool and then provide them with the best education and training. This includes training beyond clinical knowledge and skills. Because we select the top candidates in the applicant pool, our students have

more capacity to engage in learning about leadership, interpersonal skills, career management, and practice management from day one. As a result, our students develop self-awareness that equips them to align their unique interests, strengths, and talents with how they choose to practice optometry. This creates the additional advantage at graduation; our students are looking not just for employment but for satisfying career choices that fit into their life and career goals.

The Buckeye Advantage sets a foundation for how our students evaluate practice opportunities. Each of our graduates had multiple choices for where to attend optometry school. They chose Ohio State because they worked hard to become a top applicant, and we offered something more. As graduates, they have worked hard in a top program and have multiple opportunities for their first step after graduation. They look at how the advantages offered by

Ohio State Optometry graduates are in high demand in today's job market. Pictured above, **Marissa Heary (OD'23)**, **Mary Edwards (OD'23)** and **Abigail Witmer (OD'23)**.

employers align with the lives they aspire to lead.

As a result, our students are highly sought after and attract interest from practices across the country. Each year we graduate around 68 new optometrists. Approximately 30% of them pursue residency after graduation. During the last two academic years, nearly all of our fourth-year students had secured employment or matched with a residency program by March of their graduation year. Most of our students locate job opportunities through networking rather than job postings. For some, job searching begins in their second or third year.

What does this mean for you? If you are planning to bring a new OD into your practice, expect to face increased competition. Plan for hiring at least a year in advance. Begin developing relationships with potential candidates earlier in their education. Additionally, think about how you can change compensation packages and salaries to meet the needs and wants of today's candidates. Factors such as signing and moving bonuses, health insurance, retirement savings plans,

CE allowances, paid personal leave, schedule flexibility, and increased fringe benefits have become more important to a new generation of optometrists. Finally, understand that job postings are minimally impactful; if you choose to use them, try a variety of posting locations beyond Ohio State. Networking is the key, especially for Ohio State students, many of whom will never have to search for a job posting.

In our work with employers, our role is to share practice opportunities with students. We can partner with you to share information about your practice opportunity through job postings, e-mail announcements, and our annual virtual career fair. We are unable to share student contact or demographic information or match you directly with specific students. Should you have any questions or want more information around

the hiring or search process or our Virtual Career Fair scheduled for November 8, 2023 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Eastern time, please contact Jen Bennett at bennett.1075@osu.edu.

We are in a unique employment environment where potential employees have more options than ever, and it is more difficult to capture and sustain their attention. Practices that are successful at hiring can often articulate their own version of the Buckeye Advantage. What differentiates your practice from others? How are you doing ordinary things in extraordinary ways? How does your advantage align with the life and career goals of today's candidate pool? Your commitment to your patients and communities, pride in the business you have built, and love for optometry can lead to so many compelling ways to answer these questions.

Save the date for the virtual career fair

Wednesday, November 8, 2023, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. Eastern time

contact Jen Bennett for more information bennett.1075@osu.edu

Student Loan Repayment News

Due to recent federal government rulings preventing further extensions of the COVID-19 emergency relief student loan payment pause, federal student loan interest will begin accruing on September 1, 2023, and borrowers impacted by the pause must begin making payments in October 2023.

The exact due date of repayment may vary, but any borrower can prepare now by contacting their loan servicer to:

- Update contact info on the loan servicer's website and in the StudentAid.gov profile.
- Get details about payment and set up optional auto-debit payment.
- Explore repayment options, which may include long- or short-term payment relief.
- Understand loan repayment responsibilities.

For more information about federal student loan debt relief and loan repayment, use these quick links to studentaid.gov:

- "Frequently Asked Questions About Debt Relief" go.osu.edu/loan-faq
- "6 Ways to Prepare for Student Loan Repayment to Begin Again" go.osu.edu/loan-article

Welcome, Dr. Walter Wu!

Yueh-Hsun (Walter) Wu, PhD, is The Ohio State University's College of Optometry's first Fellow-to-Faculty hire, officially joining the college in July 2023. The Ohio State Provost's Tenure-Track Fellow-to-Faculty Program enables the university to recruit early-career scholars whose accomplishments make them exceptionally competitive for faculty positions.

