

Winter 2015

# Visionary Winter 2015

College of Optometry

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# *the* VISIONARY



NOVA SOUTHEASTERN  
UNIVERSITY

College of Optometry



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UNIVERSITY

College of Optometry



25  
Years

OF EDUCATION,  
SCHOLARSHIP,  
AND SERVICE  
1989 - 2014

# Dean's Message

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

"I AM VERY PROUD OF THE REPUTATION FOR CLINICAL EXCELLENCE WE HAVE ESTABLISHED WITH FACULTY MEMBERS WHO HAVE BECOME RENOWN IN THEIR SPECIALTY AREAS."

It is remarkable to realize that 25 years have passed since the establishment of NSU's College of Optometry. In many ways it seems like just yesterday that we moved from North Miami Beach to the world-class facilities in Davie. What tremendous growth and success we have seen in this past quarter century in many areas at the college.

In September, the college held its 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration, and it was an outstanding occasion with aerial artists entertaining the attendees at the transformed Alvin Sherman Library. My many thanks go to Dr. Michael Bacigalupi and the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary committee for organizing the event.

I am very proud of the reputation for clinical excellence we have established with faculty members who have become renown in their specialty areas. Services provided by our faculty members and students in primary care, low vision, contact lens, pediatrics/binocular vision and specialty care in glaucoma, retinal disease electro-diagnostics, and nutrition have generated referrals from all over Florida and the United States as well as out of the country.

Additionally, The Eye Care Institute has grown to five locations—Davie, North Miami Beach, Broward Boulevard, Lighthouse of Broward, and Kids In Distress. These clinics provide our students with excellent opportunities to experience an extremely diverse patient population while providing eye care services to the underserved.

Through our didactic and clinical efforts, we are able to educate and train some of the finest optometric physicians in the world whose successes define our success. This is

evidenced through feedback from our growing alumni both directly and through college events held at professional meetings.

Although the national applicant pool is flat, the college continues to maintain its high standards for admissions and recruit the best and brightest students. The college's admissions office, under the supervision of Dr. Bacigalupi, is continuously making personal contact with applicants through social media as well as through the many recruiting trips to undergraduate pre-health clubs in the United States and Canada.

With mixed emotion, I want to inform you that Fran Franconeri, who was involved with recruiting many of you, retired in January 2015. I am sure you want to join me in offering Fran our best wishes in her retirement.

In another sign of strength, research has grown significantly at the college, with a number of current and new faculty members receiving grants from several sources, including the National Institutes of Health. Posters, presentations, and publications from the faculty members at professional meetings have increased the visibility and productivity of the college.

As we continue to celebrate our first 25 years, we reaffirm our commitment to 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.*

We hope you will continue to support and nurture our College of Optometry into the next 25 years.



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## Chancellor's Communiqué

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

Recently, there have been numerous communications emanating from NSU President Dr. George Hanbury, the various deans, myself, and others in regard to NSU's Vision 2020 and the bright future that lays ahead for our university.

For the past several years, we have been transitioning from an educational institution that provides quality education to one that is striving to provide nationally recognized and preeminent education. We are clearly moving in that direction. Similarly, there has been much talk about our emphasis on research, which is yielding some significant results.

All you have to do is drive into the university directly past the Health Professions Division to bear witness to the sophisticated and rapidly rising 225,000 square-foot Center for Collaborative Research that will help us meet our goals of becoming a highly productive and recognized research university. It isn't the bricks and mortar that count, however. It is what we intend the bricks and mortar to accomplish in regard to the educational goals set forth by Dr. Hanbury's Vision 2020 strategic plan.

On a similar note, the assemblage of knowledge we are presenting to the world, and the creation of new methods of care based upon the discovery of new knowledge that comes from research, indicate that we are on the cusp of achieving great things. This is why the bricks and mortar that will comprise the new research center are symbolic of what is about to happen here.

It's not that we haven't been involved in research for years, because we have. Consequently, I give a lot of credit to the many researchers that have been working at NSU for years with a significant amount of success, but not with all the tools that are necessary for them to have this broad spectrum of opportunity and presentation of information.

The progress, however, does not stop there. If you shift your view southward from the Health Professions Division to neighboring University Park Plaza, you will see the initial elements of a hospital complex being constructed. The first step in this process is an emerging emergency room/urgent care center that the Hospital Corporation of America (HCA) is establishing on the south parking lot of University Park Plaza, which is



really the intent of HCA to place its footprint on this acreage for the purposes of transferring a 54-year-old hospital named Plantation General to our campus.

In December, many of you heard about the first big step in this process, which involved the approval by the Agency for Health Care Administration that Plantation General Hospital should be given the opportunity under state statute to relocate to the NSU campus, thus creating a new 200-bed hospital on this campus that will surround the emergency room that is currently under construction.

Thanks to these exciting developments, we are now looking at the elements of not only research, but also at the components of knowledge and compatibility of this knowledge with the new methods of caring for a person's health. From a health care perspective, this relates to the palliation of pain, the experience of elongating someone's life, and providing patients with a sense of better health, which in the long term means saving lives.

Ultimately, what are we really looking at now when we discuss Nova Southeastern University? First and foremost, we see the goals of becoming a preeminent institution based on the knowledge and capabilities our graduates possess. Of course, we want our faculty members and our academic infrastructure to be recognized as exceptional as well. The primary goal, however, is to seed this knowledge in the minds of our graduates who received their education at an institution that now has a very significant research component and a very significant research medical hospital looming on the horizon.

We have become an outstanding university that provides quality education, comprehensive health care, and cutting-edge research discoveries, which, when viewed in their totality, adds up to a better humanity.

**"...WE ARE NOW LOOKING AT THE ELEMENTS OF NOT ONLY RESEARCH,  
BUT ALSO AT THE COMPONENTS OF KNOWLEDGE AND COMPATIBILITY OF THIS  
KNOWLEDGE WITH THE NEW METHODS OF CARING FOR A PERSON'S HEALTH."**

## College of Optometry Hosts InfantSEE® Program

As part of the College of Optometry's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration week, a program titled "Taking Infant Care into the Community" was held on September 19 in the HPD Chancellor's Dining Room. Several community leaders, health care professionals, teachers, parents, and NSU faculty and staff members were in attendance. The presentation had two NSUCO speakers: Yin C. Tea, O.D., FAAO, assistant professor and chief of Pediatric and Binocular Vision Service, who discussed infant vision exams; and Deborah Amster, O.D., FAAO, FCOVD, assistant professor, who spoke about vision and development.

Several guest speakers presented such as Glen T. Steele, O.D., FAAO, FCOVD, InfantSEE® chair, who provided attendees with an introduction to InfantSEE®, Robin Benoit, parent advocate and author, who provided a parent's perspective on the importance of visual assessment early on in a child's life, and Tom Sullivan, a public advocate and author, who encouraged an inspirational call to action. Sullivan, an actor, singer, athlete, entertainer, author, composer, and producer who has been blind since shortly after birth, is known for his message of hope and possibility.

This presentation was made possible thanks to its sponsors, Optometry Cares® - the AOA Foundation, the Allergan Foundation, and the following NSU optometric pediatric faculty members:

- Drs. Yin Tea and Deborah Amster
- Rachel "Stacey" Coulter, O.D., M.S.Ed, FAAO, FCOVD, Diplomate
- Gregory Fecho, O.D.
- Jacqueline Rodena, O.D.
- Nadine Girgis Hanna, O.D., FAAO
- Erin Jenewein, O.D., M.S., FAAO
- Michael Au, O.D.
- Surbhi Bansal, O.D.

InfantSEE®, a public health program managed by Optometry Cares® - the AOA Foundation, is designed to ensure that eye and vision care become an essential part of infant wellness care to improve a child's quality of life. Under this program, participating optometrists provide a comprehensive infant eye assessment between 6 and 12 months of age as a no-cost public service.



Left Photo

Pictured (from left) are Dr. Glen T. Steele, Dr. Yin C. Tea, Tom Sullivan, Dr. David Loshin, and Robin Benoit, parent advocate and author.



Right Photo

Sullivan delivers an encouraging speech.

## Drs. Patterson and Bassion Provide Care for Children in Ireland

Nicole Patterson, O.D., FAAO, chief of the Low Vision Rehabilitation Service, and former low-vision resident Kellie Bassion, O.D., traveled to the beautiful Emerald Country of Ireland. The trip was a multidisciplinary endeavor with the occupational therapists from NSU's College of Health Care Sciences that allowed the participants to spend a week at the Child-Vision National Education Centre for Blind Children in Dublin.

The school, which is the only one of its kind in Ireland, strives to enhance the independence of children with vision impairment. Education is offered for children as young as newborns to 22 years of age. Many children from around the country participate in the residential program, where they live on campus and travel home for the weekends. All children attend ChildVision free of charge.

While there, Drs. Patterson and Bassion evaluated multiple children. All children at the school have ocular health evaluations but often don't receive a functional vision evaluation. The evaluations Drs. Patterson and Bassion conducted served a major purpose by providing classroom teachers with much-needed information in order to optimally educate students.

During their stay in Ireland, the optometric duo also had an opportunity to visit the National Braille Institute, explore the city of Dublin, and travel to the country's northern region.



## IDEA Initiative Offers Interprofessional Collaboration

By Class of 2015 Students Marcelo Moya and Nathalie Findlater

We didn't know what to expect when we signed up for NSU's Interprofessional Diabetes Education and Awareness (IDEA) Initiative. We knew it would take time from our studies and families, but we had no idea how the IDEA program would impact our mindsets. We were somewhat doubtful on how it was all going to come together. At the orientation dinner, we both looked for familiar faces and were hoping that the assigned seating would place us together so we would have someone to talk to. Fortunately, we were forced to mingle with other health profession students. This provided us another opportunity to network and gain a better understanding of what the other professions really do.

Different groups of students and faculty members from several NSU colleges were formed to create community workshops to educate residents of Broward and Miami-Dade counties. These workshops covered topics such as power over diabetes, diabetes and medication management, diabetes and eye health, diabetes and children, diabetes and healthy eating, and diabetes and exercise. The program's purpose was to build an educational presentation from a multidisciplinary perspective to a specific problem—diabetes. Although at first it seemed like another assignment in our busy student schedule, it showed us how important it is to see the big picture.

