

Summer 2014

Visionary Summer 2014

College of Optometry

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the VISIONARY



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Dean's Message

By David S. Loshin, O.D., Ph.D., FAAO

"I BELIEVE THAT EVEN WITH THIS PROGRESS, WE MUST CONTINUE TO REMAIN DILIGENT TO STAY AHEAD, STRIVE FOR EXCELLENCE, AND STRONGLY PROMOTE THE COLLEGE, THE OPTOMETRIC PROFESSION, AND NSU."

2014 is a special year because it marks the 50th anniversary of Nova Southeastern University and the 25th anniversary of the College of Optometry, which will be commemorating this significant milestone with a major event on September 13. As I reminisce about my NSU arrival in 1997, I recall there were two computers in the college—and you never knew if the Internet was functioning or if emails would arrive at their proper destination.

Retinal cameras used film—a lot of film—and the slides had to be sorted by a resident and put in sleeves to be filed somewhere you hoped could be retrieved if requested. The current incarnation of The Eye Care Institute did not exist, but we did have three clinical sites, including Opa Locka, while the North Miami Beach location was in need of repair and had more leaks in the roof than we had baskets to catch the water.

We are now in our 18th year since relocating from North Miami Beach to the Davie campus. The Eye Care Institute now has five clinic locations—Broward Boulevard, Broward Lighthouse, Davie, Kids in Distress, and North Miami Beach—which provide our student clinicians with outstanding opportunities to experience an extremely diverse patient population. All our clinics are now connected through electronic health records, meaning they can be easily retrieved at any location.

One of the most significant changes is the quality of our faculty members, students, and graduates. The former young faculty members are now mid-career with years of teaching experience. Additionally, many of these faculty members are recognized experts throughout the world, and their clinical research is being externally funded and presented at national meetings.

As times have changed, the faculty members and administrators have embraced technology. Similarly, entering students are required to have an iPad since class

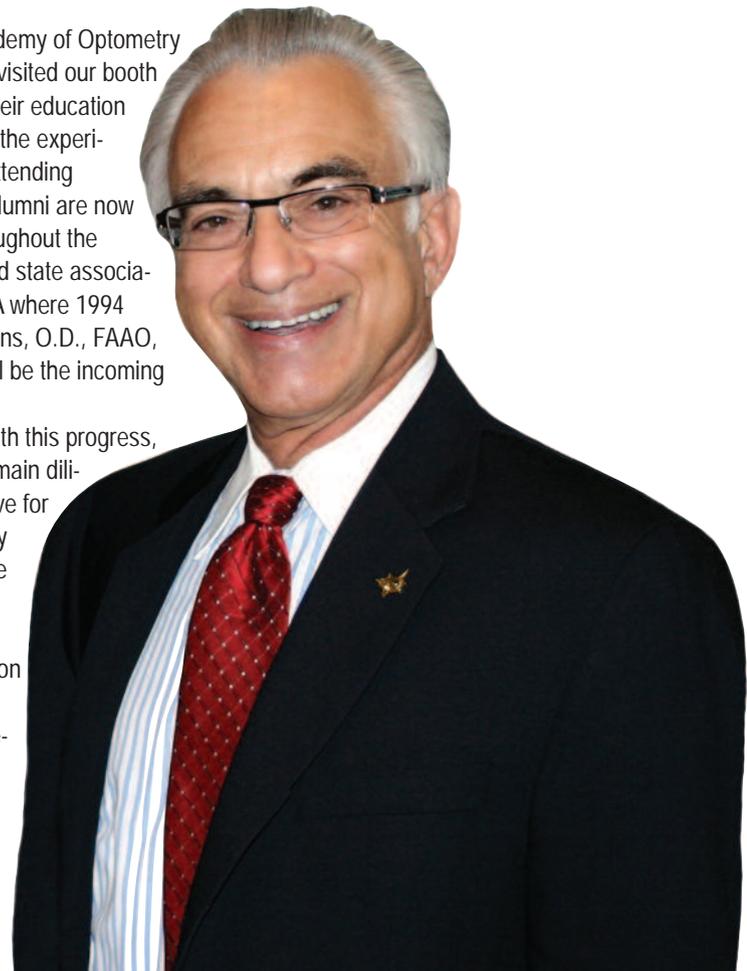
notes, lab exercises, ebooks, and videos have been developed by a number of our faculty members and exams can be administered through Exam Soft on the iPad. Through social media, we are able to rapidly post pictures of events and offerings at the college as well as keep in contact with alumni and candidates for admission.

The college continues to maintain its high standards for admissions and recruit the best and the brightest students for our entering class. This is definitely evidenced by the OATs and GPAs for the entering classes and our pass rate with the NBEO and licensure examinations over the last few years.

At the American Academy of Optometry this year, many alumni visited our booth to express thanks for their education and gratefulness for all the experiences they had while attending NSUCO. Many of our alumni are now in leadership roles throughout the country in their local and state associations, including the FOA where 1994 alumnus Barry J. Frauens, O.D., FAAO, associate professor, will be the incoming president this year.

I believe that even with this progress, we must continue to remain diligent to stay ahead, strive for excellence, and strongly promote the college, the optometric profession, and NSU.

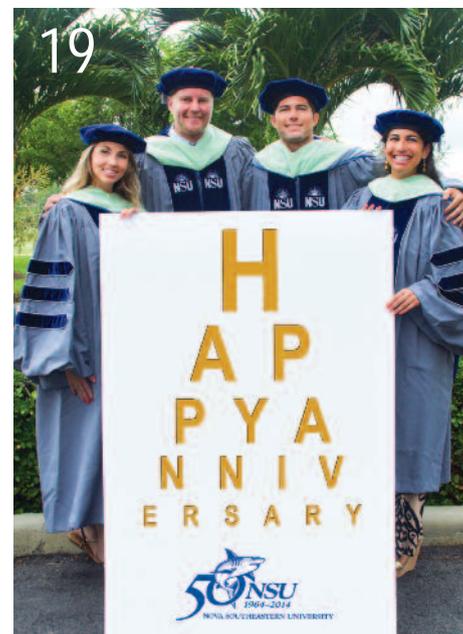
We hope to see you on September 13 so you can help us celebrate NSUCO's 25th anniversary.



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Chancellor's Communiqué

Frederick Lippman, R.Ph., Ed.D.
Health Professions Division Chancellor



As I was reading the book entitled *The Making of Nova Southeastern University* by Julian Pleasants, which was composed to commemorate NSU's 50th anniversary, it brought back many fond memories of what occurred approximately two decades ago when Nova University and Southeastern University of the Health Sciences decided to structure a dynamic merger of the two educational institutions. Because of my involvement in public service over the years, I had the pleasure of knowing many of the original founders of Nova University such as Hamilton Forman, William Horvitz, Tinsley Ellis, longtime president Abraham Fischler, and others who have served the South Florida community in many ways. Because of these relationships, I was well aware of the struggles the university was encountering as well as the exciting advancements that were taking place.

From its infancy, Nova University was consistently challenging the construct of traditional education systems. It was exactly this type of progressive attitude that brought Dr. Morton Terry, the founder of Southeastern University of the Health Sciences and NSU's Health Professions Division, to view Nova University as a potential partner that shared his vision—a foresight for not following the staid and feudal standards of some of our nation's academic infrastructure. As a result, Dr. Terry made contact with key members of the Nova University Board of Trustees in 1993. Instinctively, he felt that Southeastern University of the Health Sciences and Nova University had similar *chutzpah*.

Although the Nova/Southeastern merger proved to be a powerhouse partnership, Dr. Terry had also engaged in preliminary talks with the University of Miami about being a potential merge partner. Interestingly, as wonderful as the University of Miami was and is—particularly its outstanding school of medicine—Dr. Terry didn't feel comfortable in that environment. Once he met with the leaders from Nova University, however, Dr. Terry was certain he'd found the perfect fit.

Ultimately, the innovative education atmosphere that was inherent within the Nova University system proved to be symbiotic with what Dr. Terry felt the presentation of health education would be in the future. He saw in Nova University that rare spark that would enable all of us to work together. I remember listening to former NSU President Ray Ferrero, Jr., many years ago when he stated that the merger was not a $1 + 1 = 2$ merger; it was more like $1 + 1 = 10$. Truer words were never spoken.

As I reflect upon that period in our history, the truly amazing feature of Dr. Terry's leadership was that he had a remarkably instinctive quality in terms of what he felt the future would look like. As a non-educator who was a very significant and qualified medical professional, he felt he needed dedicated and talented people to get us where he thought we

needed to be. To that end, he and the action leaders of what became Nova Southeastern University worked together hand in glove.

I had the privilege of joining forces with Southeastern University of the Health Sciences in 1986, and I watched all that we are today occur before my eyes. In all honesty, I was amazed by the way Dr. Terry always strived to make prudent decisions, especially from a financial perspective, but was also willing to take risks in the academic realm at any cost. A true forward-thinker, Dr. Terry, who passed away in 2004, always believed that investing in new programs would bring not only academic success, but financial reward.

When we officially came to the Davie campus as a merged entity in 1996, one of the construction elements of the Health Professions Division centered on the creation of the lab/library building, with nearly 20 percent of the edifice being dedicated to research. At that time, the university's primary focus was on simply providing quality education—not conducting research.

Once the NSU Health Professions Division was founded, we made a concerted effort to establish a research infrastructure by forming a research committee and an institutional review board. I also worked closely with Dr. Terry during this time to budget sums of money that were made available to faculty members for what we call seed research, which created an environment for them to seek grants and pursue various funding opportunities from either private foundations or government agencies.

The success of these efforts is evidenced by the following statistic: When we initially came to NSU's main campus, the former Southeastern University of the Health Sciences had less than \$100,000 in research funding; as of February 2014, we had an active total of about \$25.3 million in external funding. I truly feel that, along with NSU's Center of Excellence for Coral Reef Ecosystems Research, the interprofessional components and synergistic relationships we have here at the Health Professions Division helped lead to the conceptualization of the Center for Collaborative Research (CCR), which officially broke ground on February 13.

By 2016, which is when the CCR is slated to open, NSU will be home to two major research centers, which will play a major role in helping the university reach its goal of having \$300 million in externally funded research by the year 2020.

NSUCO Earns Five STUEY Nominations

The College of Optometry was recognized in five categories at the 15th Annual Student Life Achievement Awards, most commonly referred to as the STUEYS. The award ceremony, which took place on April 2, is an annual celebration of NSU's best in academic excellence, student centered, integrity, innovation, opportunity, scholarship/research, diversity, and community. During the event, students, faculty and staff members, corporate partners, and alumni that have contributed to building a greater sense of community and campus life are honored.

Pictured below (three of the nominees with NSU President and CEO George L. Hanbury II, Ph.D.) are four of the five NSUCO faculty and staff members that were nominated for STUEYS. Cocurricular Adviser of the Year nominee **Christopher Woodruff, O.D., M.B.A., FAAO**, is not pictured below.



Executive of the Year Finalist
Linda S. Rouse, O.D., FAAO



Staff Person of the Year Finalist
Fran Franconeri



Professor of the Year Finalist
David S. Loshin, O.D., Ph.D., FAAO



Student of the Year for the College of Optometry
Ryan Beck, class of 2015
(pictured with Dr. Loshin)

Neuro Optometric Service: Making a Difference

Autism spectrum disorder is the fastest-growing pediatric diagnosis, affecting 1 in 68 children in the United States. Research suggests that children with autism are likely to receive health care. Consequently, to address the vision needs of this growing population and patients with related disorders, NSUCO's Administration and Pediatric Service formally opened the Neuro Optometric Service in August 2013 to provide examinations and visual processing evaluation to these patients.

The service, which has been steadily booked since it opened, provides clinical care based upon the interdisciplinary DIR/Floortime model, and NSU's optometric team often works with the patient's team to target vision problems. In addition to providing patient care and training students and residents, several research and scholarship initiatives are underway.

Rachel A. "Stacey" Coulter, O.D., M.S.Ed, FAAO, FCOVD, associate professor, received a grant funded by the College of Optometrists in Vision Development to investigate the use of yoked prisms in nonverbal patients with autism. Additionally, Annette Bade, O.D., M.C.V.R., FAAO, assistant professor, received a Healthy Eyes Healthy People grant in collaboration with the University of Miami-NSU CARD to promote awareness of the need for eye examinations among the autism population.

NSU's pediatric faculty is publishing research investigating a specialized eye examination protocol for this population. Dr. Coulter serves as a consultant to a multidisciplinary group of investigators in the United Kingdom that are investigating the use of colored light to facial processing in children with autism. The service is part of NSU's Interdisciplinary Council for the Study of Autism—a university-wide group that works to expand direct services, professional development activities, higher education programs, and research in this area.



Dr. Bade



Dr. Coulter

THANK YOU

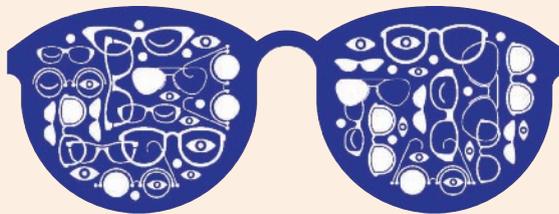
Essilor of America



Essilor of America has donated Mr Blue, which is at the forefront of edging technology, to NSUCO's Ziff Health Care Center Optical Dispensary in Davie. This state-of-the-art edger features an easy-to-use touch screen interface and a fully automatic blocker that fabricates a pair of spectacles to the highest-possible standard. Mr Blue's distinctive milling function, automatic recognition of rimless holes, and high-curve trace ability are just a few of the additional functions available. Essilor of America also has placed in NSUCO's dispensary the latest in digital dispensing technology—Visioffice 2—which allows the dispensary to deliver an accurate, precise, and consistent way to prescribe a patient's lenses.

2014 OPTICAL STYLE SHOW

The Eye Care Institute hosted its annual Optical Style Show in April 2014. The show's sponsoring frame vendor was Marchon Eyewear, which showcased full collections of its top brands such as Michael Kors, Chloe, Emilio Pucci, and Valentino. The event has served as a perpetually successful way to promote The Eye Care Institute clinics to their surrounding communities via radio ads and invitations, as well as through campus-wide promotion for NSU students and faculty and staff members. The Optical Style Show has been a success from its inception thanks to the efforts of Linda S. Rouse, O.D., FAAO, chief operations officer of The Eye Care Institute, Ana Abugazaleh, managing optician, and Michelle Merida, manager of third-party contracts and marketing services.



HB 239: Florida Optometrists Awarded the Right to Prescribe Oral Medications



By David Rouse, O.D., FAAO, Chairman, Florida Optometric Association Board of Directors

After decades of attempts, Florida optometrists were awarded the right to prescribe oral medications for eye disease with the passage of HB 239. While this bill was touted as an expansion of scope of practice, the real winners were the citizens of Florida. This issue had been debated for so many years that the Florida Legislature referred to the oral medication issue as the "Eye Ball Wars." Optometrists in 47 other states have been prescribing oral medications for over 20 years, so there was a proven track record for the education and training for optometrists to prescribe these medications in a safe and professional manner. That track record, coupled with the collaborative effort between the various health care profes-

sions, resulted in the unanimous passage of HB 239. Optometrists are the primary eye care providers, and eye issues do not always occur during regular business hours. Often, unwanted delays in care result not only in more patient discomfort, but also in a worsening of the condition. Consequently, patients would often utilize emergency rooms for treatable conditions at a greater cost to taxpayers and the health care system. The Florida Optometric Association thought it was imperative for optometrists in our state to be able to provide prompt and effective care to the citizens of Florida. All certified optometrists in Florida now have the ability to prescribe oral medica-

tions after an additional certification test is passed. Certified optometrists also have the ability to apply for a DEA number in order to prescribe controlled substances. With the additional numbers of practitioners in the state, there is greater access to care, especially in the underserved rural areas. This legislation also codified the ability of optometrists to co-manage surgical cases with ophthalmologists. Florida optometrists have been providing quality primary eye care to their communities for many years. With the passage of HB 239, optometrists now will be able to offer their patients greater access to eye care and aligns Florida's level of care with the other 47 states.

Jeanne DeCaro – Coordinator of Student Services

By Fran Franconeri, Recruitment and Student Affairs, and
Michael Bacigalupi, O.D., M.S., FAAO, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs



1: During the class of 2014's senior luncheon, DeCaro received the Most Valuable Administrator Golden Apple Award.

