

Spring 2012

Visionary Spring 2012

College of Optometry

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the VISIONARY

Spring 2012

Insight
into
NSUCO
Research

ALSO IN
THIS ISSUE...

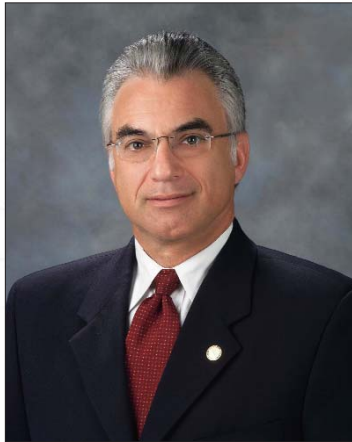
PROFILE ON
DR. ARNIE PATRICK

SPOTLIGHT ON
ANDREW VALENTI

REMEMBERING
DR. STANLEY CROSSMAN

Nova Southeastern University • College of Optometry

DEAN'S MESSAGE



“Although the number of applicants for all the optometry programs in the country is relatively constant, the College of Optometry continues to recruit only the best candidates and maintains its high standards for admission.”

David S. Loshin, O.D., Ph.D., FAO

As dean of the College of Optometry, I am delighted that 2011 has brought about yet another fruitful year under the auspices of the new NSU president and chief executive officer, George L. Hanbury II, Ph.D. Change can be difficult, but with input from constituent groups and proper communication, change can enhance advancement and help us grow as a team with similar goals.

One such goal for NSU is the promotion of the undergraduate programs. In 2007, the College of Optometry started its Preparatory Optometry Program (POP) in collaboration with the Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences. Students who are interested in the professional program but fall short of the entrance requirements may be given the opportunity to demonstrate their ability by successfully completing undergraduate and basic science courses. The POP brings highly motivated students to the undergraduate and professional programs, thus supporting several core values while enhancing educational programs.

Academic excellence still remains the driving force in most everything we do. Although the number of applicants for all the optometry programs in the country is relatively constant, the College of Optometry continues to recruit only the best candidates and maintains its high standards for admission. Michael Bacigalupi, O.D., M.S., assistant dean for student affairs, and Fran Franconeri, college recruiter, have begun an active recruitment program by updating the college's Web site, incorporating

videos, initiating a blog, and developing a program for recruitment assistance by alumni, in addition to visiting pre-optometry/health clubs throughout Florida, the United States, and Canada.

The Eye Care Institute, the clinical arm of the college, has five primary sites: Davie, North Miami Beach, Broward Boulevard, the Broward Lighthouse, and Kids in Distress. With the diversity of patients, services offered, technology available, and outstanding faculty expertise, the clinical training the students receive is second to none, and I truly believe it is a major strength of the NSU optometry program. Linda Rouse, O.D., assistant dean for finance and chief operating officer for The Eye Care Institute, has been continually adding vision/health care insurance plans and grants so our students can provide faculty-supervised vision care to the community.

Along with changes at the university, new administrators have been appointed at the college with Joseph Sowka, O.D., as department chair for optometric science, Barry Frauens, O.D., as department chair for clinic education, and Josephine Shallo-Hoffmann, Ph.D., as associate dean for academic affairs. Melanie Crandall, O.D., director of continuing education, has been organizing the college for our accreditation visit later this year in the additional role of chair of the college ACOE Accreditation Committee.

Lori Volmer, O.D., director of residencies, diligently prepares for our numerous resi-

dency accreditation visits and along with Yin Tea, O.D., pediatrics residency chair, received a positive preliminary report from the site team that visited the college in January. Alexandra Espejo, O.D., director of externships, had the arduous task last year of assigning externship rotations for our extremely large class that will be graduating in May.

In May, Bai-Chuan Jiang, Ph.D., along with Dr. Tea and I, once again visited our affiliate universities and externship sites in China at Fudan University in Tianjin. Not only do we send optometry students for a clinical rotation at these sites, we also offer training for visiting Chinese scholars and faculty members who come to NSU and spend six months to one year teaching our students, learning about optometric techniques, and performing research. Following the success of these international relationships, we are now exploring an exchange program with Taiwan as well as recruiting advanced-standing students from China into our professional degree and on-line graduate program.

As you can see, the college's faculty and staff members and administration are involved in enhancing the college. I thank them all for the work accomplished. I look forward to another exciting year full of challenges and opportunities, faculty member and student accomplishments, and the continued positive growth for the future of the College of Optometry and Nova Southeastern University.



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As a child growing up in an upscale area of southern New Hampshire, OD3 student Andrew Valenti enjoyed many carefree days playing sports and hanging out with friends. However, he also possessed a laser-like focus when it came to where his professional destiny lay.



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Stanley Crossman, O.D., who was an NSUCO faculty member for 11 years, passed away in December at the age of 85. He brought a truly unique perspective to the college and made considerable contributions to the development of optometry as it is practiced today.



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For some, the proverbial climb up the professional ladder occurs seamlessly. However, for others, it's a much more arduous ascent. The latter scenario certainly epitomized what Arnie Patrick, O.D., dealt with as he attempted to make a career change in his late 30s.

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The Doctor of Optometry Program at the Nova Southeastern University College of Optometry is fully accredited by The Accreditation Council on Optometric Education (ACOE). The ACOE (243 N. Lindbergh Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri; telephone number 800-365-2219) is the accrediting body for professional degree programs offered by all optometric institutions in the United States.

Nova Southeastern University is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia, 30033-4097; telephone number: 404-679-4501) to award associate's, bachelor's, master's, educational specialist, and doctoral degrees.

Nova Southeastern University admits students of any race, color, sex, age, nondisqualifying disability, religion or creed, sexual orientation, or national or ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school, and does not discriminate in administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, scholarship and loan programs, and athletic and other school-administered programs.



CHANCELLOR'S COMMUNIQUE

A Message from the Health Professions Division Chancellor
Frederick Lippman, R.Ph., Ed.D.

“ At NSU's Health Professions Division, our focus is not restricted to training our students to become high-tech, high-quality clinicians and diagnosticians who provide tertiary facility-linked care.”

As we once again approach graduation season, I can't help but think about our perpetual need to review and modify an action plan that creates positive enhancements in our curriculum and program presentation for the student body. To put it simply, the days of creating solid-wall institutions that have no cracks and are impervious to change are over.

One only has to look at health care reform or the various health profession admission tests such as the MCAT (medicine), OAT (optometry), PCAT (pharmacy), or DAT (dental) to realize our nation's health care paradigm is undergoing a significant metamorphosis. There's clearly a resultant change in all these national testing units to seek out not only science-based knowledge, but also human-based information that comes from the study of society, culture, and the arts, which makes for more communicative health professions.

As an example, beginning in 2015, the new MCAT exam will include a section on the psychological, social, and biological sciences foundational to the concepts new physicians will need to practice in a rapidly changing health care system. Under the changes approved in February 2012 by the Association of American Medical Colleges' Board of Directors, the exam will also include updated science sections and a new section on critical analysis and reasoning skills that will require students to analyze information in passages from a wide range of social sciences and humanities disciplines, including ethics and philosophy, cross-cultural studies, and population health.

In regard to the various Health Professions Division colleges, we have not only expanded our responsibilities to provide the applied knowledge of the scientific and health care community, but

to also reference it in regard to the interaction between the patient and health care professional. When our graduates receive their diplomas and move on to their individual career goals as licensed health care professionals, we can take pride in knowing we have done our best to provide them with opportunities to work with the most cutting-edge technology available in the clinical environment while also instilling in them the humanity of their profession.

As health care professions evolve, patients are making it known that a return to a more compassionate and humanistic style of care is what they desire—and demand—when it comes to the patient-physician relationship. At NSU's Health Professions Division, our focus is not restricted to training our students to become high-tech, high-quality clinicians and diagnosticians who provide tertiary facility-linked care. While the attainment of the aforementioned abilities is vitally important, it's just as imperative for our students to understand the importance of effectively communicating with their future patients.

Because of the increased demand for health care professionals to possess effective and collaborative communication skills, the colleges and programs housed within NSU's Health Professions Division are positively responding to this charge. For example, in order for students to earn acceptance into the College of Pharmacy, one of the prerequisites is that they completed a course in communications in their undergraduate studies.

Similarly, in the College of Osteopathic Medicine, several communications-based programs have been implemented to enhance these skills for students as well as administrators and faculty and staff members. From a student standpoint, the college implemented the Art Observation

Pilot Program in 2011, which is designed to improve students' observational skills. Equally as laudable are the leadership and professionalism classes designed and taught by Dr. Elaine Wallace, which provide students, administrators, and faculty and staff members with an opportunity to become more effective communicators and learners.

One of the primary challenges future graduates will face as they enter their professions is that from a communications perspective, so much has changed within the eight-year or so span of time it took for them to earn their D.O., O.D., or other health professions-related degrees. In my opinion, thanks to the recent advent of social media, we as a society have tended to focus less on our verbal communication skills as we increasingly rely on more impersonal electronic devices to share information. I truly believe this poses a challenge to our health care professionals because most people utilizing primary health care services today are in the second stage of their lives—the baby boomers over the age of 60 who are not cyberphobes but are certainly not cyberphiles. The majority of baby boomers learned to communicate verbally and not through Facebook, Twitter, iPads, iPhones, and other devices.

When I tape a segment of our TV program *Date-line Health*, I always look into the camera and implore the viewers to talk to their health care professionals and verbally share with them what type of over-the-counter medications and nutritional supplements they are taking.

Today's communications technology truly is incredible in terms of its scope, capabilities, and efficiencies; however, it's important for all of us to remember that nothing replaces the merits of verbal, face-to-face communication.

NSUCO Earns Three STUEY Nominations

The College of Optometry was recognized in three categories when finalists were announced for the 13th Annual NSU Student Life Achievement Awards (STUEYS), which was held on April 17 at the Rose and Alfred Miniaci Performing Arts Center on NSU's main campus.

The Student Life Achievement Awards, affectionately known as the STUEYS, is an annual celebration of NSU's best in scholarship, leadership, involvement, service, commitment, integrity, and inclusion. Five finalists in each category are selected, with the winners being announced at the awards ceremony.

Following are the three NSUCO STUEY Award finalists:

STUDENT OF THE YEAR



OD3 Stephanie Frankel

GRADUATE ORGANIZATION OF THE YEAR



Nova's Optometric Practice Management Association

Pictured (from left) are NOPMA board members Justin Coleman, Chris Daldine, Natalia Carrillo, Beth Seidman, Sara Williams, Jenny Chan, David Chao, and Bryan Miron.

PROFESSOR OF THE YEAR



Melanie A. Crandall,
O.D., M.B.A., FAAO

Chinese Visiting Scholar at NSUCO

by Nathaniel King, B.A., Co-Editor, The Visionary

Haiying Wang, M.S., is serving as a teaching assistant in the field of vision science at the College of Optometry under the supervision of Bai-Chuan Jiang, Ph.D., FAAO. Dr. Wang is a Chinese visiting scholar who began working with the college in January 2011 and then returned in January 2012. Dr. Wang received her Master of Medical Science in Ophthalmology from Tianjin Medical University and worked on anisometropia research. She is currently an associate professor in binocular vision, contact lens, and ophthalmology at Tianjin Professional College and the China national coordinator of the International Association of Contact Lens Educators.

Additionally, Dr. Wang has been acknowledged as a National Excellent Courses (China) recipient for her teaching and course design for contact lens modules. She met Dr. Jiang while working at the Tianjin Eye Hospital in 2005 and credits him with providing her the opportunity to learn from him. Dr. Wang volunteers her time at a population-based pediatric eye disease epidemic project. She has published nine research papers in academic journals and was also an associate editor-in-chief for *Refracting and Dispensing*, published in 2007 by China Light Industry Press.



A MAN REBORN:

Andrew Valenti Surges to The Head of the Class

By Scott Colton, B.A., APR
Co-Editor, *The Visionary*

As a child growing up in an upscale area of southern New Hampshire, OD3 student Andrew Valenti enjoyed many carefree days playing sports and hanging out with friends. However, he also possessed a laser-like focus when it came to where his professional destiny lay.

“Since I was six years old, all I wanted to do was become a doctor,” said Valenti, whose father, James, is a successful optometrist and associate at Tallman Eye Associates, which has several offices in both Massachusetts and New Hampshire. “I always had an interest in optometry due to my father, but I never really thought I was going to go in that direction. I was thinking more along the lines of orthopedics or neurology.”

When he was 18, Valenti decided to test the optometric waters by working as an optometric/ophthalmic technician at the Tallman Eye Associates office in Lawrence, Massachusetts, while also attending Tufts University in

Medford, Massachusetts, as a premed student. Unfortunately, due to a severe concussion he suffered while playing football during his time at Tufts, Valenti was forced to take a year off from college. “Due to the concussion, which was actually the third one I had experienced in a few short years, I developed severe headaches that made it too difficult for me to continue my studies,” said Valenti, who is the middle child of a three-sibling family.

When he resumed his studies at Tufts a year later, Valenti’s focus had waned to the point where the idea of dropping out entirely seemed like the prudent course of action, which is exactly what he did. “I just wasn’t into it anymore,” he admitted. “I was told I could no longer play football because of the potential danger involved if I sustained yet another concussion. Once football was gone from my life, it seemed as if my motivation for other things, like academics, diminished as well. I kind of knew I wanted to move on, so I decided to relocate to Florida.”



**Valenti and wife
Kimberly on their
wedding day.**

REBIRTH IN THE SUNSHINE STATE

Whether it was simply a case of growing pains or a personality shift caused by his multiple concussions, Valenti knew it was time to spread his wings even though his parents didn't share his sentiment. "Because I was going through a difficult time, they thought it would be best if I stayed closer to home," he explained. "They were concerned I wasn't going to survive on my own. They weren't totally against it, but they told me, 'You're an adult now, so if this is what you want to do, you're going to have to succeed on your own.' They were also a little bit upset that I had spent four years at Tufts without actually earning any sort of degree."