Dr. Wu earned his PhD in Psychology with a minor in Translational Sensory Science from the University of Minnesota in May 2023. Prior to that, he completed his bachelor's degree in psychology and master's degree in experimental psychology at National Chengchi University in Taiwan. Dr. Wu's primary research focuses on the impact of impaired vision on individuals' quality of life and daily activities. His personal experience as an individual with visual impairment provides a distinctive angle to research. His work delves into exploring different technologies and enhanced accessibility designs to improve the quality of life for those with visual impairments.

Q&A

What led you to pursue a career in vision research?

My own low vision has paved the way for a career in vision science. I frequently encounter questions about how impaired vision impacts daily tasks, which has inspired me to think about research on the visual function of individuals with low vision.

Although my own visual impairment initially seemed to restrict my path in clinical vision science, everything changed when I came across the inspiring book *"Psychophysics of reading in normal and low vision,"* authored by my PhD advisor, Dr. Gordon Legge. It revealed to me that I, too, could pursue a career as a vision scientist despite my vision loss.

Why did you choose to come to Ohio State?

The College of Optometry at Ohio State has a well-known reputation for its research in vision science and optometric education. During my graduate studies, I had the privilege to meet and even collaborate with

a few faculty. What stood out the most was the warm and inclusive environment I experienced during my initial visit to the college for my interview. The Fellow-to-Faculty position offered an excellent opportunity for me as a new PhD graduate to prepare and develop my own research program.

What are your impressions of Columbus and Ohio State so far?

Ohio State is one of the Big Ten public universities, much like where I originally came from, which made the campus feel familiar when I first arrived in Columbus. One notable difference I've observed so far is the abundance of construction sites on campus. It's evident that Ohio State and Columbus are continuously evolving and developing. I'm excited to explore the city further and explore more of what both the campus and the city have to offer.

Who were your role models who inspired you?

Dr. Gordon Legge, my PhD advisor,

is not only my academic mentor but also my life role model. It has been an incredible privilege to work with him during my graduate studies. As a vision scientist with visual impairment, he serves as a true inspiration for students with disabilities. His guidance and unwavering support have allowed me to envision myself thriving in academia, and I am genuinely grateful for the opportunity to learn from him up close.

Can you share some of your proudest achievements?

Toward the end of my PhD studies, I had the opportunity to participate in a few three-minute thesis competitions, where I humbly shared the findings of my thesis research. I was fortunate to win the second place and people's choice award at the University of Minnesota competition. Later on, I was honored to receive the first place and people's choice award at the American Psychological Association 2022 annual meeting.

Additionally, I was honored to have my first photography exhibition at Vision Loss Resource in Minneapolis in 2018, where I showcased the artistic perspective of someone with low vision. I hope to continue exploring more photography projects alongside my ongoing research pursuits.

What are your goals/aspirations in the Fellow-to-Faculty program?