2: DeCaro contributes to the fundraising efforts during the 2013 Nova Challenge Cycle for Sight, which was organized by NSUCO's SGA.

EARLY YEARS

Jeanne DeCaro, the youngest of four children, was born in the Bronx, New York, to parents Sylvia and John Patrick Regan, who were of Irish and Swedish descent. Her early years were spent in the Bronx in Pelham Bay at the end of the Lexington Subway line in an Irish and Italian neighborhood, where people sat on their steps in the evenings to catch up with their neighbors.

DeCaro has fond memories of her childhood, where she was the fastest runner on the block and the neighborhood kids played stickball in the street. She also enjoyed taking the subway with friends into the city to eat Chinese food and visit her father, who worked as a superintendent in an office building located a block from the Empire State Building.

When she was in the 10th grade, her family moved to New Jersey, but tragedy soon struck when both her parents died—with her father succumbing to colon cancer when she was only 17 and her mother passing away a few years later from cardiac complications related to diphtheria, which she was exposed to as a child in Sweden. During her junior year of high school, however, love would appear in her life when she met her husband, Art DeCaro, who was a senior at the time. She described their instant connection as “love at first sight” and remembers their first date at Poppy's Pizzeria, which will always hold a special place in her heart. Several years later, the happy couple tied the knot in South Brunswick, New Jersey.

FAMILY LIFE AND SECOM

After settling in North Brunswick, New Jersey, DeCaro worked in the purchasing department of the Brunswick Corporation. In the ensuing years, son Scott Christopher and daughter Dana Lee were born, adding much joy to the DeCaro family. As a result, DeCaro left her job and devoted her time to raising her family.

In 1976, the DeCaro family relocated to South Florida, eventually settling in North Miami Beach. In 1979, she gave birth to son Adam Regan, but when Adam started kindergarten, DeCaro felt an urge to return to work and took notice of a fairly new medical school called Southeastern College of Osteopathic Medicine (SECOM), which was located near her home in North Miami Beach. In 1985, DeCaro began her nearly 30-year career with what would eventually become Nova Southeastern University when she accepted a job in SECOM's Registrar's Office.

NOVA SOUTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY

From 1985 through 1995, DeCaro worked at the North Miami Beach campus, where she served the needs of the medical, pharmacy, and optometry students at what was then known as Southeastern University of

the Health Sciences. Because it was a new university, she loved the family atmosphere that came from working with a small, tightknit staff.

A frequent visitor to DeCaro's office was Morton Terry, D.O., the founder of Southeastern University of the Health Sciences, who would tell her to quit smoking on a regular basis. In 1995, after Southeastern University merged with Nova University, DeCaro began working at the newly named Nova Southeastern University campus in Davie.

When she arrived for her first day of work at the Davie campus, DeCaro was greeted by several administrators because they had just received a call that DeCaro's husband had suffered a heart attack. The news may have been devastating, but she will never forget her colleagues' kind concern for her husband. Her new NSU role was very similar to her former position, although she now worked with all the Health Professions Division colleges in terms of entering student grades and handling various aspects of the student registration process.

COLLEGE OF OPTOMETRY

In 2005, DeCaro joined the College of Optometry and was promoted to her current position as student services coordinator the following year. In this role, DeCaro has earned the students' trust and affection for the way she lovingly guides them on their NSUCO educational path. Over the years, DeCaro has been honored by many of the classes with Golden Apple Awards and numerous gifts of thanks. Her dedication, warm smile, and contagious laugh are fixtures on the fourth floor of the Terry Building.

FUTURE PLANS

DeCaro hopes to continue working with NSUCO students until she retires while also spending time with her seven grandchildren, who range in age from 2 to 16.



Class of 2014

Class of 2014 students [Blake Dornstauder](#) and [Rhea Butchey](#) were awarded the Walmart and Sam's Club's Project Foresight traveling trophy in December 2013 for creating an innovative business model of a pediatric vision therapy practice. Instead of using the conventional vision therapy model, Dornstauder and Butchey incorporated personal training in the vision therapy session. Their model helps tackle the U.S. childhood obesity epidemic and offers children valuable lessons about proper nutrition, health, hand-eye coordination, and visual-spatial skills.

Students [Sara Berke-Silva](#) and [Bradley Austin](#) were awarded the Don E. Williamson Scholarship. The two recipients were selected by the Southwest Florida Optometric Association members based on their GPA, leadership qualities, positive attitude, legislative participation, and dedication to advancing the optometric profession.



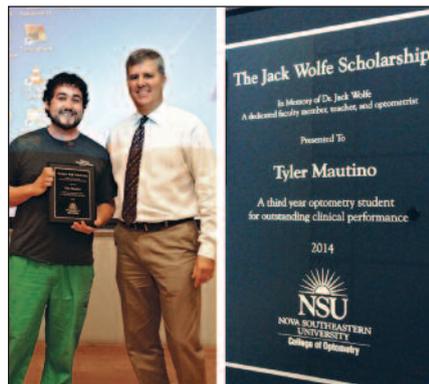
(L-R) David S. Loshin, O.D., Ph.D., FFAO, dean, Blake Dornstauder, Rhea Butchey, and John Chandler, R.Ph., regional talent specialist for Walmart Health and Wellness for FL.



Dr. Loshin, Sarah Berke-Silva, and Bradley Austin.

Class of 2015

[Victor Calderon](#), class of 2015, received the Terrance "Terry" N. Ingraham Endowment Scholarship, which is presented to the third-year optometry student who displays outstanding service and dedication to NSUCO and the profession of optometry. Class of 2015 students [Tyler Mautino](#) and [Marilu Greyling](#) both received Jack Wolfe Scholarships, which are presented to third-year optometry students for outstanding clinical performance. These scholarships honor our former faculty members who left enduring legacies at NSUCO.



Class of 2016

[Micaela Crowley](#), class of 2016, composed an article entitled "How to Have a Successful Fund-Raising Campaign: Nova's First Cycle for Sight" that was featured in the spring 2014 issue of *Foresight* magazine.

Class of 2017

[Grace Farrell](#), class of 2017, was noted as outstanding by the HPD committee reviewing presentation abstracts in her podium presentation titled "The Effect of Transient Glare on Object Recognition." She conducted her research project under the guidance of Bin Zhang, M.D., Ph.D., director of graduate programs and research, and with help from visiting Chinese scholars.

Congratulations to our students for earning Student Fellow recognition from the American Academy of Optometry. The Student Fellowship program gives students the opportunity to engage in cutting-edge knowledge and technology through lectures, workshops, and posters. The program is geared to guide students to develop their skills as an optometric or vision science professional and aims at persuading students to become Fellows upon graduation.



Blake Dornstauder Earns Varilux Student Grant

Blake Dornstauder, class of 2014, was this year's NSUCO recipient of a \$1,000 Varilux Student Grant. Dornstauder's case report on a patient fit with Varilux lenses was so exceptional that he was also designated as the overall national award winner and earned a travel grant to the 117th Annual AOA Congress and 44th Annual AOSA Conference held June 25-29 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The program has been sponsored by Essilor of America for more than 25 years and demonstrates the company's ongoing dedication to optometric education, optometry students, and the optometric profession.

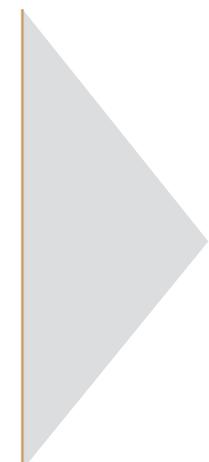


Don Tran Receives HOYA Vision Care Grant

Don Tran, class of 2015, received a \$500 HOYA Vision Care Grant that allowed him to attend the 117th Annual AOA Congress and 44th Annual AOSA Conference being held June 25-29 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, where he had an opportunity to qualify for a \$5,000 scholarship. In order to be considered, Tran submitted an ePoster case study involving the use of a HOYA product on a patient. HOYA Vision Care North America sponsors this program for the 20 optometry schools and their third- and fourth-year students in the United States and Puerto Rico.

Varilux OSB Ends in Historic Tie

The Varilux Optometry Student Bowl, which was held at the 116th Annual AOA Congress and 43rd Annual AOSA Conference: Optometry's Meeting® on June 26-30, 2013, in San Diego, California, celebrated its 22nd anniversary with a first-ever tie. The event was hosted by Essilor of America and coordinated and produced by its director of professional relations, Danne Ventura, FAAO. A student is chosen from each school and college of optometry to compete and answer optometry-themed questions. A tie was proclaimed between David Zimmerman from the University of Alabama at Birmingham and NSUCO class of 2014 student Blake Dornstauder.



NSUCO Warmly Welcomes Class of 2018 to the Optometry Family

By Michael Bacigalupi, O.D., M.S., FAAO
Assistant Dean for Student Affairs

The class of 2018 includes 104 traditional students that will begin their optometric careers on August 4. This diverse group of young people comes from across the country, with 50 from Florida, 2 from California, 2 from Maryland, 4 from New York, 2 from Ohio, 4 from Pennsylvania, 7 from Texas, and 2 from Wisconsin. In total, 23 states are represented in this talented group, with 13 from Canada, 1 from Guyana, and 1 from Jamaica.

The 104 students come from academic institutions such as the University of Florida, University of Central Florida, University of Western Ontario, University of Toronto, University of Miami, University of Tampa, Pennsylvania State University, Ohio State University, James Madison University, Florida International University, University of Washington, University of Calgary, George Mason University, Nova Southeastern University, University of Minnesota, Texas A&M University, Michigan State University, University of Maryland, North Carolina State University, State Uni-

versity of New York, Arizona State University, Florida State University, Baylor University, and the University of Texas.

This year, we had another very successful application cycle with 1,000-plus applicants for the 104 seats in our entering class. We continued to have quality applicants late into the application cycle, as the average student comes to us with a 3.37 cumulative GPA and a 3.25 science GPA. Their scores on the OAT examination were outstanding, with the average student earning a 323 academic average and 322 total science score. This statistically significant improvement in scores points to the continued elevation of NSUCO's reputation as an outstanding institution. In fact, 40 percent of the national applicant pool decided it wanted to be considered for admissions at NSU's College of Optometry.

We are proud to welcome the class of 2018 to our family and are confident this group of young people will be outstanding contributors to the profession of optometry in the near future.

Optometrists on the Rise: DRS. CORY COLLIER AND KARA DEIBEL

“AS THEY START OUT ON THEIR MARRIED LIFE TOGETHER, THEY LOOK FORWARD TO THE NEXT STEP IN THEIR CHOSEN PROFESSION—AND TO SERVING THEIR LOCAL COMMUNITY FOR MANY YEARS TO COME.”

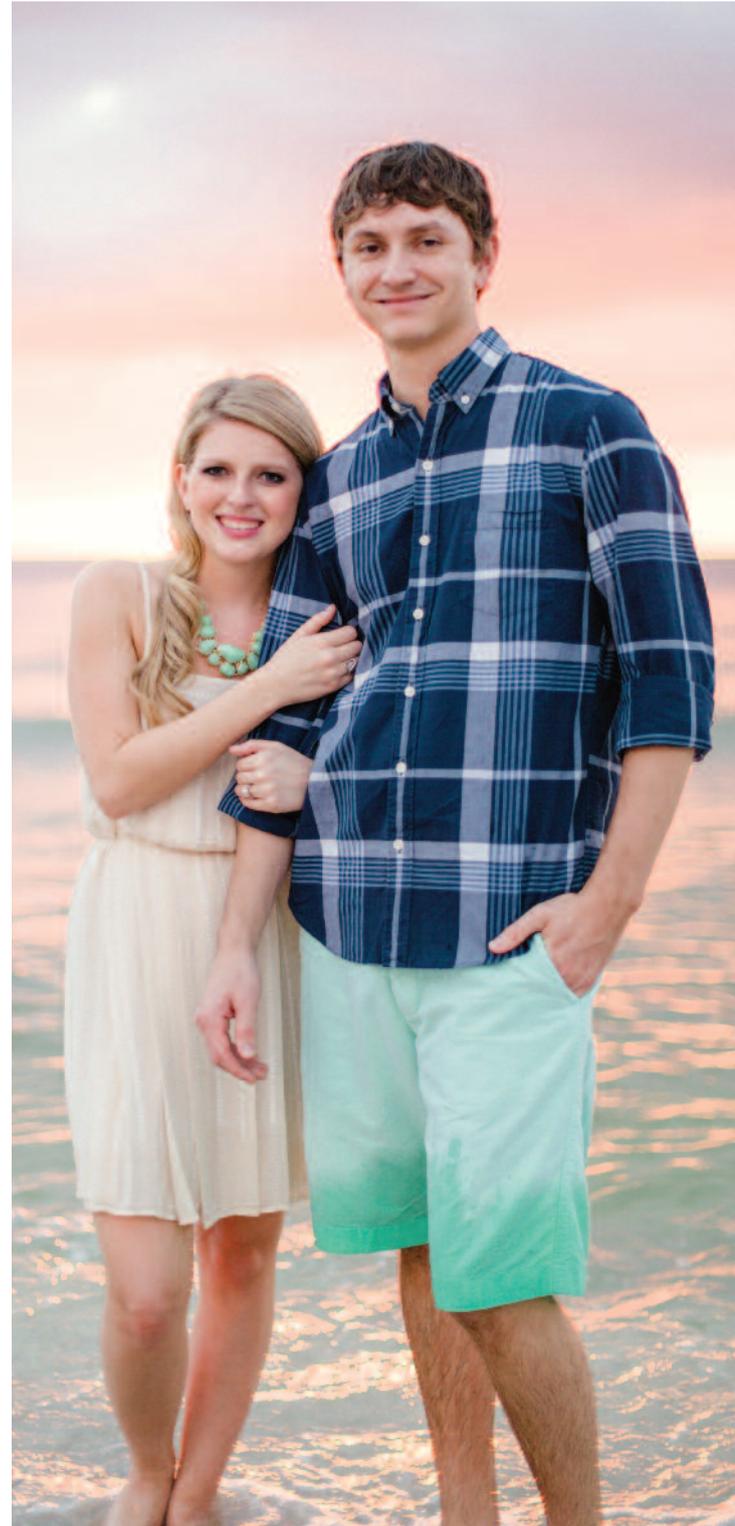
By Rachel Snell, Assistant to the Deans

While Cory Collier, O.D., and Kara Deibel, O.D., were focusing on the final months of their NSUCO education, an equally significant event was fast approaching—their wedding on May 10, 2014. The recent graduates, who had been dating since their freshman year in high school, have shared the same ideals through their personal and academic journeys.

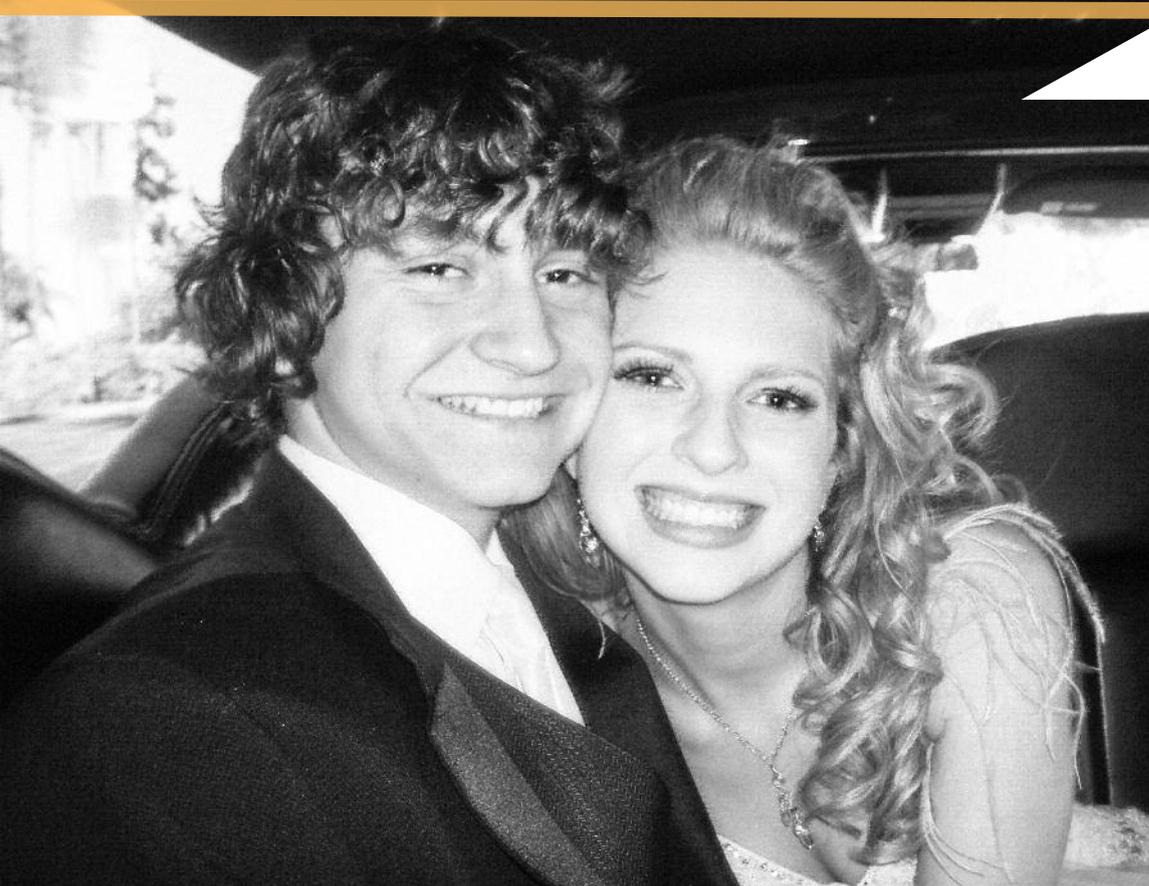
Dr. Collier was brought up mainly on Florida’s West Coast, where his family had been established since the mid-1800s. There was a time, however, when he had aspirations of a quite different career—becoming a professional ice hockey player. Dr. Collier had played on ice hockey and roller hockey teams since the age of eight. His teams even won second place in the national championships, so at the age of 15, he moved to Connecticut with the intent of advancing his sporting skills.