With his decision made, the Florida-bound Valenti relocated to Gainesville, which is where several of his good friends resided. "Once I moved to Florida, my life really changed for the better," said Valenti, who took a two-year break from college to work as an optometric technician at Lange Eye Care and Associates during the day while serving as a bouncer/security guard at a local bar located across the street from the University of Florida (UF) football stadium at night. "Since I was on my own and away from my parents, I had to pay my own bills, become more mature, and take responsibility for my actions for the first time in my life."

In 2004, thanks to his renewed interest in education, Valenti enrolled in Gainesville's Sante Fe Community College, earning his Associate of Science degree in Biological Science in 2006. By this juncture in time, Valenti's decision to pursue an optometric career had crystalized, so he began matriculating at the University of Florida with the intent of majoring in chemistry or biology.

Unfortunately, what should have been an educational highpoint took an inopportune turn when Valenti's tumultuous academic past came back to haunt him. "As it turned out, because I had twice failed the biology course at Tufts University, I was unable to pursue the chemistry or biology majors at UF's College of Liberal Arts & Sciences," he said. "Thankfully, my university advisers told me about a nutritional science track at the College of Agriculture & Life Sciences that would fulfill all the prerequisites I needed to get into optometry school."

GRADUATION, MATRIMONY, AND NSUCO

During the five years he spent at both Sante Fe Community College and the University of Florida, Valenti successfully balanced being a full-time student and simultaneously working as both an optometric technician and bar bouncer. He was also fortunate enough to meet the love of his life, future wife Kimberly, during this frenetic period when a stabilizing and loving force was just what he needed.

One night, while Valenti was attending Sante Fe Community College, he and a group of friends visited the bar he worked at to kick back and have a few drinks. "I wasn't working that night, so I was just relaxing with my friends and mingling," he said. "Kimberly was sitting at the table adjacent to us with a group of her friends, so we all just started chatting. We became friends first, but after a few months it evolved into a romantic relationship. To be honest, she was kind of my blessing in disguise. She was in the process of earning a degree in public relations from UF's College of Journalism and Communication, so she really motivated me to take school seriously."



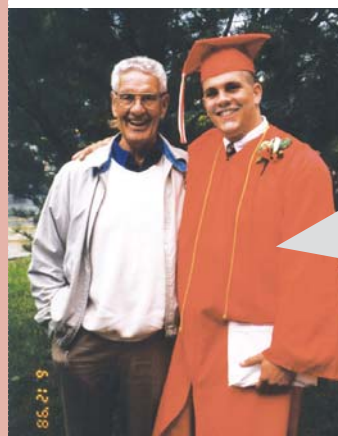
Baby on the Beach



Happy Grad



College Football



Success!

By the time he was ready to graduate from the University of Florida with his Bachelor of Science in Nutritional Science, a double celebration had materialized. “We actually got married on May 2, 2009, the day after my graduation,” said Valenti, who graduated cum laude. “Because our entire family was coming to Gainesville to celebrate, Kimberly and I decided it made sense to get married at the same time.”

Marrying Kimberly, who currently works at NSU’s College of Osteopathic Medicine as a recruiter/counselor in the Center for Interprofessional Education and Practice, may have been the easiest—and most fulfilling—decision he has ever made. That same effortlessness, however, was sorely lacking when it came to applying to optometry school. “To be honest, coming to NSU’s College of Optometry was both a geographical and financial decision,” he explained. “I considered moving back to the Northeast and attending New England College of Optometry in Boston, Massachusetts, but the tuition was simply too high. I also knew I wanted to stay close to family, so NSUCO was the only other school I considered.”

Because he was now a Florida resident, the cost to attend NSU’s College of Optometry would be approximately \$10,000 less per year than in Boston, which would amount to a \$40,000 savings. As a result, NSU was the only optometric college he applied to, which was a calculated risk he was willing to take.

Fortunately, not only did Valenti gain admittance to NSUCO, he currently ranks at the top of his class. “I’ve always had the ability to do really well academically; it’s just the motivation factor because I tend to be lazy sometimes,” he admitted. “I have a great life balance now with Kimberly, plus I’m able to relax away from school by playing golf and tennis year round. To put it simply, I’m really enjoying my time here.”

With his NSUCO graduation looming on the horizon in May 2013, Valenti is contemplating several postgraduate options, including pursuing a residency or immediately joining an optometric practice. “To be honest, I really want to get out there and start making money so I can begin paying off my student loans,” he stated. “I would like to open my own practice eventually, but I don’t think I want to take on that sort of challenge right out of college. I’d like to pay off some of my debt first and gain additional experience in the field before thinking about opening my own practice.”

Although he is unsure of where he’ll end up once he graduates, a return to the Northeast isn’t likely. “My wife has no desire to relocate to Boston, so we’ll probably remain in Florida,” he stated. “At the end of the day, my ultimate goals are to have a happy and successful family and make a real difference in my community through being a really first-rate optometrist.”

While he looks toward the future with optimism, Valenti is the first to admit his journey from college dropout to academic ace has been an arduous—and frequently demoralizing—one. “I’m extremely proud of what I’ve accomplished,” he admitted. “There was a time not too long ago when I was at my lowest point emotionally. I had dropped out of college and moved down to Florida with nothing but a backpack full of clothes. But I survived despite my initial apprehension and created a new life for myself thanks to the support I’ve received from my family, my wife, and my wife’s family. I’ve really been blessed in so many ways.”



“At the end of the day, my ultimate goals are to have a happy and successful family and make a real difference in my community through being a really first-rate optometrist.”

NSUCO Students Maintain Active Itineraries

SGA

The Student Government Association (SGA) has been keeping very busy this school year. We had a very successful fall semester and are hoping for the same during the winter semester. One of our proudest moments was introducing the inaugural SGA charity event: the Exo Factor, which is a talent show by optometry students that was held at the Flight Deck at the University Center. We were able to raise \$591, with all proceeds going to The Lighthouse of Broward—a nonprofit organization providing services for the visually impaired. For Valentine's Day, we brought back our middle school memories by doing a "Data-Match." This was a chance for students to be matched up with their ideal friends within the optometry program. Our biggest event of the year will be the EyeBall, which will take place at Exit 66 in Fort Lauderdale and feature the theme "Under the SEE." – OD3 George Hanna, SGA president

Class of 2013

The OD3 year has been quite the experience for the class of 2013. With two semesters down and national boards approaching quickly, many members of our class have managed to further their experience beyond the classroom and study rooms.

OD3 Lindsey Cohen-Vernillo has been chosen as this year's NSUCO finalist for the InfantSEE® Scholarship Grant, sponsored by Vision West, Inc. Her essay on how she, as a primary health care provider, will use her professional skills and patient treatment programs to further the goals of the InfantSEE® program in future practice, stood out among many applicants as worthy to represent our university.

OD3 George Hanna has been busy as usual. In between studying hard and helping plan this year's EyeBall with his talented SGA team, he nabbed the top spot in the Dr. Seymour Galina Grant Runnings. Hanna's essay addresses qualities he has developed through his financial planning/work experience during and/or before optometry school that he believes will be most useful to him in a professional optometric practice. His work earned him the right to represent Nova Southeastern University in this year's selection process.

Our class also showcased interest in this year's SECO International conference, which took place February 29-March 4 in Atlanta, Georgia. SECO International is a conference deeply rooted in furthering education and presenting new information to the field of optometry. Case reports are presented through the use of PowerPoint as a means of integrating education and technology. Each year, hundreds of abstracts are submitted, with only 100 of the top submissions being chosen for display over the five-day event.

OD3 Lina Arango's report on "Atypical Presentation of Posterior Staphylococci" earned her a featured spot. **OD3 Victoria Trieu** and **OD3 Blake Hutto** also nabbed presenter slots with their report on "Unilateral Sectoral Iris and Choroid Heterochromia." The aforementioned students collaborated on their projects with Alexandra Espejo, O.D., director of externships.

SECO International has furthered its efforts to expand student involvement by assembling its first Student Advisory Committee for the 2012 meeting. **OD3 David Chao** and Hutto were chosen to represent NSUCO on this panel of student leaders.

Although classes and clinic absorb much of our time, the class of 2013 still goes above and beyond to meet the call of the profession. I see our class as a great representation of what Nova Southeastern University College of Optometry is supposed to look like. – OD3 Blake Hutto, class of 2013 president.

Class of 2014

The class of 2014 has been involved with many different activities and fundraisers that have brought this diverse group of students together as one family. To raise money for our class, we sold class T-shirts as well as sweaters and coordinated a Valentine's Day fundraiser where we baked desserts and sold them to HPD students.

Many of the student leaders in the class of 2014 attended the AOA Conference in Boston last summer as well as the FOSA Legislative Day in Tallahassee. Currently, we are planning to have a class social as well as another fundraiser at a local venue. Our class has many students from around the country that have come together to work hard and become one of the best groups of future O.D.s the College of Optometry has ever seen. – Morvarid Fallahzadeh, class of 2014 president

Class of 2015

The class of 2015 has been adjusting to the NSUCO optometry program by supporting one another in our didactic classes through group studying and class reviews. Performing well in class isn't where we stop. The students are extremely involved in the College of Optometry through its many student organizations such as NOPMA, NOSA, SVOSH, FOSA, and FCO, where they are growing in the understanding of the profession through community service and medical outreach trips. Many are involved in the executive boards as well.

The class members have also given time in providing tours for the college during their lunchtime so they can show potential incoming students what the College of Optometry has to offer and why they should consider coming here.

On the political front, the class had representation in Tallahassee during Legislative Day, which gave us the chance to support Florida optometry and try to help get the regulations on oral drug prescriptions changed. In addition, it provided us an opportunity to witness what goes on in the state capital when these new bills are proposed. Students unable to attend Legislative Day were involved in sending thank you letters to all the Florida senators for supporting the optometry profession in this specific bill.

The 2015 class has coordinated various fund-raisers such as selling class shirts and holding bake sales. In the upcoming academic year, we will be offering anatomy reviews to other students. Additionally, we have developed different intermural teams in soccer, basketball, and hockey, while many students have been involved in marathons and community service such as neutralizing glasses for medical outreach trips and participating in a local VisionWalk. – Nathalie Anglade, class of 2015 president

NOSA



Planning has begun for the NSU College of Osteopathic Medicine's Jamaica medical outreach trip taking place June 13-22, which will cover two areas. During the first half, everyone will be in Kingston while the second half will be conducted in St. Mary. Volunteers from the various HPD colleges, including but not limited to optometry, dental medicine, osteopathic medicine, and pharmacy, will be participating in this humanitarian outreach endeavor. – OD2 Bradley Austin

BSK

The Beta Sigma Kappa (BSK) International Optometric Honor Society is a prestigious organization founded in 1925 by a group of Illinois optometrists that has grown to establish chapters in every school and college of optometry in the United States as well as in Puerto Rico and Canada. The organization's mission is to stimulate scientific attainment, academic excellence, and the ethical practice of optometry as well as promote and provide financial support for worthy research projects relating to vision care and the eyes. Some notable projects undertaken by the BSK Chapter at Nova Southeastern University over the past year include the coordination of the tutoring program as well as mock preclinical proficiencies. – OD3 Lauren Nicole Zaiffdeen

SVOSH

Student Volunteer Optometric Services to Humanity has big news for this year's optometric medical outreach trip. Each year, NSU's SVOSH chapter travels to a South or Central American country to provide full eye exams and distribute glasses to those in need. This year, SVOSH headed to Ecuador from April 21-29, where students and doctors worked in the small town of Mindo for four days. The remainder of the trip was spent relaxing and sightseeing.

To prepare for the trip, SVOSH coordinated a number of fund-raising and volunteer activities, including neutralization races, a barbeque, a bake sale, and an HPD social event. SVOSH would like to give a special thank you to National Vision, which recently donated money, reading glasses, and sunglasses to support the trip. – OD3 Ginger Sadek

American Academy of Optometry Student Fellow Program

We are proud to announce that 18 of our current students completed the requirements to become Student Fellows in the American Academy of Optometry this year. This number is outstanding and represents an extensive commitment by these students.

The academy launched this program in 2011 with the hopes that it would stimulate improved integration of all of the opportunities offered at the academy meeting, encourage future involvement, and persuade students to become fellows upon graduation.

The Student Fellowship program is a great opportunity for students to engage in cutting-edge knowledge and technology through lectures, workshops, posters, and much more. The program is geared to guide students to develop their skills as an optometric or vision science professional. Students were encouraged to explore all the amazing events at Academy 2011 Boston. To obtain Student Fellowship, students were required to do the following at Academy 2011 Boston:

- be a current student member of the AAO
- attend one orientation breakfast
- attend six hours of continuing education
- attend one hour of scientific talks
- attend one hour of posters
- attend one plenary session or one Monroe J. Hirsch Symposium
- attend one business meeting
- attend one section symposium
- attend one award symposium

On February 9, our students received a Student Fellow lapel pin, a certificate, and their Candidacy for Fellowship application. Dues will be waived during their year of graduation. They will also enjoy free registration to the next academy meeting.

Please congratulate the following students on this accomplishment: Farah Abdoly, Lisbet Abrante, Asma Alsalameh, Marta Banh, Alex Boldis, Patrick Cassidy, Jocelyn Cercone, Renee Clark, Tiffany Doan, Stephanie Frankel, Jennifer Gonzalez, Meghann Hamindiani, Pinar Haytac, Jenalyn Jotie, John Kauderman, Hammad Mallick, Margi Patel, and Karuna Seidman. – Michael Bacigalupi, O.D., M.S.