Diabetes is one of the most prevalent and devastating diseases. The IDEA Initiative's focus of a multidisciplinary approach was excellent in helping expand our understanding of the management and treatment of diabetes. In optometry, it is easy to focus on how everything relates to the eye. This focused approach has obvious benefits; however, it limits us in understanding the full aspects of a dis-

ease such as diabetes. Optometry is not the only health profession that takes a targeted approach as most health professions do this as well. What we realized from the IDEA program is that it is easy to find our niche and lose focus of the bigger picture in caring for our diabetic patients. We walked away from this experience with the knowledge that it takes many health disciplines or a *village* to manage a single diabetic patient.

Now that we are in our fourth-year clinical rotations, we see it play out daily. Many of our diabetes patients are referred to us by their primary care physician. We communicate with their primary care physician, describing any pathology found in the eye that suggests further evaluation of their systemic treatment. We cannot provide the best care for our patients without looking at their complete physical well-being. This approach will also increase the referrals and can help build a strong patient base. Through the IDEA Initiative, we were able to see how the audiologist, renal specialist, podiatrist, pharmacist, and optometrist can all play an important role. Diabetes patients need a wide scope of treatment, and it is our duty as clinicians to help educate and refer them for proper treatment.

The IDEA program gave us the opportunity to experience another aspect of caring for patients through educating the community. Those that came to the workshops were able to ask questions and gain a better understanding of the disease from many different aspects. They learned the importance of the many providers needed to manage their health. It was a great experience to really reach out to the community. It is one thing when patients seek us out for care, but when we reach out to them, we are taking a more intentional role in providing that care.



Class of 2015 students Nathalie Findlater and Marcelo Moya.

## National Eye Institute Awards Major Grant to NSUCO

By Jeremy Katzman, M.B.A., APR, Associate Director of Public Affairs

The National Eye Institute of the National Institutes of Health has awarded up to \$556,532 to NSUCO investigators to study the relationship between the vision condition, convergence insufficiency, and reading performance and attention.

The grant will fund the Convergence Insufficiency Treatment Trial—Attention and Reading Trial (CITT-ART), which is a national multicenter clinical trial that involves optometry, ophthalmology, psychiatry, and education in determining how this eye-teaming problem impacts a child's attention and reading performance.

Convergence insufficiency is a common vision disorder in which the eyes turn slightly outward

when a person is reading or doing work close to his or her eyes.

"Children who have convergence insufficiency sometimes suffer from poor reading performance and attention problems," said Rachel A. "Stacey" Coulter, O.D., M.S.Ed, principal investigator for NSUCO's research team. "As the first large-scale randomized clinical trial to study this problem, outcomes of this study could lead to new therapies for some children with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder and reading problems. We are very excited that the National Eye Institute has funded our grant application, and we look forward to enrolling children into the study this fall."

The College of Optometry faculty research team consists of Dr. Coulter, Annette Bade, O.D., M.S., Pamela Oliver, O.D., M.S., Gregory Fecho, O.D., Erin Jenewein, O.D., M.S., Deborah Amster, O.D., Yin C. Tea, O.D., Jacqueline Rodena, O.D., and Nicole Paterson, O.D., M.S.Ed.

NSU is one of seven clinical sites participating across the United States. Other sites include Akron Children's Hospital in Ohio, Bascom Palmer Eye Institute in Miami, Marshall B. Ketchum University in Fullerton, California, Ohio State University, Salus University in Elkins Park, Pennsylvania, the State University of New York, and the University of Alabama at Birmingham.

# Fran Franconeri

## Recruitment and Student Affairs

By Michelle Merida, Manager of Marketing Services



The Office of Student Affairs and Admissions-  
Clockwise from top: Dr. Bacigalupi,  
Juan Saavedra, Fran Franconeri,  
and Jeanne DeCaro.

**F**ran Franconeri, B.A., a student, staff, and faculty favorite, had a challenging time describing her life due to her modesty. What she labeled as uninteresting, we perceived as the foundation of what molded her to be the extraordinary, captivating, stylish, and fun-loving individual who roamed the halls at NSU with a permanent and contagious smile on her face. Most days, as you walked by her office, you would encounter a line of students waiting to visit her. When her NSU retirement became official on January 9, Franconeri was immediately and deeply missed by all at the College of Optometry.

Franconeri, who was born and raised in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, has five brothers and four sisters and is the seventh of 10 children born to her parents, Sam and Kate. While her mother was of Polish descent and her father of Mexican descent, English was the sole language spoken in the household. Franconeri grew up in the diverse community of East Liberty, where numerous cultures blended such as Italian, Jewish, and African American. Her childhood was filled with fun and laughter, and she believes it shaped her into the easygoing individual she is because, as she mentioned, “with that many siblings, who has a choice?”

Attending a catholic school until tenth grade helped her learn to be disciplined. Consequently, following her high school graduation, Franconeri started working in the City of Pittsburgh under a special selective group called The Mayor’s Service Center. In this role, she was one of the five initial members of this group that handled a range of city issues from trash services to difficult cases such as advising in family issues.

Franconeri was introduced to her husband, Richard, by his sister, who was Franconeri’s coworker. A year after they married in January 1973, they moved to Florida. Franconeri describes her arrival in the Sunshine State as “the first time she got sand in her shoes.” After welcoming daughters Samantha in March 1976 and Sabrina in August 1979, the Franconeris moved back to Pittsburgh to be closer to family. During this time, she devoted significant energy to volunteering in her community.

Some significant milestones achieved during her time giving back to the community included her involvement in establishing a library, the development of a playground for the local school, and the implementation of a monitoring system for the schools where parents would call in and notify the school of a

student’s absence in order to ensure that every child was accounted for daily. She was also profoundly involved in the Girl Scouts and Brownies and was part of a group that was in charge of the community cheerleaders and dancers. In fact, Franconeri helped establish the first major cheerleading competition in Beaver County, which is still held annually.

Franconeri graduated with her Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration with a concentration in human resources from Robert Morris University in Pittsburgh. She then began working in the university’s admissions office, where her main areas of focus were undergraduate, transfer, nontraditional, high school to college, and international studies students. Once her daughters were situated and her husband was ready to retire, however, the family moved back to South Florida. Franconeri describes education as the number one priority in her household, which explains why her daughters are so advanced in their fields. Samantha has earned two master degrees and is working towards her Ed.D., while Sabrina has obtained two master’s degrees and a Ph.D. in Communication and Technology.

In 2003, Franconeri began working with the College of Optometry as an admissions counselor. A short time later, her husband began working in the Health Professions Division Finance Department as a budget analyst. In 2010, she was promoted to her recruitment and students affairs position, which allowed her to work closer with the student government associations and get to know the students better as well as serve as a resource for them.

During her time at NSUCO, she has been honored as an NSU STUEY finalist four times—twice as Administrator of the Year and twice as Staff Person of the Year. Now that she is officially retired, she plans to spend her copious leisure time at the beach getting lots of sun and indulging in her hobbies, which include all things artsy such as crochet, needlepoint, and sewing.

On behalf of the administration, faculty and staff members, and students of the College of Optometry, we would like to express our sincerest gratitude for Franconeri’s years of service and commitment to the betterment of our college. May you retire knowing you have made a remarkable contribution and have immeasurably touched the lives of all who have crossed your path.



Drs. David Loshin and Barry Frauens celebrating the college’s 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary with Franconeri.



## Student News

### CHARTASH AND HARRELSON WIN PROJECT FORESIGHT

Two NSUCO students recently won a national competition for developing an idea for an optometry practice of the future, bringing the crown back to NSU for the second straight year. **Jeremy Chartash** (class of 2016) and **Jay Harrelson** (class of 2016) won Walmart's Project Foresight contest, which awarded them a \$15,000 scholarship and traveling trophy for designing an optometric practice that would cater to patients with autism. The winners were announced at the American Optometric Association's annual meeting in Philadelphia.

"We recognized the unique needs of each individual on the spectrum, so we created an office that was dynamic and could change based on the needs of the patients so they do not have to," Chartash explained. "There were so many good teams at the competition with so many good ideas. Both Jay and I are overwhelmed by the compliments the judges gave us and the support we received from the nearly 40 students from NSU who made it a very special event for us. We both learned a lot from this opportunity, and we hope we inspire others to continue to participate in future years."



### BROUSSARD WINS INAUGURAL VSP POSTON LEADERSHIP AWARD

**Alexis Broussard** (class of 2017), president of the National Optometric Student Association (NOSA) chapter at NSUCO, is the first recipient of the VSP Marvin R. Poston Leadership Award. The award is named for Marvin Poston, O.D., who, along with several of his fellow optometrists, formed California Vision Services, now known as VSP Vision Care.

"I am extremely grateful and thankful for being selected as the first recipient of the VSP Marvin R. Poston Leadership Award," Broussard said. "Receipt of this award has strengthened my confidence and will allow me to take on other leadership roles in the future without fear or hesitation."

The award recipient is determined by a committee of VSP employees at the NOSA Leadership Academy that evaluates the leadership characteristics of NOSA chapter officers. Along with the recognition, the recipient also receives a one-time financial award of \$2,500.

**Larezia Williams** (class of 2018) was awarded the College of Optometrists in Vision Development Annual Meeting Travel Grant, which is offered to encourage and support optometry student and resident participation at the meeting.

**Ryan Beck** (class of 2015) was selected as the 2014 recipient of the Don E. Williamson, O.D., Memorial Scholarship. The scholarship, which is presented by the Southwest Florida Optometric Association, was established to honor the memory of Dr. Williamson, who passed away in 2011. Dr. Williamson was the past president of the Florida Optometric Association (FOA) and is an FOA Lifetime Achievement Award winner.

**Aaron Thomas** (class of 2017) wrote an article for the fall 2014 issue of *Foresight* magazine titled "Being Connected: Students and States."



Williams



Beck (right) with Dr. Loshin.

# FIRST-YEAR PERSPECTIVE CLASS OF 2018

By Samantha E. Fernandez (Class of 2018)

## White Coat Ceremony



Upon starting optometry school at NSU, I looked forward to meeting new people—my future colleagues, the well-renowned faculty members, the lively staff members and administration, and even the aspiring professionals of my neighboring health care fields. I was anxious to become part of the NSU family as soon as possible. To my surprise, after just a week of orientation, I began to feel a sense of cohesiveness with my classmates.