“It was quite an adjustment due to the weather and the fact that it was a challenge academically,” admitted Dr. Collier, who didn’t have the same academic focus at the age of 15 as he does now. While the two years spent in Connecticut were a positive experience, he decided a career in ice hockey was not for him and accepted a scholarship to a Florida university, where he continued to court the woman of his dreams.

Dr. Deibel, however, experienced quite a different childhood, living in three different states prior to attending middle school because her father’s profession had led the family to live in North Carolina, Minnesota, and Michigan before settling in Sarasota, Florida. “Fortunately, I liked Florida and its warmth the best, so it finally felt like home,” she said.



prom night



"...AT CAMP BOGGY CREEK IN EUSTIS, FLORIDA—A FACILITY THAT OFFERS YEAR-ROUND CAMPING SESSIONS FOR SERIOUSLY AND CHRONICALLY ILL CHILDREN. DRs. COLLIER AND DEIBEL REGULARLY VOLUNTEERED THEIR WEEKENDS TO SPEND TIME WITH THE CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES."

During their time as students at NSUCO, Drs. Collier and Deibel attended the Special Olympics Opening Eyes event in Orlando, Florida.

ANALYZING THEIR VOCATIONAL OPTIONS

A keen scholar, Dr. Deibel did well in school and possessed a natural interest in science, which she inherited from—and was encouraged to pursue—by her father. Because of her love of science and desire to help others, she knew she wanted to pursue a career in the health care field. She successfully applied to a number of colleges in Florida, but like Dr. Collier, she accepted a place at the University of Central Florida (UCF) to study molecular biology and microbiology.

Drs. Collier and Deibel both knew they wanted to pursue careers in the health professions, but when they entered UCF, neither yet planned to move forward in the optometry field. To help direct their focus, they shadowed a range of health professionals to help direct their choice and served as members of UCF's Pre-Professional Medical Society (PPMS) for all four years. In fact, Dr. Collier went on to become PPMS's president in his senior year, while Dr. Deibel served as secretary.

Of the many fund-raising and volunteer events they participated in, one was particularly significant to them. A friend of theirs (now a D.O. student at NSU) had introduced them to a young girl, Faith, who had suffered terrible burns as a baby. Having no right ear, she couldn't wear normal corrective glasses or a wig. A surgeon had agreed to operate on Faith at no cost, but funds were needed for a prosthetic ear. To assist in the effort, Drs. Collier and Deibel organized a 5K run to raise money. In addition to enlisting the support of the UCF community, they successfully persuaded local businesses to sponsor the event, which



Story continued on page 12

Student Spotlight



In 2010, Drs. Collier and Deibel organized a 5K run to raise money for a young girl who needed a prosthetic ear.



Drs. Collier and Deibel were honored at UCF's Philanthropy Event of the Year for their dedication to fund-raising and volunteering.

brought in over \$10,000 and was recognized as UCF's Philanthropy Event of the Year. In addition to providing Faith with a new ear, the monies raised were able to buy her a prosthetic nose.

Another project they were regularly involved in was at Camp Boggy Creek in Eustis, Florida—a facility that offers year-round camping sessions for seriously and chronically ill children. Drs. Collier and Deibel regularly volunteered their weekends to spend time with the children and their families. Similarly, they volunteered with Give Kids the World Village—a storybook resort providing free vacations to children with life-threatening illnesses.

OPTOMETRY CAREERS COME INTO FOCUS

These experiences, coupled with a growing knowledge of the medical sciences, led Dr. Collier to attend NSUCO's Pre-Optometry Day at the FOA Annual Convention. This, in turn, cemented his decision to pursue optometry. "I felt optometry was a profession that would allow me time to get to know my patients well," he explained. "I hope to build long-term relationships with my patients and their families throughout my professional career."

While Dr. Deibel had initially considered a career in veterinary medicine after shadowing David Fisher, O.D., for just one day, she instinctively knew optometry was the career path for her. She continued to shadow Dr. Fisher while voluntarily helping with pre-testing at his practice and working as an intern during the summer months. "In addition to personal interaction with the patient, I was fascinated by the fact that the eye gives clues to systemic disease, allowing a possible holistic medical relationship with each patient."

Because they are true fans of the Sunshine State, applying to NSUCO was a natural choice, but by no means the only reason. "The patient diversity made NSUCO a very attractive option, as well as the wide range of clinical experiences offered by the program," Dr. Collier said. According to Dr. Deibel, "Having been a part of UCF's interdisciplinary premed society, I was attracted to the fact that the College of Optometry was one of the seven multidisciplinary colleges based at NSU's Health Professions Division."

Drs. Collier and Deibel took their academic studies very seriously, which is evidenced by the fact that these two high achievers graduated as NSUCO honor students. Dr. Deibel served as Beta Sigma Kappa's (BSK) secretary, while Dr. Collier acted as BSK's mock pre-proficiencies coordinator, which he admitted was "a logistical challenge."

As graduating seniors, they placed first and third in their class, with Dr. Collier achieving the highest score in the NBEO Part 1 and passing with honors in all clinical rotations. During the college's Senior Luncheon in May, Dr. Deibel was awarded the Humana Specialty Benefits, V.C.P. Primary Care Clinical Achievement Award and the OEP Clinical Curriculum Award, while Dr. Collier was named valedictorian and received the Dr. Lester E. Janoff Scholar Award, the Beta Sigma Kappa Silver Medal, and the Dean's Award.

"I definitely have a greater appreciation of what it takes to become a doctor and the thought process required in clinical decision making," he stated.

THE NEXT STEP

With one chapter of their NSUCO experience completed, Drs. Collier and Deibel—who hope to open their own practice on Florida's West Coast when the time is right—are about to embark on another one since they have accepted residency positions at the college beginning in July 2014. Dr. Deibel will be working in primary care with pediatrics and binocular vision, while Dr. Collier's residency will involve working in primary care with cornea and contact lenses.

As NSUCO celebrates its 25th anniversary, the college is extremely proud of these two outstanding graduates who have shown exemplary standards during their academic and clinical studies. While neither Drs. Collier nor Dr. Deibel believe they have many obstacles in their path, they both recognize and are grateful to their respective families for encouraging their academic activities and allowing them to pursue their career of choice.

As they start out on their married life together, they look forward to the next step in their chosen profession—and to serving their local community for many years to come.

2013 Nova Challenge CYCLE FOR SIGHT



NSUCO students created their own World Sight Week Challenge on October 6-10, 2013, called Nova Challenge Cycle for Sight, which was spearheaded by class of 2016 student Micaela Crowley and organized by NSUCO's SGA. Their goal was to raise \$10,000 while attempting to pedal 25,000 miles around the world. With the slogan *every mile helps the world see better*, people could take special spin classes, log their road miles, and keep the wheels spinning on a stationary bike set up in the atrium of the Health Professions Division where classes are held.

To assist with the fund-raising effort, special team T-shirts were sold and donations were solicited. Thanks to these efforts and the 2,100-plus miles peddled by participants, over \$12,000 was procured for Optometry Giving Sight. NSU students raised more money than any other optometry school and came in second overall to Cooper Vision—a contact lens manufacturing company. The students created their own challenge between class years and pre-optometry students in the undergraduate program, while administrators

as well as faculty and staff members also joined Cycle for Sight, which was supported by Walmart and Sam's Club. In addition, the different student clubs banded together to raise funds, with the National Optometric Student Association obtaining the most donations.

"Our students take their compassion for optometry for the underserved seriously," said Janet Leasher, O.D., M.P.H., FAAO, associate professor, who is involved internationally with blindness prevention programs. "They grabbed those bike handles and never let go the entire week. The energy and enthusiasm for this campaign spread to the other health professions students who passed by and wondered what those crazy optometry students were up to. Professors from other programs, and even the president of the Fort Lauderdale Lions Club, took to the saddle to spin toward a solution to this global problem.

"With this passion, the next generation of optometrists is poised to tackle the problems of the world," added Dr. Leasher. "NSU became known around the world for the great job it did."

Student Organizations

SGA

By Ryan Beck, Class of 2015, President and AOSA National Trustee

The academic year began with the inaugural beach bash hosted by the Student Government Association (SGA) and the American Optometric Student Association (AOSA). Throughout the year, there were many great events for students to attend and participate in both at NSU and throughout our local community and communities abroad. There were students who ventured to Orlando for the annual Special Olympics vision screening, while others went on mission trips to Belize to service underprivileged communities regarding eye care services. Workshops were administered at the school from some of the nation's top speakers on topics from practice management to visual development, as well as the World Health Organization's 20/20 initiative. The SGA and the AOSA also combined their efforts to create NSUCO's inaugural Cycle for Sight fundraiser, which generated over \$12,000 in funds to donate to children in need of eye care. The year-end EyeBall event was held at the Westin on Fort Lauderdale Beach and attracted over 400 attendees.

Class of 2016

By Jay Harelson, President, and Jeremy Chartash, Vice President

We kicked off the summer of 2013 with a patriotic class barbeque and picnic at Plantation Heritage Park. As it cooled down in the fall, we designed and sold class sweatshirts and hoodies and hosted a Thanksgiving lunch for all HPD students and faculty members. During the winter semester, we celebrated the completion of our 100th exam by having a class gathering at a dueling piano restaurant/bar. By the end of the year, our hard work had paid off as we completed our clinical proficiency requirement and were able to start seeing real patients in clinic. Our class was also able to give back to the community through our outreach projects and poster presentations.

AAO

By Pinar Haytac, Class of 2015, Student Liaison

The 2013 American Academy of Optometry (AAO), which was held October 23-26 in Seattle, Washington, allowed 11 optometry students to meet the goals for what it takes to become a Student Fellow of the academy. The student fellowship teaches optometry students how to submit posters and papers and attend workshops and continuing education lectures in order to persuade further involvement and to become a Fellow upon graduation. The entire student fellowship process takes place during the annual meeting. The requirements include student membership in the academy, an orientation breakfast at the annual meeting, and four hours of continuing education, as well as attending two hours of poster presentations, the academy's business meeting, two hours of paper presentations, and one section or SIG symposium. An additional requirement is attendance at the plenary session, the Monroe J. Hirsch Symposium, or the Ezell Fellows' Presentation. For more information, please visit <http://www.aaopt.org/student-fellowship>. We hope you find an interest to apply for the upcoming annual meeting being held in Denver, Colorado, November 12-15, 2014.

AOSA

By Micaela Crowley, Class of 2016, Trustee

The 2013-14 academic year was busier than ever for the American Optometric Student Association (AOSA) as our goal was to increase our presence on campus. It started last October when the college's AOSA chapter hosted a first-ever World Sight Week Challenge and Cycle for Sight fund-raiser when over 200 students and faculty members were motivated to change the global issue of preventable blindness by cycling over 3,459 miles and raising \$12,097 for Optometry Giving Sight. In April, the AOSA helped Boston Marathon participants finish the race and hosted a 2.62 mile Together We Run event. We have a lot to look forward to this summer as we also started a project with our

dean, Dr. David Loshin, which aims to connect student O.D.s to their state association of interest early in their optometric education. We believe experience is a major way to help students feel comfortable networking and socializing in professional settings upon graduation. A trial run is planned for the class of 2019 Orientation Week.

BSK

By Alexandra Bennet, Class of 2015, President

The Beta Sigma Kappa (BSK) honor society was involved with a variety of activities this year. The club distributed a mock proficiency guide and hosted an educational weekend in which it helped prepare the OD2 class with each station of the Preclinical Proficiency Exam. BSK also helped raise over \$1,300 for the Lighthouse of Broward at its Public House fund-raiser. BSK's greatest accomplishment this year has been the countless hours its members spent tutoring their fellow classmates.

CAOS

By Lawrence Tam, Class of 2015, Co President

The NSUCO chapter of the Canadian Association of Optometry Students (CAOS) has been a supportive forum for Canadians studying in Florida. Our year started with a friendly potluck that brought together new and old members as well as Canadian students from other health professions. We continued strong with the yearly tradition of our Canadian Thanksgiving celebration and also enjoyed a night out ice skating for those that were missing traditional Canadian winter activities. Our year had a great finish by hosting a webinar with practicing optometrists in Canada that included NSUCO alumni. The connections and lifelong relationships our members have is what allow us to succeed during school and after graduation.

COVD

By Angela Love, Class of 2015, Student Liaison

In the fall of 2013, we held our annual and largest meeting of the year—the Tour d'Optometry. Each year, a representative from the College of Optometrists in Vision Development (COVD) speaks to all the optometry schools about vision therapy. This year, our featured speaker was Kara Heying, O.D., FCVOD, president elect of the COVD board, who discussed the topic "The Power of Developmental Eye Care—More Than 20/20 Makes the Difference." We ended the semester with a dinner meeting discussing our residency program at NSUCO. All of our pediatric residents attended and spoke with our students about what residencies are like and gave their personal experiences. We also had a community service project involving sports vision screenings in Miramar, Florida, for NFL player Ray Shipman's community service project. The community was educated on eye protection and shown techniques to help enhance vision for athletes.

FCO

By Adesola Fadey, Class of 2017, President

The Fellowship of Christian Optometrists (FCO) allows students of like-minded faith to have a place for fellowship and grow with each other, while those who do not share in those same Christian beliefs are also welcome to join. We hold various events such as our annual back-to-school barbeque bash, which provides a time for us to relax and soak up the sun with fellow students and mingle before the hectic semester. We also coordinate our Annual *Christmathanksgiving* ugly sweater party, which serves as a fun and energetic way to collect and donate cans of food to the homeless, as well as our Christmas Toy Drive for underprivileged kids. We also hold ocular disease reviews that our fourth-year students coordinate for us before every exam and participate in the NSU College of Osteopathic Medicine's medical outreach trip to Jamaica.

NOPMA

By Lita Wu, Class of 2015, President

Over the past two semesters, the NSU Optometric Practice Management Association (NOPMA) has invited well-known speakers from all over the country to speak to our students about various topics such as financial planning for private practices and management of diabetic eye diseases in private practice. One of the most unique events NOPMA hosts is our Dining with Doctors event where we invite 12 students, based on merit, to a personal dinner with a local optometrist. This allows our most active students the opportunity to ask any questions about the real world of optometry. We have also redesigned and launched our Web site (www.nopma.org) to provide a user-friendly resource to our members. Overall, it was a fantastic year for our members, who gained much insight about private practice optometry. We continue to be the club with the highest number of student participants at NSUCO. We're also proud to say we are one of the most active optometry practice management clubs in the nation.