NOPMA

This year, the NSU Optometric Practice Management Association (NOPMA) has been more active than ever before. We had six events during the fall 2011 semester, with subjects covering practice types, the business of contact lenses, loan acquisition, legal matters, and co-management. At the beginning of the semester, each member was given a practice management textbook, which is paid for through an education grant.

New to NOPMA was the development of a Web site for its members that includes links to useful blogs, management documents, videos of all past lectures, and contacts for networking opportunities so students can develop professional relationships that will go toward furthering their career. Because not everyone can attend all the events due to variance in class schedules, the videos of lectures are available to all members at any time so they can get the most out of their education. NOPMA is the first and only optometric extracurricular club to offer this service. To access the Web site, please visit <http://web.me.com/nsu.nopma/nopma/Welcome.html>.

Another first is the new one-on-one networking program, where students are introduced to local industry representatives to assist them in their search for opportunities. For the spring semester, since school schedules are so intensive, there will be two main events and one video presentation featuring five O.D.s and the CEO of a large corporation that will be made available to students on our Web site.

NOPMA leads by example by running the club as if it were a business. The executive board is elected through résumé submission/interview process

and is trained by using the current president's past work experience to educate board members firsthand in the ways of a business. The organization not only provides useful information and guides students as they are finishing their education at Nova, but it also serves as a great resource even after they leave Nova as students and are developing their careers. – OD3 Justin Coleman

Gold Key International Optometric Honor Society

The Gold Key International Optometric Honor Society is an organization established to recognize upperclassmen who have demonstrated outstanding leadership and service to their class, community, and profession. This May, we will be honoring several of this year's Gold Key members in the graduating class of 2012 with a gold cord to be worn during their graduation ceremony. New members will be selected from the class of 2013 by the current officers. Applications will be available in April. – OD4 See Vang

CAOS

The Canadian Association of Optometry Students (CAOS) is an organization that brings together Canadian students studying in Canada and the United States. The purpose of the CAOS is to provide a platform from which resources and information can be shared amongst Canadian optometry students. Updates on items such as new laws and changes in the scope of practice in each province, dates and deadline for Canadian Boards, law exams, and license registration are common topics at meetings. It also provides a network for students to connect with their future colleagues both while in optometry school, and after graduation.



NOSA: Caring at Christmas

By OD3 Babita Gounden

Eagerly anticipating Santa's arrival, a three-year-old boy finds it hard to get to sleep on Christmas Eve. Somewhere between his anxiousness and thoughts of reindeer on the roof, he manages to slip into a dream where he runs out to the Christmas tree and sees a pile of presents for him and his older brother. Suddenly, he realizes it's time to wake up. He jumps out of bed and runs toward the Christmas tree gleefully awaiting his gifts.

He finally arrives at the tree only to see there is nothing under it. He searches around, but no gifts can be found. He walks back to his room with his head hung low, curls up under the covers, and waits for everyone else to awaken. Sadly, this is the story of many children right here in South Florida. Christmas is so much bigger than gifts under a tree, yet this is one of the most exciting times of the year for young children because they know something might magically appear for them overnight.

The National Optometric Student Association (NOSA) teamed up with the Ft. Lauderdale Lions Club this past December to collect and deliver Christmas gifts to needy children around the greater Fort Lauderdale area.

The NSUCO chapter of the CAOS has had a fun and productive school year, which began with a back-to-school dinner for the first-year members to get to know the upperclassmen. In October, the CAOS celebrated Canadian Thanksgiving with the annual potluck dinner at the HPD cafeteria. It's a wonderful and festive evening for everyone who attends since there isn't an opportunity to fly home and spend the holiday with family. Shortly after this, a webinar was held with a Canadian O.D. and Vision Source Canada. After the presentation, there was an open question-and-answer session, during which the O.D.s were very helpful in answering questions about anything related to optometry in Canada.

Upcoming CAOS events include a hockey night to go to a Toronto Maple Leafs game when the team comes to Florida to face the Florida Panthers. There is also another webinar planned with a top-rated company that does electronic health records in Canada to help future O.D.s understand their options for recordkeeping. – OD4 Nina Gupta, CAOS co-president

Student Kudos

OD4 Dean Gogerdchi received the International Vision Expo travel grant last fall to attend Vision Expo West in Las Vegas, Nevada. The \$1,000 grant, which covered hotel accommodations and other expenses, allowed Gogerdchi to gain a wealth of valuable knowledge and connections.

OD3 Blake Hutto received the 2011 J. Pat Cummings Scholarship award from the American Optometric Foundation. This well-deserved award recognizes Hutto's outstanding accomplishments both in the classroom and in regard to volunteer activities.

Michael Bacigalupi, O.D., M.S., FAAO, assistant dean for student affairs, Lions Club members, and students Nathalie Anglade, Babita Gounden, Hong Vu, and Anieka Williams traveled to various homes to deliver gifts to 50 children—5 of whom were living in a shelter.

The team drove around Fort Lauderdale not only to deliver the gifts, but to spend a little time and share some Christmas spirit with the families and children. Trips to the various households were also necessary because many children came from homes with only one parent, and many of these families would not have been able to find transportation to pick up the Christmas gifts. NOSA sponsored a young boy named Collin who was very shy and timid when we arrived. However, after spending a little time with him and giving him his multiple gifts, he had one of the biggest smiles we saw all day and couldn't wait to open up his surprises.

The toy drive would not have been possible without the extraordinary coordination and heart of the Lions Club's Lorrie Cram, who has been coordinating the drive for a number of years and has built a strong love for each and every one of these families. The names of the children come from the Pregnancy and Parent support program, which is part of the Children's Home Society. These children are in families that are in danger of losing custody of their kids due to things such as having their electricity cut off for a prolonged period of time.

The Lions Toy Drive, which has been in effect since 1995 and started with only 10 children, has grown exponentially with the economic crises that have gripped the country in recent years. Each child at the minimum receives one outfit of clothing and two toys. Many of the faculty members here at NSUCO help in sponsoring children, including Dr. Bacigalupi and Linda Rouse, O.D., FAAO, who serves as assistant dean for finance and chief operations officer of The Eye Care Institute. If you would like to assist with the 2012 Christmas toy drive, please email your contact information to Babita Gounden at gounden@nova.edu.

Currently, NOSA is coordinating a children's book drive for an orphanage in Haiti, so if you have any children's books, especially picture books, please send an email to the aforementioned address.

Spotlight on New Faculty **Matthew Walsh, O.D.**



Matthew Walsh, O.D., was born in New York City but lived on Long Island before relocating with his parents to Southwest Florida just before his sixth birthday. During his formative years, he was an avid participant in sports such as football, baseball, basketball, and track. In fact, he was recruited to play football by several NCAA Division II and Division III colleges.

Dr. Walsh's proudest accomplishment was also his lifelong goal—earning an appointment to the United States Naval Academy. Unfortunately, due to a family tragedy, he declined the offer. After graduating cum laude from the University of Florida in 2006 with a Bachelor of Science in Microbiology and Cell Science, Dr. Walsh attended NSU's College of Optometry, earning a Bachelor of Science in Vision Science and his O.D. degree in 2010, with honors. During his final two years at NSUCO, he served as class president.

In 2011, Dr. Walsh completed the esteemed Dr. Irwin B. Suchoff Residency Program in Vision Therapy and Rehabilitation at SUNY State College of Optometry, where he was trained to perform vision therapy for a variety of conditions such as strabismus, amblyopia, visual skill deficiencies, visual-related learning problems, acquired brain injury, and vestibular issues.

Dr. Walsh became a passionate vision therapy devotee because it allows for greater patient interaction and helps him make a dramatically positive impact on the quality of a patient's life. Simply put, Dr. Walsh takes great pride in successfully treating a patient with vision therapy.

Chinese New Year Commemoration

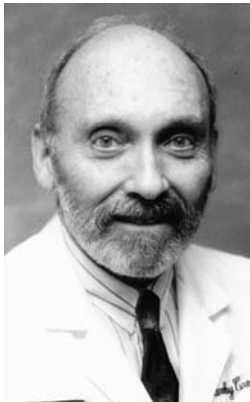


The Chinese New Year was commemorated on January 23 by NSU faculty members and students at a festive lunch coordinated by Bai-Chuan Jiang, Ph.D., FAAO. The Chinese New Year, which is regarded by many as the most important of the traditional Chinese holidays, is known as “Spring Festival” and corresponds with the first solar term in a Chinese calendar year.

IN MEMORIAM:

Recollections of Dr. Stanley Crossman

by Nathaniel King, B.A., Co-Editor, *The Visionary*



Stanley Crossman, O.D., who was an NSUCO faculty member for 11 years, passed away on December 2, 2011, at the age of 85 in Hollywood, Florida. A native of Pennsylvania, Dr. Crossman graduated from the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine in 1948 and maintained a solo practice for 30 years in the Philadelphia area.

Dr. Crossman felt he had reached a turning point in his life when, in 1965, he made the decision to participate in a certification program called Vision in the School-Aged Child from the Gesell Institute of Child Development in Connecticut. The certificate he earned from that year of inspiration hung lovingly on the wall above his desk as a constant reminder of his personal beliefs and approach toward the field of optometry.

Early on, he recognized the relationship between learning and vision when his young patients began excelling in school after training sessions. As a hospital staff optometrist in the 1960s and 1970s—a time when such a position was unheard of elsewhere—Dr. Crossman was conducting VT-based techniques he had made a great effort to learn. He stated that “Learning is a process. If you take it seriously and have the passion to continue it beyond school, you will become a better optometrist and a better person.” In addition to his service at NSUCO, he taught at Pennsylvania College of Optometry, the Inter-American University of Puerto Rico School of Optometry, and The Verona, Italy, College of Optometry.

During his 11 years at NSUCO, he taught courses in anomalies of binocular vision, vision development, learning disabilities, and pediatrics and helped create the binocular vision clinic specialty section. Dr. Crossman brought a truly unique perspective to the college and made considerable contributions to the development of optometry as it is practiced today.

Individual Recollections...

“Stan was part of the very robust northeast behavioral vision community during his time in Philadelphia. Following his retirement from Nova Southeastern University, he continued to lecture internationally until recently. He very much enjoyed private practice and the dynamic and exciting times of sharing with the pioneers of behavioral optometry: John Streff, Dick Apell, “Skeff” Skeffington, Al Sutton, Bruce Wolff, Elliot Forrest, Stan Levine, Ellis Edelman, Bob Kraskin, Amiel Francke, Baxter Swartwout, and many, many more.

When circumstances led him to teaching, he took this up with enthusiasm, but also with love of the profession and his students. By the time I met Stan, love was his defining force. He was enthusiastic about the power of optometry to provide insight and to help others enhance their lives, remove restrictions on thinking and action, and become more competent, connected, and vital. He was enthusiastic about the support and connection that good diet and regular exercise can provide. One could say he loved these things. But most of all, he loved people.

This love for people was no abstract thing for Stan. It was individual. When he asked how you were, it was not an idle question. Certainly he had a great love for his son, his daughter, his granddaughter, and his family. But if you were in front of him, he had a great love for you. He looked after me personally, always asking how things were going, how I was feeling, whether I needed anything, how my family—each by name—was doing, and how mutual friends were. The conversation would be

largely about you, unless he had some personal story he felt might be helpful. My strong impression from talking to others is that this was his natural and unaffected *modus operandi*; he really cared. For me, being with Stan was something indescribably wonderful, like being warmed by the sun.

I’m pretty sure Stan carried this into his teaching. There must have been frustrations as the behavioral optometry he so cared for became less and less of interest to many students, but I doubt this ever reduced his love for those he was teaching. I do know that I have met many of Stan’s students and have heard many good things about him. I would guess this, in addition to his obvious astuteness, is why he was sought as an international speaker. I know he had been asked to speak in Italy shortly before his passing and would have gone had his stamina permitted.

His stamina was about the only thing that changed in Stan’s last year. He still kept up the love and talked enthusiastically about diet, the ocean, exercise, and people. And still one did not hear much about him, except that he was fine. A few months before Stan’s passing, I visited him in the hospital—a very foreign place for Stan. He told me about the lovely people he’d met there and joked around a little. He asked about me and spent time counseling me until he literally could no longer continue. He was weak, but happy, content, peaceful, and loving. That was, and is, Stan.”

...Walter J. Chao, O.D.

“I knew Stan when he worked at Nova as well as seeing him regularly at meetings. He would always tell me, ‘Rick, what you are doing is deep therapy; it might take longer, but you will help the person more.’ It took me years to figure out what that meant. He would also yell at me regarding my diet—I believe Stan subsided on tree bark. He still motivates me.”

...Rick J. Morris, O.D., FCOVD

“Stan was a dedicated Italophile. He visited Italy many times as both a visiting professor and student of Italian art and culture. Stan would often exhort me to ‘go to Italy, Joe, it’s in your blood!’ I visit Italy once a year, usually ending up in Florence—Stan’s favorite city.”

...Joseph Pizzimenti, O.D.

“Dr. Crossman was one of those instructors who made a positive impact on his students. He was a remarkable educator who had a clear passion for teaching and an infectious love and understanding of the complexities of binocular vision and vision therapy. His teachings were balanced combining both classical and behavioral optometric philosophies. Dr. Crossman was more than an educator; he was a friend whose compassion for his students and patients was evident both in and out of the classroom and clinic.

Dr. Crossman’s passing is a true loss to our profession; however he still lives on in those who knew him. Dr. Crossman is alive in every MEM I perform, every CI I treat, and every child I help. He lives on in all those who he has taught, and he will be dearly missed.”

...Gregory M. Fecho, O.D.