After just one week of regularly scheduled lectures, I felt a transition from just an ordinary student to a soon-to-be optometrist. Even before taking our first exam, I felt my classmates and I were regarded at the same level as our faculty members and administrators. We were, and still are, regarded as professionals and future colleagues. Nevertheless, it was not until our White Coat Ceremony on August 28, 2014, that I felt an official welcome and embrace by NSU and the College of Optometry.

The White Coat Ceremony was my first time attending such an event, and it was nothing at all how I imagined it. I could not have feigned beforehand how serious and professional the occasion was going to be. I definitely could not have prepared for how accomplished this one hour would make me feel. Aside from recognizing us for our acceptance into the program, the faculty and staff members acknowledged the commitment and diligence we had already revealed during our first month of classes. It was definitely a moment of self-approval and pride while at the same time a humbling experience. It was humbling because it reminded us that we are only just kicking off the next four years of our academic journey.

Watching my classmates receive their white coats was probably the best part of it all. Although I certainly felt great sliding into my own coat for the first time, I could not see my own expression the way I could see theirs. It was definitely a moment to remember. I am forever thankful to Nova Southeastern University, particularly the Health Professions Division, for putting on such a momentous celebration for my class.

I am also very grateful for being awarded the Alumni Chapter Scholarship. For me, this was just another confirmation that I chose the right institution to spend the next very important years of my life. Of course, this is not because of the award itself but because of the fact that NSU celebrates hard work and dedication. This makes me proud to be a Shark and excited to work with my fellow classmates toward becoming the best optometrists we can possibly be.

## Student News—ORGANIZATIONS

### FCO AND NOSA PARTICIPATE IN JAMAICA MEDICAL OUTREACH TRIP

#### FCO

By Adesola Fadeyi (Class of 2017)

First and foremost, the opportunity to go to Jamaica in June 2014 to do medical outreach work was life changing. Because we are a faith-based organization, we were able to not just meet the needs of those physically, but we were able to impact many spiritually. What we tend to see is that many people have physiological issues that annoy them, but they have spiritual, mental, and emotional issues and stresses that kill them. It was a blessing to serve the beautiful people of Jamaica in that way.

On the first day, we met up at the mission house with our attending physicians Doug McCloy, O.D., and John Kung, M.D. The next three days we worked all day at the clinic administering comprehensive eye exams and pterygium extractions. We were exhausted, but it was very rewarding because we knew we were helping people who never had eye exams or had even heard of an optometrist. Our last day in Jamaica was spent sightseeing, snorkeling, paddle boarding, cliff jumping, and enjoying dinner at the finest restaurant in Negril.

We were very blessed by Jamaica as it was blessed by us. I think it sparked a drive in all of us to continue to do this type of work and contribute our time and talents.



1

1. Pictured (top row from left) are Vadim Guy, O.D., Adesola Fadeyi, Daniel Miller, Rachael Freeman, CJ Hamilton, and Katie Komornick. Pictured (bottom row from left) are Catherine Bach, Shelly Lomax, Rebecca Hall, Brenda Castro, and Heather Gauguer.

#### NOSA

By Jay Harrelson (Class of 2016)  
and Caleb Saint Jean (Class of 2016)

The National Optometric Student Association (NOSA) participated in the 2014 interdisciplinary medical outreach trip to Jamaica in June 2014, which profoundly impacted the lives and well-being of many Jamaican citizens. As part of a 150-member interprofessional team consisting of NSU programs such as osteopathic medicine, pharmacy, dental medicine, physical therapy, occupational therapy, and optometry, the group was able to see hundreds of patients and provide health care for many of the underserved.

The optometry team consisted of eight students and faculty members Sherrol A. Reynolds, O.D., FAAO, and Leon Nehmad, O.D., M.S.W., FAAO, as well as Noel Henry, O.D., P.A. Temporary clinics were set up at various underserved communities in the region of St. Mary. The optometry team provided eye care to nearly 400 individuals who needed glasses and visual health care for various potentially sight-threatening ocular conditions. As a student stated, "It

was like having a year of clinic in one week." One of the most rewarding aspects was being able to provide a simple pair of glasses to allow the patients to see the world clearer.

The trip served as an opportunity to practice skills like direct ophthalmoscopy and lens-rack retinoscopy and learn how to assess and treat disease. The students were exposed to a number of eye diseases, including glaucoma, diabetic and hypertensive retinopathy, and CRVO. They also witnessed conditions such as band keratopathy and traumatic 8-ball hyphema. Due to poor access to quality care, a large number of patients had vision loss from these conditions.

The medical outreach trip was not all work, however, as there was time allotted for seeing some of the beautiful areas in Jamaica. The students went to Mystic Mountain, where the team zip lined, swam, and bobsledded through the hills of Jamaica. The trip was a very rewarding experience and one that each team member looks forward to doing again.



2

2. (Top row from left) Dr. Sherrol Reynolds, Janella Lutchman, Nicole Ardura, Jay Harrelson, Caleb Saint Jean, and Dr. Leon Nehmad. (Middle row from left) Kaitlyn Kelley, Naomi Clay, Angela Diamantakos, and Mary Ellen Teclaw. (Bottom row from left) Dr. Noel Henry, Melicia Puskas, LPN, Karen Boza, LDO, and Allison Boza.

Jamaica – FCO



Jamaica – NOSA



CLUB UPDATES

**NOPMA**

*By Sophie Robinson (Class of 2016), NOPMA President*

NSU's Optometric Practice Management Association's (NOPMA) mission is to provide an education in the business aspects of the profession, to inspire students to find ways to accomplish their professional goals, and to help them make the transition from the textbook and clinical education to the real world of optometry. This year, the NOPMA continued to bring in well-known optometrists and speakers from all over the United States to speak to our students on various topics ranging from building your office culture to designing your optical business. We continued to have our dining with doctors' event twice a semester and invite 10 active club members to spend more one-on-one time with a distinguished doctor at dinner and to get any questions they have answered. We proudly continue to be the club with the highest number of students at NSU's College of Optometry as we reached over 130 members in 2014.

**BSK**

*By Sophie Robinson (Class of 2016), BSK President*

The mission of the Beta Sigma Kappa (BSK) Honor Society is to stimulate scientific attainment, academic excellence, and the ethical practice of optometry and to promote and provide financial support for worthy research projects relating to vision care. In 2014, BSK welcomed 36 new members into the club. Our induction dinner was held at the Bimini Boatyard Bar & Grill in Fort Lauderdale to celebrate the success of our new members. In addition, BSK held its annual Lighthouse of Broward fundraising event at Public House in January to help raise money and support the local community.



# THE JOURNEY FROM ATHLETES TO ASPIRING OPTOMETRISTS

By Michelle Merida, Manager of Marketing Services



**STEPHANIE SAROSI**  
CLASS OF 2016

Roaming the halls of NSUCO at a towering six-feet, five-inches, it should be no surprise that prior to enrolling in optometry school, Stephanie Sarosi was a star player on the NSU women's basketball team. Sarosi admitted, however, that her initial involvement in sports was actually not in basketball but soccer, which she played for nearly seven years.

At the age of 10, her height began to attract plenty of attention. As a result, she was introduced to basketball by two men who wanted her to participate in a tournament. Her deep interest and love for the sport kicked off in middle school, where she began playing full time. Later, Sarosi, who graduated from NSU in 2011 with a dual Bachelor of Science degree in Biology and Exercise and Sport Science, would be coached in the varsity basketball team at Astronaut High School in Titusville by the very two men who introduced her to the game.

As a college freshman, Sarosi enrolled in the University of South Florida (USF), a Division I school. The USF Web site describes her as "The highest-ranked player ever signed at USF" since she was classified as the 6<sup>th</sup> best center and the 34<sup>th</sup> best player in America as a high school junior by the *All-Star Girls Report*. But her dreams of becoming an optometrist led her to transfer to NSU—a Division II school—which is the sole optometry school in Florida.

Some of her successes include becoming NSU's first Player of the Year in the Sunshine State Conference (SSC), the tournament's most outstanding player in 2008, and a four-time SSC Player of the Week in 2011, which is an honor she has received 11 times in her playing career.

Sarosi's coaches believed she had the potential to play in the Women's National Basketball Association; however, her fascination with the eye, which stems from her experience with dissecting a cow eye in the 11<sup>th</sup> grade, led her to end her basketball career after her senior year. She describes winning the conference championship as the greatest moment in her athletic journey.



**MIRANDA RANIERI**  
CLASS OF 2016

Miranda Ranieri, a former elite squash player at Yale University turned world-class squash professional, was born just outside of Toronto in Waterloo, Ontario. Ranieri was introduced to squash at a young age by her parents, who had a genuine love for the sport. She played several sports while growing up and throughout high school, including basketball, volleyball, soccer, and badminton. Her heart, however, was with squash, which explained why many great opportunities were presented to her throughout her life that kept her playing long-term.

Ranieri's athletic career includes some notable accomplishments such as the Betty Richey Award in 2008, which is awarded to the league MVP, three-time Senior Canadian National Champion in May of 2010, 2011, and 2012, Athlete of the Year in the Kitchener, Waterloo, and Cambridge Region in 2012, and competing in the Pan American Games on Team Canada, achieving one gold and two bronze medals.

In fact, many of her greatest moments occurred while she was traveling with Team Canada and on the Yale University squash team. According to Ranieri, the highlight of her squash career took place in October 2011 when Team Canada won the gold medal at the Pan American Games in Guadalajara, Mexico. "It was great sharing that experience with my teammates," she proclaimed.

Prior to graduating from Yale University with a Bachelor of Science in Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology, Ranieri had harbored a desire to enter a profession in the health care field, including optometry, which she was introduced to while shadowing an optometrist from Waterloo. She was specifically fond of the fact that being an optometrist would allow her to interact with patients and make a difference in their lives.

After graduating from NSUCO in 2016, Ranieri has aspirations of establishing a practice in Canada so she can be near her loved ones. Because she has fallen in love with Florida, however, she is contemplating making it her permanent home. Luckily, she has time to decide before committing to a decision prior to her May 2016 graduation.