NOSA

By Caleb Saint Jean, Class of 2016, President

The National Optometric Student Association (NOSA) is the student extension of the National Optometric Association and is a service organization dedicated to the recruitment of multicultural students in order to provide service to communities locally, nationally, and internationally. Our club, which provides over 400 hours of community service, has been involved with service projects that include neutralizations, Vision Walk, World Sight Day, A Day of Children, the Walmart Back-to-School Shopping Spree, and vision screenings with the Lions Club and Memorial Healthcare System. We ended the school year with our annual banquet, where the guest speaker was Don Bryan, O.D., who is a graduate of NSUCO's class of 1995 and shared his experiences as a private practitioner.

OSAOD

By Shannon Joseph, Class of 2016, President

The Optometric Student Association for Ocular Disease (OSAOD) is an organization of dedicated students and faculty members that provides the best lecturers on optometric topics in ocular disease. We have been fortunate to have invited and learned from physicians in all fields of disease and from all around the country, including NSU graduates. We launched our first lecture on "Vascular Retinal Disease," followed by sessions on "Case Studies of Posterior Disease," "Co Management of Surgery," "Diabetic Trends," "Anterior Segment," and "Posterior Disease." We are excited to announce summer meetings for the first time, which will be a great addition to our summer curriculum and introduction to the incoming class.

SVOSH

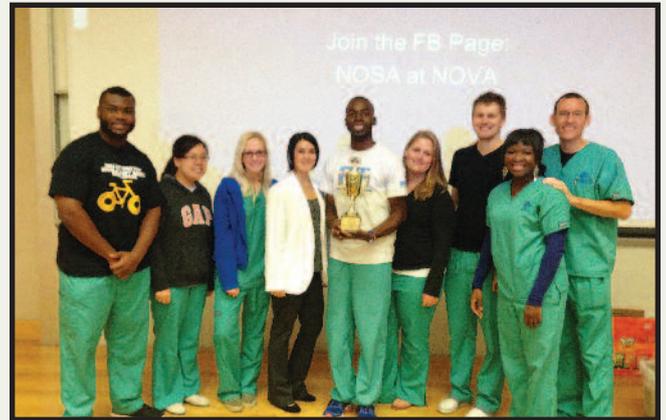
By Jonathan B. Dizon, Class of 2016, and Rachael Koschnick, Class of 2015 (2013-14 Co Presidents), and Linda Pham, Class of 2015, Trip Coordinator

Students Volunteer Optometric Services to Humanity (SVOSH) had a very active and productive year. We kicked off the fall 2013 semester with the annual Back-to-School Bash, which raised money for our medical outreach trip. Other successful fund-raisers during the year included bake sales, Chick-fil-A, and Menchie's events. Over the 2014 spring break, SVOSH set off to the Stann Creek District, a remote region in Southeast Belize and provided free eye care in two locations—Dangriga and Independence. The team, consisting of 20 students, 6 physicians, and 1 optician, collaborated with the Belize Council for the Visually Impaired (BCVI), a nonprofit organization, to provide care for the two sites in four days. Medications, glasses, and sunglasses were donated and collected from various organizations over the course of several months for the purpose of the outreach trip. On the second day of providing eye care at the Red Cross in Dangriga, the BCVI graciously coordinated a cultural night to welcome SVOSH with traditional dancing and drumming of the Garifuna people, who are descendants of West African, Central African, Carib, and Arawak people. After several days of hard work and providing eye care for 625 people, the students and physicians had two well-deserved days for excursions, which included cave tubing, zip lining, and exploring the Caracol Mayan ruins.

NOPMA



NOSA



SVOSH





DR. DAVID LOSHIN Honored by NAP and Miami Lighthouse for the Blind

David S. Loshin, O.D., Ph.D., FAAO, NSUCO dean, was honored by the National Academies of Practice (NAP) as a Distinguished Fellow. The National Academies of Practice was founded in 1981 in recognition of the need for interdisciplinary collaboration in health care. The NAP is a nonprofit professional organization comprising 10 different health professions—dentistry, nursing, optometry, osteopathic medicine, medicine, psychology, podiatric medicine, social work, veterinary medicine, and pharmacy. Only 150 members can belong to each academy, so membership is a prized honor.

He also was among three community leaders honored by Miami Lighthouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired at the organization's Music Under the Stars: Bon Appetit Miami fund-raiser in April 2014. Dr. Loshin was selected for his and NSUCO's commitment to training optometrists who help the organization provide free eye examinations to underserved children through the Florida Heiken Children's Vision Program. Dr. Loshin expressed his thanks for receiving this wonderful honor and pledged NSUCO's continued commitment to serve the vision needs of children in Miami-Dade and Broward counties.

JAMIE ALTHOFF, O.D.,

assistant professor, shared her experience with integrating iPads into optometric education in an article entitled "Teaching with the iPad" in the winter/spring 2014 issue of *Optometric Education*.

JANET L. LEASHER, O.D., M.P.H., FAAO,

was featured in an article entitled "Blindness, Visual Impairment Caused by Diabetic Retinopathy Increases Globally" on the *healio.com* Web site regarding the increase in blindness and visual impairment caused by diabetic retinopathy globally.

JOSEPH PIZZIMENTI, O.D., FAAO,

associate professor, was featured in an article entitled "Shocking Diseases That Eye Doctors Find First" in the February 2014 issue of *Readers Digest*.

YIN TEA, O.D., FAAO,

assistant professor and chief of pediatrics and binocular vision, was interviewed by WPLG Local 10 news regarding NSUCO's participation in InfantSEE. Dr. Tea is also mentioned in an article on WPLG's Web site entitled "Pediatric Optometrists Provide Free Eye Exams for Babies."



SPOTLIGHT ON NEW FACULTY MEMBERS



Michael Au, O.D.

Michael Au, O.D., a native South Floridian, is no newcomer to NSU's College of Optometry. In 2010, he completed his Bachelor of Science degree in Vision Science and then went on to achieve a Doctor of Optometry degree in May 2012. During his years as an optometry student, he secured a spot on both the Dean's and Chancellor's List, was presented the class of 2012's Chancellor's Award, and earned the highest score in his class on the NBEO Part 1 Applied Basic Science exam. It became increasingly obvious that Dr. Au enjoyed his time at NSUCO when he accepted a residency with the college immediately following graduation.

Dr. Au said he was inspired to pursue a career as an optometric physician after feeling embarrassed when he was called out by his third-grade school teacher for not being able to see the board. "It was certainly a great motivator for me to pursue a career that could offer solutions to these obstacles in learning because a child's future can be greatly affected by it," Dr. Au explained.

After completing his residency training in July 2013, Dr. Au, who enjoys building guitars, became an NSUCO instructor and specializes in pediatrics. The current faculty members at NSUCO, which were not only his teachers but his mentors, were his primary motivators for applying for a permanent faculty position. "They exemplified the qualities I wanted to develop," he stated.

According to Dr. Au, having the ability to enable children to experience success and pursue their aspirations has been his greatest career reward.



Ava Bittner, O.D., Ph.D., FAAO

Ava Katherine Bittner, O.D., Ph.D., FAAO, who joined NSUCO in 2014 as an associate professor, received her O.D. degree from the Pennsylvania College of Optometry in 2001 with clinical honors in pediatrics and low vision. She then completed a postdoctoral clinical research fellowship at the Johns Hopkins Wilmer Eye Institute's Lions Low Vision Research and Rehabilitation Center from 2002-2007 before joining the faculty as an assistant professor.

Dr. Bittner, who earned her Ph.D. in Clinical Investigation from the Johns Hopkins School of Public Health in 2011, welcomed the opportunity to become an NSUCO faculty member because of the college's "wonderful opportunity to build research here." She pursued a career in optometry because she found the eyes and visual system to be fascinatingly complex, although she did not foresee enjoying the research portion of optometry as much as she does.

"I did not realize my passion for research and how much it resonated with me until after I started practicing as an optometrist and sought out an opportunity to become involved with visually impaired individuals that just happened to be through research," she explained. Dr. Bittner's research involves examining the relationships between psychosocial factors and day-to-day variations in vision or photopsias among visually impaired patients with retinal degeneration or glaucoma. Her overarching goal is to design and conduct clinical trials involving interventions for these patients in the future.

Her research interests include the psychophysical assessment of the healthy and diseased visual system, both to increase the understanding of this system and to develop tools to monitor disease and therapeutic outcomes. She is also interested in complementary and alternative approaches to sight preservation and disease/symptom

attenuation in retinal degenerations and collaborates with researchers from the Johns Hopkins Center for Mind-Body Research and Department of Behavioral Science.

Dr. Bittner is a Fellow of the American Academy of Optometry (AAO) and was a proud recipient of the AAO Ezell Fellowship Award in 2010-11. In addition, she has been a member of the Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology (ARVO) since 2002, served on the ARVO Annual Meeting Program Committee from 2011-2014, and is a member and past chair of the Low Vision Research Group (LVRG). She was inducted into the Phi Beta Kappa academic Honorary Society in 2011 and is the first author on more than 15 peer-reviewed publications in highly regarded scientific journals such as *JAMA*, *Investigative Ophthalmology and Vision Science*, *British Journal of Ophthalmology*, *Retina*, and *Optometry and Vision Science*.

Continued on next page...

Surbhi Bansal, O.D.

Surbhi Bansal, O.D., who joined the college's faculty in July 2013 as an instructor, earned her Bachelor of Science degree in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, in 2008, and her O.D. degree in 2012 from the New England College of Optometry (NECO) in Boston, Massachusetts. After graduating from NECO, she completed a residency at the Dr. Irwin B. Suchoff Residency Program in Vision Therapy and Rehabilitation at SUNY State College of Optometry, where she evaluated and treated patients with strabismus, amblyopia, visual skills deficits, visual perceptual deficits, and head trauma. In addition, she provided supervision in the neurology clinic, pediatric and adult primary care clinic, children with special needs clinic, and pediatric ocular disease clinic.

As a student and resident, Dr. Bansal won numerous awards such as the VSP Outstanding Student Clinician Scholarship, the National Optometric Students Association Scholarship, and the Dr. Martin H. Birnbaum Memorial Award. Additionally, she has presented several posters at the College of Optometrists in Vision Development Conference, SECO International, and NSU's HPD Research Day.

Dr. Bansal confessed that she always knew she wanted to pursue a career in health care, but was unsure of the field. After shadowing several health care professionals, she stumbled upon optometry. "Optometry intrigued me," she explained. "Questions flooded through my mind, such as 'What do optometrists do?' 'How do I become an optometrist?' 'What type of clinical setting can I work in after I graduate?'"

After observing an optometrist from her hometown, she was drawn to the amount of time spent caring for each patient and the relationships established with entire families—from grandparents to grandchildren. She questioned her mentors regarding work setting, residencies, and research opportunities in the field and admitted, "There was so much to know and so much to learn. The only logical thing to do was to apply to optometry school."

Dr. Bansal joined NSUCO in July 2013 as an instructor. Currently, she has about two years of experience and specializes in pediatrics, binocular vision, and vision therapy. "The faculty members at NSUCO are known for their research endeavors, pursuit of fellowships, and supporting the ideas of fellow faculty members," she stated. "Also, their passion for teaching and love for optometry was translated to me during the interview process. As a recent graduate, I look for mentors and role models whose career paths and goals will continue to inspire and evolve me as a person and as an optometrist."

Being given the opportunity to build a head trauma clinic at NSUCO is something she identified as a highpoint in her career. In order to build this specialty clinic, she realizes she must educate the public about the visual consequences of post-traumatic brain injury and its management options.



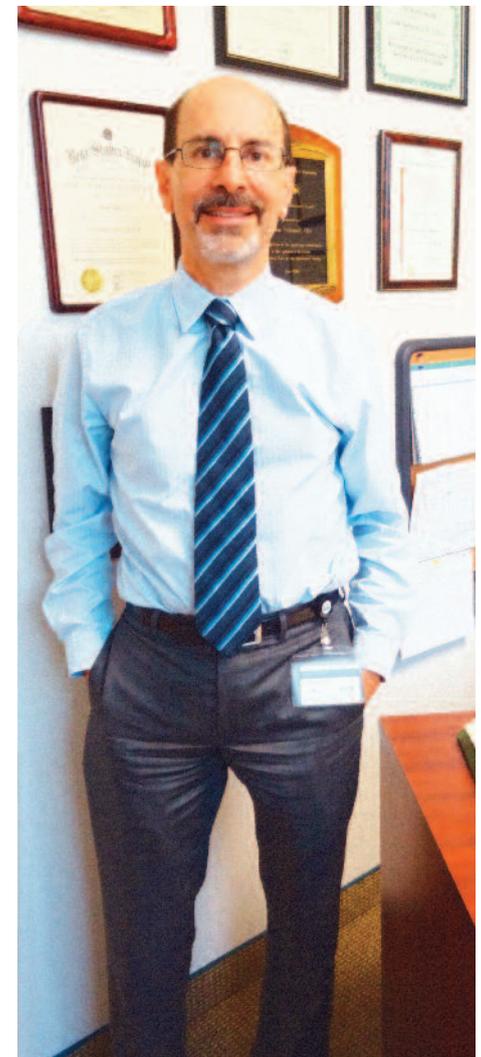
SPOTLIGHT
ON NEW
FACULTY
MEMBERS

Leon Nehmad, O.D., M.S.W., FAAO

Leon Nehmad, O.D., M.S.W., FAAO, earned his O.D. degree from SUNY College of Optometry in June 1991 and completed his residency training in the Veterans Administration Hudson Valley Healthcare System in June 1998. For 15 years, Dr. Nehmad was an associate clinical professor at SUNY College of Optometry. Dr. Nehmad decided to become an optometrist because he was fascinated with the visual system and wanted to be a part of a profession that extended a helping hand to society. Prior to optometry school, Dr. Nehmad worked with the visually impaired as a social worker for the New York Lighthouse. He has 23 years of optometric experience and specializes in clinical education and glaucoma, particularly visual fields.

Dr. Nehmad was a recipient of the SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching and the New York State Optometric Association Distinguished Achievement Award. He coauthored a book entitled *Emergency Care in the Optometric Setting*, published many articles, and presented seminars primarily in the areas of clinical education and glaucoma. Dr. Nehmad is a member of the Optometric Glaucoma Society, American Optometric Association, the Florida State Optometric Association, and is a Fellow of the American Academy of Optometry.

Additionally, he recently became a Broward County Optometric Association trustee. Dr. Nehmad, who joined the college as an associate professor in July 2013, said he was desirous of working at NSUCO because of its distinguished faculty members. "I'm very impressed with their accomplishments, the positive work environment, and the warmth I've received" he said. Dr. Nehmad defines his greatest career rewards as helping improve people's vision and his interactions with the students and his colleagues. His biggest challenge has been accepting that learning can only proceed so far, so fast.



Nova Southeastern University **URNS 50**

NOVA UNIVERSITY

CELEBRATING AN EDUCATIONAL MILESTONE

By Scott Colton, B.A., APR
HPD Director of Medical Communications
and Public Relations

The Nova Southeastern University that exists today, which includes a 314-acre main campus and comprises nearly 27,000 students as well as more than 162,000 alumni, is something its founders never could have conceived when it was initially chartered on December 4, 1964, and known by the moniker Nova University of Advanced Technology.

Initially located in offices on East Las Olas Boulevard in downtown Fort Lauderdale, the university would eventually relocate to a nearby western suburb called Davie thanks to the generosity of a \$300,000 gift from Edwin Rosenthal and a \$1-million donation from Louis Parker, which made possible the construction of NSU's first buildings on an abandoned naval airfield.

On a memorable day in September 1967, 17 Ph.D. students officially enrolled in the fledgling university, launching what has now become an esteemed and ever-growing educational enterprise comprising 18 colleges, schools, and centers. The academic diversity NSU offers current and future students can be summed up in one simple statistic: Associate's, bachelor's, master's specialist, doctoral, and first-professional degree programs are offered in 150 programs.

Currently, the university offers degree, nondegree, and certificate programs at more than 52 national and international locations. It also has regional campuses in Fort Myers, Jacksonville, Miami, Miramar, Orlando, Palm Beach, and Tampa, Florida; Nassau, Bahamas; and San Juan, Puerto Rico, where students can receive in-person instruction without leaving their home city.

Although there have been many significant milestones along the way that have led NSU to the cusp of preeminence, perhaps none was more important than the historic merger that occurred in 1994 between Nova University and a rapidly burgeoning institution known as Southeastern University of the Health Sciences in North Miami Beach. Through this historic merger, which included a fusion of names to create a rechristened Nova Southeastern University, a paradigm of educational excellence called the NSU Health Professions Division officially opened on June 22, 1996—and the accolades have been accruing ever since.