“I first met Stan when I interviewed at NSUCO (then Southeastern). Stan made it a point to show me the campus and even called me afterward to encourage me to think about joining the Nova faculty. His support was one of the key reasons I decided to come.

Stan Crossman was a thoughtful teacher, colleague, and friend and a caring mentor to students and younger faculty members. His love of the profession and of the value of developmental vision was clear to everyone whose path he crossed. Stan took great pleasure in explaining concepts and applications to students and residents. He also made a point of nurturing those around him—asking about their families, life challenges, and goals—and was well-respected nationally by his fellow educators. He gave much to the college in its early stages to create an environment in which pediatric optometry and vision therapy could thrive and was integral to the development of the pediatric optometry residency. He will be missed.”

...Rachel “Stacey” Coulter, O.D., FAAO, FCOVD

“Stan Crossman had two full careers in optometry. His first career was in private practice; his second as an educator. He excelled at both. Stan’s passion for developmental vision was evident in the enthusiasm he had while teaching. He was able to impart his wisdom and knowledge on thousands of students in Florida, Puerto Rico, and Italy. He also had other interests he was passionate about. He was well-versed in nutrition, fitness, neurology, and posture and incorporated all of those into behavioral and developmental optometry.

Stan was a mentor to many students. His ability to help students understand that treating patients meant caring for them as a whole person—not just as a *pair of eyeballs*. He also spent endless hours instructing students who were struggling to grasp concepts from his courses.

However, Stan’s greatest quality was his ability to see the good in everyone. He had exceptional energy and verve, which did not wane throughout the day. He treated everyone with respect and greeted everyone with a smile. His thirst for knowledge and his love of life will be missed. He will live on through optometrists, all over the world, who practice developmental and behavioral optometry with his beliefs and teachings.”

...Richard E. Sorkin, O.D., FAAO, FCOVD

“Stan Crossman was the kind of teacher that taught from a wealth of knowledge and experience without a hint of arrogance or sense of superiority. His sincerity in wanting to help you grow as an individual both personally and professionally was appreciated by students and colleagues alike. He practiced behavioral optometry in a manner that was methodical, logical, and evidence-based, yet he was still able to discuss and teach the theories behind classical binocular vision practices at all levels. He was an ideal teacher in a pediatric/binocular vision world that encompasses both ends of the wide spectrum of practice philosophies. Stan Crossman was a kind and gentle soul who will be missed by all of us who knew and loved him.”

...Yin C. Tea, O.D., FAAO





Getting to Know... the Inimitable

Dr. Arnie Patrick

By Scott Colton, B.A., APR
Co-Editor, *The Visionary*

The road to professional fulfillment is something we all occasionally stumble on as we progress from the relative safety of college to confront the myriad challenges that come with cultivating a career. For some, the proverbial climb up the professional ladder occurs seamlessly. However, for others, it's a much more arduous ascent replete with setbacks and self-doubt.

The latter scenario certainly epitomized what Arnie Patrick, O.D., assistant professor of optometry, dealt with as he attempted to make a career change in his late 30s while combatting the debilitating effects of chronic fatigue syndrome.

FROM HISTORY TO OPTOMETRY

As a child growing up in Brooklyn, New York, Dr. Patrick never imagined himself becoming an esteemed optometrist. In fact, when it came time for him to choose a major as a student about to attend Brooklyn College in the early 1970s, he selected an extremely un-optometric one: history. "My story is inexorably tied to that of my best friend, Bruce Consor O.D., who is a graduate of NSUCO," he explained. "Bruce and I met when we were about 10 years old and attended the same junior and senior high schools, as well as college.

"He found that his biology degree had little value, so his brothers, both of whom were opticians at the time, suggested he return to school and train as one himself," Dr. Patrick added. "With a degree in history, no one was knocking at my door with a job offer either, so I followed Bruce to New York City Community College, where I earned an A.A.S. degree in Ophthalmic Dispensing in 1977. Although

I chose the profession for practical reasons, I was surprised to find I had a great passion for it."

Because his first few jobs working as an optician in New York involved interacting exclusively with optometrists, he quickly developed a significant interest in what they did. "Although optometry's scope of practice was limited at this time, I nonetheless found it fascinating and thought it might be something I'd like to pursue in the future," he stated. "After moving to Dallas, Texas, in 1978, I worked mostly with ophthalmologists. Medical eye care was even more fascinating than optometry, so I considered pursuing a career in it as well."

By 1985, Dr. Patrick had grown increasingly bored with the retail aspects of opticianry, so he visited the University of Houston College of Optometry (UHCO) campus to investigate what undergraduate courses he would need to complete to qualify for admission. "Because the number of courses I needed to take was extensive, I decided to wait until I was fully committed," he said. "However, during my trip to the school, I learned just how much optometry's scope of practice had grown and realized this would indeed be the right path for me."

A LIFE IN SOUTH FLORIDA BECKONS

Several years later, a confluence of occurrences would alter his life perceptibly—a relocation to South Florida in 1987 followed by an unexpectedly humorous incident at his opticianry job in North Miami Beach. "I moved to South Florida to be closer to my parents,



“I was hooked the first day I interacted with the students...Having them look to you for guidance was one of the greatest feelings I had ever experienced...”

who were snowbirds at the time, and to my brother, who was an attorney and a long-time South Florida resident,” he explained. “Soon after I relocated, newspaper articles began appearing about the possibility of an optometry school opening at Southeastern University of the Health Sciences (SEUHS) in North Miami Beach. When I learned the first class would be in August of 1989, I knew I needed to act, but figured it would still be a few years off.”

The other illuminating—and inadvertently amusing—incident occurred in 1989. Thankfully, it would serve as a serious wakeup call for Dr. Patrick to cast away his complacency and pursue his unfulfilled optometric dreams. “An incident at work reminded me of why I couldn’t be an optician much longer,” he admitted. “I was having a particularly bad day when an elderly woman came into the dispensary I was working at and asked what I had to make her look beautiful. Without missing a beat, I said, ‘A paper bag with cutouts for your eyes and nose.’ After profusely apologizing—and giving her a substantial discount—I knew the time to move on was near.”

Fortunately for Dr. Patrick, the reappearance of his treasured friend, Dr. Bruce Connor, would set into motion a series of unforeseen occurrences that would soon

transform his life. “Just after this happened, my friend Bruce came back into the picture. In the spring of 1989, he called to tell me he was accepted as a member of the charter optometry class at SEUHS. I was shocked because I didn’t know he was even interested,” Dr. Patrick stated. “However, one of Bruce’s brothers had become an optometrist many years earlier and had been classmates at UHCO with our college’s founding dean, Stewart Abel, O.D. Although astrology never held much appeal for me, clearly the stars had aligned—and I wasn’t going to procrastinate any longer. I quit my job at the end of 1989 and returned to school shortly thereafter to obtain the credits I needed to enter SEUHS College of Optometry in August 1990.”

DAUNTING CHALLENGES AWAIT DR. PATRICK

Returning to the rigors of academic life would prove to be a formidable undertaking for Dr. Patrick, who hadn’t occupied a classroom since graduating from New York City Community College in 1977. “I hadn’t attended school in 13 years, so returning to college life after working fulltime for many years was no easy task,” he said. “Although I was accustomed to working five-plus days a week, school was a 24/7 proposition, which is why it took the better part of a year for me to readjust.”

Dr. Patrick also had to contend with several health issues that had forever altered his life several years earlier. “I developed chronic fatigue syndrome (CFS) right after graduating from opticianry school,” he explained. “Everyone knows it robs you of your physical strength, but many are unaware that it wreaks havoc on your memory. Although I never had a photographic mind, I had the ability to memorize most anything prior to developing CFS. Because of this deficit, I had to learn tricks to remember all the facts that are part of a professional education.

“In addition, I was diagnosed with depression not long after developing CFS,” he added. “As I later found out, they go hand and hand. Unfortunately, I had little money to pay for this adventure because I only earned a modest living as an optician. I knew obtaining student loans wouldn’t be a problem, but I didn’t want to mortgage my future either. That’s where my beloved parents came to the rescue. They took care of most of my living expenses for the three years I stayed with them.”

Beyond his understandable health concerns, Dr. Patrick had another reason to feel uneasy as he embarked on his optometric education—his age. “I was 37 years old and was about to be thrown into a

group that averaged about 25 year of age,” he said. “My life experience was quite different than theirs, so I was concerned about whether I’d be treated as an equal or an outsider.”

CAREER SATISFACTION AT NSUCO

After graduating from SEUHS’ College of Optometry, which would soon merge with Nova University to become Nova Southeastern University College of Optometry (NSUCO), Dr. Patrick completed a contact lens residency at the University of Houston College of Optometry in 1995. “A good part of my time was spent precepting students in the school’s contact lens clinic and assisting the senior instructors who were teaching the contact lens labs,” he stated. “I was hooked the first day I interacted with the students. As a new doctor, my knowledge base was limited, but they didn’t know that. Having them look to you for guidance was one of the greatest feelings I had ever experienced, and that feeling hasn’t diminished in the nearly 17 years I’ve been teaching at NSUCO.”

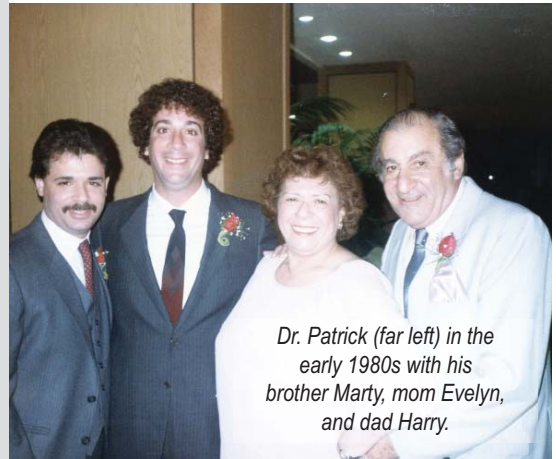
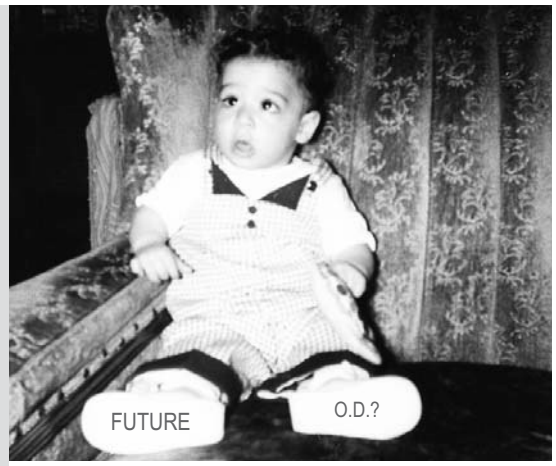
When it came time to chart his future career course, Dr. Patrick had his sights set on only one optometric target: NSU’s College of Optometry. “As for choosing NSUCO, that was easy: I was coming home,” said Dr. Patrick, who began working at NSUCO in August 1995. “I was hired to be the ophthalmic optics lab course master, to serve as an instructor in the contact lens labs, and be a contact lens clinical preceptor. It took a year before I was integrated into the school’s contact lens program. However, my teaching duties have changed little over the years at my request. I’ve always believed my personality was best suited for teaching labs. I adore the close interaction I have with students in this setting because it allows me to get to know them both academically and personally. And, as about 1,700 NSUCO students and graduates will tell you, it gives me a chance to do my standup comedy act. Of course, a much smaller number of them think I’m actually funny.”

During his 17 years as a College of Optometry faculty member, Dr. Patrick has enjoyed many aspects of his job, including the fulfillment he gets from passing his knowledge on to future generations of optometrists. However, no facet has been quite as gratifying as getting to know his students on a personal basis. “When you interact with 100 or so students over a three-year period, you get to know some of them quite well as you share in their achievements and disappointments,” he said. “I’ve never been blessed with children, so I would imagine this is a taste of what any parent experiences. Nothing gives me greater pleasure than having students stop by my office just to talk about life or get some advice. If they only knew I still grapple with the same issues they do.”

Although it’s been almost 18 years since he graduated from NSUCO, Dr. Patrick continues to revel in his role as an academic optometrist. “I’m still overwhelmed by the fact I was even able to become an optometrist,” he admitted. “I had assumed my years away from school and my health problems would be too much to overcome. In fact, I didn’t even purchase a school T-shirt during my first year because I was convinced I would fail. However, I was also becoming aware of an inner strength I didn’t know I possessed. For four years, I outworked most other students, literally willing myself to succeed.

“I also know I wouldn’t be where I am today without the support of my family and friends,” he added. “My parents’ devotion was immeasurable because it was their unyielding belief in me that not only helped get me through optometry school, but life as well. Unfortunately, they’re gone now, but their spirit lives on in my brother and me. I’d also be remiss in not mentioning the many friends who made life as an NSUCO student one of the greatest experiences of my life—Drs. Kenny Boyle, Jose Castillo, Richard Cohen, Bruce Consor, Wayne Golden, Toni Licatta, David Lopp, Rosie Misraji, and Steve Silverstone.”

Dr. Arnie Patrick: A Walk Down Memory Lane...



Dr. Patrick (far left) in the early 1980s with his brother Marty, mom Evelyn, and dad Harry.





RECENT PROGRESS IN NSUCO RESEARCH

By Bin Zhang, M.D., Ph.D., Associate Professor of Optometry

The faculty members at NSUCO are working diligently to achieve excellence in research, which is emphasized in the 2020 Vision of the university. Since the publication of the fall 2011 *Visionary*, advancements have been made in many areas. Below are some selected highlights.

AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER

*Stacey A. Coulter, O.D., FAAO, FCOVD
Associate Professor of Optometry*

After almost 20 years of service, Dr. Coulter took a one-year sabbatical from the college to focus on an area of research and scholarship interest—optometric care of patients with autism spectrum disorder. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 1 out of 110 children in the United States have an autism spectrum disorder (ASD). Few optometric publications or research studies on vision in patients with ASD are available. Optometrists and other professionals need clearer information on how to care for the vision needs of these patients.

“About once a week, I am contacted by an optometrist, psychologist, or parent on how to evaluate or manage the vision of an individual who has autism spectrum disorder,” Dr. Coulter stated. “There is a hunger for knowledge and evidence-based practice guidelines. My sabbatical will provide the opportunity to learn and

teach in this area.” During her sabbatical year, Dr. Coulter is working on several projects related to research and clinical care of patients with ASD, including the completion of a pilot study focusing on convergence and sensory processing in school-age patients with ASD. The results will be presented at the American Academy of Optometry meeting this October.

In addition, she will be collaborating with a research group in the United Kingdom that also is investigating aspects of vision in autism. Dr. Coulter will visit the Vision Science Department of Glasgow Caledonian University and complete a research exchange with David Simmons, D.Phil., of Glasgow University. In May, Dr. Coulter will attend the International Meeting for Autism Research in Toronto, Canada, and share information in the Sensory Processing Special Interest group with researchers from all



Dr. Coulter continued...

over the world. She will also visit a select group of optometric private practices throughout the United States that have innovated in providing care to patients with ASD.

To expand her own knowledge and contribute to multidisciplinary management of these patients, Dr. Coulter will be working with the Medical Working Group of Profectum, a non-profit organization that trains practitioners and advances research in developmentally appropriate treatment. This group includes leading physicians, researchers, and health professionals that will develop a medical curriculum that includes appropriate medical evaluations, management of associated medical and behavioral symptoms, and visuo-spatial issues.

To disseminate what she has learned, Dr. Coulter spoke on autism at the College of Optometrists in Vision Development annual conference and will speak at the Study Seminar at the Southern California College of Optometry. Dr. Coulter will also complete a Master's in Education and work to develop a teaching module on optometric care of patients with ASD for optometrists and optometric residents.

CLINICAL PREVENTION AND POPULATION HEALTH CURRICULUM FRAMEWORK

Janet Leasher, O.D., M.P.H., FAAO
Associate Professor of Optometry and
Director of Community Outreach



In January, Dr. Leasher was awarded \$5,000 from the NSU Health Professions Division (HPD) Educational Research Competition to evaluate the extent to which the HPD applies the Clinical Prevention and Population Health Curriculum Framework and to investigate best pedagogical teaching practices from each discipline.

In 2004, the Healthy People 2010 Curriculum Task Force consisting of allopathic and osteopathic medicine, nursing and nurse practitioners, dentistry, pharmacy, and physician assistants created the Clinical Prevention and Population Health Curriculum Framework. The framework's goal is to help increase the proportion of U.S. schools of medicine, nursing, and other health professions with health promotion and disease prevention training and to develop more robust approaches to increasing relevant core competencies.

The national framework comprises four components:

- evidence base of practice
- clinical preventive services – health promotion



- health systems and health policy
- community aspects of practice, with 19 domains and specific sub items

While these public health concepts intersect all the health professions, it is not known to what extent the NSU-HPD has incorporated these components into its various curricula. First, a review of the course catalog will be conducted. Secondly, the faculty members who teach those courses will be surveyed to learn the emphasis placed on the sub items and to learn the pedagogies used to teach the concepts. Thirdly, inter/multidisciplinary focus groups comprising faculty-only and students-only will be convened to further understand the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats to teaching and learning these core competencies at NSU. The expected outcome will be a greater understanding of how the HPD disciplines approach the Clinical Prevention and Population Health Curriculum Framework, with an expectation for consideration of future curricular enhancement and potential cross-discipline collaboration.

VISUAL DIAGNOSIS AND CARE OF THE PATIENT WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

Mary Bartuccio, O.D., FAAO, FOCVD, Assistant Professor of Optometry

For many years, the book *Diagnosis and Management of Special Populations* written by **Dominick M. Maino, O.D., M.Ed., FAAO, FCOVD-A**, was considered as the landmark publication with regard to the care of those with special needs. So much had changed in society and medicine since 1995; however, there was not a single publication, other than Dr. Maino's, that was a comprehensive review of the eye and vision care needs of patients with special needs.

Other works had single chapters on certain topics, such as specific conditions or examination techniques, but none brought them all

under one cover. The book *Visual Diagnosis and Care of the Patient with Special Needs*, edited by **Marc B. Taub, O.D., M.S., FAAO, FCOVD, Mary Bartuccio, O.D., FAAO, FCOVD**, and Dr. Maino, provides the most current updates.

From the title, it may appear this book is written primarily for the eye care practitioners, such as optometrists and ophthalmologists. While vision is the overriding topic, the book serves as an excellent resource for a multitude of professions, including those engaged in occupational therapy, physical therapy, and speech and language

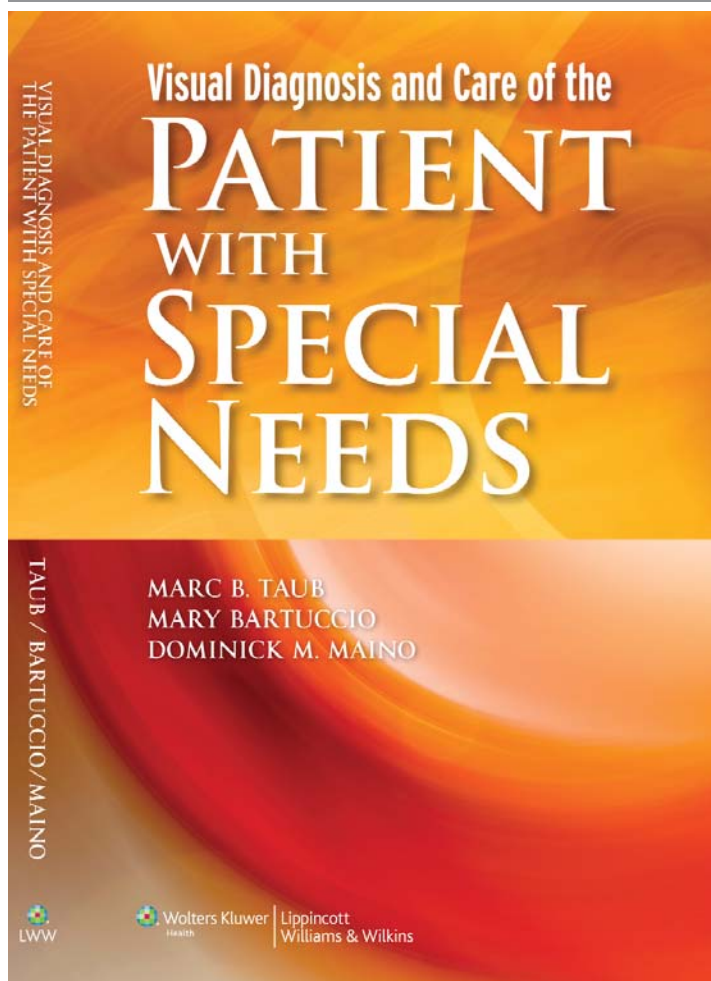
therapy, as well as physiatry, social work, pediatric medicine, and special education, to name but a few. There is literally something of interest for all in this book.

Since vision is the dominant sense involved in practically every task, it is important for all professionals to understand how various anomalies of vision affect their patients' interaction with the environment. These frequently encountered vision dysfunctions often adversely affect the outcome of any therapeutic intervention our colleagues in rehabilitation may use. All professionals should know how appropriate eye and vision care will enhance the doctor's, therapist's, and special educator's ability to be successful in achieving the goals set forth in the individual's medical and/or educational plan. The publication of this text strongly supports the inclusion of the optometrist as a part of any multidisciplinary care team for individuals with special needs.

This book provides a better understanding of the most frequently encountered developmental and acquired disabilities seen in the eye care practitioner's office. These disabilities include patients with autism, brain injury, Fragile X syndrome, and Down syndrome, as well as those with psychiatric illness, dual diagnosis, and more. The visual issues inherent in these populations and their possible treatment are discussed in great detail.

This book contains contributions from many NSUCO faculty members. Dr. Bartuccio wrote the chapter "Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD)." She, along with **Nadine Girgis, O.D., FFAO**, also wrote the chapter titled "Vision Screening," while **Rachel Coulter, O.D., FFAO, FCOVD**, authored the chapter about "Autism." **Erin Jenewein, O.D., M.S., FFAO**, covered the "Diagnosis and Treatment of Binocular Vision Disorders," while **Yin C. Tea, O.D., FFAO**, and **Jacqueline Rodena, O.D.**, addressed the topic of "Strabismus and Amblyopia." **Deborah Amster, O.D., FFAO, FCOVD**, penned the chapter about "Vision Information Processing Disorders."

Dr. Bartuccio continued...



*For more information on
Visual Diagnosis and Care of the
Patient with Special Needs,
please visit www.LWW.com.*

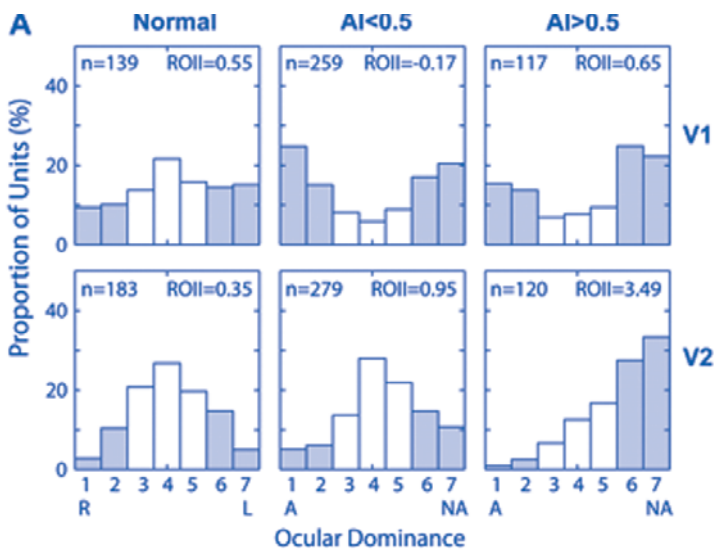
AMBLYOPIA

Hua Bi, O.D., Ph.D.

Assistant Professor of Optometry

Amblyopia, a developmental disorder of spatial vision, is thought to result from a cascade of cortical deficits over several processing stages beginning at the primary visual cortex (V1). However, beyond V1, little is known about how cortical development limits the visual performance of amblyopic primates. Dr. Bi quantitatively analyzed the monocular and binocular responses of V1 and V2 neurons in a group of strabismic monkeys exhibiting varying depths of amblyopia. Unlike in V1, the relative effectiveness of the affected eye in driving V2 neurons was drastically reduced in the amblyopic monkeys.

The spatial resolution and the orientation bias of V2 neurons were subnormal for the affected eyes. Binocular suppression was robust in both cortical areas, and the magnitude of suppression in individual monkeys was correlated with the depth of their amblyopia. These results suggest that the reduced functional connections beyond V1 and the subnormal spatial filter properties of V2 neurons might have substantially limited the sensitivity of the amblyopic eyes and that interocular suppression was likely to have played a key role in the observed alterations of V2 responses and the emergence of amblyopia. This is the first evidence describing the deficits in the extrastriate visual cortex and was published in *Cerebral Cortex*, a journal with an impact factor close to seven.



Dr. Bi continued...

Ocular dominance distribution of V1 (top) and V2 neurons (bottom) for normal monkeys, monkeys with mild amblyopia ($AI < 0.5$), and monkeys with severe amblyopia ($AI > 0.5$). AI, amblyopic index. ROI, relative ocular dominance imbalance. A, amblyopic eye; NA, fellow “nonamblyopic” eye; R, right eye; L, left eye. Open histograms show the prevalence of “binocularly balanced cells” and filled histograms show binocularly imbalanced/monocular cells.

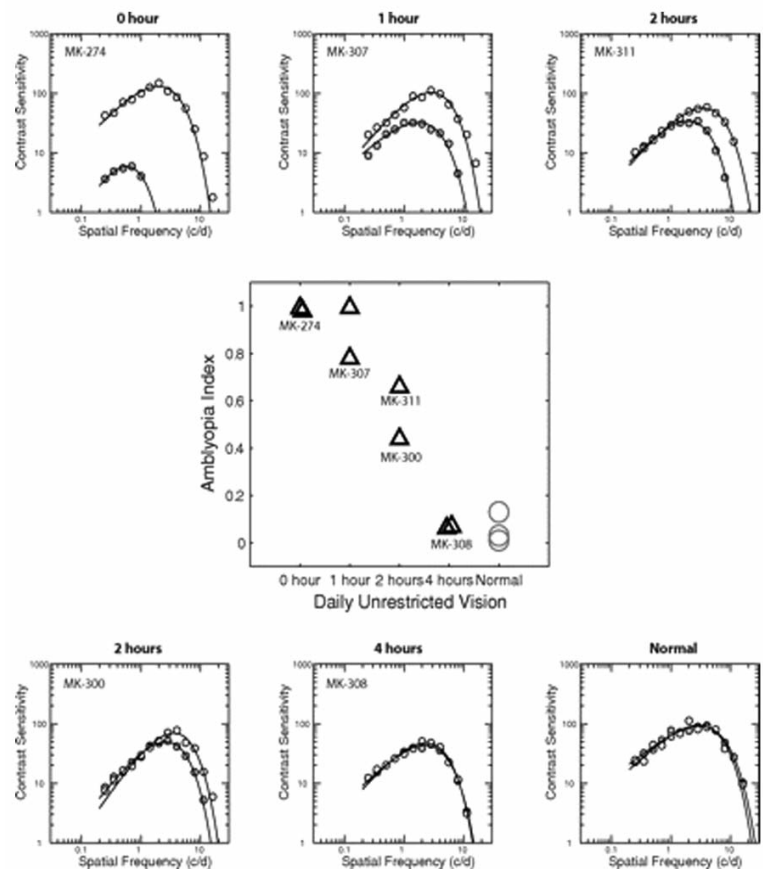
THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE RECEPTIVE FIELD INTERNAL STRUCTURE OF V2 NEURONS IN PRIMATES

Bin Zhang, M.D., Ph.D.