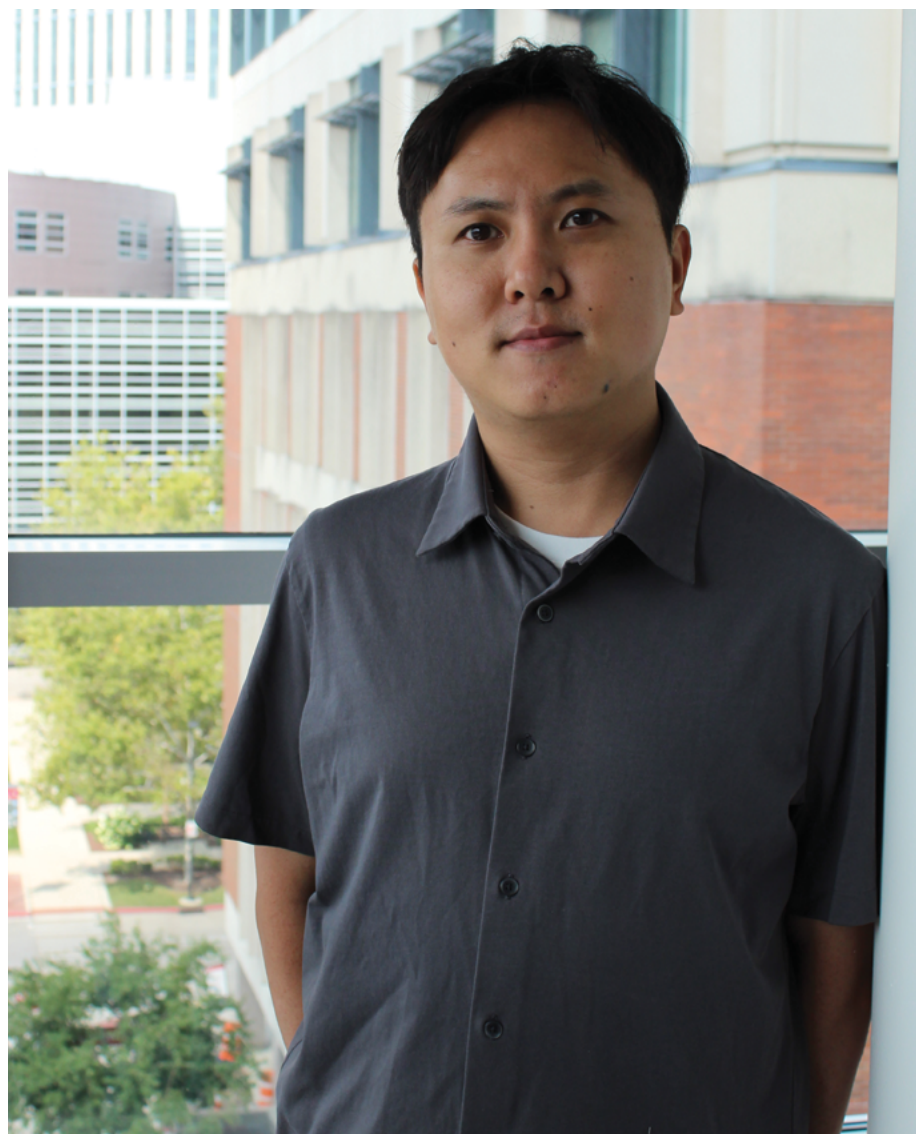
My main goal is to establish my own research program here in the college. I am eager to learn from the experienced faculty within the college and across the campus while seeking collaborative opportunities.

How do you feel you've made a difference in the lives of others through your work so far?

While it may be premature for me to assess my impact on others, I was fortunate to lead a research project on social isolation in older individuals with sensory loss during the early stages of the pandemic. During each interview session with our participants, we dedicated hours to listening to their stories and experiences with sensory loss amid the pandemic. Some of our participants told us they felt heard and experienced a sense of reduced loneliness after speaking with us. This experience proved to be truly precious and meaningful to me as well.

Do you have any stories of people you've influenced so far?

As a junior researcher, I am not sure about how I influence others. But one of the most rewarding experiences I've had as a mentor was seeing one of my past mentees opt for a career in optometry, while some others pursued paths in various healthcare professions. Additionally, during my graduate training, I had several opportunities to engage with individuals who had vision or hearing loss. One particularly memorable moment was when an elderly lady



with low vision approached me, holding my hands, and encouraged me to persist in my work after I gave a talk at a senior living facility. Her heartfelt gesture left a lasting impact on me.

What are your strategies for managing such a hectic schedule?

While I'm continuously working on improving my time management skills, one essential practice I've developed is prioritizing my physical and mental health, even amidst a busy schedule. I make a conscious effort to set aside time for exercise each week and maintain regular sessions with my therapist. It's vital for me to ensure my well-being remains a top priority.

What advice do you have for optometry students, faculty, and staff, based on your research?

I believe everyone in the College of Optometry can take pride in our work because vision plays a crucial role in our daily functioning. Even individuals with low vision strive to utilize their residual vision to carry out daily tasks. As professionals working with this population, I hope we can occasionally step back and view them as whole individuals. Those with impaired vision are not solely patients in clinics or labs; they can be your colleagues or neighbors and fulfill various roles within society. Recognizing this broader perspective can deepen our understanding and appreciation for the impact of our work.

Research Roundup

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

Congratulations to Dean VanNasdale, OD, PhD, recipient of the 2023 Jenny Pomeroy Award for Excellence in Vision and Public Health from Prevent Blindness, the nation's leading eye health and safety organization. This award is presented annually to an individual, team, or organization that has made significant contributions to the advancement of public health related to vision and eye health at the community, state, national, and/or international level. Dr. VanNasdale collaborated with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Vision Health Initiative to develop state profiles related to vision health and is conducting pioneering work in Ohio, using multiple surveys and administrative sources to estimate the impact of state policies on improving access to eye care. The goal is for this work to serve as a template for similar analyses in other states. More recently, he collaborated with VisionServe Alliance to develop a series of innovative state-level profiles regarding vision and health status among older people.