To help commemorate NSU's 50th anniversary, *The Visionary* invites you to look back at some of the major milestones that have played an integral role in making the university the progressive and respected educational entity it is today.

Above photo courtesy of
the NSU Archives.

NSU TIMELINE

1964 – Nova University is chartered by the state of Florida as Nova University of Advanced Technology. Interestingly, the first structure on Nova's main campus was a mailbox.

1965 – The facilities for Nova are built in Davie, Florida, on what had been Forman Field—a training field for naval aviators during WWII, which was designated by President John F. Kennedy for educational use only in 1961.

1967 – Classes at Nova University formally begin. There are 17 faculty members and 38 staff members on hand to teach the 17 students.

1970 – Five of the original 17 Ph.D. students graduate, and Abraham S. Fischler, Ed.D., is appointed president of Nova University of Advanced Technology—a position he will hold

until 1992. Dr. Fischler initiates the first doctoral distance education program in the nation, which is considered the forerunner of today's online education model.

1975 – NSU introduces its graduate computer science program.

1976 – Nova College is established on the main campus and is renamed the Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences in 1989. Today, the Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences offers 35 undergraduate majors, 53 undergraduate minors, 3 certificate programs, and 2 graduate degree programs.

1979 – The College of Osteopathic Medicine—formerly known as Southeastern College of Osteopathic Medicine—is established, becoming

the 15th osteopathic college in the nation. Thirty-five students graduate in the inaugural class of 1985.

1983 – NSU begins offering online graduate programs, creating the first electronic classroom in 1985. In 1989, the Graduate School of Computer and Information Sciences (GSCIS) is established, offering courses that are an effective blend of theory and practice. All programs enable working professionals to earn a master's or doctoral degree without interrupting their careers.

1987 – The College of Pharmacy enrolls 49 students in its entering class. The college continues to be recognized for its students' passing rates on pharmacy licensing exams, which are greater than 97 percent, exceeding national averages.

1989 – When NSU's College of Optometry began in 1989, it was the only college of optometry in Florida—and it still is. The college offers the only online Master of Science degree in Clinical Vision Research and the only five-year extended optometry and one-year preparatory optometry programs in the United States.

1993 – The College of Allied Health—now known as the College of Health Care Sciences—was established in 1993 and has been educating entry- and advanced-level clinicians through both online and campus education programs. Students who graduate enter the fields of occupational therapy, physician assistant, vascular and cardiovascular sonography, anesthesiologist assistant, audiology, and physical therapy.



1964 – 2014

(Editor's note: A significant portion of the timeline information was originally published in the fall 2013 issue of NSU's Horizons magazine.)

1993 – On October 26, Nova University and Southeastern University of the Health Sciences sign what will soon become an historic South Florida education merger.

1994 – On January 11, 1994, the state of Florida officially sanctions the merger between Nova University and Southeastern University of the Health Sciences, creating the educational powerhouse Nova Southeastern University.

1995 – The College of Medical Sciences, which began educating students in 1995, offers a Master of Biomedical Sciences degree for those seeking careers in health care and higher education. Courses in anatomy, biochemistry, microbiology, pathology, pharmacology, and

physiology equip students with the basic scientific training to ensure their success in careers as health care providers.

1997 – When NSU's College of Dental Medicine opened in 1997, it became the first new dental college in the United States in 24 years. It now runs the largest community dental clinics in Florida. Each year, the college receives approximately 3,500 applicants for 110 seats.

1998 – Ray Ferrero, Jr., J.D., is named president and CEO—a position he holds until 2010. A longtime member of the board of trustees and its chairman from 1988–1995, Ferrero sparks NSU's technological advances and ensures that almost two-million square feet of facilities are built, including the Don Taft University Center. In 2011, he was named NSU chancellor.

2003 – The Carl DeSantis Building, which houses the H. Wayne Huizenga School of Business and Entrepreneurship and the Graduate School of Computer and Information Sciences, opens.

2008 – On July 1, the Museum of Art | Fort Lauderdale becomes part of NSU's expanded creative campus when the two institutions agree to merge.

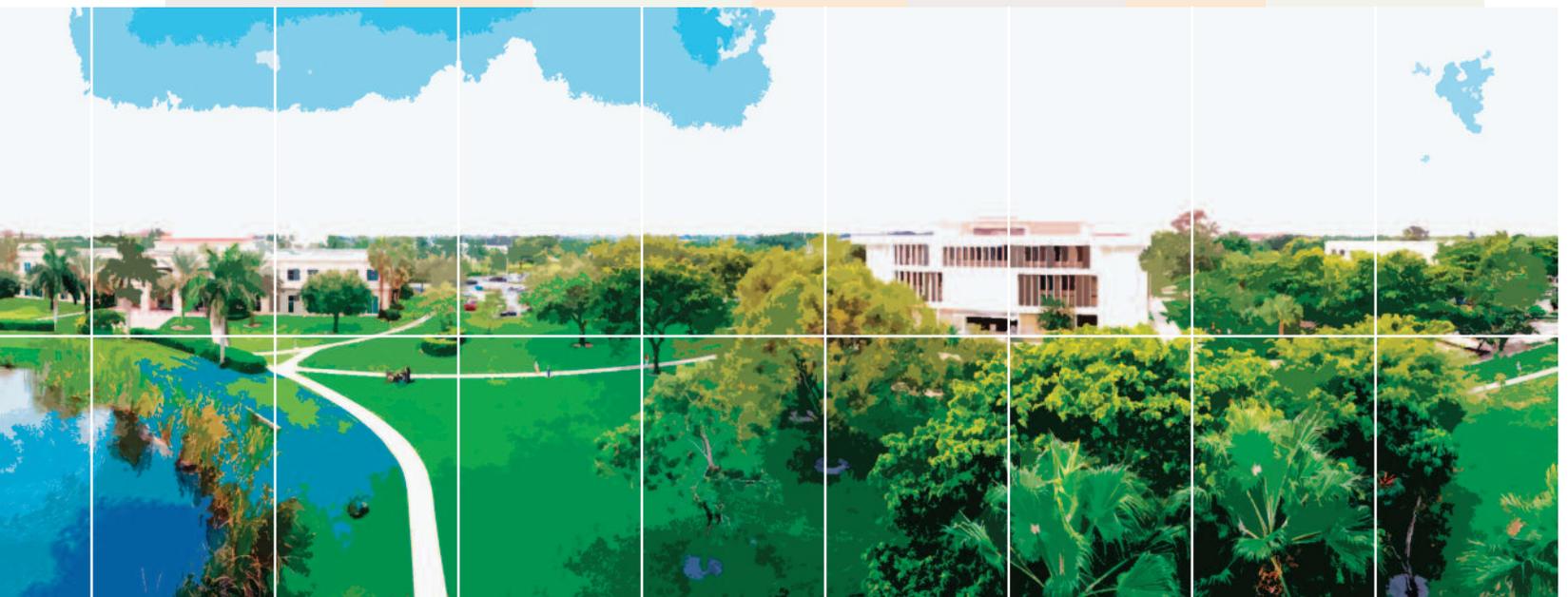
2010 – George L. Hanbury II, Ph.D., is named NSU's sixth president. During his investiture, Dr. Hanbury introduces his Vision 2020, which has become a cornerstone for progress as NSU moves forward in the 21st century.

2012 – Initially a component of what used to be known as the College of Allied Health and Nursing, the College of Nursing was established as a separate school—

becoming the Health Professions Division's seventh college.

2012 – The Center of Excellence for Coral Reef Ecosystems Research opens at the Oceanographic Center near Port Everglades, becoming the largest facility in the United States dedicated to studying coral reef ecosystems throughout the world. NSU received the largest grant in its history to build the center—a \$15-million grant from the U.S. Department of Commerce's National Institute of Standards and Technology. NSU contributed an additional \$35 million to build and furnish the center.

2014 – On February 13, the Center for Collaborative Research—an \$80-million training research facility with full-service laboratories—has its official groundbreaking.





Pictured (from left) are George L. Hanbury II, Ph.D., NSU president and chief executive officer, Dr. Rathinavelu, Dr. Thompson, Dr. Harbaugh, and Gary Margules, Sc.D., NSU vice president for research and technology transfer.

THREE NSU RESEARCHERS RECEIVE PATENTS

Three NSU professors from three different colleges recently secured patents for their innovations.

Appu Rathinavelu, Ph.D., associate dean for institutional planning and development at the College of Pharmacy and executive director of NSU's Rumbaugh-Goodwin Institute for Cancer Research, received a Japanese patent for developing a novel cancer treatment. The small organic molecule called JFD that he and his team discovered is anti-angiogenic, meaning it *starves* tumors and other cancer cells by preventing blood flow that supplies the tumors with oxygen and nutrients that would otherwise help them to grow and survive. This molecule is less expensive to manufacture, stable in storage, expected to be less toxic, and is more effective against solid tumors. It is specifically designed to battle breast, ovarian, prostate, lung, and colorectal cancers.

Jeffrey Thompson, Ph.D., professor of prosthodontics and director of the Biosciences Research Center in NSU's College of Dental Medicine, secured a U.S. patent for developing a surface modification technology to promote chemical bonding between high-performance ceramic materials like alumina and zirconia and biological materials, such as tooth structures, and synthetic materials, such as dentures and crowns. The research was conducted with a team of researchers from RTI International in Durham, North Carolina, and funded by a National Institute of Health/National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research grant.

Joseph Harbaugh, LL.M., professor of law and dean emeritus at NSU's Shepard Broad Law Center, has received a U.S. patent for developing a computer-based system called AAMPLE®—the Alternative Admissions Model Program in Legal Education. The program reviews students' outcomes in a small number of classes to predict their likelihood of excelling in law school and passing the state bar exam. This differs from the widespread practice of heavily weighing students' LSAT scores and GPAs to determine admission to law school. AAMPLE is an alternate method to understand students' abilities to think critically and succeed in law school and as professionals.

NSU

Overview



**AUDIOLOGY STUDENTS
HELP CHILDREN HEAR
FOR THE FIRST TIME**

Doctor of Audiology students from NSU's College of Health Care Sciences' Department of Audiology partnered with Phonak to donate hearing aids and other supplies valued at more than \$50,000 to Los Pipitos—a Nicaraguan nonprofit facility for 21 children with disabilities.

As part of NSU's Hearing Aids for Nicaraguan Students service program, six audiology students and a faculty adviser recently traveled to the Central American country to provide audiograms and other necessary tests and fit the children for their new hearing aids. They also conducted information sessions on how to use and care for the devices for the children and their families.

One child spoke for the first time after receiving his hearing aids. He had previously only mouthed words without making a sound.

**NSU EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT
RECEIVES GLASS CEILING AWARD**

Jacqueline A. Travisano, M.B.A., CPA, NSU's executive vice president and chief operating officer, has been named a 2014 recipient of the Glass Ceiling Award presented by the Florida Diversity Council.

Travisano is one of 13 women who were recognized during the Fourth Annual Florida Women's Conference held at NSU's main campus on March 7. The

National Diversity Council seeks to recognize and honor women who not only achieved personal success but have made it possible for others to more easily follow in their footsteps.

Recipients of the Glass Ceiling Award were honored for meeting certain criteria, including, but not limited to: demonstrated leadership excellence; maintained a steady increase in responsibility throughout their career; established a record of accomplishments in areas of expertise; provided a positive influence in the workplace; and demonstrated integrity and high ethical standards.

**NSU COLLEGE OF DENTAL
MEDICINE CELEBRATES
GIVES KIDS A SMILE DAY**

Approximately 325 children were given a reason to smile thanks to volunteer NSU dental students and faculty members.

Nearly 300 volunteers from the College of Dental Medicine provided limited pro bono dental services valued at more than \$100,000 to South Florida children ages 2 to 18 on March 8 as part of Give Kids a Smile Day.

In addition, the more than 1,000 attendees, including the children and their family members, enjoyed a fun carnival atmosphere with Miami Dolphins' player Marcus Thigpen and cheerleaders, face painters, a clown, magicians, music, and *Timmy the Tooth*.



Jacqueline Travisano



NSU Doctor of Audiology students Melissa Cordova and Lola Zaka testing 10-year-old Jorge Mercado's hearing prior to programming his hearing aids.



Miami Dolphins' player Marcus Thigpen signs autographs for children at the College of Dental Medicine's Give Kids a Smile Day.

Research Review

Research/Scholarly Activity Highlights

DRS. SOWKA AND VOLLMER PRESENT AT THE TASMANIAN LIFESTYLE CONFERENCE

Joseph Sowka, O.D., FAAO, associate professor, and **Lori Vollmer, O.D., FAAO**, associate professor, presented two seminars at the Tasmanian Lifestyle Conference in Hobart, Tasmania, Australia, in August 2013, which marked the third time they have presented at this intimate conference. Dr. Sowka lectured on the topic “Diagnosis and Management of Neuro-Ophthalmic Emergencies, Glaucoma, and Angle Closure Glaucoma,” while Dr. Vollmer lectured on “Conjunctival Malignancies and Ocular Emergencies and Urgencies.” The 2013 conference celebrated a century of regulated optometry in Tasmania and the British Commonwealth.



Drs. Sowka and Vollmer enjoying quality time together on mainland Australia.



1. Left to right: Joseph Sowka, O.D., FAAO, the Honourable Chief Justice Alan Blow, lieutenant governor of Tasmania, Margaret Blow, and Lori Vollmer, O.D., FAAO.

2. Left to right: Karen Garner, O.D., former president of Optometrists Association Australia, Joseph Sowka, O.D., FAAO, Lori Vollmer, O.D., FAAO, and Geoff Squibb, CEO of Optometrists Association Australia.

DR. LEASHER ONLY AMERICAN TO PARTICIPATE IN BREAKTHROUGH STUDY

Rates of blindness and impaired eyesight have dropped by 50 percent from 1990 through 2010 in the highest income countries in the developed world according to a study coauthored by **Janet Leasher, O.D., M.P.H., FAAO**, associate professor and director of community outreach, for the March 2014 issue of the *British Journal of Ophthalmology*.

Dr. Leasher—the only American optometrist to participate in the research—was chosen to be the coordinator for the Americas hemisphere based on her extensive ex-

perience in Latin America and the Caribbean as the UNESCO Chair in Visual Health and Development’s coordinator for North America. “It has been a tremendous opportunity and the highest honor to work with some of the most renowned ophthalmologists and global health experts in the world,” she said. “When we first launched the results at the Royal Society in London with health ministers from many countries, I was humbled to introduce Nova Southeastern University to this global community.”

DR. COULTER SERVES AS NECO INVITED SCHOLAR-IN-RESIDENCE

In early April, **Rachel A. “Stacey” Coulter, O.D., M.S.Ed., FAAO, FCOVD**, associate professor, was the invited Behavioral Scholar-in-Residence at the New England College of Optometry (NECO). Supported by a college endowment, this program brings a distinguished optometrist to NECO for several days each spring to provide information and inspiration to students about this practice area. The scholar meets with key administrators and faculty members to discuss the implications of behavioral optometry upon the curriculum and on clinical education. Prior recipients include: Mitchell Scheiman, O.D., FAAO, FCOVD; Robert B. Sanet, O.D., FCOVD; Susan Cotter, O.D., M.S., FAAO, FCOVD; and Kenneth Ciuffreda, O.D., Ph.D.

Dr. Coulter lectured to the first-, second-, and third-year professional classes and provided CE on vision and autism. In addition, she participated in a panel discussion about the “Impact of Autism on Families and Society.” She also received a plaque from NECO honoring her distinguished career in vision therapy and pediatric optometry.

PUBLICATIONS

Bade A. The CITT Study Group Relationship Between Clinical Signs and Symptoms of Convergence Insufficiency. *Optometry and Vision Science*. Vol. 90, No. 9.

Bansal S. Use of Yoked Prisms in Patients with Acquired Brain Injury: A Retrospective Analysis. *Brain Injury* (in press).

Bittner AK. Improved Adherence to Vision Self-Monitoring with the Vision and Memory Stimulating (VMS) Journal for Non-Neovascular Age-Related Macular Degeneration During a Randomized Controlled Trial. *J Clin Exp Ophthalmol* (in press, 2014).