Associate Professor of Optometry

Providing brief daily periods of unrestricted vision during early monocular form deprivation reduces the depth of amblyopia. To study the neural basis of this treatment, Dr. Zhang quantitatively analyzed the binocular and monocular response properties of neurons in visual area 2 (V2) of form-deprived macaque monkeys. Dr. Zhang found that the ocular dominance imbalance away from the affected eye was reduced in the experimental monkeys and was generally proportional to the reduction in the depth of amblyopia in individual monkeys. There were no interocular differences in the spatial properties of V2 neurons in any subject group.

However, the binocular disparity sensitivity of V2 neurons was significantly higher and binocular suppression was lower in monkeys that had unrestricted vision. These findings showed that the decrease in ocular dominance imbalance in V2 was the neuronal change most closely associated with the observed reduction in the depth of amblyopia. The results suggest that the degree to which extrastriate neurons can maintain functional connections with the deprived eye (i.e., reducing undersampling for the affected eye) is the most significant factor associated with the beneficial effects of brief periods of unrestricted vision.



Ocular dominance distribution of V1 (top) and V2 neurons (bottom) for normal monkeys, monkeys with mild amblyopia ($AI < 0.5$), and monkeys with severe amblyopia ($AI > 0.5$). AI, amblyopic index. ROI, relative ocular dominance imbalance. A, amblyopic eye; NA, fellow “nonamblyopic” eye; R, right eye; L, left eye. Open histograms show the prevalence of “binocularly balanced cells” and filled histograms show binocularly imbalanced/monocular cells.

Final section of cover story continued on next page with Dr. Wagner...

CONTACT LENS ASSESSMENT IN YOUTH

Heidi Wagner, O.D., M.P.H., FAO

Professor of Optometry



contact lens assessment in youth

The Contact Lens Assessment in Youth (CLAY) study group was formed at the 2008 Summer Research Institute and comprises contact lens researchers in academic health care centers across North America. The Summer Research Institute is jointly supported by the American Optometric Association and the American Academy of Optometry.

The research question developed at the 2008 Summer Research Institute was: "Is youth a risk factor for contact lens wear?" Our initial retrospective chart review and prospective SCL risk questionnaire have further advanced our research aims to examine modifiable risk

factors in teenage and young adult contact lens wearers. The ultimate goal of this work is to identify and disseminate "best practices" for the mature teen and young adult population at greatest risk for adverse events associated with contact lens wear.

Funding to conduct our research has been received via unrestricted grants from Alcon/CIBA Vision and Nova Southeastern University (Chancellor's Research and Development Grant; Health Professions Division Research Grant). These funds have been used for data collection and analysis, development of presentations and publications, and investigator meetings.

Research Highlights

HPD Research Day February 10, 2012

On February 10, the NSU Health Professions Division (HPD) coordinated its third Research Day event, which attracted an estimated 2,600 live and videoconference attendees to the HPD campus and featured 118 poster and platform presentations. Research Day, which is coordinated by Patrick Hardigan, Ph.D., HPD executive director of assessment, evaluation, and faculty development, and Kathleen Hagen, M.M., HPD director of faculty development, allows the seven HPD colleges to spotlight the various research projects that are germinating through the creativity of their faculty members, students, and collaborative partners.

POSTER PRESENTATIONS

Espejo A, Tea Y. *Monitoring Diabetic Vision Changes in a Patient with Amblyopia*
Amblyopia is a condition where vision loss exists in the absence of structural anomalies or ocular disease. Deterioration of vision can be missed in patients who have diseases that might lead to vision loss if they also have amblyopia. It is important to recognize the additional attention required when patients have diseases concurrent with amblyopia.

Bi H, Woods A. *Effect of Hyperthyroidism on Electroretinogram Photopic Responses*
It has been shown that thyroid hormone levels regulate cone photoreceptors development and modulate opsin production in mature cones. A limited number of cases have been reported where the flash electroretinogram (fERG), a global retinal response, has shown enhanced responses in patients with adult-onset thyroid dysfunction. It is unknown how retinal photoreceptor functions are affected topographically and how this might impact multifocal ERG (mfERG) responses.

Reynolds A, Jacko V, Williamson B. *Florida Heiken Children's Vision Program: Expansion of Statewide Educational Outreach*

Vision problems in children, if left untreated, can lead to a variety of problems, including permanent loss of vision, learning difficulties, and delayed development. Increased awareness of parents, school administrators, and community leaders about the importance of comprehensive eye examinations for schoolchildren is an important aspect of reducing visual impairment in children.

Nadeau M. *A Myriad of Coconspirators Leading to Ulcerative Keratitis*

Ulcerative keratitis is a diagnosis attributed to a vast array of infectious, non-infectious, and immune etiologies. This project involved a patient with severe autoimmune disease and concomitant surface ocular disease leading to an ulcerative keratitis.

Guy V, Farag M. *Evaluation of a Complete Third-Nerve Palsy with Aberrant Regeneration in a Traumatic Brain Injury Patient*

Aberrant regeneration occurs with traumatic, aneurismal, or compressive third-nerve palsy. In a unique pupil involving third-nerve palsy secondary to traumatic brain injury (TBI), careful observation is warranted followed with visual rehabilitation.

PLATFORM PRESENTATIONS

Bade A. *Penetrating Corneal Injury: An Alternate Perspective*

One third of all vision loss in the first decade of life is secondary to trauma. This case presentation covered the surgery on a six-year-old female who ruptured her right globe with a pair of scissors. This case was presented from an alternate perspective—the parent. An innovative technique was utilized to increase compliance.

Besada E. *Peripapillary Schisis with Sensory Detachment in Advanced Glaucoma*

This case addressed juxtapapillary retinal schisis-like cavities associated with underlying serous detachment in a normal tension glaucoma patient. A normal tension glaucoma patient with enlarged optic nerve cupping was observed to have temporally localized juxtapapillary serous retinal detachment OD.

Derewyanko C, Rodman J. *Idiopathic Neuroretinitis: A Case Study and Differentials Discussion*

Posterior uveitis is an entity attributed to both infectious and non-infectious agents. Due to the numerous etiologies of neuroretinitis, it is important that ophthalmic physicians are able to diagnose these conditions using both clinical evaluation and supporting ancillary testing. This case involved an atypical case of idiopathic posterior-uveitis in an otherwise healthy, black 15-year-old female.

Leasher J. *Global Burden of Diseases, Injuries, and Risk Factors Study (GBD): The Vision Loss Group—Early Trends and Considerations of the Global Prevalence of Blindness and Visual Impairment*

This presentation described the GBD, with emphasis on the global prevalence trends in visual impairment and blindness. The GBD is a complete systemic assessment of the data on all diseases and injuries and produces comprehensive comparable estimates of the burden of diseases, injuries, and risk factors for the time periods 1990, 2005, and 2010 for 199 countries divided into 21 global sub regions. It is directed by the World Health Organization in partnership with global experts in each disease area.

Nadeau M, Sowka J. *Myelinated Retinal Nerve Fiber Layer, Myopia, and Amblyopia*

The triad of myelinated retinal nerve fiber layer (RNFL), myopia, and amblyopia is a rarely reported syndrome. Myelinated RNFL is present in approximately one percent of eyes and associated with a variety of ocular and systemic conditions. The lecture presents a case of myelinated RNFL, myopia, and amblyopia as a platform for

discussion of the pathogenesis of myelinated RNFL, ocular systemic conditions associated with myelinated RNFL, and visual prognosis in this triad.

Yu S, Rego R. *Congenital Achromatopsia: A Case Study and Low Vision Aids*

Congenital achromatopsia (CA) is predominantly an autosomal recessive disease affecting the retinal cone photoreceptors. The condition affects approximately 1 in 30,000 people. Individuals with CA generally have photophobia, pendular nystagmus, abnormal photopic electroretinogram, and lack of color discrimination.

Zhang B. *The Development of the Receptive-Field Internal Structure of V2 Neurons in Primates*

The maturation of the receptive-field (RF) internal structure of the V2 neurons is studied in primates. Visual capacities of primates are limited near birth. Physiologically, multiple inputs from the primary visual cortex (V1) neurons tuned to various local stimulus features converge on V2 neurons, and many of these early extrastriate neurons may acquire new sensitivities to more complex features of visual scenes.

American Academy of Optometry October 12-15, 2011

POSTER PRESENTATIONS

Besada E, Frauens B. *Branch Retinal Artery Occlusion as an Isolated Acute Complication of Birth Control Medications in a Tobacco Products User*

This project documents the development of a branch retinal artery occlusion in a female taking birth-control medication while being an active cigarette smoker. A 37-year-old female presented with acute onset of blurred vision in the superior central field. She reported a history of strabismus surgery OD (amblyopia). The patient smoked half a pack a day for 20 years and indicated she was taking Levonorgestrel-Ethinone 0.15 mg.

Tyler J, Najman P. *Atypical Lid Pseudomembranes in a Patient with Multiple Ocular Herpes Simplex Presentations*

Herpes simplex virus (HSV) is a common infectious agent with multiple potential ocular presentations. More than 80 percent of adults have antibodies for HSV, but only 20-25 percent manifest ocular disease. Known triggers of the virus include steroid use, UV exposure, stress/fatigue, trauma, and fever. In relation to the anterior segment, vesicular lesions of the lids may be present, as well as corneal epithelial changes that represent active HSV, stromal complications, and endotheliitis. The presented case showcased an unusual anterior segment ocular complication of HSV infection.

Duchnowski E, Janoff A, Hill J. *Utilizing Anterior Segment Optical Coherence Tomography to Monitor Acute Corneal Hydrops in Keratoconus*

A 61-year-old male presented with an asymptomatic red eye OD one month post refit from a small corneal gas permeable (GP) lens to a semi-scleral GP lens for advanced keratoconus, prescribed for daily wear use. Acute corneal hydrops, characterized by corneal edema due to a break in Descemet's membrane, was diagnosed and followed with anterior segment optical coherence tomography (AS-OCT) until full resolution was observed.

Bi H, Woods A. *Enhanced fERG and mfERG Responses in a Patient with Recently Diagnosed Graves' Disease*

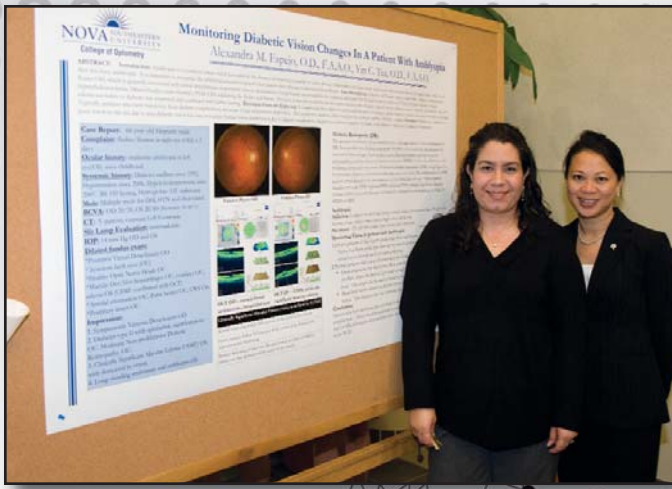
Thyroid hormones play an important role in the development of cone photoreceptors in the retina. It has been shown that thyroid hormone levels continue to regulate opsin production in mature cones (Glaschke A et al., 2011). A limited number of cases have been reported where the flash electroretinogram (fERG), a global retinal response, shows enhanced or supernormal responses in patients with adult-onset thyroid dysfunction. However, it is unknown how retinal photoreceptor functions are affected topographically, and how this might impact multifocal ERG (mfERG) responses.

Woods A, Bi H. *Cone Degeneration in Association with Cerebellum Degeneration*

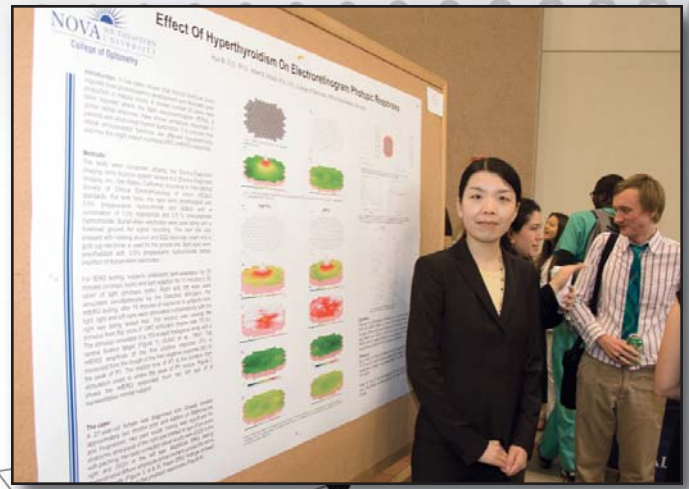
Cerebellar degeneration or spinocerebellar ataxias (SCA) refers to a heterogeneous group of diseases primarily characterized by progressive loss of motor coordination. Degenerative changes typically occur in areas such as the cerebellum, brainstem, and spinal cord. While ocular motility dysfunctions can often be seen in association with the different forms of SCA, visual loss from an associated retinal degeneration is rare in these patients, with only a limited number of reports in the literature. Drs. Bi and Woods presented a case of central cone dysfunction in association with cerebellar degeneration in a patient without funduscopic abnormalities.