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## NSU College of Optometry Celebrates

# 25 Years

## OF EDUCATION, SCHOLARSHIP, AND SERVICE

By Michelle Merida, Manager of Marketing Services

The NSU College of Optometry held its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration on September 13 at the Alvin Sherman Library where nearly 300 guests were greeted by a winged performer and an aerialist as they stepped onto the red carpet to have their photographs taken. Aerial drummers astonished guests as they put on a brilliant performance while they dangled 30 feet in the air, and a jazz-fusion band and singer kept the celebration going throughout the night.

For guests who preferred a more serene area, a harpist kept the mood calm in the second-floor gallery. As guests roamed around, they were entertained by a silver anniversary statue and had the opportunity to sample exquisite culinary treats such as a carving station, a seafood martini station, a sushi station, a Mediterranean tapas station, and much more.

The College of Optometry would like to express gratitude to our dean, Dr. David Loshin, our event sponsors, and event committee members Michael Bacigalupi, O.D., M.S., FFAO, Fran Franconeri, Michelle Levin, O.D., FFAO, Rachel Snell, and Michelle Merida.

**1.** Joseph Sowka, O.D., FFAO, Diplomate, professor of optometry, Lori Vollmer, O.D., FFAO, associate professor of optometry, Barry J. Frauens, O.D., FFAO, Diplomate, associate professor of optometry, and wife Danette Frauens, M.I.B.A., J.D., sales manager, Humana. **2.** Albert J. Miniaci, NSU trustee, and wife, Beatriz. **3.** Dr. Loshin, Jacqueline A. Travisano, M.B.A., CPA, NSU executive vice president and chief operating officer, and Dr. Michael Bacigalupi. **4.** Emilio Balias, O.D., FFAO, clinic director and consultative optometrist, Aran Eye Associates, Dr. Loshin, Alberto Aran, M.D., medical director, Aran Eye Associates, Ralph V. Rogers, Jr., Ph.D., NSU provost and executive vice president for academic affairs. **5.** Irving Rosenbaum, D.P.A., Ed.D., M.P.A., provost and executive dean of the NSU Health Professions Division, Dr. Deziel, and Adolfo J. Cotilla, Jr., AIA, president, ACAI Associates, Inc. **6.** Joseph Sowka, O.D., FFAO, Diplomate, professor of optometry, Gil Epstein, M.D., FACS, Fort Lauderdale Eye Institute, and Wayne Bizer, D.O., FAOCO, Fort Lauderdale Eye Institute.

# 25<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY







# NSUCO TIMELINE

1989 – Southeastern University of the Health Sciences in North Miami Beach opened the first college of optometry in the state of Florida. The college was directed by Stewart Abel, O.D., dean, Lester Janoff, O.D., associate dean, Roland Gaudett, O.D., associate dean, and Howard Purcell, O.D., assistant dean. The original four faculty members were Bob Gilliam, O.D., Manuel Bergman, O.D., Martha McKay, O.D., and Wanda Abel, O.D.

1993 – Southeastern University College of Optometry graduated its first class of 27 students—17 men and 10 women.

1994 – Southeastern University of the Health Sciences merged with Nova University in Davie to create Nova Southeastern University.

1995 – Terrance “Terry” Ingraham, O.D., served as the interim NSUCO dean.

1996 – Classrooms, laboratories, and faculty offices moved to the new \$60 million Health Professions Division complex on the NSU main

campus in Davie. As a result, state-of-the-art equipment and modern classrooms transformed the learning experience. Additionally, a second location for the patient care clinics was opened on the main campus.

1997 – David S. Loshin, O.D., Ph.D., FAAO, Diplomate joined the college as dean. Previously, Dr. Loshin had served as dean of the University of Missouri St. Louis College of Optometry and as assistant dean at the University of Houston College of Optometry. Prior to becoming assistant dean at the University of Houston in 1992, he served as a faculty member since 1977.

1998 – Paul Abplanalp, O.D., Ph.D., joined the college as the associate dean of academic affairs.

2005 – The Accreditation Council on Optometric Education evaluated the entire professional program at NSUCO and made “no recommendations,” providing the college with the longest possible accreditation.

Linda S. Rouse, O.D., FAAO, was appointed chief operations officer of The Eye Care Institute.

2006 – The inaugural issue of *The Visionary* was published.

2007 – The Eye Institute, NSUCO's patient care clinic, became The Eye Care Institute in order to better portray its mission of providing high-quality, cutting-edge eye care to patients and providing ultramodern facilities for its student doctors to learn and prosper.

The Optical Service at Davie was remodeled, which was made possible due to the generous contributions of Marchon Eyewear, EyeDesigns, and Essilor. In addition, a larger selection of frames and lens options were presented for patients.

The practice management software NextGen was implemented in NSUCO clinics along with EPM and OPTIK.

2008 – Michael Bacigalupi, O.D., M.S., FAAO, was appointed assistant dean of academic affairs.

The electronic medical record (EMR) module becomes a reality at NSUCO. In fact, The Eye Care Institute became the first of 10 university health care practices to use this system, which translated patients' paper medical records into an electronic format.

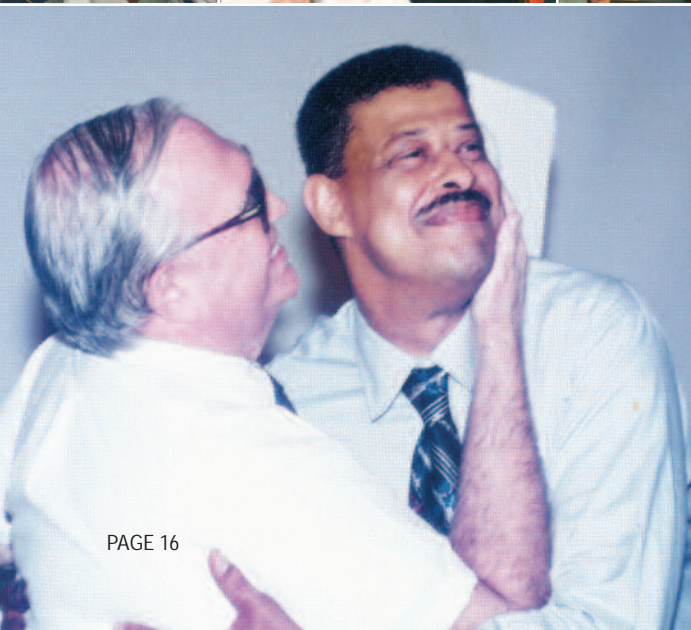
The Eye Care Institute coordinated its inaugural Optical Style Show.

2009 – The Neuro-Optometric Visual Rehabilitation Service opened, which focuses on visual problems associated with head injuries and strokes.

2010 – Josephine Shallo-Hoffman, Ph.D., FAAO, was appointed associate dean for academic affairs.

2011 – The official grand opening and ribbon-cutting ceremony was held for the college's fifth patient care location—The Eye Care Institute at Kids In Distress (KID).

2013 – NSUCO fully accredited by ASCO until 2020.



## YESTERDAY

The College of Optometry—the third college of what was then known as Southeastern University of the Health Sciences—admitted its inaugural class in 1989. It was, and still remains, the only college of optometry in the state of Florida. Stuart Abel, O.D., the founding dean, led the original program, which was based in North Miami Beach and had 27 entering students. The program received its full accreditation after the first graduating class in 1993. One year after the merger of Southeastern University of the Health Sciences with Nova University in 1994, the College of Optometry moved to its current location on the Davie campus. The current dean, Dr. David Loshin, was appointed in 1997.

## TODAY

Today, the College of Optometry has 425 students with 100 faculty and staff members serving more than 32,000 patients annually. In addition to the Doctor of Optometry program, the college offers a Master of Science in Clinical Vision Research. The college also has three special programs that were created under Dr. Loshin's tenure: the Preparatory Optometry Program (POP) in collaboration with the Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences; the Extended Program; and the Mini-M.B.A. for Optometrists in conjunction with the H. Wayne Huizenga School of Business and Entrepreneurship. Because the college prides itself on being educationally progressive, these programs are the only ones of their type in the nation.

The Eye Care Institute (TECI) at NSU currently operates five sites in Davie, North Miami Beach, Fort Lauderdale, Lighthouse of Broward County, and Kids In Distress. The diversity of patient populations, quality optometric services, cutting-edge technology, and outstanding faculty members provide our students with clinical training that is second to none. Clinical excellence continues to be our strength and the long-term goal of the program. Additionally, the college continues to provide all of our students with experience in primary care, binocular vision, pediatrics, contact lenses, low vision, glaucoma, diabetes, retina, and electrodiagnostics.

NSUCO's residency programs continue to grow in size, quality, and national reputation. Currently, the College of Optometry oversees 30 accredited residency programs across the country, including the eight college-based positions in advanced clinical training in primary optometric care with exposure to a specialized sub-discipline.

In 2012, following an in-depth onsite visit, the Accreditation Council on Optometric Education approved full accreditation for the college through the year 2020. Another show of strength is illustrated in the fact that the college has fostered a number of international relationships, beginning with externships with the Tianjin Medical University in China and since extending to universities in Colombia, Spain, and Guyana.

Our optometry students continue to excel with national average passage rates for all three parts of the NBEO examinations that exceed the national level. Admission standards remain high as the College of Optom-

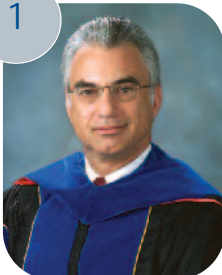
etry strives to only admit highly qualified applicants. More than 1,050 applicants annually choose to apply for 1 of our 100 seats at NSU's College of Optometry. In addition, scholarship opportunities have grown within recent years, helping us attract the best and brightest applicants from 40 states, Canada, Jamaica, Guyana, and China.

## TOMORROW

Clinical excellence remains the driving force for the optometry professional degree program, with standards for admission remaining high. The college is continually assessing its programs for modifications that could enhance both didactic and clinical learning, and we interact with students through the latest social media tools and by visiting pre-optometry/health clubs throughout Florida, the United States, and Canada. The college also is working to engage all 1,700-plus alumni to grow our community of NSU optometrists.

Our faculty members will continue to embrace the technological advances in education by teaching and testing online and using iPad and touchscreens to present educational material. Similarly, TECI continues its utilization of electronic health records and state-of-the-art equipment, and research is being conducted on many fronts including contact lenses in youth, autism and special populations, e-readers for geriatric and low-vision patients, and many more. The College of Optometry looks forward to a progressive interdisciplinary environment where education and technology work to improve the students and the patients we serve.