Bittner AK. Oral 9-Cis Retinoid for Childhood Blindness Due to Leber's Congenital Amaurosis Caused by RPE65 or LRAT Mutations: An Open-Label Phase 1B Trial. *Lancet* (in press, 2014).

Coulter R. Providing Eye Examinations to Patients with Autism Spectrum Disorder. *Optometry Times*, 2013.

Demeritt M, Shechtman D, Reynolds S. Focus on Sickle Cell. *Review of Optometry*, May 2014.

Demeritt M. Which Came First, oAG or RVO? *Review of Optometry*, October 2013.

Leasher J, on behalf of the Vision Loss Expert Group of the Global Burden of Disease Study. Causes of Global Vision Loss: 1990-2010. *The Lancet Global Health*, November 2013.

Leasher J, on behalf of the Vision Loss Expert Group of the Global Burden of Disease Study. Prevalence and Causes of Vision Loss in High-Income Countries and in Eastern and Central Europe: 1990-2010. *Br J Ophthalmol*. March 2014 (e-pub ahead of print).

Leasher J, on behalf of the Vision Loss Expert Group of the Global Burden of Disease Study. Prevalence and Causes of Vision Loss in Central and South Asia: 1990-2010. *Br J Ophthalmol*. January 2014 (e-pub ahead of print).

Leasher J, on behalf of the Vision Loss Expert Group of the Global Burden of Disease Study. Prevalence and Causes of Vision Loss in Southeast Asia and Oceania: 1990-2010. *Br J Ophthalmol*. January 2014 (e-pub ahead of print).

Leasher J, on behalf of the Vision Loss Expert Group of the Global Burden of Disease Study. Prevalence and Causes of Vision Loss in North Africa and the Middle East: 1990-2010. *Br J Ophthalmol*. March 2014 (e-pub ahead of print).

Leasher J, on behalf of the Vision Loss Expert Group of the Global Burden of Disease Study. Prevalence and Causes of Vision Loss in Latin America and the Caribbean: 1990-2010. *Br J Ophthalmol*. February 2014 (e-pub ahead of print).

Leasher J, on behalf of the Vision Loss Expert Group of the Global Burden of Disease Study. Prevalence and Causes of Vision Loss in Sub-Saharan Africa: 1990-2010. *Br J Ophthalmol*. February 2014 (e-pub ahead of print).

Leasher J. Global Prevalence of Visual Impairment and Blindness: Magnitude and Temporal trends, 1990-2010. *Ophthalmology*. 2013; 120(12).

Leasher J. The State of U.S. Health, 1990-2010: Burden of Diseases, Injuries, and Risk Factors. *JAMA*. 2013: doi:10.1001/jama. 2013.1380.

Leasher J, on behalf of the Vision Loss Expert Group of the Global Burden of Disease Study. Prevalence and Causes of Vision Loss in East Asia: 1990-2010. *Br J Ophthalmol*. January 2014 (e-pub ahead of print).

Nehmad L. Case of Late Onset Pseudophakic Cystoid Macular Edema Presents Diagnostic Challenge. *Clinical and Experimental Optometry* (in press).

Nehmad L. Teaming Second-Year Scribes with Interns. *Optometric Education*. 2014;3 9(2):56-57.

Nehmad L. The Role of OCT When the Diagnosis of Glaucoma is Uncertain. *Advanced Ocular Care*. March 2014:36-40.

Nehmad L. Clinic Partners – The Pairing of Second-Year Scribes with Third- and Fourth-Year Interns. *Optometric Education*.

Patrick A, Woods AD, Bi H, Sowka J, Besada E. Staging Glaucoma Using Stratus OCT in a U.S. Veteran Population. *Optometry and Vision Science*. April 4, 2014.

Patterson N. Your Opportunity to Care for a Growing Population. *Optometric Management*. August 2013.

Shechtman D. Practical Approach to Nutrition. *Optometry Times*. October 2013.

Sowka J. The Handbook of Ocular Disease Management - 15th edition. *Review of Optometry Supplement*. 2013; 150(6): 1a-83a.

Sowka J. Regression of Myelinated Retinal Nerve Fibers in a Glaucomatous Eye. *Optometry and Vision Science*. 2013, 90(7):e218-e220.

Sowka J. Monitoring Keratitis Resolution with Optical Coherence Tomography. *Optometry and Vision Science*. April 9;S40-5.

St. Martin J, Rodman J, Pizzimenti J. Double Layer Sign in Idiopathic Polypoidal Vasculopathy. *Optometry and Vision Science*. December 2013; 90(12): e292-300.

Wagner H. Geographic and Temporal Risk Factors for Interruptions to Soft Contact Lens Wear in Young Wearers. *Contact Lens and Anterior Eye*. 36:253-258.

Wagner H. Age, Behavior, Environment, and Health Factors in the Soft Contact Lens Risk Survey. *Optometry and Vision Science*. 2014, 91(3): 252-261.

Zhang B. Oblique Effect in Visual Area 2 of Macaque Monkeys. *Journal of Vision*. February 7, 2014. 14(2): 3; doi:10.1167/14.2.3.

Continued on next page...

LECTURE PRESENTATIONS

Bittner AK. Screening Retinitis Pigmentosa (RP) Patients with Ultra-Low Vision for a Retinal Prosthesis: Correlations Between Vision Tests and Subjectively Reported Vision. Vision 2014: The 11th International Conference on Low Vision in Melbourne, Australia.

Bittner AK. Comparing Negative Thoughts (Catastrophizing) During Visual Field Testing in Patients with Glaucoma Versus Inherited Retinal Degeneration. Vision 2014: The 11th International Conference on Low Vision in Melbourne, Australia.

Coulter R, Amster, D Bade, A Tea, Y Fecho, G Jenewein, E Rodena. Parent Responses on a Visual Behavior Questionnaire: A Comparison of Responses for Children and Adolescents with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) with Those of Typically Developing (TD) Peers. COVD meeting, Orlando, FL. October 2013.

Leasher L. Magnitude and Trends of Blindness and Visual Impairment in Haiti 1990-2010: From the Global Burden of Disease Vision Loss Expert Group. AAO in Seattle, Washington, 2013.

Sowka J. New Thoughts on IOP Control in Glaucoma. Alcon in Roanoke, Virginia. May 2013.

Sowka J. The Clinician's Guide to Glaucoma: Managing Cases and Complexities; Diagnosis and Management of Neuro-Ophthalmic Disease; Identifying Glaucoma Progression. New Hampshire Optometric Association Summer Meeting in Concord, New Hampshire. July 2013.

Sowka J, Frauens B. Prevention of Medical Errors. Florida Optometric Association Annual Meeting in Daytona Beach, Florida. July 2013.

Sowka J, Patterson N. Managing Patients with Advanced Glaucoma; **Sowka J, Makhoulouf R.** Glaucoma Clinical Conundrums; **Sowka J.** Anterior Segment Grand Rounds; Diagnosis and Management of Neuro-Ophthalmic Disease. NSUCO See E in St. Simons Island, Georgia. July 2013.

Sowka J. Diagnosis and Management of Neuro-Ophthalmic Emergencies; Making Therapeutic Decisions with Optical Coherence Tomography; Does This Patient Have Glaucoma or Something Else? Making the Correct Therapeutic Choices in Angle Closure Glaucoma. Tasmania Lifestyle Congress IX in Hobart, Tasmania, Australia. August 2013.

Vollmer L. Therapeutic Management of Anterior Segment Emergencies; Conjunctival Malignancies. Tasmania Lifestyle Congress IX in Hobart, Tasmania, Australia. August 2013.

Wagner H. Contact Lens Wear and Care Behaviors in a Non-Clinical Population of Subjects Age 12 to 21 Years. British Contact Lens Association in Manchester, United Kingdom, on June 7, 2013.

Zhang B. Increased Heterogeneity in the Subfield Maps on Multiple Nearby V2 Neurons in Amblyopic Monkeys. AAO in Seattle, Washington. 2013.

Zhang B. Exploring the Neural Basis of Amblyopia. The 14th International Congress of Ophthalmology and Optometry in Shanghai, China. March 2014.

AOA 2013 – SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA

Espejo A, Kimberly R. Addressing Barriers to Improve Utilization of Children Vision Service in a Head Start Community.

Espejo A. Cranial Nerve III Palsy as Presenting Sign of Pituitary Neoplasm.

Espejo A, Reed K. Off-Label Use of Ganciclovir Ophthalmic Gel: A Case Series.

Janoff A. Countdown to Lift Off: Using Anterior Segment Optical Coherence Tomography to Quantify Central Vault in a Hybrid Contact Lens Fitting for Keratoconus.

Leasher J. What is That Line? Iron Deposition Due to Post-LASIK Keratoectasia.

Sowka J. Tilted Disc Syndrome Treated as Glaucoma for 23 Years.

St. Martin J, Pizzimenti J. The Double Layer Sign: In Vivo Imaging of Polypoidal Vasculopathy.

Tong M, Tea Y, Au M. Scanning into the Unseen: Visual Rehabilitation of a Stroke Victim with Field Loss.

Yu X, Espejo A. Twilight Radiation: Two Cases of UV Lamp-Induced Photokeratoconjunctivitis.

AAO 2013 – SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

Black G, Tyler J. Butterfly Child to Adult with Ocular Complications from Epidermolysis Bullosa.

Bassion K, Rodman J. Sickle Cell Retinopathy Complicated by Proliferative Vitreoretinopathy.

Coulter R, Bade A, Tea Y. Is Convergence Insufficiency Associated with Observed Visual Behaviors in Children and Adolescents with Autism Spectrum Disorders?

Coulter R, Tea Y, Bade A. CICADA Study Group. Are Measurements of Reduced Convergence in Patients with Autism Spectrum Disorder Associated with the Examiner's Perception of Accuracy?

James A, Rodman J. PUK from HSV: Unraveling an Alphabetical Mystery.

Nehmad L. A Comparative Study of Methods Used to Evaluate Visual Field Progression in Glaucoma.

Patterson N, Loshin D, Althoff J. A Comparison of E-Reader Parameters for the Low Vision Population.

Rodman J, Najman P. Utilizing Optical Coherence Tomography to Confirm a Serous Retinal Detachment Surrounding a Full Thickness Retinal Hole Sparing the Macular.

Wagner H. Repeatability of the Contact Lens Risk Survey.

Woods A, Bi H. Attenuated PVEP Without Prolongation of Implicit Time Along with Attenuated Foveal MFERG Waveforms and Macular Thinning in a Suspected MS Patient.

Yu X, Patterson N, Loshin D. A Comparison of Glare Testing System and Effects on Acuity.

POSTER PRESENTATIONS

Bansal S. Optometric Management of Intermittent Exotropia of the Divergence Excess Type Following Strabismus Surgery. COVD meeting in Orlando, Florida. October 2013.

Bittner AK. Correlations Between Retrobulbar Arterial Velocities and Severity of Retinitis Pigmentosa. Invest Ophthalmol Visual Sci 55, ARVO E-abstr #1405 (2014).

Bittner AK. Comparison of Kinetic Visual Fields (Goldmann and Octopus) and Threshold Visual Fields (Octopus Macular Static and Full-Field Stimulus Threshold) in Patients with Inherited Retinal Diseases. Invest Ophthalmol Visual Sci 55, ARVO E-abstr #6110 (2014).

HPD RESEARCH DAY – 2014

Bansal S, Espejo A. Improving Quality of Life in a Patient with Traumatic Brain Injury.

Luu J, Wagner H. Poster 31- Assessment of Optometry Students Versus Other Health Professional Students' Awareness of the Classification of Contact Lenses as Medical Device (CCLAM) Study.

Reed K, Shechtman D. Poster 43 - Nutrition Counseling Practices in the Eye Care Setting.

Reed K, Espejo A. Poster 44 - Differential Diagnosis of Pigmented Choroidal Lesions.

Sowka J, Vollmer L, Au M. Poster 53 - Atypical Retinal Vascular Occlusion in a Glaucomatous Eye.

Vollmer L, Makhlouf R. Poster 63 - Herpes Zoster Ophthalmicus in a Child.

BOOK REVIEW

Josephine Shallo-Hoffmann, Ph.D., FAAO, reviewed *The Challenge of Nystagmus* by Chris Harris, Irene Gottlieb, John Sanders in *Optometry and Vision Science*. 2013; 90(7) 221-222.

SECO 2014 – ATLANTA, GEORGIA

Bansal S, Falco L, Tea Y. Optometric Management of a Patient with Down Syndrome.

Bansal S, James A, Amster D. Optic Nerve Head Drusen and Refractive Error: Is There a Connection?

Demeritt M. The Essential Role of Neuroimaging in Diagnosing Optic Neuropathy.

Makhlouf R, Rodman J. The Role of Vitreomacular Traction in Development of Macular Edemas.

AWARDS

Eulogio Besada, O.D., M.S., FAAO, was awarded a \$5,000 HPD research grant for his project entitled "Correlative Study of Relative Afferent Pupillary Defect and Spectral Domain Optical Coherence Tomography in Patients with Asymmetric Optic Neuropathy." **Barry J. Frauens, O.D., FAAO,** is the co-principal investigator, while **Kimberly K. Reed, O.D., FAAO, Perla Najman, O.D., and Diana Shechtman, O.D., FAAO,** are the co-collaborators.

Rachel A. "Stacey" Coulter, O.D., M.S.Ed, FAAO, FCOVD, Yin Tea, O.D., FAAO, and Annette Bade, O.D., M.C.V.R., FAAO, were awarded a \$3,250 COVD Research Grant for their research project "Prescribing Yoked Prism in Patients With Autism Spectrum Disorder: A Study of Inter-Examiner Agreement of the Kaplan Nonverbal Battery."

Gregory M. Fecho, O.D., and Laura A. Falco, O.D., FAAO, received an HPD educational research grant for their project "Integration of Lecture Capture Software in Optometric Theory and Methods Lab and its Effects on Student Performance."

Diana Shechtman, O.D., FAAO, and Julie Rodman, O.D., FAAO, received \$70,000 from Thrombogenics, CZ, and Optovue to conduct their research project "Prevalence of VMT: A Multicenter Study administered by Nova Southeastern University and funded by Alcon Research Limited. Participating faculty members include **Heidi Wagner, O.D., M.P.H., FAAO, Melanie Crandall, O.D., M.B.A., FAAO, Andrea M. Janoff, O.D., FAAO, Perla Najman, O.D., Arnie Patrick, O.D., Zeanne Schinas, O.D., and Lori Vollmer, O.D., FAAO.**

PRESIDENT'S FACULTY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT GRANT RECIPIENTS



"Prevalence of Vitreomacular Adhesion in Patients 40 Years and Older." **Julie Rodman, O.D., FAAO,** associate professor, **Diana Shechtman, O.D., FAAO,** professor, and Thuan Nguyen, NSUCO student.