Levin M, Shechtman D, Besada E, Posner J. *Challenges in the Management of a Patient with Undiagnosed Sturge-Weber Syndrome*

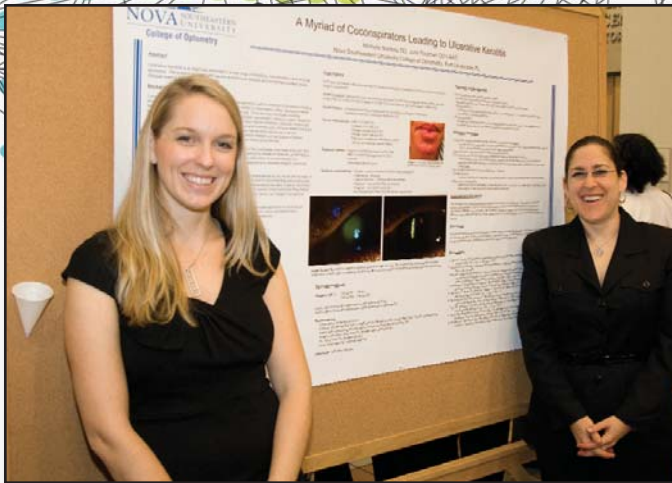
Sturge-Weber Syndrome (SWS) (encephalotrigeminal angiomas) is characterized by neuro-oculocutaneous congenital hamartomas. The primary lesion manifests as a cutaneous facial nevus, known as a port wine stain (PWS). Most cases are diagnosed before age two and oftentimes require a team approach in the management of the patient, including neuro-consult, pediatrician, eye care physician, and retinal specialist.



Espejo A, Tea Y.
Monitoring Diabetic Vision Changes in a Patient with Amblyopia



Bi H, Woods A.
Effect of Hyperthyroidism on Electroretinogram Photopic Responses



Nadeau M.
A Myriad of Coconspirators Leading to Ulcerative Keratitis



Guy V, Farag M.
Evaluation of a Complete Third-Nerve Palsy with Aberrant Regeneration in a Traumatic Brain Injury Patient



Derewyanko C, Rodman J.
Idiopathic Neuroretinitis: A Case Study and Differentials Discussion

YOUR SUPPORT ★ MAKES A DIFFERENCE!

**“Join Us in Creating
the Next Generation
of Visionaries.”**

As alumni of NSUCO, you know the importance of the opportunity to receive the best educational experiences. That's why we ask that our alumni give back to their alma mater with annual fund gifts. Alumni donations allow NSUCO to provide extraordinary opportunities for learning and discovery and extend the financial-aid program to students in need with scholarship support.

Addressing emerging needs and challenges gives our college the opportunity to continue to provide the most comprehensive educational opportunities to our students and the optometric community. Educating the next generation of optometrists is the key to growing the profession in new and exciting ways. NSUCO seeks to attract the best and brightest new students. Providing these needed scholarships allows your alma mater to succeed in its efforts to do just that.

Please make an alumni contribution to Nova Southeastern University's College of Optometry by visiting: www.nova.edu/giving. Click the "Make a Gift Online" link under "Giving to NSU." You may also use the enclosed envelope to send your contribution directly to the college.

The College of Optometry recognizes the generosity of the following alumni and friends for their gifts to various college scholarships from October 1, 2011, through February 29, 2012.

Dr. Leslie Church
Kids in Distress

Dr. Aaron Sako
Dean's Excellence Endowment Fund

Carl Zeiss Meditec Inc.
Optometry Continuing Education Donations

Allergan USA Inc.
Optometry Continuing Education Donations

Luxottica
Optometry Continuing Education Donations

Stefano La Sala Foundation
Dean's Discretionary Fund

Essilor Laboratories of America
Optometry Continuing Education Donations

**Monetary Contributions
to NSUCO Make
a Difference:
Become a Visionary**

Thank You



Scan this QR code to make a contribution now.

**"I challenge us all to continue to be ambassadors for NSU, and to leave a legacy by helping us to assist our community in fulfilling its dreams and aspirations."
...NSU President | George L. Hanbury II, Ph.D.**





Alumni Chapter President's Message

By Jacqueline Rodena, O.D., Assistant Professor
President, College of Optometry Alumni Chapter

It is my pleasure to address you again in our spring edition of *The Visionary*. The NSUCO Alumni Chapter Board of Directors hopes 2012 has begun with a fresh vision of inspiration to our families, profession, colleagues, and future associates.

As faculty members, we spend part of our time interviewing potential candidates that apply to become NSUCO students. The number one answer I hear as to why they want to become an optometrist stems from the experiences they had during the comprehensive eye exams they received earlier in their lives. As an optometrist, it's important to remember that in addition to providing health care, you can also be a mentor and role model to your patients.

In an attempt to foster its mentorship aspect, the college decided to aid our alumni by creating the NSU Optometry Ambassadors program. Our most recent graduates and current students are very familiar with our beloved college recruiter, Fran Franconeri, who is the creator of the new program, which offers our alumni some motivating benefits if they participate. If you are interested, please contact her at francone@nova.edu and become an eye care professional that inspires the future of our profession.

I am frequently amazed that many of the potential candidates that apply to NSUCO already have a strong background in giving back to their communities. These candidates become optometric students and continue giving of their time and talent by participating in medical outreach trips, student organizations, raising awareness of eye exams, and conducting fund-raisers for a cause. The philanthropy and leadership our students showcase are endless.

It was inspiring to witness the NSU Celebration of Excellence ceremony in January, which brought together NSU students, alumni, community leaders, and industry pioneers that have made significant contributions to their studies, professions, and communities. One of these distinguished awards was presented to Briana Johnson Shelton O.D., FAAO, a class of 2001 NSUCO graduate. If you know of any outstanding colleagues that dedicate their limited free time to giving back to their communities, we encourage you to recognize these alumni and nominate them for the NSU Distinguished Alumni Award.

Alumni President's Message continued on next page...

Alumni News

By Jacqueline Rodena, O.D.

Mary Bartuccio, O.D., FAAO, FCOVD ('97) and **Marc B. Taub, O.D., M.S., FAAO, FCOVD** ('04) are coauthors of a book to be published in May 2012 titled *Visual Diagnosis and Care of the Patient with Special Needs*. Contributing chapter authors are **Deborah Amster, O.D., FAAO, FCOVD** ('02), **Erin Jenewein, M.S., O.D., FAAO** ('09), **Kelly Meehan, O.D.** ('10), **Maryke Neiberg, O.D., FAAO** ('05), and **Jacqueline Rodena, O.D.** ('04).

Jeff Cohen, O.D., FAAO ('09) joined the Air Force Reserve as an optometrist and received his Fellow of the American Academy of Optometry designation in October 2011.

Branning and Mona Hollis, O.D. ('08) are celebrating the one-year anniversary of their optometric practice named Southern Eye Care Associates in Valrico, Florida.

Jennifer Ham Major, O.D. ('04) started a new practice called Eyes by Design in Pensacola, Florida, and is serving as treasurer of the West Florida Optometric Association.

D. Duane Mohon, O.D. ('98) was sworn in as the 2011-12 president of the Alabama Optometric Association during the association's 2011 annual convention.

Wilnella Patray, O.D. ('09) established a nonprofit organization called Help Eyes Against the Loss of Sight (HEALS). HEALS' mission is to prevent sight loss in third-world countries by providing basic and routine eye care. Dr. Patray's inaugural medical outreach trip is planned for April 2012. Recently, the HEALS organization was featured in *Women in Optometry* magazine. For additional information, please visit the organization's Web site at www.healsight.org.

Nicole Psaltis, O.D. ('10) was honored by the South Carolina Optometric Physicians Association (SCOPA) with its Optometric Horizon Award for initiative and involvement in SCOPA and the community within five years of graduation.

Nathaniel Roland, O.D. ('04) is in the process of completing his term as president of the New Mexico Optometric Association and recently became a partner at Eye Associates of New Mexico.

Rebecca Schoonover, O.D. ('04) annually organizes a fund-raiser called Cocktails for a Cause that supports blindness research and the Scranton Blind Association. The proceeds are donated in honor of her deceased friends and colleagues, Thom Mann and Heather Baker Romano, O.D. Proceeds benefit Research to Prevent Blindness (www.rpbusa.org), the leading supporter of eye research directed at the prevention, treatment, and eradication of all diseases that threaten vision, and the Pennsylvania Association for the Blind Lackawanna Branch (www.lackawannablind.org).

Marc B. Taub, O.D., M.S., FAAO, FCOVD ('04) has been named editor-in-chief of the *Journal of Behavioral Optometry*, the *Journal of the Optometric Extension Program*, and the *Australasian College of Behavioral Optometry*.

Jennie Smith Zolman, O.D., FCOVD, and **Mike Zolman, O.D.** ('06) are the co-clinical directors for the South Carolina Special Olympics Opening Eyes organization. Jennie is serving as a trustee of the South Carolina Optometric Physicians Association and has also been appointed to serve on the American Optometric Association's InfantSEE Committee. Mike is serving as president of the South Carolina Coastal Society.

Dr. Briana Johnson Shelton Receives Distinguished Alumni Award

On January 19, Briana Johnson Shelton O.D., FAAO, a class of 2001 graduate, was honored with the College of Optometry Distinguished Alumni Award at the 14th Annual NSU Celebration of Excellence ceremony held at the Signature Grand in Davie. Each year, this prestigious event brings together community leaders and industry pioneers that have made significant contributions to their professions, communities, and alma maters. The accolade is the highest award an individual can receive from the NSU Alumni Association.

After graduating from NSUCO, Dr. Shelton completed a residency in ocular disease at the Huntington Veterans Affairs Medical Center in West Virginia and remained on the staff, where she co-chaired the Residency Affairs Committee. She was also a staff optometrist at the Prestonsburg Veterans Affairs Outpatient Clinic in Kentucky and an adjunct professor at Indiana University's College of Optometry. In 2005, she received the North Carolina National Guard Award for her support of the soldiers in Iraq.

In addition to operating her private practice, Dr. Shelton is an active member of the Marion County Lions Club as well as the Chamber of Commerce and Rotary Club and serves as a mentor for health professions' high school students. She has been honored with the Lions Club Service Award, the Best Optometrist in McDowell County Award, and the McDowell County Partnership Champion for Children Award. Dr. Shelton, who is an active member of the AOA, AAO, North Carolina Mountain District Optometric Society, and UNC Chapel Hill General Alumni Association, also is a clinical examiner for the National Board of Examiners in Optometry and a McDowell County Board of Health member.

NSUCO proudly congratulates Dr. Shelton for her outstanding accomplishments and selfless contributions to her profession and community.



Dr. Shelton and family.



Dr. Shelton receiving her award from Dr. David Loshin, NSUCO dean.

...Alumni President's Message continued from page 26

As you know, since NSUCO accepted its first class in 1987, several new optometry colleges have been established, and several others are in the early phases of development. One of the most unique features NSU's College of Optometry has is its diverse patient population, which allows students to examine and treat a wide spectrum of eye diseases and conditions unique to South Florida. As NSUCO alumni, we are sure you can name multiple other outstanding qualities that existed when you were a student here.

The next time you have young patients in your exam chair, please take the time to ask, "What do you want to be when you grow up?" After they respond, I encourage you to chat with them about how they should consider and envision themselves having a fascinating career as an optometrist.

Please remember to join
our Facebook page at
www.facebook.com/nsuoptometryalumnichapter,
where you can receive the latest news
about our upcoming events.



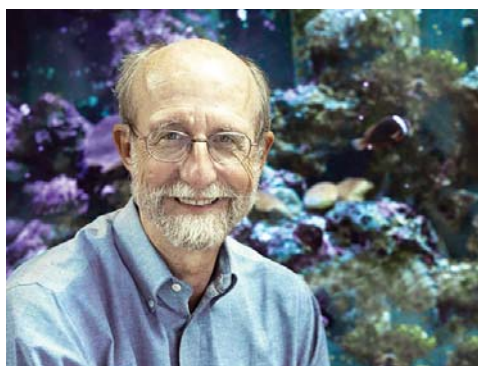
NSU OVERVIEW: SOLAR ENERGY PROJECT... IPADS IN HEALTH CARE... CORAL RESTORATION...AND MORE



NSU Launches Solar Energy Project at State Park

NSU has completed a solar energy project that provides John U. Lloyd Beach State Park in Dania, Florida, with 100 percent of its energy needs through a combination of solar electric and solar hot-water systems. Known as the Sustainable Energy Project, the initiative combines using energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies to provide all of the park's energy needs while generating environmental and economic benefits for the park as well.

NSU funded the design, equipment, and installation of the project. The solar electric system has a 25-year-plus life expectancy. The array of solar electric panels provides electricity to power the park's lights, facilities, and computers. In fact, the solar electric system is utility interactive, which means excess energy the park produces is returned to the Florida Power & Light Company grid. That energy is then used to power the park at night and on cloudy days.



Richard Dodge, Ph.D., professor and dean of NSU's Oceanographic Center and executive director of the National Coral Reef Institute.

Long-Term Response Plan for Cuban Oil Spill

NSU and Florida International University (FIU) researchers have drafted a plan to best prepare South Florida for an oil spill off the coast of Cuba.

The proximity of intended Cuban oil drilling and production puts the U.S. coastal zone at risk from Florida to the Carolinas and northward. Oil from a spill would quickly enter the Gulf Stream and reach Florida's shores in hours or days, with potentially devastating effects on the densely populated South Florida coastline and its coastal ecosystems.