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## PAST AND PRESENT Dean's Remarks

### 1. DAVID S. LOSHIN, O.D., PH.D., FAAO, DIPLOMATE

"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. We are very proud of the foundation of clinical excellence we have built and look forward to a bright future. We know that we educate and train some of the finest optometric physicians in the world—and their work defines our success."

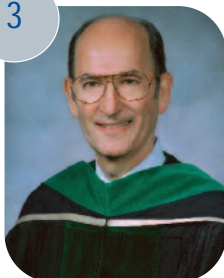
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### 2. TERRANCE N. INGRAHAM, O.D., M.B.A.

"Patients enter your office seeking your expertise and skill. Remember to treat each and every one of them with the care, guidance, and professionalism instilled in you during your career as a student at Nova Southeastern University's College of Optometry."

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### 3. STEWART ABEL, O.D.

"One of man's most precious gifts is sight. Optometry is an expanding profession that offers many career opportunities to those willing to study, work hard, and assume the responsibilities of a primary health care professional."

# THE EVOLUTION OF THE EYE CARE INSTITUTE

The Eye Care Institute (TECI) provides NSUCO students with hands-on training in all clinical areas, including primary care, cornea and contact lens, low vision, pediatric and binocular vision, glaucoma, diabetes and macular disease, visual electrodiagnostics, geriatrics, autism/neuro optometry, ocular nutrition, and optical services.

Throughout the years, we have expanded from one patient care clinic in North Miami Beach to five ultramodern facilities providing vision care to underserved populations and the general community in Miami-Dade and Broward counties. In the summer of 1996, the second patient care clinic opened its doors in the new Health Professions Division complex located in Davie. Additional locations in Broward County followed such as the clinic located on Broward Boulevard in the Specialty Care Center and the clinic in the Lighthouse of Broward County. The Lighthouse of Broward County partnered with NSUCO to provide comprehensive low-vision exams by trained NSU faculty members supervising fourth-year students.

In 2007, many exciting changes transpired. For starters, The Eye Institute became The Eye Care Institute in order to better portray our mission of offering high-quality, cutting-edge eye care to our

patients and providing contemporary facilities for our student doctors to learn and prosper. Additionally, the Optical Service at Davie was remodeled, which was made possible due to the generous contributions of Marchon Eyewear, EyeDesigns, and Essilor. In addition, a larger selection of frames and lens options was showcased for our patients. Lastly, our practice management software, NextGen, was implemented along with EPM and OPTIK. This software enhanced patient care and student doctors' experiences by improving continuity of care.

The electronic medical record (EMR) module went live the following year on March 25, 2008. In actuality, The Eye Care Institute was the first of 10 university health care practices to use this system that translated patients' paper medical records into an electronic format. Another exciting milestone reached by The Eye Care Institute in 2008 was the inaugural Optical Style Show, which featured a full collection of sunglasses and frames from Coach, Fendi, Nike, Calvin Klein, Sean John, Michael Kors, Karl Lagerfeld, Nautica, and Disney. A portion of the proceeds was set aside to provide eye examinations and glasses at three local elementary schools requesting assistance. In 2009, TECI implemented the Neuro-Optometric Visual

Rehabilitation Service, which focused on visual problems associated with head injuries and strokes.

The official grand opening and ribbon-cutting ceremony at our fifth patient care location—The Eye Care Institute at Kids In Distress—was held on March 1, 2011. This location is the product of a partnership between NSU and Kids In Distress in an effort to provide health care access to underserved children in the community. In November 2010, third- and fourth-year NSUCO students, under the supervision of resident doctors, faculty members, and the chief of service, Erin Jenewein, O.D., M.S., FAAO, began examining patients. This clinic is primarily funded by grants that help cover the expenses of vision services for those who require assistance and do not have insurance. Because many of these children have never even had a comprehensive vision examination, the clinic provides our students with unmeasurable experience.

Currently, TECI has four locations throughout Broward County and one in Miami-Dade. The patient care clinics serve as a vital source of learning for our students as well as a major asset to the members of the community who are receiving eye care from the professionals who teach it.



1. ZIFF HEALTH CARE CENTER, Davie 2. LIGHTHOUSE OF BROWARD COUNTY, Fort Lauderdale



# SERVICES



## PRIMARY EYE CARE

The Primary Eye Care Service provides comprehensive eye care using ultramodern technology and is designed to meet the ocular and visual needs of patients 13 years of age and older.

## CORNEA AND CONTACT LENS SERVICE

The Cornea and Contact Lens Service provides comprehensive examinations for contact lens fittings and follow-ups. It also provides specialty contact lens fitting and pre- and postoperative co-management.

## LOW VISION REHABILITATION

The Low Vision Rehabilitation Service evaluates and manages visually impaired individuals to provide the best use of residual vision. In this service, we prescribe and demonstrate special optical devices and provide patient education.

## PEDIATRIC AND BINOCULAR VISION

The Pediatric and Binocular Vision Service provides comprehensive vision care for infants and children up to 12 years of age. In this service, we evaluate and manage individuals of any age with binocular vision disorders, strabismus, amblyopia, and problems related to visual perception and processing. Additionally, perceptual and vision therapy services are provided.

## CENTER FOR ADVANCED EYE CARE AND SPECIALTY TESTING

The Center for Advanced Eye Care and Specialty Testing is a multispecialty service designed to accommodate patients with advanced ocular diseases and those requiring special diagnostic testing. This center includes the glaucoma, diabetes and macular disease, visual electrodiagnostics, and 24-hour emergency eye care services.

## OCULAR NUTRITION SERVICE

The Ocular Nutrition Service integrates the latest research regarding nutrition, supplements, and eye health. We offer full-scope eye exams, along with in-depth analysis of nutritional status, to develop a personalized nutrition and lifestyle plan designed to optimize ocular and visual wellness.

## AUTISM/NEURO-OPTOMETRIC VISION REHABILITATION SERVICE

The Autism/Neuro-Optometric Vision Rehabilitation Service evaluates and manages patients with brain injury, autism, and other neurological deficits. It also provides visual rehabilitative therapy.

## OPTICAL SERVICES

The Optical Service offers a large selection of affordable and designer frames to meet all eyewear needs for children and adults.



3. SPECIALTY CARE CENTER, Fort Lauderdale  
 4. NSU HEALTH CARE CENTER, North Miami Beach  
 5. KIDS IN DISTRESS, Wilton Manors



# NSU Overview



Dr. Lippman (center) on the set of *Dateline Health*.

## ***Dateline Health* Wins Telly Award**

In June, the HPD's community service TV program *Dateline Health* was named a People's Telly Silver winner in the 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Telly Awards for its program entitled "Joint Preservation and Pain Management." *Dateline Health* is a 30-minute program dedicated to promoting the community's overall health and well-being that covers a wide range of contemporary health care issues through interviews with health care experts, researchers, and policymakers.

This was *Dateline Health's* fourth Telly Award, having received two in 2008 and another in 2012. The winning episode featured host Frederick Lippman, R.Ph., Ed.D., HPD chancellor, interviewing physicians from Holy Cross Hospital in Fort Lauderdale on topics ranging from joint preservation and the harmful effects of opioids to new treatment options for mitigating pain.

The Telly Awards was founded in 1979 and is the premier award honoring outstanding local, regional, and cable TV commercials and programs, the finest video and film productions, and online commercials, video, and films. Winners represent the best work of the most respected advertising agencies, production companies, television stations, cable operators, and corporate video departments worldwide. This year, nearly 12,000 entries were received from all 50 states and numerous countries.

## **NSU Receives \$2.85 Million Grant from U.S. Department of Education**

NSU was awarded a \$2.85 million Post-Baccalaureate Opportunities for Hispanic Americans grant from the U.S. Department of Education's Title V program. The grant, led by NSU's Gregory Simco, Ph.D., and Meline Kevorkian, Ed.D., who serve as co-administrators of the grant, will be used to expand post-baccalaureate educational opportunities and post-baccalaureate academic offerings for Hispanic college students and students from ethnically diverse populations who are attending institutions of higher education.

As our technology-driven society becomes increasingly complex, an advanced degree has become an expectation for many competitive and financially rewarding computer science positions. When compared to overall population diversity, however, the number and proportion of Hispanic/Latinos seeking and earning graduate degrees, especially in fields related to the computer sciences, remains sorely lacking.



Because NSU serves as an Hispanic-Serving Institution (HSI) as defined by the U.S. Department of Education, the grant will allow Hispanic and Latino students at NSU—as well as students from other underrepresented populations—to benefit from sustainable changes to curriculum content and instructional approaches. Students will also benefit from an expanded support model that identifies and effectively addresses student needs upon admission through graduation.

The U.S. Department of Education's Title V program provides grants to assist HSIs to expand educational opportunities for, and improve the attainment of, Hispanic students. These grants also enable HSIs to expand and enhance their academic offerings, program quality, and institutional stability.

### **NSU Opens Regional Campus in Puerto Rico**

NSU reconfirmed its commitment to Puerto Rico with the grand opening of a new regional campus in San Juan, which represents an expansion of its educational offerings and also provides increased opportunities for students university-wide. A ribbon-cutting ceremony was held at the campus on August 28 to celebrate the opening of a new four-story, state-of-the-art building that will be offering master's and doctoral degrees in pharmacy

and education at the campus located in San Juan's Professional Offices Park IV.

It is estimated that the regional campus will have a \$27 million economic impact on the island this fiscal year. NSU has additional regional campuses in Miami, Miramar, Fort Myers, Palm Beach, Orlando, Tampa and Jacksonville.

### **NSU Oceanographic Researchers Receive Nearly \$8.5 Million for Oil-Spill Research**

NSU's Oceanographic Center is home to some of the world's top marine biology and ocean ecosystem researchers and experts. Now, those research efforts are being given a boost thanks to a financial award from the Gulf of Mexico Research Initiative. NSU is one of just 12 organizations selected to receive a portion of the \$140 million allocated for continued research in the area of oil spills and how we respond to them.

The NSU-led research consortium, titled Deep-Pelagic Nekton Dynamics of the Gulf of Mexico (DEEP-END), will focus on the pelagic (open ocean) realm, from the surface to depths of over one mile, which is by far the largest ecosystem component of the Gulf of Mexico. The consortium will examine the biological communities of the deep Gulf with respect to space and time, using

a variety of techniques, and relate these findings to disturbances both natural and human-made in order to understand the short- and long-term consequences of such events on the health of the Gulf.