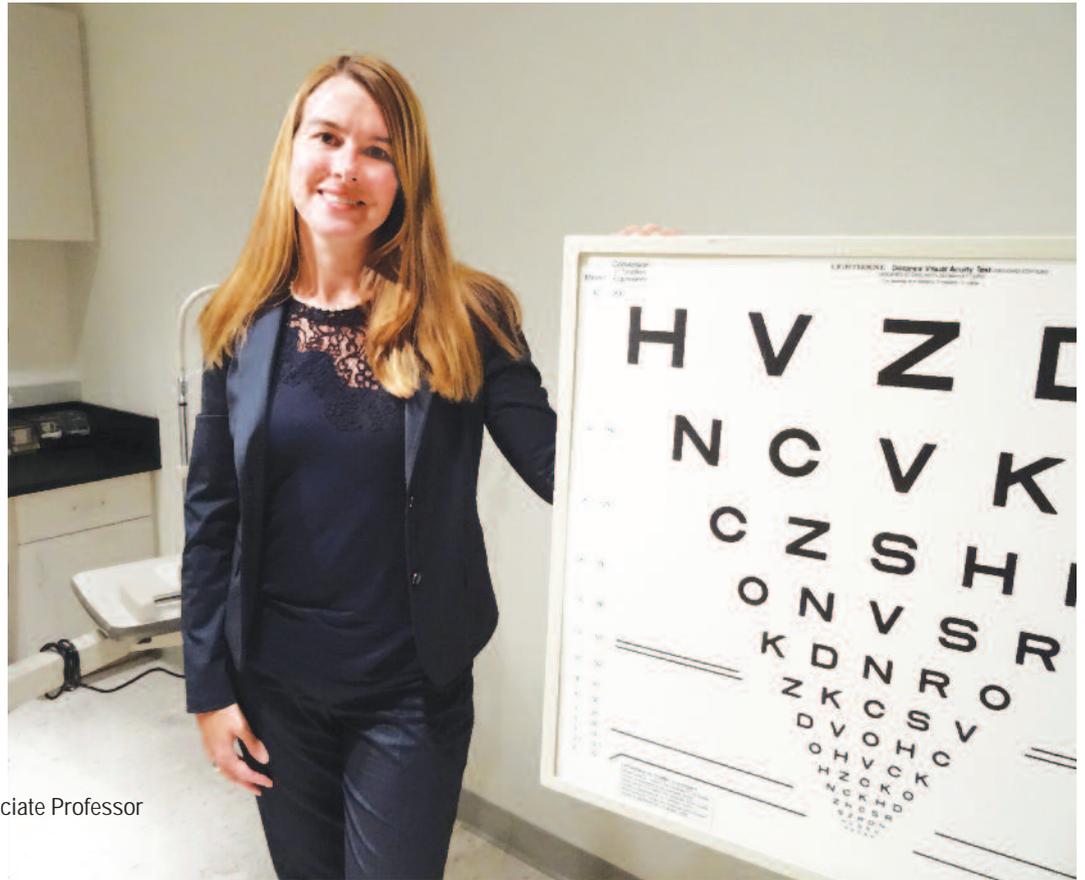


"A More Engaging Visual Field Test to Increase Use and Reliability in Pediatrics." **Ava Bittner, O.D., Ph.D., FAAO,** associate professor, **Erin Jenewein, O.D., M.S., FAAO,** assistant professor, chief of service KID, and Heather Gauger, NSUCO student.

PLEASE NOTE THAT ONLY NSUCO FACULTY MEMBERS ARE LISTED ABOVE IN RELATION TO LECTURES, JOURNAL ARTICLES, AND PRESENTATIONS DUE TO SPACE CONSTRAINTS.

Modulating Ocular/Retinal Blood Flow and Visual Function in Retinitis Pigmentosa

By Ava Katherine Bittner, O.D., Ph.D., FAAO, Associate Professor



After being diagnosed with a disabling, chronic disease such as retinitis pigmentosa (RP), there is nothing more disheartening than for the patient to hear that nothing can be done to treat it. The traditional model for translational research involves identifying and applying knowledge from the bench to the bedside, as discoveries are transferred from the laboratory to the clinical study and to the patient. However, this model also can proceed in the opposite direction, with research that is conceived from patient observations leading to clinical and/or laboratory-based investigations.

Currently, there is not enough research focused on addressing the needs identified by patients, as would originate from clinical practice. In addition to patient-physician interactions, a potentially useful approach for obtaining the patient's perspective is through social networking sites or online message-board forums, such as the RPlist on which individuals with RP discuss their disease and latest research.

One of NSUCO's newest faculty members, Dr. Ava Bittner, is passionate about considering patients' experiences to help guide her research proposals, as

she values the importance of taking the patients' perspective into account to design studies that are relevant to their interests. About seven years ago, she used the RPlist forum to administer an online survey as part of her research to obtain responses from 96 patients regarding their use of alternative therapies. Surprisingly, she found that 42 percent of respondents had tried acupuncture, and of them, 61 percent indicated a subjective improvement in vision.

This was an intriguing finding, but the peer-reviewed literature had no reports of clinical studies involving acupuncture for RP conducted in the Western world, and only two case series published in the 1980s. A more-recent basic science research study, however, showed increased neuroprotective factors in the retina and preserved retinal thickness in RCS rats with RP-like retinal degeneration after receiving electroacupuncture.

A FORTUITOUS INTRODUCTION

A young woman with RP who received acupuncture from the clinical practice of Andy Rosenfarb, ND, a naturopathic physician and licensed acupuncturist in New Jersey, noted dramatic improvements in her vision

following treatment. Her husband reached out to Dr. Bittner, urging that it had to be studied as part of research to determine the potential effects and help inform other interested RP patients.

In the past 15-plus years, over 400 RP patients had received acupuncture from Dr. Rosenfarb, but possible effects on vision had not yet been systematically documented by an eye care provider. Dr. Rosenfarb was very receptive to sharing his electroacupuncture protocol and trained another acupuncturist, Jeff Gould, who administered it to 19 RP subjects enrolled in a pilot study and extensively tested by Dr. Bittner while she was at the Johns Hopkins Wilmer Eye Institute.

The acupuncture protocol consists of a standard set of needled points applied to all patients, located on the head, abdomen, hands, feet, arms, and legs, as well as electro stimulation involving a weak current applied to the needles located around the eyes (above the brow and below the eyes—not in the eyes), at 10 half-hour sessions over a two-week period.

The preliminary research revealed that the acupuncture protocol was well tolerated, without adverse events or loss of vision. All subjects indicated they would be willing to repeat the treatment series in the future if it helped their vision. The study measured significant improvements in dark-adapted sensitivity in some of the participants, correlating with subjectively better vision at night and in dim environments.

These findings were published last fall in the peer-reviewed journal *Clinical and Experimental Optometry* and served as preliminary data to help successfully obtain additional funding from the National Eye Institute to continue to study electroacupuncture for RP, as well as transcorneal electrical stimulation, in an upcoming three-arm, small-scale, randomized controlled trial currently being planned at NSUCO.

INNOVATIVE ELEMENTS OF THIS RESEARCH

Do we dare take the road less traveled? Absolutely! And here's how we plan to do it carefully and systematically. In order to explore physiological parameters that may contribute to retinal or visual changes in RP participants who will receive the study's therapeutic interventions, we will measure blood-flow velocity and resistance in RP patients' retinal vessels. We will use two methods to study retinal vascular physiology.

The first involves novel instrumentation using a fundus camera to obtain vascular flow measurements in real time that was developed by a biomedical engineer, Dr. Jessica Ramella-Roman, at Florida International University in Miami, while the other approach involves mathematical analysis of the retinal vascular network characteristics from fundus photo images, which was developed by Dr. David Meadows, CEO of Sentinel Diagnostic Imaging. In addition, repeated measures of retrobulbar ocular blood flow will be obtained in RP patients using state-of-the-art instrumentation available through the NSU Medical Sonography Program (color Doppler imaging ultrasound) to determine any changes following the interventions and whether they correspond to changes in visual function or retinal blood flow.

We will apply a low-risk intervention—electroacupuncture—specifically developed for RP based on clinical experience. Successful treatment of other chronic diseases, such as lower back pain, with electroacupuncture has been attributed to increasing blood flow to surrounding nerves (sciatic), but improving blood flow as a potential mechanism has not been previously evaluated in RP.

We will also use another noninvasive intervention—transcorneal electrical stimulation—

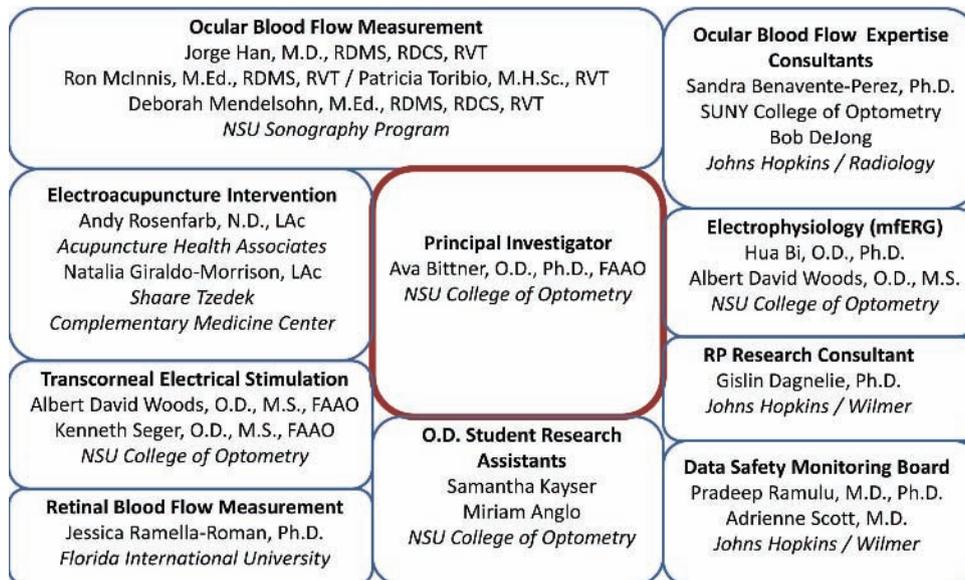
which is supported by previous basic and clinical research as a means to potentially modify ocular and retinal blood flow and/or visual function in RP. This proposal seeks to eventually shift clinical practice paradigms by examining the potential for alternative therapies to improve visual function in a disease whose management options are extremely limited.

IT TAKES A VILLAGE TO ADDRESS COMPLEX RESEARCH QUESTIONS

Dr. Bittner had to bring together several people with different expertise to complete the proposed study. Below is a diagram depicting the various players involved in this research endeavor, which includes study team members from NSUCO, as well as faculty members from another program at NSU and other academic institutions.

Electroacupuncture and transcorneal electrical stimulation are relatively inexpensive alternative therapies that involve minimal risk if administered by highly qualified and trained practitioners. The Foundation Fighting Blindness featured two blog articles on the front page of its Web site www.blindness.org last November describing Dr. Bittner's acupuncture study findings and future research directions. Thus, it is evident this work is already receiving prominent attention and is quickly becoming a hot topic of discussion for its potential to help patients who have always previously been told that nothing can be done.

The NSUCO research team has obtained IRB approval for the randomized controlled trial and aims to determine whether these alternative therapies may have the potential to improve visual function, thus improving RP patients' quality of life while other promising treatments such as stem cells, gene therapies, and pharmacologic agents are developed.



GRADUATION 2014

Class of 2014... Transitioning from Student to Alumni

By Michelle Merida, Co-Editor, *The Visionary*



August 2010 marked the beginning of the class of 2014's attempt to undertake the rigorous NSUCO curriculum. Balancing the extensive workload of demanding assignments, clinical experiences, club involvement, volunteer missions, stimulating board examinations, and personal life can prove to be quite a troublesome task.

Throughout the class of 2014's four years as optometry students, they have surpassed all expectations and taught us that all those tasks can prosperously be conquered—and then some. Certainly,

there were moments throughout their student career where they felt exhausted, but this did not ever come between them and reaching their set objective. As students, the intelligence and spirit of the class of 2014 proudly represented NSUCO with great diligence and honor. This remarkable class granted NSUCO local and international recognition, so with that said, we would like to give the graduating students distinctive accolades for their commitment to their optometric education.

On May 18, the graduating students marked the beginning of

their journey as optometric professionals. Although this day did not seem feasible or near in 2010, it finally arrived. Today, these individuals are NSUCO alumni and health care providers. We are confident they will continue to surpass expectations in all the opportunities they choose to embark upon.

NSUCO class of 2014, you have set the standards evidently high for the next classes to come, and we are certain you will continue to excel in your careers as optometric professionals.



Ronald E. Brown, III
President

NOVA SOUTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY

HEALTH PROFESSIONS DIVISION

COLLEGE OF OPTOMETRY



Ronald E. Brown, III
President



David Doby, Quincy Baker, William Burt, Aubrey Blake, Blake Bunting, Emma Bunkel



Walter Counts, Robert Conroy, Cary Collins, Blake Condit, Alexander Burt, Kara Burt



Wendy Stuchlik, Paul Westbrook, Joseph Sanders, William Sander, Stephen Sander, Michael Nalley



Cameron Jones, Andrew Jones, Benjamin Klein, John Williamson, Stephen Klein, Sara Klein



Olivia Evans, Taylor White, Elizabeth White, Nathan White, Ryan Thomas, David Thomas



David Taylor, Yusef Taylor, Michael Taylor, Kim Pines, Ryan Pines, Dan Pines



Jonathan Stansbury, John Blake, Kevin Bunk, Amanda Bunk, Graham Bunk, Ryan Bunk



Wendy Bunk, Neil Mayfield, Blake Bunk, Abby Bunk, Dylan C. May, Christian May



Olivia Nguyen, Kim Mayfield, Emma Nguyen, Victor Nguyen, Charles Nguyen, Paul Nguyen



Olivia Nguyen, Kim Mayfield, Emma Nguyen, Victor Nguyen, Charles Nguyen, Paul Nguyen



Olivia Nguyen, Kim Mayfield, Emma Nguyen, Victor Nguyen, Charles Nguyen, Paul Nguyen



Olivia Nguyen, Kim Mayfield, Emma Nguyen, Victor Nguyen, Charles Nguyen, Paul Nguyen



Olivia Nguyen, Kim Mayfield, Emma Nguyen, Victor Nguyen, Charles Nguyen, Paul Nguyen



Class of 2014



CLASS OF 2014 Receives Awards of Distinction



Berke-Silva



Collier



Deibel



McCarthy



Waller

Sara Berke-Silva, O.D.

THE LENNY CHERDACK STUDENT LEGISLATIVE AWARD

Presented to the student who exhibits professional behavior consistent with the high ideals and moral ethics of organized optometry. This student has demonstrated outstanding dedication to the profession, the Florida Optometric Association, and the legislative process, including representing optometry at the Florida Capital.

WILLIAM FEINBLOOM LOW VISION AWARD

Presented to a graduating student who has demonstrated outstanding clinical application of low-vision treatment.

MILROY OPTICAL SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

Presented to a graduating student for excellence in ophthalmic optics materials knowledge and dispensing.

Cory Collier, O.D.

BETA SIGMA KAPPA SILVER MEDAL

Presented to the graduating chapter member who has attained the highest cumulative grade-point average.

DEAN'S AWARD

Presented for academic excellence to the student graduating with the highest scholastic achievement.

THE DR. LESTER E. JANOFF SCHOLAR AWARD

Presented to a fourth-year year optometry student for outstanding performance in a scholarly activity such as teaching, research, or optometric journalism. In memory of Dr. Lester E. Janoff—a renowned educator, researcher, and pioneer in the area of cornea and contact lenses; a gentleman and a scholar who exemplified lifelong learning.

Kara Deibel, O.D.

OEP CLINICAL CURRICULUM AWARD

Presented to a graduating student who has demonstrated strong interest and clinical skills in the areas of pediatrics, binocular vision, and vision therapy.

HUMANA SPECIALTY BENEFITS, V.C.P. PRIMARY CARE CLINICAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Presented to a graduating student who has demonstrated excellence in primary care.

Heather McCarthy, O.D.

CHANCELLOR'S AWARD

Presented to the student who best exemplifies the characteristics of a fine optometric physician—a combination of scholarship, leadership, integrity, humanity, and loyalty to the profession.

VISTAKON AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

Presented to a graduating student who has demonstrated excellence in contact lens care.

Danielle Waller, O.D.

ESCHENBACH AWARD OF EXCELLENCE IN LOW VISION

Presented to a graduating student who has demonstrated outstanding clinical application of low-vision treatment.

SOUTHERN COUNCIL OF OPTOMETRY AWARD FOR CLINICAL EXCELLENCE

Presented to a graduating student who has demonstrated outstanding clinical performance.

John Kauderman, O.D.

Gabriela Olivares, O.D.

BEAVER-VISITEC INTERNATIONAL DRY-EYE AWARD

Presented to two graduating students who have demonstrated strong interest and clinical skills in the area of dry-eye management.



Kauderman



Olivares

Farahnaz Abdoly, O.D.

DAN AND HOFFMAN EXTERN OF THE YEAR

Presented to a graduating student who has demonstrated outstanding work ethic and overall excellence in patient care.

Alicia Andrade, O.D.

COLLEGE OF OPTOMETRISTS IN VISION DEVELOPMENT (COVD) AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

Presented to a graduating student who has demonstrated strong interest and clinical skills in the area of vision therapy.



Abdoly



Andrade



Artrip

Sarah Artrip, O.D.

COOPER VISION'S EXCELLENCE IN CONTACT LENSES AWARD

Presented to a graduating student for excellence in corneal and contact lens clinical care.

Bradley Austin, O.D.

LOW VISION AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

Presented to a graduating student who has excelled in the low-vision areas of patient rapport, clinical decision making, patient management, and patient education.



Austin



Bukhari



Carrillo

Ayesha Bukhari, O.D.