In addition to teaching students at The Ohio State University College of Optometry, Dr. VanNasdale serves as a mentor to master's and PhD students working in population health. He currently serves on the advisory committee for the Center for Vision and Population Health at Prevent Blindness. He is a member of the Vision and Eye Health Surveillance System (VEHSS) expert panel, an initiative of NORC at the University of Chicago, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Marjean Kulp (OD'91, MS'93), was awarded a \$2,000 Beta Sigma Kappa-COVD Research Grant for her study, *Novel Amblyopia Treatment with Dichoptic, Disparity-guided, Visual-Motor Enhanced, Virtual-Reality Games*. Treatment of amblyopia with an assortment of games using a virtual reality headset is expected to increase adherence to home therapy. Dr. Kulp will evaluate the effect of the VividVision automated Smart Assist home amblyopia therapy on visual acuity, binocularity, contrast sensitivity, oculomotor function, visual-motor integration, and quality of life in children.

Timothy J. Plageman, PhD, was awarded \$433,125 by the National Eye Institute for his proposal *Characterization of the lens fiber cell tricellular junctional complex and its dependency on delta-catenin*. He will investigate the role of the protein delta-catenin in the protein complex that forms the tri-cellular junction in the hexagonal array formed by lens fiber cells in the lens. Human mutations in the gene for this protein are associated with cortical cataracts and high myopia, suggesting that the protein is important for lens physiology.

Congratulations to OD/MS student **Tyson Montgomery ('25)**, who was awarded \$2,000 from Beta Sigma Kappa for his research, *Characterizing Intraocular Pressure Variation beyond Clinic Hours in Healthy Patients and in Patients Who are Glaucoma Suspects*. He will compare intraocular pressure profiles taken during clinical care with those taken at home using a portable rebound tonometer to determine if more comprehensive data could lead to more personalized glaucoma management. He will

complete his work under the supervision of his thesis advisor, **Phillip Yuhas (OD/MS'14, PhD'19)**.

The new Vision Science Training Program grant is a T32 training grant awarded to The Ohio State University College of Optometry by the National Eye Institute to support optometrists as they earn their PhD in vision science. This grant recognizes the great need for clinicians to be trained in the scientific process to maintain the pipeline of individuals appropriately trained to advance knowledge in ocular and vision health. Through this grant and a partnering sponsorship from The Ohio State University, optometrists will receive tuition support and a stipend for up to three years of their PhD training. This grant will allow trainees to focus 100% of their effort on their PhD program while receiving compensation beyond what a typical residency stipend offers. This award aims to build on the already strong record of clinician-scientist training in the college's vision science graduate program. Any interested applicants can contact the chair of the Graduate Program in Vision Science, Heather Anderson OD, PhD, at anderson.3881@osu.edu.

Congratulations to **Marielle Reidy (OD/MS'18)**, two-time recipient of a William C. Ezell Fellowship! The Ezell Fellowship is a prestigious award given by the American Academy of Optometry Foundation to recognize and assist talented individuals in vision research with their pursuit of advanced degrees in optometric research and education. Dr. Reidy is a PhD student advised by Don Mutti, OD, PhD, and has been awarded the John N. Schoen Ezell Fellowship this year.

2023 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 nine students spent the 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 careers in eye research.

Matthew Andrew

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

Why the T35 program is important to me:

The T35 program has been an invaluable opportunity for me to have dedicated time each day to progress toward my master's degree without the pressures of the OD curriculum. I am learning important skills that will allow me to use evidence-based medicine throughout my career to best meet the needs of my future patients. I'm very thankful for this experience and all that my advisor and classmates have taught me so far in my Ohio State journey!

What I'm doing:

I am studying the relationship between the sagittal depth of soft contact lenses and their corresponding fit on the corneal surface along with the incidence of corneal infiltrative events. Our theory is that patients who have atypical corneal shapes are more likely to develop this type of complication due to a suboptimal lens fit. The hope from this research is for optometrists and industry leaders to work together to find better ways to fit atypical patients into contact lenses without increasing their risk of an infiltrative event.