A likely first impact of a major spill would be the iconic and economically valuable Florida Reef Track—a coral reef ecosystem that stretches from the Dry Tortugas in the Keys to Palm Beach County. Effects could be devastating to the ecology of the reef, Florida's beaches, coastal property, and South Florida's economy.

The sustainability plan calls for a partnership between the U.S. Coast Guard, other federal agencies, and a consortium of South Florida academic institutions, including Nova Southeastern University's Oceanographic Center, Florida International University, other schools, and private industry. Because an oil leak originating in Cuban waters will very quickly enter Florida waters, research, planning, and preparation activities must be undertaken in advance of an accident so authorities can respond effectively.

Staghorn Corals Transplanted by Oceanographic Center to Broward County Reef

On February 17, in a delicate operation at sea, healthy staghorn corals were transplanted to a threatened reef off the Broward County coast by researchers at NSU's Oceanographic Center and its internal National Coral Reef Institute (NCRI).

Growing under scientists' watchful eyes for the past 18 months in a land-based nursery at the Oceanographic Center, 28 basketball-sized staghorn corals were carefully moved from the nursery and loaded onto a research vessel that transported them along with corals grown at the University of Florida's Tropical Aquaculture Laboratory to a site three miles north of Port Everglades.

This is the first time corals grown in an on-land nursery have been transplanted in Broward County. With coral reefs worldwide facing degradation due to pollution, overfishing, climate change, and development, the transplant of healthy corals back to the reef is an important project for restoring damaged reefs. Coral reefs serve as nurseries where



NSU Oceanographic Center student Pete Grosso places staghorn coral on reef.

young fish hide from predators and attract thousands of tourists annually.

Florida accounts for 84 percent of all the coral reefs in the United States.

iPads Offer Hope

A little iPad can go a long way.

At NSU, the tiny flat-screen touchpad is being used by researchers in the Occupational Therapy Department of NSU's College of Health Care Sciences to treat disabled patients that suffer from spinal cord injuries and other disabilities.

The Occupational Therapy Department used a \$13,000 grant from the Christopher and Dana Reeve Foundation to purchase 20 iPads to treat patients. The foundation, founded by *Superman* actor Christopher Reeve before his passing, is dedicated to curing spinal cord injury by funding innovative research and improving the quality of life for people living with paralysis through grants, information, and advocacy.



NSU occupational therapy researchers believe that Apple's iPad, with its lightweight portability characteristics, as well as its touchscreen, can help patients have greater access to the Internet, applications, social media outlets, music, games, GPS, and other functions. The iPad allows users to consume various types of media, web content, photos, and movies without having to be plugged in. Through the use of fingers, the device's screen operates as a touchpad, where the user can simply control the interface by tapping on icons.

So far, eight iPads have been distributed to patients with spinal cord injuries, as well as those suffering from traumatic brain injuries, cerebral palsy, and amputations. Another 12 iPads will be given to similarly disabled individuals in Broward County.

In February, a formal event was coordinated to celebrate the launch of the two new colleges. Attendees (from left) included: NSU President George L. Hanbury II, Ph.D.; Marcella M. Rutherford, Ph.D., M.B.A., M.S.N., interim dean of the College of Nursing; Richard E. Davis, Ed.D., PA-C, dean of the College of Health Care Sciences; Frank De Piano, Ph.D., NSU provost and executive vice president for academic affairs; and Fred Lippman, R.Ph., Ed.D., Health Professions Division chancellor.



One NSU College Morphs into Two

NSU created two new colleges in January—the College of Nursing and the College of Health Care Sciences, which were formally a component of the now-defunct College of Allied Health and Nursing.

The College of Health Care Sciences will continue to serve 2,500 students at NSU's main campus and its Student Educational Centers (SECs) located in Miami, Palm Beach, Fort Myers, Tampa, Orlando, and Jacksonville. It will also continue to provide degree programs in occupational therapy, anesthesiologist assistant, vascular sonography, audiology, physician assistant, health science, physical therapy, health sciences, and cardiovascular sonography.

The College of Nursing will continue to serve 1,200 students at NSU's main campus in Davie and its SECs in Miami, Palm Beach, Fort Myers, and Orlando while offering programs that not only assist non-nurses to achieve licensure, but also provide additional options for all levels of degree programs for current nurses to enhance their educational status. The nursing program also offers its students three high-tech simulation labs in Davie, Miami, and Fort Myers that provide interactive educational experiences using patient simulators.

Residency Program Spotlight

Primary Care with Emphasis in Ocular Disease

By Lori Vollmer, O.D., FAAO, Director of Residency Programs
Joseph Sowka, O.D., FAAO, Diplomate in Glaucoma and Ocular Disease Coordinator



Drs. Catherine Derewyanko, Rim Makhlof, Michelle Nadeau, and Joe Sowka.



Our residency in primary eye care seeks to attract the best-qualified optometric graduates and provide advanced clinical and didactic education in optometry. The program offers a variety of optometric and interdisciplinary care and is designed to foster a lifelong commitment to learning. Residents are trained to practice in any modality they choose upon program completion, deliver superlative clinical care, assist as optometric educators, and serve the profession of optometry as leaders within the community and health care delivery system.

NSU has three residency positions in Primary Eye Care with Emphasis in Ocular Disease. The resident spends approximately 60 percent of clinical time in primary care and 40 percent in specialty services related to ocular disease. The Eye Care Institute, with its wide diversity of patients and clinical facilities, provides a large ocular disease patient base via the Advanced Care Service and our outlying community-based clinics. The Eye Care Institute also provides care for patients with a wide range of ocular disorders, including glaucoma, retinal disease, neuro-ophthalmic disorders, anterior segment disease, and traumatic injuries.

The resident will have access to advanced diagnostic equipment, including the Spectral domain OCT, GDx ECC, HRT II, macular pigment density analysis, and PreView PHP. Digital fundus photography, automated threshold perimetry, and ultrasonography are standard at all clinical facilities. Residents in Primary Care with Emphasis in Ocular Disease enjoy regular rotations through the on-campus Urgent Care Service, Glaucoma Service, and Diabetes and Macular Disease Service. In addition, off-campus specialty rotations may include retina, oculoplastics, cornea, and neuro-ophthalmology with fellowship-trained ophthalmologists highly regarded in the ophthalmic community.

Residents provide patient care as student preceptors and perform direct patient care throughout the year. The curriculum involves primarily clinical education in the form of supervision of student clinicians, direct patient care, and urgent care. There are also didactic and scholarly components, including laboratory teaching, preparation of a publishable paper, poster submissions for major optometric conferences, delivery of grand rounds presentations, attending lectures from specialty care physicians at Nova and BPEI Grand Rounds, attendance at local society meetings and conferences, journal review, and personal case discussions with the program coordinator. The goal is to develop a well-rounded optometric professional that is prepared for any aspect of the profession.

The ocular disease coordinator, Joseph Sowka, O.D., FAAO, oversees the disease component of the curriculum and leads regular case discussions with the residents on their challenging disease patients and provides mentorship for the development of scholarly publications. Our current residents in Primary Care with Emphasis in Ocular Disease come from a variety of optometric programs. They are Catherine Derewyanko, O.D., from Nova Southeastern University, Rim Makhlof, O.D., from the University of Montreal, and Michelle Nadeau, O.D., from New England College of Optometry. Following are a few comments from the residents about the residency program:

WHAT ASPECT OF THE PROGRAM DO YOU ENJOY THE MOST?

Dr. Derewyanko: "I have enjoyed all aspects of my disease residency. I love working alongside the optometry students in the Nova eye clinics, as well as, shadowing the many different ophthalmology specialties such as neuro-ophthalmology, retina, cataract and cornea, and oculoplastics."

WHAT MAKES A GREAT RESIDENT?

By Lori Vollmer, O.D., FAAO, Director of Residency Programs

People choose residency training for many reasons.

Some may be considering working in an academic institution while others have the desire to work in the VA Health Care System. A few may feel it will give them a competitive edge in the job market or help them develop a niche with an area of specialty. However, the most common reason is they simply want to provide the best care possible to their patients.

Often I am asked the question, “What are you looking for in a resident?” In order to answer that question, we need to ask two questions: “What is expected of a resident?” and “What is expected of the program?” since this is really a collaboration.

Residency training in optometry is currently elective, and approximately 20 percent of the graduating class will complete a residency program. This 20 percent has chosen to dedicate an additional year to improving as practitioners. This is an admirable commitment to patient care and the profession. For that reason, *what is expected of the program* is complete commitment to program improvement, as well as commitment to helping that resident attain the learning goals listed for the program as well as the resident’s own personal learning objectives.

Residency training is primarily clinical based, with the residents providing patient care, but there are also other components to the program, and the emphasis should always be on their learning and growth, whether it be clinically, didactically, or scholarly. Residents have the unique opportunity to manage complex cases involving serious conditions under the direct supervision of well-qualified faculty members.

“*What is expected of the resident?*” Very simply, residency programs expect professionalism, an exemplary work ethic, a sound base of clinical knowledge, and an unwavering commitment to learning and professional improvement. Essentially, when choosing residents, we try and assess each candidate’s ability to meet these expectations. Their applications included a curriculum vitae listing clinical rotations, extracurricular activities, and community involvement; national board scores; grades and academic performance; and letters of recommendation. In addition, they complete an interview to assess their knowledge level and interpersonal skills. The goal is to assess the candidate’s ability to succeed in the program *and* for the candidate to assess whether that particular residency is the right one for his or her personal goals, which makes it very similar to any job interview.

In the end, this commitment to personal improvement, patient care, and advancement of the profession is what makes a resident great. And we are grateful for the dedication of the past, current, and future residents of our profession.



Dr. Nadeau: “I love the diverse opportunities this program offers—from teaching students and seeing patients to having exposure to varying specialties within ophthalmology. There are many wonderful faculty members to learn from, which has allowed me to incorporate multiple philosophies and many treatment strategies into my knowledge base.”

Dr. Makhoulf: “I like that the program offers a strong experience in both the clinical and academic areas.”

IN WHAT AREA DO YOU FEEL YOU HAVE BENEFITED THE MOST?

Dr. Derewyanko: “From the disease residency I have gained both an increased knowledge base, as well as an increased confidence level, both of which are very important when practicing any type of medicine.”

Dr. Nadeau: “I feel I have benefited from the opportunity to teach third- and fourth-year students. There is no better way to learn than to teach someone else. This aspect of the program has also opened up more career opportunities for me.”

Dr. Makhoulf: “Thanks to yearlong rotations in a wide variety of ocular disease subspecialties, my clinical skills have tremendously improved throughout the year.”

Our residents all have individual interests and goals and enjoy the program for a variety of reasons. We are pleased that we are able to provide this learning environment and are very proud of all of our past and current residents.

Fourth Annual Residents’ Day Focuses on Challenging Cases

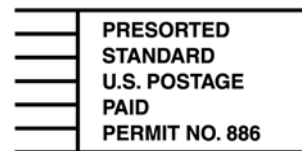
On January 29, NSUCO hosted its Fourth Annual Residents’ Day event, which showcased 23 NSU residents from sites throughout the state of Florida. The residents presented challenging cases encountered during their postgraduate training in a rapid-fire grand rounds format. The lectures covered a wide range of interesting topics, including specialty contact lens fitting, strabismus, ocular trauma, anterior segment disease, posterior segment disease, and neuro-ophthalmic conditions. In addition, the college offered eight hours of COPE-approved continuing education credits.

The Residents’ Day program, which provided an excellent learning opportunity for the participants, also served as an opportunity for students to interact with residents from various programs and learn more about residency training and the opportunities it provides.



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CONTINUING EDUCATION UPDATE

THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE HOME!

Because we are past the midway point for the biennium, all 2012 CE events will take place within the state of Florida. The college kicks off the year with its 16th Annual May Conference scheduled for May 18-20 on the Davie campus. In addition to CE seminars taking place Friday through Sunday, the conference highlight will be the festive class reunion honoring the class of 2002, which includes complimentary CE and admittance to the reception, dinner, and dancing. Our signature event takes place at the Grande Oaks Golf Club and is not to be missed. The Florida required courses will be given on Saturday afternoon.

SUNDAY CEME

The NSU Orlando campus will be the home for two Sunday events, which will be held August 18 and November 19, with eight hours of CE credit offered each day. This may be a good time to squeeze in some CE along with a family vacation at America's number one vacation destination. For your information, the Orlando campus is very close to Universal Studios as well as the Millennium Mall.

TPA/BOARD REVIEW

NSUCO is hosting its 100-hour TPA/Board Review course in July as well as the annual Fall Conference in September. For additional information and online registration, please visit <http://optometry.nova.edu/ce/index.html>.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

May 18-20, 2012
Annual Eye Care Conference
and Alumni Reunion
Fort Lauderdale, Florida

May 24, 2012
Senior Awards Luncheon
Fort Lauderdale, Florida

May 25, 2012
Senior Awards Dinner
Hollywood, Florida

May 27, 2012
Class of 2012
Graduation
Sunrise, Florida

June 15-17, 2012
Florida Board Exam
Fort Lauderdale, Florida

June 27-July 1, 2012
American Optometric Association
Annual Meeting
Chicago, Illinois

July 8-18, 2012
Therapeutic Pharmaceutical Agents
Certification/Board Review Course
Fort Lauderdale, Florida

July 12-15, 2012
Florida Optometric Association
Annual Convention
Miami Beach, Florida

August 19, 2012
Super Sunday I
Orlando, Florida

September 8-9, 2012
Fall Conference
Fort Lauderdale, Florida

October 24-27, 2012
American Academy of Optometry
Annual Meeting
Phoenix, Arizona

November 11, 2012
Super Sunday II
Orlando, Florida