ARÁN EYE ASSOCIATES EXCELLENCE IN OCULAR DISEASE AWARD

Presented to a graduating student who has demonstrated exceptional understanding and care of patients with ocular disease.

Natalia Carrillo, O.D.

ESSILOR CORNEAL REFLECTION PUPILOMETER AWARD

Presented to a graduating student who has demonstrated excellence in dispensing ophthalmic materials.

Mark Deweese, O.D.

LUXOTTICA AWARD

Presented to a graduating student who has demonstrated excellence in clinical pediatric care and vision therapy.



Deweese



Dinh



Dornstauder

Hong-Hanh Thi Dinh, O.D.

PEDIATRIC AND BINOCULAR VISION CLINICAL EXCELLENCE AWARD

Presented to a graduating student who has demonstrated outstanding clinical skills and patient care in the NSUCO Pediatrics and Binocular Vision Service.

Blake Dornstauder, O.D.

ALCON SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

Presented to a graduating student who has written the best case report that incorporates the use of an Alcon product.

Continued on next page...



Hamidiani



Hansen



Kim



Leppke



Luu



Pham



Phung



Seidman



Provence-Perry



Remigio

Meghann Hamidiani, O.D.

VOLK OCULAR DISEASE EXCELLENCE AWARD

Presented to a student for excellence in ocular disease.

Lauren Hansen, O.D.

HEINE AWARD OF EXCELLENCE IN OPTICS

Presented to the graduating student who demonstrated excellence in optics.

Sun Hee Kim, O.D.

X-CEL CONTACT LENS AWARD

Presented to a graduating student for excellence in fitting RGP contact lenses.

Joseph Leppke, O.D.

BRAVERMAN EYE CENTER EXTERN OF THE YEAR

In recognition of a superior work ethic, clinical acumen, and excellence in patient care.

Jessica Luu, O.D.

GP CLINICAL EXCELLENCE AWARD

Presented to the graduating student who has demonstrated eagerness to learn more about rigid gas permeable lens design, materials, and fitting techniques.

Peter Pham, O.D.

CONTACT LENS PRACTICE MANAGEMENT AWARD

Presented to a graduating student who demonstrated excellence in contact lens practice management as the house officer.

Thuy Phung, O.D.

LOMBART INSTRUMENTS OPTOMETRIC AWARD

Presented to the individual with excellence in the optometric theory and methods courses.

Megan Provence-Perry, O.D.

PIONEER INSTRUMENTS PRIMARY CARE AWARD

Presented to a graduating student for excellence in primary care performance.

Ivana Remigio, O.D.

MODULE DIRECTOR'S AWARD

Presented to that individual who has demonstrated clinical excellence in the area of primary care, including disease management and diagnosis, visual and refractive care, and patient interaction.

Beth Seidman, O.D.

MARCHON PRACTICE MANAGEMENT AWARD

Presented to a graduating student for excellence in clinical optometric practice management.

NSUCONSUCONSUCO

Dear Friend of
Nova Southeastern University College of Optometry:

It is amazing to realize that 25 years have passed since the opening of NSU College of Optometry. In some ways it feels like just yesterday, and in others it was a lifetime ago. What tremendous growth and success we have seen in this quarter century. From humble beginnings with Southeastern University of the Health Sciences in North Miami Beach to today's world class facilities in Fort Lauderdale at Nova Southeastern University—we have come a long way.

We are very proud of the foundation of clinical excellence we have built and look forward to a bright future. We know we educate and train some of the finest optometric physicians in the world, and their work defines our success. Consequently, as we celebrate our first 25 years this year, we invite you to help us continue our mission:

To prepare, educate, and train optometric physicians to practice at the highest level of proficiency, integrity, and professionalism, and to provide a multidisciplinary environment that encourages and supports scholarship, community service, and lifelong learning.

The week of September 13–19 will mark our on-campus celebration of NSUCO's 25th anniversary, and we have a full slate of events planned throughout the week. On Saturday, September 13, we begin with a two-day CE event entitled Diabetic Management and Glaucoma Update–2014. Day one will feature the topic "Diabetes Update," while day two will focus on "Contemporary Glaucoma Management." On the evening of September 13, we are planning a spectacular celebration at the beautiful Alvin Sherman Library. The rest of the week's events are as follows:

September 13, 2014

NSU Optometry's 25-Year Anniversary Celebration

September 14, 2014

Day two of CE "Contemporary Glaucoma Management"

September 15, 2014

Unveiling of 25 Years of Optometry Display

September 16, 2014

Designer Sunglasses Sale Benefiting OneSight

September 17, 2014

Optometry Student Talent Show

September 18, 2014

Coffee and Conversation and Student Event with Tom Sullivan

September 19, 2014

Tom Sullivan and InfantSEE Community Event

We invite you to support the NSU College of Optometry's 25th Anniversary Celebration at one of the following levels:

Platinum Level: \$10,000

- Recognition from the podium
- Signage throughout the week
- Cover page of event brochure
- Logo on name badges and gift bags
- Five guest passes to the 25th Anniversary Celebration

Gold Level: \$5,000

- Recognition from the podium
- Signage throughout the week
- Full page recognition within event brochure
- Two guest passes to the 25th Anniversary Celebration

Silver Level: \$2,500

- Signage throughout the week
- Half-page ad within event brochure
- Two guest passes to the 25th Anniversary Celebration

Bronze Level: \$1,000

- Signage throughout the week
- Business card-size ad within event brochure

Sponsor Level: \$500

- Listing in event brochure
- Tax policy requires us to identify the value of the goods and services that will be received for this donation—an estimated \$100 per person for the 25th Anniversary Celebration.

If you are able to provide sponsorship for our 25th anniversary, please contact Dr. Michael Bacigalupi at bacigalu@nova.edu or (954) 262-1410 as soon as possible so we can properly recognize your contribution.

Thank you for your continued support of NSU College of Optometry. We appreciate your partnership and look forward to our next 25 years

Sincerely,



David S. Loshin, O.D., Ph.D., FAAO
Dean

Alumni Chapter President's Message

By Arnie Patrick, O.D., Assistant Professor
President, College of Optometry Alumni Chapter



This is an exciting time for me as I begin my tenure as alumni chapter president, taking over from Jacqueline Rodena, O.D., who did yeoman's work in this position. I also

wanted to acknowledge Sherrol Reynolds, O.D., FAAO, past alumni chapter president, and Vanessa McDonald, manager of continuing education, for helping me navigate the intricacies of my new position.

Besides my personal excitement, this is a special time for us all at Nova Southeastern University College of Optometry (NSUCO). Not only are we celebrating the university's 50th anniversary, but the college's 25th as well. My perspective is unique because I've been associated with NSUCO for 23 of those years, having started my career as a member of the second entering class in 1990, and being away for just one year to complete my residency at the University of Houston College of Optometry from in 1994 and 1995.

Few of us from the early days in North Miami Beach could have predicted the great success NSUCO has come to have. At that time, our classrooms and equipment were not as modern as those at the established schools. The charter class received its academic education in the Department of Basic Sciences' faculty break room. Because the OTM Lab was off campus in the Broward Clinic, it had a single practice lane that was housed in a converted closet in the library.

My own second-year classroom was in the former osteopathic hospital's ICU waiting area,

with the surrounding glass-enclosed patient rooms serving as the OTM Lab. I vividly remember sweeping the floors of the ICU rooms as the medical equipment was removed from the walls and the projectors and Snellen charts were installed. We students were as interesting as the facilities, having come from a variety of different backgrounds. Many of us were older and hoping for a second career, while some had spent time at other optometry schools.

Stacey Coulter, O.D., M.S.Ed, FAAO, FCOVD, has always believed that we saw ourselves as part of a grand experiment, although I think that gives us more credit than we deserve. Rather, we were just happy to be given the opportunity to study optometry. Unfortunately, some graduates from the early classes have forgotten about the unique chance they were given, choosing instead to concentrate on their negative experiences. I completely understand this.

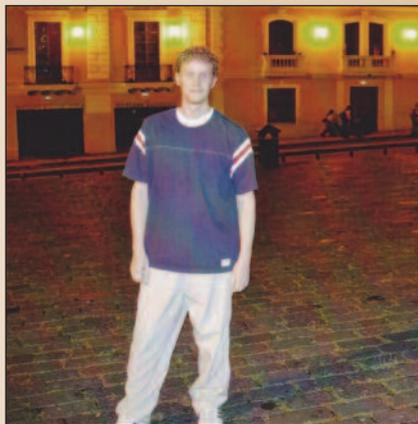
I can tell you, however, that those days are long gone. Today, NSUCO attracts some of the most capable young people in the country because of the quality of its education and faculty members, as well as its student-centered administration. With the start of four new optometry schools in just the last five years, and more in the pipeline, it has been a buyers' market for candidates. Needless to say, the price of an optometric education is substantial, and to continue to attract the best, money is needed to supplement student loans and family support.

I therefore challenge our early graduates to celebrate the opportunity they were given and support our future colleagues with scholarship gifts. NSUCO gave us the chance to build a career many years ago. Let's thank our alma mater by giving our new students the opportunity to succeed as well.

In Memoriam

Curtis Scott Goodman, O.D., class of 2006, tragically lost his life in an automobile accident on the morning of August 13, 2013, after leaving work early because he was not feeling well. He left behind his beloved wife, Rebecca, and four young children. The 37-year-old had been practicing in Casa Grande, Arizona, working for America's Best Contact Lenses and Glasses—a National Vision company.

NSUCO faculty members and class of 2006 alumni described Dr. Goodman as a wonderful and genuine person who was always wearing a smile. An inspiration to his classmates, Dr. Goodman balanced the duties of becoming a father while thriving in optometry school. He is missed but fondly remembered by all who knew him.



NEWS BRIEFS



Dr. Mohon accepting his award from Dr. Loshin.

Jaime Balaguer, O.D. ('04) currently serves as treasurer of the Broward County Optometric Association.

Joanie Bauernfiend, O.D. ('09/residency) held a grand opening for her vision therapy practice—Vision Development Center—in Jasper, Indiana.

Teresita Bollar, O.D. ('12) was elected vice president of the Miami-Dade Optometric Physicians Association.

Brandon Cornish, O.D. ('07) is the current vice president of the Broward County Optometric Association.

Stephanie Davis, O.D. ('98), **Michael Mull, O.D.** ('09), **Amanda Nanasy, O.D.** ('10), and **Thuy Lan Nguyen, O.D.** ('02) participated in the annual vision and eye health evaluations of the Miami Dolphins' football players.

Dean Gogerdchi, O.D. ('12), **Vicky Wong, O.D.** ('12), **Bryan Rogoff, O.D.** ('99), and **Andrew Morgenstern, O.D.** ('99) represented NSUCO with distinction at the AOA's Congressional Advocacy Conference held this April 27-30 in Washington, D.C.

D. Duane Mohon, O.D. ('98) was the recipient of the College of Optometry's 2013 Distinguished Alumni Achievement Award, which recognized his contributions to his community in Alabama and the optometric profession.

Willnella Patray, O.D. ('09) is the founder of HEALS (Helping Eyes Against the Loss of Sight), which went on a medical outreach trip to Liberia in November 2013 to perform eye exams for 300 patients.

Susan Tran, O.D. ('10) had her blog entitled "Getting Down to Business: When You Enter Your Own Practice, Eye Care Becomes the Easy Part" featured on the *Review of Optometry* Web site.

Residents' Day 2014

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



On January 26, NSUCO hosted its Sixth Annual Residents' Day. Our program continues to grow each year, and this year we were fortunate enough to highlight 30 outstanding optometric residents from programs affiliated with NSU throughout the state of Florida and Atlanta, Georgia. During the event, the residents presented interesting and challenging cases encountered during their residency training in the form of rapid-fire grand rounds.

Topics covered included anterior segment disease, posterior segment disease, neuro-ophthalmic disease, specialty contact lens fitting, binocular vision anomalies, and vision therapy. All courses were approved by COPE and the Florida Board for continuing education, while the lectures were presented in a dual-track format allowing for plenty of options and variety.

In addition to the outstanding education, the program provides an opportunity for students to interact with residents from the various programs and learn more about residency training and the opportunities residency training provides.

We look forward to seeing you at the Seventh Annual Residents' Day in March 2015.



To learn more about NSUCO's residency programs, please visit our Web page at <http://optometry.nova.edu/residency/internal/index.html> and view our residents' testimonials for information on each unique position.

CLASS OF 2014 RESIDENTS



Lisbet Abrante, O.D., Christian Hernandez, O.D., Kellie Bassion, O.D., May Jarkas, O.D., Alexandra Schuette, O.D., and Nicholas Onken, O.D.



Anna James, O.D., and Laura Martinez, O.D.

18th Annual Eye Care Conference



18TH ANNUAL EYE CARE CONFERENCE A SUCCESS

The 18th Annual Eye Care Conference and Alumni Reunion, held May 13-15 at NSU's Grande Oaks Golf Club, exceeded all expectations thanks to the efforts of Jacqueline Rodena, O.D., assistant professor, who made numerous social media posts and phone calls to convince her former classmates to attend. Approximately 30 class of 2004 alumni attended the CE sessions as well as the reception and dinner, while Arnie Patrick, O.D., assistant professor, and seven other alumni represented the class of 1994 in style.

NORTH CAROLINA CE EVENT OFFERED INSIGHTFUL SESSIONS

Bill Jones, O.D., served as a guest speaker at NSUCO's CE event held in the mountains of Asheville, North Carolina, on August 1-3. Also presenting at the event were faculty members Rachel A. "Stacey" Coulter, O.D., M.S.Ed, FAAO, FCOVD, associate professor, and Diana Shechtman, O.D., FAAO, professor. The event was held at the Omni Grove Park Inn, which has a four-star rating and a host of activities, including golf, excellent spa facilities, and restaurants.

ANNUAL FALL CONFERENCE SET FOR SEPTEMBER

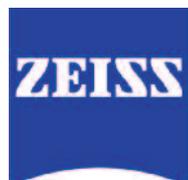
Joseph Sowka, O.D., FAAO, associate professor, will oversee the second day of the Annual Fall Conference, which will be held September 13-14 in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, where he will present the annual glaucoma update. On day one, Joe Pizzimenti, O.D., FAAO, associate professor, will be involved with the panel presentations discussing diabetes management. The 2014 CE calendar will conclude with the Orlando Super Weekend on October 17-18 at NSU's Orlando campus.

ALUMNI AND FRIENDS CRUISE

Want to get away? Join the alumni chapters of the College of Optometry, College of Dental Medicine, and the Shepard Broad Law Center along with the university's Alumni Association as we set sail February 5-9, 2015, from Port Everglades in Fort Lauderdale. The four-night trip on Royal Caribbean's Liberty of the Seas cruise ship includes a stop in Cozumel, Mexico, and various on-board activities. Barry J. Frauens, O.D., FAAO, associate professor, and Joseph Sowka, O.D., FAAO, associate professor, will offer six hours of education at sea. Additional information regarding all events can be found at <http://optometry.nova.edu/ce/index.html>.

PARTNERS IN EDUCATION

We gratefully thank our *Partners in Education* for their continuing support of the college's students, faculty members, alumni, and continuing education programs.



Continuing Education Update

CALENDAR OF CE EVENTS

September 13-14, 2014

Annual Fall Conference
Fort Lauderdale, Florida

October 18-19, 2014

Orlando Super Weekend
Orlando, Florida

February 5-9, 2015

Alumni and Friends Cruise
Royal Caribbean Florida Programs



Alumni Business Luncheon



College of Optometry

3200 South University Drive
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33328

PRESORTED
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UNIVERSITY



NSU Alumni Cruise Set for February 2015

The NSU Alumni Cruise, to be held February 5-9, 2015, on Royal Caribbean's Liberty of the Seas, will depart from Fort Lauderdale. Cozumel will be the only port of call on the cruise agenda. The NSU College of Optometry's alumni chapter, in conjunction with the NSU's Alumni Association, the College of Dental Medicine, and the Shepard Broad Law Center, will be extending an invitation to all NSU employees, alumni, and friends to join the fun.

For those affiliated with the College of Optometry, six hours of continuing education will be offered. Additional information, including registration for the CE seminars and reserving cabins, can be found at <http://optometry.nova.edu/ce/index.html>.

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 Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges to award associate's, baccalaureate, master's, educational specialist, doctorate, and professional degrees. Contact the Commission on Colleges at 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097 or call 404-679-4500 for questions about the accreditation of Nova Southeastern University.

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.