### **College of Osteopathic Medicine Receives \$1.95 Million Grant to Investigate CFS/ME**

Mary Ann Fletcher, Ph.D., Schemel Professor for the Institute for Neuro-Immune Medicine at NSU's College of Osteopathic Medicine, and her research team were awarded a \$1.95 million grant from the National Institutes of Health (NIH)/National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke to study complex biomarkers of chronic fatigue syndrome/myalgic encephalomyelitis (CFS/ME) in men.

Dr. Fletcher and her team will combine the findings from this 100 percent federally funded four-year study with data the team previously compiled from its other sponsored programs in Gulf War Illness, a related neuro-immune disorder. Grants for these four studies total nearly \$10 million and have been funded by the U.S. Department of Defense, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, and the NIH. Men between the ages of 18 and 75 who are interested in enrolling in the study can call (305) 275-5450.



*Pictured at the ribbon-cutting ceremony (from left) are: Winel Segara, NSU College of Pharmacy student; Andrés Malavé, Ph.D., executive director of NSU's Puerto Rico Regional Campus in San Juan; George L. Hanbury II, Ph.D., NSU president and CEO; Jacqueline Travisano, M.B.A., CPA, NSU executive vice president and chief operating officer; and Alexis-Morales-Fresse, NSU Abraham S. Fischler School of Education student.*



*Dr. Fletcher*



LOSHIN



FRAUENS

## DR. DAVID LOSHIN HONORED as Ed Walker Optometrist of the Decade

David S. Loshin, O.D., Ph.D., FAAO, Diplomate, NSUCO dean, was honored as the Ed Walker Optometrist of the Decade at the Florida Optometric Association (FOA) Annual Convention, which was held July 24-27 at the Boca Raton Resort & Club in Boca Raton. Dr. Loshin currently serves on the FOA Board of Trustees as the NSU board liaison.

In his role as NSUCO dean, Dr. Loshin has been instrumental in developing creative programs, including the Optometry Extended Program, the Preliminary Optometry Program, and a completely online Master of Science in Clinical Vision Research. Under his leadership, The Eye Care Institute—the clinical arm of the professional program—has grown with the most advanced instrumentation and utilization of electronic medical records.

## DR. BARRY FRAUENS Installed as FOA President

Barry Frauens, O.D., FAAO, Diplomate, associate professor and chair of the Department of Clinics, was installed as president of the Florida Optometric Association (FOA) at its annual convention held July 24-27. "Before us lies a magnificent opportunity to provide greater access to eye care for our patients throughout the state," Dr. Frauens said.

The mission of the Florida Optometric Association (FOA) is to advance and promote the quality, availability, accessibility of primary eye care and related health care of Florida's citizens; to represent the profession of optometry; to enhance and promote the independent and ethical decision-making of its members; and to assist and enable optometric physicians to practice their profession so as to ensure the highest standards of patient care.

As president, Dr. Frauens is the official representative of the association in its contact with governmental, civic, business, and other professional organizations and represents the Florida Optometric Association at the Annual Congress of the American Optometric Association and at the SECO (South Eastern Congress of Optometry) International conference. He presides at all annual and special meetings of the association, and at all meetings of the FOA Board of Trustees and the Regional Board of Directors. Additionally, he appoints all committees and serves as a member of all committees except the Nominating Committee and assigns members of the Board of Trustees as liaison officers to the affiliated local societies.

**Michael Bacigalupi, O.D., M.S., FAAO**, associate dean of academic affairs, wrote an article entitled "Keep the Passion for Practicing" that was featured in the Special Edition 2014 issue of *Optometric Management* magazine.

**Barry Frauens, O.D., FAAO, Diplomate**, associate professor and chair of the Department of Clinics, was quoted in an article entitled "A Look Toward Healthy Eyes" that was published in the *Tallahassee Democrat*.

**Janet L. Leasher, O.D., M.P.H., FAAO**, associate professor, had her article entitled "4 Steps to Get Involved in Your Local Community" published in the November/December issue of *AOA Focus*. She also received the 2014 Outstanding Scientific Paper Award in November from the American Public Health Association Vision Care Section and represented NSUCO at the ASCO-ALDOO Meeting of Deans and Directors of Schools of Optometry from both North and South America and the Caribbean at the University of the West Indies in Trinidad and Tobago.

**Joseph Pizzimenti, O.D., FAAO**, associate professor, wrote an article entitled "Diabetic Eye Disease" for the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Guide to Retinal Disease issue of *Review of Optometry* magazine.

**Kimberly K. Reed, O.D., FAAO**, associate professor, wrote an entitled article "Why I Care About Nutrition" that was featured in the Special Edition 2014 issue of *Optometric Management* magazine.

**Sherrol A. Reynolds, O.D., FAAO**, associate professor, presented a lecture with Susan Gromacki, O.D., regarding the "Role of Female Optometrists on Today's Practice" at the National Optometric Association Convention in July.

**Bin Zhang, M.D., Ph.D.**, associate professor, was awarded the 2013-14 NSUCO Professor of the Year Award in recognition of his significant contributions to research and scholarship and exceptional instruction.

In July 2014, an informative video segment was filmed highlighting The Eye Care Institute at NSU for WPBT's (PBS) VPK KidVision. This series, hosted by Miss Penny, a former NSU Mailman Segal Center for Human Development instructor, informs children around the age of four about various life experiences, such as visiting an eye doctor. The series is provided to VPK teachers throughout Florida and is also available online. This segment included **Yin Tea, O.D., FAAO**, chief of pediatric optometry, and Alicia Andrade Groce, O.D., as well as Richard Perez, patient access coordinator, and Aleem Ali, optician.



BACIGALUPI



FRAUENS



PIZZIMENTI



REED



REYNOLDS



ZHANG



TEA



Dr. Leasher (second row, far left) with representatives from the United States, Puerto Rico, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Costa Rica, Chile, Uruguay, Argentina, Guyana, and Trinidad and Tobago.

## Spotlight on NEW FACULTY MEMBERS

By Michelle Merida, Manager of Marketing Services



ABDOU

### MARIEM ABDOU, O.D.

Dr. Abdou received her bachelor's degree from the University of Delaware in 2009 and her optometry degree from the Pennsylvania College of Optometry at Salus University in 2013. Consecutively following graduation, she completed a residency at The Eye Institute of the Pennsylvania College of Optometry at Salus University.

She grew up in Binghamton, New York, and became interested in a career in optometry due to her own experience with glasses. "I began wearing glasses as a high myope by the age of seven," she explained. "It was incredible to me to see what a difference the world looked like through a pair of spectacles. The idea was magical and sparked an interest in this career field."

Currently, Dr. Abdou is an NSUCO instructor who specializes in primary care with an emphasis in ocular disease. After completing her residency, she became very interested in pursuing a career in academia. As far as what attracted her to NSUCO, Dr. Abdou said it was due to the "world-renowned faculty, state-of-the-art equipment, and upgraded facilities that would provide me the opportunity to grow and develop to my full career potential."

### KELLIE BASSION, O.D.

Dr. Bassion earned her bachelor's degree from the University of Central Florida in 2009 and her optometry degree from NSU's College of Optometry in 2013. Sequentially following graduation, she completed a residency at NSUCO.

She grew up in Central Florida and became interested in an optometric career during her high school years. Interestingly, she grew up on a farm, and when she was made aware that chickens roost at night because they can't see in the dark, curiosity struck and she had to know more. "I was hooked," she proclaimed.



BASSION

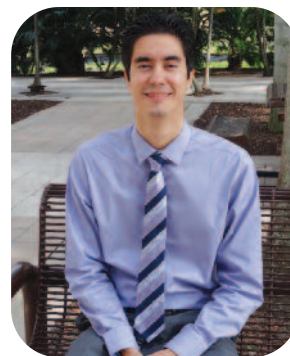
Dr. Bassion serves as an NSUCO instructor and specializes in low vision and geriatrics. Having spent the last five years at NSUCO, it was a fairly easy decision for Dr. Bassion when she had to choose what team she would join after completing her residency. "Everyone at NSUCO is so kind and knowledgeable, which makes it easy to want to work here," she stated. According to Dr. Bassion, her biggest reward is helping patients with low vision to achieve their goals.

### CHRISTIAN HERNANDEZ, O.D.

Dr. Hernandez, who grew up in Hialeah, Florida, received his undergraduate degree in Biological Sciences from Florida International University in 2008 and his Doctor of Optometry degree from NSUCO in 2013. He then completed his optometric residency training at NSUCO in 2014.

He became interested in pursuing a career in optometry during his first year at Florida International University. As part of a class assignment, he was required to look up any career other than what he was pursuing at the time. While searching for medical/health care jobs on the Department of Labor's Web site, he came across the description of an optometrist, which caught his interest. "Essentially, after realizing my own optometrist had a cool job that paid well and helped people, and asking her a bunch of questions, I never looked back" he explained.

Dr. Hernandez, who serves as an NSUCO instructor, specializes in primary care with an emphasis in cornea and contact lens. Having attended optometry school at NSUCO, he knew it was a great program with a stellar team of educators. "It simply felt right," said Dr. Hernandez, who feels fortunate to be a part of such an elite team, "I look up to all of these doctors for the education and training they have given me, and I'm



HERNANDEZ



JARKAS

### MAY JARKAS, O.D.

quite proud to say I can stand among them to pass it on to our current optometry students."

Dr. Jarkas, who was born in Lebanon and moved to Montreal, Canada, at the age of eight, became interested in pursuing a career in optometry when she was in college. In 2000, she received her undergraduate degree in Nature Science at Ahuntsic College in Montreal and earned her doctorate in optometry at the University of Montreal in 2006. Dr. Jarkas completed her residency training at NSUCO in 2014 and currently holds the rank of assistant professor. Her specialty is primary care with emphasis in ocular disease.

Dr. Jarkas acknowledges that what attracted her to NSUCO is its reputation, working in a clinic where she has access to advanced diagnostic equipment, exposure to a large, varied patient base, and working alongside skilled, leading professionals in the optometric field. "Interacting with these professionals is very inspiring and makes my career more fulfilling," Dr. Jarkas said. Additionally, she enjoys being in a position that promotes lifelong commitment to learning and values education through publications and lectures.