McKenna Gardner

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

Why the T35 program is important to me:

As someone who didn't take part in research prior to optometry school, the T35 program gave me the perfect start. It allowed me to understand the research process and dip my toes in the water without the stress and pressure of our normal course load. This program helped build my confidence in the field of research, gain a head start on my master's degree, and develop a great relationship with my advisors.

What I'm doing:

This summer I have been gathering a baseline dataset for normal aging changes seen in the Henle fiber layer and how it affects the overall shape of the foveal pit. We visualized this layer via directional optical coherence tomography (OCT) imaging, which will later be analyzed to trace out the anterior and posterior boundaries. The data from this study have the potential to solidify our understanding of the macula and will provide comparison data for potential early neurodegenerative disease diagnosis such as glaucoma, Alzheimer's disease, and Parkinson's disease.

James Chung

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

Why the T35 program is important to me:

One of the reasons I decided to attend Ohio State Optometry is its emphasis on research, and the T35 is one of the ways the college and the NIH have provided students with the opportunity to pursue research that is impactful and meaningful. Being a T35 student, I have learned that research is truly the foundation of guiding clinical excellence and improving patient care. Through this unique program, I have learned immensely from my PI, Dr. Bailey, and my peers who encourage me to think outside the box to contribute to clinical research.

What I'm doing:

Patients with presbyopia sometimes discontinue their soft contact lens use. Though many cite dry eye as the reason for their contact lens dropout, our project delves deeper into the specifics of how the fit of a contact lens influences this phenomenon. Utilizing the Zeiss Visante Anterior Segment OCT, we measure and compare the sagittal depth of participants' corneas to their habitual/former soft contact lenses. Measurements such as the participant's horizontal visible iris diameter (HVID), corneal

l to r: **Matt Andrew ('26)**, **Mason Clutter ('26)**, **McKenna Gardner ('26)**, **Elise Frazee ('26)**, **David Stout ('26)**, **James Chung ('26)**, **Michael Nye ('26)**, **Sonia Patel ('26)**, and **Mora Boatman ('26)**

topography, and history or presence of dry eye are also taken into consideration in evaluating soft contact lens fit and how it influences dropout.

Mason Clutter

Advisor: **Nick Fogt (OD/MS'92, PhD'96)**

Why the T35 program is important to me:

I really enjoyed doing research during my undergraduate studies, and I was excited to learn that Ohio State Optometry offers the T35 program as an opportunity for students. Working one-on-one with a research advisor provided me personalized guidance, mentorship, and the opportunity to delve deeper into my research, enhancing my learning experience.

What I'm doing:

My project this summer has been monitoring eye movements of batters when they swing at a pitched ball versus simply standing still and observing the ball's passing height. We are looking to determine if people make anticipatory saccades and whether they occur during one or both actions. This determination could influence future field trainings of baseball and softball players.

Elise Frazee

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

Why the T35 program is important to me:

I want to not only practice optometry but to be involved in the innovative ways in which optometry is practiced. It's clear that our Ohio State Optometry faculty and my peers share the same curiosity and love for learning. I believe the T35 program will make me a better clinician and critical thinker.

What I'm doing:

Vision impairment is a prevalent global health concern that interferes with everyday quality of life. Driving cessation is often an issue in the low vision community, compromising their feelings of autonomy and independence. Policies regarding vision requirements for driving licensure rely on existing literature, yet there is little in-depth research surrounding the relationship between vision and collision rates, especially in low vision bioptic telescope drivers. My project will be comparing self-report driving behaviors and near-collision rates with in-vehicle monitoring data of bioptic drivers and age-matched controls.

Michael Nye

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

Why the T35 program is important to me:

The T35 program has allowed me to see more of what optometry has to offer. Research is one arm of optometry that opens the door for a whole new side of clinical care; working directly with patients while searching for an answer not yet known is exciting and challenging. This program also allows me to gain valuable experience in educating patients and gain vital insight into communicating with patients more effectively.

What I'm doing:

My study uses the ocular response analyzer (ORA) to measure and potentially characterize a glaucoma match index (GMI) that may be used to diagnose glaucoma before clinical symptoms arise. To create this GMI, I am measuring the biomechanical response of the eyes in patients with primary open angle glaucoma. The GMI will be adjusted to account for characteristics that affect the biomechanics of the cornea including age, corneal disease, ocular surgery, and diabetes mellitus.