In terms of career highlights, Dr. Jarkas is extremely proud of her participation in humanitarian medical outreach trips to different parts of the world that have allowed her to provide much-needed eye care to underserved communities such as Peru, India, and Morocco. Additionally, she feels proud of having pursued a residency after practicing for several years. She references this as her second career highlight. Her greatest career reward, however, is making a difference by providing exceptional eye care to patients and contributing to the optometry field by mentoring students.





# FACULTY Q&A

with

Sherrol Reynolds, O.D., FAAO  
Associate Professor

Dr. Reynolds and her husband, Andre F. Ethridge, pictured at the College of Optometry's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration.

***What inspired you to pursue a career as an optometric physician?***

I've always wanted to pursue a career in the health field because I felt my purpose was to help others. I went to the University of Florida focused on being a pediatrician. In my final year, however, I started thinking about being an eye doctor because I had an aunt lose her vision to diabetes. After doing some research and speaking to my eye doctor, I felt I could make an impact by helping others stay healthy and preserve their vision by being an eye doctor.

Being an optometric physician has been a rewarding career. In addition to helping others maintain their sight and health, I'm proud to be an educator. Being part of the process of teaching and mentoring future optometrists as a member of the faculty at NSU has been fulfilling.

***What attracted you to NSUCO?***

I applied to NSU's College of Optometry when it was still a new program because it was a diverse multidisciplinary program that was the first of its kind amongst optometry schools. I had the opportunity to take courses with the medical, pharmacy, and dental students, and I met friends and colleagues from various professions that I still keep in contact with today. NSU also had a diverse and complex patient population, which allowed for the opportunity to see various ocular conditions.

***As a member of the National Optometric Association (NOA), you team up with underrepresented minority optometrists and students to encourage diversity in the profession and to better educate minority populations with poor access to eye health about the importance of early detection and timely treatment since they are at higher risk of developing sight-threatening conditions like glaucoma and diabetic eye disease. Please elaborate on your experience as an ambassador of this organization.***

The mission of the National Optometric Association is *Advancing the Visual Health of Minority Populations*. Minority patients are disproportionately more affected by various conditions that can lead to loss of vision. I believe that through education, community engagement, and outreach we can help to promote eye health and—more importantly—the systemic health of those patients. As the NOA continuing education director, I'm committed to helping the NOA in its mission.

I'm also the chairperson of the Florida Optometric Association Healthy Eye Healthy People Committee. The goal is to educate and promote visual health in accordance with the Healthy People 2020 initiative of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. I believe that diversity within the schools and profession of optometry is essential to decreasing the burden of vision loss and disability. I have served as the National Optometric Student Association (NOSA) faculty adviser for a number of years and act as a mentor and guide to the students as well as assist the group in organizing community outreach and education, particularly to minority populations.

***You help coordinate and participate in the annual NSU interdisciplinary medical outreach trip to Jamaica. What do you find is the biggest reward of these trips?***

The Jamaica medical outreach trip is an interdisciplinary international outreach endeavor that serves the poor and disadvantaged communities in Jamaica. I've had the opportunity to participate for over 10 years in these trips, which are both an educational and community service for our students and faculty members. We work alongside students and faculty members from osteopathic medicine, dental medicine, pharmacy, physical and occupational therapy, and nursing to provide care to thousands of underserved people. In addition to providing eyeglasses to hundreds of patients, the students encounter a number of ocular disease conditions.

***You are a mentor in the Women of Tomorrow (WOT) Mentor and Scholarship Program. Please elaborate on your role in the organization.***

Women of Tomorrow (WOT) is a mentoring program focused on helping at-risk girls in high school to realize their potential. I'm a mentor to about 20 girls at Dillard High School—a minority school in urban Fort Lauderdale. I meet monthly with the girls to discuss various topics such as interview etiquette/skills, peer pressure, and teen violence. The girls participate in field trips to local colleges and workshops on life-tool topics like financial planning. WOT also provides scholarships to local colleges and state universities. I've been fortunate to have a few girls win scholarships to start them on the road to success.

***What do you consider the greatest highlight of your career?***

There have been many highlights in my career. When a patient says to me, "You saved my life" with an early or prompt diagnosis, I know I've made the right career choice and that I made a difference. As an educator, I'm proud to be a part of the student success. In 2013, I was awarded the NOA Optometrist of the Year Award, which was important to me because it came from my peers. It highlighted that they recognized my passion and dedication to the optometric profession, helping others, and education.

***What advice do you have for current optometry students or those considering the profession?***

My advice to current and prospective optometry students is that as an optometrist, we're a vital part of the health care team. We can make a difference in our patients' visual and systemic health and save lives. I would also encourage them to remember to help others and give back.

### PUBLICATIONS

#### • Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

**Bittner AK.** Good Scientific Research Takes Time and Multiple Steps: Response to a letter to the editor. *Journal of Clinical and Experimental Optometry*. December 2014.

**Nehmad L.** Late Onset Cystoid Macular Edema Presents Diagnostic Challenge. *Journal of Clinical and Experimental Optometry*. September 2014.

**Rodman J, Shechtman D, Haines, K.** Acute Macular Neuroretinopathy: The Evolution of the Disease Through the Use of Newer Diagnostic Modalities. *Journal of Clinical and Experimental Optometry*. September 2014.

**Shechtman D, Besada E, Pizzimenti J.** Electrooculography and Optical Coherence Tomography Reveal Late-Onset Best Disease. *Optom Vis Sci*. September 2014. [Epub ahead of print].

**Sowka J, Vollmer L, Au M.** Atypical Retinal Vaso-Occlusion with Structural and Functional Resolution. *Optom Vis Sci*. October 2014. [Epub ahead of print].

**Zhang B.** Early Monocular Defocus Disrupts the Normal Development of Receptive-Field Structure in V2 Neurons of Macaque Monkeys. *The Journal of Neuroscience*. October 2014.

#### • Not Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

**Nehmad L.** Kinder, Gentler Topical Glaucoma Drops. *Advanced Ocular Care*. September 2014.

**Nehmad L.** The Effect of IOP on Clinicians' Perception of Glaucomatous Optic Neuropathy. *Optometric Education*. In press.

**Nehmad L, Reynolds S.** Interprofessional Education on a Mission. *Optometric Education*. In press.

**Reed K, Shechtman D.** AREDS2. *Primary Care Optometry News*. December 2014.

**Demeritt M, Shechtman D, Reynolds S.** Idiopathic Intracranial Hypertension (IIH): Review and Update. *Austin Journal of Clinical Ophthalmology*. September 2014.

**Shechtman D.** Diabetic Retinopathy: Optometrists' Role in Facilitating Detection, Disease Management, and Patient Awareness. *Primary Care Optometry News*. September 2014.

**Shechtman D.** Carotenoids for Ocular Health 2014. *Review of Optometry*. September 2014.

### LECTURE PRESENTATIONS

**Sowka J.** Topics: Glaucoma, Pharmacology, Neuro-Ophthalmic Disease, Anterior Segment Disease in Kilgore, Texas, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, Las Vegas, Nevada, Orlando, Florida, White Plains, New York City, New York, Baltimore, Maryland, and Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

**Sowka J, Frauens B, Nehmad L.** Glaucoma Update: Glaucoma Clinical Controversies. NSUCO.

**Sowka J, Frauens B, Nehmad L.** Glaucoma Update: Clinical Discussions in Glaucoma. NSUCO.

**Sowka J, Frauens B.** Clinical Discussions in Glaucoma. Hillsboro Society Optometry Meeting. Tampa, Florida.

**Sowka J, Frauens B.** Prevention of Medical Errors. Hillsboro Society Optometry Meeting. Tampa, Florida.

### INVITED RESEARCH PRESENTATIONS

**Bittner AK.** New Measures of Visual Function and Vascular Physiology in a Clinical Trial of Electrical Stimulation Therapies for Retinitis Pigmentosa. Emory Eye Center and Atlanta Veterans Affairs. October 2014.

**Zhang B.** The Neural Basis of Amblyopia. Tianjin Medical University Department of Ophthalmology. December 2014.

### HPD GRANTS

**Bi H.** Ocular Functional and Structural Evaluation in Hypothyroidism – \$5,000.

**Ziming L.** Ocular Sensory Dominance and Stereopsis – \$5,000.

**Zuopao Z.** Crowding in Simulated Monovision – \$5,000.

### NEWLY INITIATED RESEARCH PROJECTS

**Bittner AK.** Establishing a Normative Dataset for Retinal Blood Flow Measures in the Macular Capillaries and A Pilot Study of an Interventional Program to Reduce Visual Field Test Anxiety and Variability in Glaucoma and Retinitis Pigmentosa Patients.

**Zhang B, Bi H.** Quantification of the Relationship Among Ocular Dominance, Stereopsis, and Accommodative Response.

*Continued on the next page...*

# RESEARCH REVIEW

## Faculty Research and Scholarship Continued...

AAO 2014 – DENVER, COLORADO

### CONFERENCE PAPER

**Leasher J.** Global Vision Impairment and Blindness Due to Uncorrected Refractive Error: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis.

### LECTURE PRESENTATIONS

**Coulter S, Jenewein E.** The Imposter: Recognizing Ocular Disease in Kids.

**Jenewein E.** Pediatric Potpourri: What Every Primary Care O.D. Should Know.

**Reed K.** Ocular Nutrition SIG Symposium: Sugar – More Than Meets the Eye.

**Reed K.** Controversies in Nutrition: Sorting Through the Literature.

**Reed K.** Controversies of Recommending Omega 3 Fatty Acids.

**Reed K.** AMD From A to Z.

**Shechtman D.** Women: Are We at Risk for Vision Morbidity?

**Sowka J, Frauens B.** Florida Jurisprudence.

**Sowka J, Frauens B.** Prevention of Medical Errors.

**Tea Y.** Prescribing for the Hyperopic Child.

**Tea Y.** Introduction to Management of Accommodative and Vergence Disorders with Vision Therapy.

### POSTER PRESENTATIONS

**Bi H, Zhang B.** The Effect of Transient Glare on Shape Discrimination.

**Besada E, Frauens B, Shechtman D, Makhlof R, Rodman J.** Correlation of APD and SDOCT in Optic Neuropathy.

**Frauens B, Besada E.** Unilateral Transient High Myopia and Hypotony Following Mild Blunt Trauma.

**Leasher J.** (ASCO Cultural Competency Curriculum Guidelines Subcommittee). Evaluation of ASCO's Cultural Competency Curriculum Guidelines Implementation Workshops.