Sonia Patel

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

Why the T35 program is important to me:

Throughout my undergraduate career and during my gap years, I was given the opportunity to participate in research. From these experiences, my interest in research grew, and the T35 program allows me to continue to grow as a researcher, especially in a clinical setting. I am thankful that I have been able to work on my project throughout the summer, rather than having to balance it during the academic year. So far, this experience has been great, and I cannot wait to see what the future holds!

What I'm doing:

I am working on a study designed to describe how waterline eyeliner affects the tear lipid layer. Due to the placement of waterline eyeliner on the Meibomian glands, we hypothesize that the application of this makeup may affect the tear lipid layer and play a role in dry eye symptoms. Through this study, I will be learning how to use the Stroboscopic Video Color Microscope (SVCN), which measures the tear lipid layer thickness, as well as using various other measurements to compare changes in patients with and without waterline eyeliner application.

David Stout

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

Why the T35 program is important to me:

I have always been interested in research as a potential career path, whether as a faculty member or by pursuing research in industry. The T35 program has given me a chance to explore this option a little bit more while also helping me to deepen my understanding of a particular area in the field of optometry.

What I'm doing:

I am using an adaptive optics flood-illuminated fundus camera to obtain *in vivo*, cellular-level, high-resolution retinal images. The goal of my project is to determine if certain cells in these images, which are illuminated by multiply scattered light, are rods, cones, or retinal pigment epithelium. The properties of these cells will be investigated by placing obscuring masks at different locations, thereby allowing us to elucidate their identity.

Mora Boatman

Advisor: **Jeffrey Walline (OD, MS'98, PhD'02)**

Why the T35 program is important to me:

T35 has been a great opportunity to see how research drives progress in optometry and provides evidence for clinical practices. Participating in the summer program has given me the time and resources to begin working on my master's thesis without the additional pressures of classes and studying. I am grateful to have been able to ask questions and learn from advisors who are leaders in the field while also being encouraged by my peers and their own projects.

What I'm doing:

This summer I split my time between research and shadowing in the BV/Peds clinic. I am working with a large dataset from the Bifocal Lenses in Nearsighted Kids (BLINK) study to answer questions about seasonal variation in myopia progression and myopia control. When shadowing, I get to see how research manifests clinically while also learning about myopia management. In addition to the T35 experience, spending the summer in Columbus has also allowed me to participate in events like the Ohio Optometric Association (OOA) Optometry Day at the Statehouse (ODASH) and Realeyes.



Ohio State's alumni reception at NOA brought together alumni from across the nation. Pictured: **Olivia Oyegunle (OD'18)**, **Jacqueline Davis (OD'81, MPH)**, Mel Shipp, OD, MPH, DrPH, Karla Zadnik, OD, PhD, Vondolee Delgado-Nixon, PhD, **Araba Otoo (MPH, OD'22)**, **Mark Orso (OD'86)**, **Mykia Kidd ('26)**, **Fanita Muniz (OD'20)**, **Cynthia Heard (OD'92)**, **Mawada Osman (OD/MS'20)**, **Jordan Claboine (OD'19)**, **Kelly Echeta ('27)**, and **Briana Siale ('26)**.

NOA Representation

Ohio State Optometry wins big at National Optometric Association convention

At the National Optometric Association (NOA) Conference in Ft. Lauderdale, FL in June, Ohio State Optometry alumni, faculty, and students took home several prestigious awards. Congratulations to all of the winners, and thank you to everyone who attended Ohio State Optometry's inaugural Alumni and Friends Reception at NOA!

Mackenzie Coyne ('25)

Future Contact Lens Leader Scholarship Winner
sponsored by CooperVision

Jacqueline Davis (OD'81, MPH)

Optometrist of the Year

Kelly Echeta ('27)

Nijewel Holliday Memorial Scholarship Winner

Araba Otoo (MPH, OD'22)

Poster Session Doctor's Choice Award Winner

Mel Shipp, OD, MPH, DrPH
Living Legend Award Winner

Karla Zadnik, OD, PhD
Dean of the Year

Optometry Homecoming

October 6-8, 2023



FRIDAY, OCTOBER 6



Honoring the Reunion Classes

1978 | 1983 | 1988 | 1993 | 1998

2003 | 2008 | 2013 | 2018

Class Reunions throughout Columbus 6 - 8 p.m.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 7



Continuing Education

Katie Greiner (MS/OD'09)

11 a.m. - Noon

Senate Chamber in the Ohio Union
"Going Old School – Helpful Clinical Refreshers From
Optometry School Days"

This one-hour CE session is free, but registration is required.



Optometry Pre-Game Tailgate

Noon - 3 p.m.

Ohio Union, Cartoon Room

Food included in registration price, cash bar available



Ohio State Buckeyes vs. Maryland Terrapins

3:30 p.m.

Ohio Stadium

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 8



Hazael Edward Welton Breakfast for African-American and Hispanic Alumni

9:30 a.m.

The Optometry Clinic "Bad Habits Lounge"
1664 Neil Avenue, Columbus

*For more information, email Francesca Fuerman-George at
fuerman-george.1@osu.edu*

Learn more and register at go.osu.edu/eyegather



EΨE Centennial Celebration Tailgate

September 9, 2023

By Tallon Kramer ('24)

Please join us to celebrate Epsilon Psi Epsilon's 100th birthday on Saturday, September 9, 2023 at the EΨE House (275 E. 15th Avenue, Columbus) immediately following the Ohio State vs. Youngstown State football home opener. Although the official party will begin after the game (due to the game's noon start time), alumni and friends are more than welcome to come bright and early to tailgate with us before the game as well.

We want this to be the biggest and best tailgate since the birth of our amazing fraternity, and we can't do this without all of our incredible alumni.

RSVPs are not necessary, but if you'd like to give EΨE leaders a heads-up that you'll attend, please email Kramer.761@osu.edu. The cost to attend, which includes food and beverages, is \$10 per person (Venmo @Logan-Anway or bring cash to the party).

Additional EΨE news can be found on our alumni website at <https://boepeaa.wildapricot.org>. If you haven't received email correspondence from EΨE about the

tailgate, please let us know so we can update your contact information in our database. You can email **Vincent Driggs (OD'89)**, EYE Alumni President at vdriggs@aol.com, or **Tallon Kramer ('24)**, EYE Active Chapter President at kramer.761@osu.edu.

We can't wait to see you all, celebrate our incredible fraternity, and build a foundation to keep EΨE alive for another 100 years!

Ohio State Optometry at the EastWest Eye Conference

If you're heading to Columbus for the Ohio Optometric Association's (OOA) EastWest Eye Conference November 1-4, make sure to keep an eye out for the College of Optometry and Epsilon Psi Epsilon (EYE) House booths (#100 and #102, respectively) in the convention center's exhibit hall. We will have college-themed swag, and our Development and Alumni Office staff are eager to meet you.

Additionally, we're pleased to share that the OOA is hosting a networking event for current students and potential mentors on Thursday, November 2, 2023 from 5:30 to 7 p.m. If you're interested in attending or have questions about the event, please email Jordan Quickel at jquickel@ooa.org. Learn more about the conference at eastwesteye.org.



Reminder:

Golden Graduates Weekend

September 8, 9 & 10



Members of the Class of 1972 enjoyed a wonderful Golden Graduates Celebration last year. This year, we look forward to celebrating with graduates from the Class of 1973!

If you have not yet RSVP'd for the Class of 1973's Golden Graduates Weekend, you may do so by emailing Francesca Fuerman-George at fuerman-george.1@osu.edu. We hope you'll join us!



Eclipse 2024

Don't let your expertise get overshadowed

Leading up to April 8, 2024, the Solar Eclipse is bound to dominate the national news cycle. The media will seek out experts to provide tips and tricks for safe viewing. We strongly believe that Ohio State Optometry alumni are the best experts in the country, and we want you to be prepared to speak to the media to share your own expertise. We will host a free, optometry-specific Media Training Webinar on January 23, 2024 at 7 p.m. Eastern time. Our expert presenters will be Joe Camoriano, Ohio State's Director of Broadcast Media, and Jeff Grabmeier, Ohio State's Senior Director of Research Communications. More details to come via email this fall! If you have specific questions in the meantime, please email Sarah Cupples at cupples.8@osu.edu.

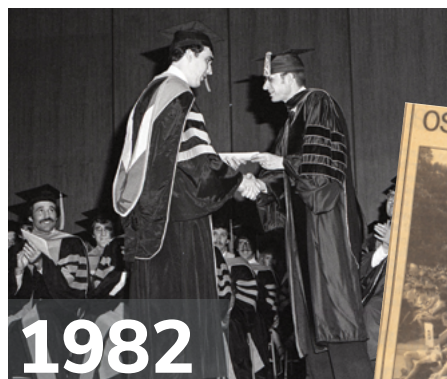
From the OptArchives:

Graduation

By Dave Moore, Instructional & Web Development Specialist

Spring is a busy and festive season on Ohio State's campus, most notably during graduation weekend. Every year, our graduates and their families mark this memorable milestone with traditions that include pomp, ceremonies and celebrations. Here are a few exhibits from the College of Optometry's archives.

1999-2001 Spring Commencements were moved to the Oval, as Ohio Stadium underwent renovations and was unavailable for use.



1999



From 16 mm > VHS > YouTube


Take a look at some video excerpts of the class of 1968's commencement ceremony in the 'Shoe:

go.osu.edu/opt1968


Alumni Notes

Congratulations to the following Ohio State Optometry alumni and students, who won American Optometric Association Awards at the organization's national conference in Washington, D.C. in June.

- President's Award Winners: **Carol Alexander (OD'87)**; **Kevin Alexander (OD'76, MS'77, PhD'79)**; and **Richard Weisbarth (OD'80)**
- AOA Advocacy Award Winner: **Jason Ortman (OD'00)**
- Optometry Cares 5K Run First Place Overall Winner with a time of 19:35, **Erin Hudson ('26)** and Third Place Overall Female Winner with a time of 22:16, **Mora Boatman ('26)**


- 5  **1973 Bob Heacock (OD'73)** has spent his retirement working as a part-time Ferryboat Captain at Walt Disney's Magic Kingdom, and recently was honored with Disney's prestigious Legacy Award. This award goes to fewer than 1% of Disney Cast members around the world. Each winner is chosen based on how they model Walt Disney's legacy of excellence criteria: dream, create, and inspire while in the workplace.


1984 Jeffrey Myers (OD'84) traveled to the College of Wooster to receive the Order of the DeMolay Active Legion of Honor, which recognizes active demonstration of outstanding leadership in some field of endeavor, whether civic, professional, fraternal, or spiritual.

- 8  **1992 Cynthia Heard (OD'92)** was honored by the Southern College of Optometry (SCO) for her 15th work anniversary as a professor of optometry. In addition, Dr. Heard celebrated her 40th high school reunion with her husband, Walter Clark, in June.


Births


2015 Katie Scullion (OD'15) and **Josh Wolf (OD'15)** welcomed a baby earlier this year.

- 7  **2018 Katherine Fisher (OD'18)** and Travis Osborne welcomed son Theodore in March 2023.

- 4  **2018 David Beckett (MS/OD'18)** and Cara Beckett welcomed son Calvin in Summer 2023.

2020 Natalie Maiorca (MS'19, OD'20) and **Francesco Maiorca (OD'20)** welcomed daughter Liliana Lucia Maiorca in Spring 2023.


- 3  **2019 Justin Klimchak (OD'19)** and **Bridget Lorenz Klimchak (OD'20)** welcomed son Charles Andrew Klimchak on June 10, 2023.


- 2  **2023 Dillon Ragan (OD'23)** and Alivia Ragan welcomed daughter Jemma Noel on April 19, 2023.

2023 Brandt Miller (OD'23) and Kelsey Miller welcomed daughter Margot on April 19, 2023.

Weddings

2019 PhD Candidate **Rebecca Deffler (OD, MS'19)** married Jamie Elmlinger on January 1, 2023.

- 6  **2019 Cornelia Peterson (DVM, PhD'19)** married Noah Moss earlier this year.

- 1  **2023 Alex Jones (OD'23)** married Emily Jones on May 14, 2023.

Retirements

1983 Robert Hammond (OD'83) retired from Johnson Optometric Associates after 36 years.

1984 Greg Hicks (OD'84) retired in September 2023, after practicing full time at Family Eye Care Centers in Sandusky, Huron and Clyde, Ohio since 1990.

1987 Christine Beiling-Sheerer (OD '87), retired May 16, 2023, after a career spanning more than 30 years in Medina, Ohio.

In Memoriam

1955 Irwin Pass (BS'55) passed away on May 16, 2023. He was 90.

Emeritus Dean Richard Mather Hill, OD, PhD, passed away on June 20, 2023. He was 88.





College of Optometry
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Alumni News Updates

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

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

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

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