**Makhlof R, Rodman J, Jarkas M.** An Optical Coherence Tomography Study of Central Serous Chorioretinopathy with Subretinal Fibrinous Exudation in a Pregnant Patient.

**Nehmad L.** Assessment and Management of a Patient with Horizontal and Vertical Misalignment Following Monovision LASIK.

**Nehmad L, Crandall M, Bi H, Woods AD.** A Case of Retinal Pigmentary Changes Associated with Retained Bullet Fragments.

**Patterson N, Althoff J, Loshin D.** A Comparison of Portable Video Magnifiers.

**Rodman J, Makhlof R.** Bilateral Simultaneous Vitreomacular Traction.

**Shechtman D, Coulter S.** Multidisciplinary Approach in the Diagnosis and Management of Stargardt Disease.

**Vollmer L, Makhlof R.** Herpes Zoster Ophthalmicus in a Child.

**Wagner H.** Contact Lens Assessment in Youth (CLAY): Multi-Center Testing of a Risk Assessment Survey for Soft Contact Lens Wearers with Adverse Events.

**Wagner H.** Contact Lens Assessment in Youth (CLAY): Case-Control Pilot Study of Patients with Symptomatic Corneal Inflammatory Events.

*Please note that only NSUCO faculty members are listed above in relation to lectures, journal articles, presentations, etc., due to space constraints.*



## ALUMNI CHAPTER PRESIDENT MESSAGE

By Arnie Patrick, O.D., Assistant Professor  
President, NSUCO Alumni Chapter

It is my pleasure to again address you in this issue of *The Visionary*. On September 14, 2014, NSU's College of Optometry commemorated its silver anniversary in grand fashion at the Alvin Sherman Library. Nearly 300 alumni, administrators, faculty and staff members, and friends of the school joined together to celebrate 25 years of education, scholarship, and service.

A red carpet welcomed us to the event, where photographs were taken. Guests were then greeted by a winged performer and aerial drummers who played dizzily high overhead. As a New Yorker, I'm not easily impressed, but I have to admit this was special. A jazz fusion band kept the attendees dancing on the first floor, while a harpist on the second-floor gallery entertained those people who wanted a more relaxed experience. I'm told the food was great. Unfortunately, I didn't have any because I was so busy talking with former students. It was a delight to hear about the success of their practices, their marriages, and the birth of their children. In fact, I'm still recovering from the bear hug Bobby Sarivannara, O.D. (class of 2009) gave me.

In the dean's address to the assembled, Dr. David Loshin, reminded us about how far we've come from our humble beginnings as Southeastern University College of Optometry. As any graduate through the class of 1998 can tell you, the facilities in North Miami Beach weren't ideal. That's why those of us who were educated there truly appreciate our home in Davie.

However, NSUCO has always been more about its people than its facilities. Dr. Loshin acknowledged this by recognizing the instructors who've been around since the *old days* such as Drs. Stacey Coulter, Pamela Oliver, Joseph Sowka, and Dave Woods. Dr. Annette Bade and I shared a distant smile knowing that we were here before even they were—her as a member of the charter graduating class of 1993, and me a year later.

NSUCO has grown more in its first 25 years than anyone dared hope for in the beginning. Our classrooms and laboratory facilities are a match for any other school and, unlike other institutions that have only one clinical site, our students' patient experiences are enhanced because they rotate through four sites that serve distinctly different populations—Davie, North Miami Beach, Broward Boulevard, and Kids In Distress in Wilton Manors. We expect that in our next 25 years, we'll continue to exceed the expectations of our prospective students as well as the communities we serve.

As always, I encourage all alumni to support our future colleagues with scholarship gifts. Please remember that you can get the latest news about the school's upcoming events by visiting our Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/nsuoptometryalumnichapter](http://www.facebook.com/nsuoptometryalumnichapter).

## SAMANTHA FERNANDEZ RECEIVES ALUMNI CHAPTER SCHOLARSHIP



The College of Optometry Alumni Chapter recently awarded its fourth recipient of the Alumni Chapter Scholarship to first-year student Samantha Fernandez. The scholarship was established to support an incoming optometry student who has demonstrated academic success, a history of outstanding leadership experiences, and community service. It is a one-time award of \$1,000 that can be applied toward the student's optometric education-related costs.

Fernandez, who is from Miami, attended the University of Miami and received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Biology last May. In addition to her outstanding academic performance, she has been involved with various leadership and community service projects. She was a founder of the University of Miami Pre-Optometry Club, a hospital volunteer for the South Miami Hospital in the mother-baby unit, a member of the National Society of Collegiate Scholars, a member of Alpha Epsilon Delta, vice president of fund-raising for the Phi Beta Lambda business fraternity, and a member of Phi Theta Kappa.

Additionally, she earned second-place honors in the Phi Beta Lambda National Competition, was the recipient of the Dean's List Academic Achievement Award, and earned the President's Volunteer Service Award, which is presented each year to those who demonstrate commitment to the community through numerous hours of volunteer service.

The NSUCO Alumni Chapter would like to thank all our alumni for their past support and encourage future giving. Together, we can take the College of Optometry to new levels of excellence, so please consider giving to the Alumni Chapter Scholarship Fund at [www.nova.edu/giving](http://www.nova.edu/giving).

## DR. DAVID ELDRED HONORED with NSU Distinguished Alumni Achievement Award



Dr. Eldred pictured with his wife (left) and Linda S. Rouse, O.D., FAAO.

On November 13, NSUCO alumnus David Eldred, O.D. (class of 1997) was one of 17 outstanding graduates saluted at the NSU Distinguished Alumni Achievement Awards reception held at the Grande Oaks Golf Club in Davie.

The Distinguished Alumni Achievement Award, which is the highest and most prestigious honor NSU bestows upon its graduates, recognizes alumni who are changing lives and changing the world by demonstrating a record of distinguished service and extraordinary achievement in a particular profession, discipline, organization, or community cause. The award also pays tribute to alumni who have great pride for their alma mater and are committed to advancing NSU's values and goals.

Dr. Eldred is the owner and president of the Advanced Eye Care Clinic in Cheyenne, Wyoming, which he founded in 2010. He enjoys hospital privileges at Cheyenne Regional Medical Center, is a recognized speaker for CIBA/ALCON Pharmaceuticals, and serves as the correctional medical specialist optometrist for the Wyoming State Department of Corrections. He also is a state coordinator for the InfantSEE program and has worked with the Illinois College of Optometry, Pacific University College of Optometry, Ohio State University College of Optometry, and NSU's College of Optometry.

In addition to being a past president of the Wyoming Optometric Association, Dr. Eldred has served on the Cheyenne Laramie County Economic Development Joint Powers Board and the Cheyenne Quarterback Club for the University of Wyoming Athletics Department. He also has served as a member of the Board for Leadership Unlimited, Juvenile Diabetes Foundation, March of Dimes, and Cheyenne Young Professionals, among other organizations. Dr. Eldred also is an assistant soccer coach for Ohio State University, a head coach for a U16 boys' select soccer team, and club president for a U14 girls' competitive traveling soccer team.

"NSU and its faculty members were there to assist me in my education every step of the way, providing me with extra opportunities when I needed additional help," Dr. Eldred said. "They made the educational experience for me one that I will never forget. I believe they have a staff of educators that is truly world class."

## CLASS SPECS



BERKE-SILVA

**SARA BERKE-SILVA, O.D.** ('14), an NSUCO optometric resident, received the Dr. Lenny Cherdack Student Legislative Award at the Florida Optometric Association Annual Convention held July 24-27 in Boca Raton. This award recognizes the student who exhibits professional behavior consistent with the high ideals and moral ethics of organized optometry. It recognizes an individual who has demonstrated outstanding dedication to the profession, the Florida Optometric Association, and the legislative process, including representing the optometry field at the Florida Capital.



BRYANT

**KENNY BOYLE, O.D., FAAO** ('94) was named Optometrist of the Year at the Florida Optometric Association Annual Convention, which was held July 24-27 in Boca Raton.

**JILL BRYANT, O.D.** ('04) received the Young Optometrist of the Year Award and the John D. Robinson Clinical Excellence Award for 2014 from the North Carolina State Optometric Society. The Young Optometrist of the Year Award is presented to optometrists who have been in active practice for less than 10 years and have shown remarkable leadership skills when serving their profession, their patients, and their community. The John D. Roberson Clinical Excellence Award is given to a North Carolina optometrist who has exemplified excellence in the clinical practice of primary eye care and ophthalmic medicine.



COLLIER

**ROXANNE BUFFANO, O.D.** ('09) was named the 2014 Young Optometrist of the Year at the Florida Optometric Association Annual Convention, which was held July 24-27 in Boca Raton.



DINH

**CORY COLLIER, O.D.** ('14), an NSUCO optometric resident, won first place in the Contact Lens and Cornea Section Resident Writing Competition and had his article published as the featured article in the September American Optometric Association – Contact Lens and Cornea Section (AOA – CLCS) newsletter. This honor also granted Dr. Collier the opportunity to be among the 2014-15 CLCS resident writers.

**HONG-HANH DINH, O.D.** ('14), an NSUCO optometric resident, was awarded the COVD Annual Meeting Travel Grant, which is offered to encourage and support optometry student and resident participation at the meeting.



GROCE

**ALICIA GROCE, O.D.** ('14), an NSUCO optometric resident, was awarded the COVD Annual Meeting Travel Grant, which is offered to encourage and support optometry student and resident participation at the meeting.



LAW



ROCKMAN



ZOLMAN

JOHN ALBERT KAUDERMAN, JR., O.D. ('14) and ANNA FRANCES JAMES, O.D. ('13) were married on February 23 in St. Augustine, Florida.

CRISTINA LLERENA LAW, O.D., FAO ('06), a full-time faculty member at SUNY State College of Optometry, received a five-year National Institutes of Health K23 grant award for mentored patient-oriented research career development to study "Visual Neuroplasticity in Adult Amblyopia." She also was named the 2014 Mike Daley William C. Ezell Fellow by the American Optometric Foundation and American Academy of Optometry for her work in this area.

AMANDA ZELLER MANLEY, O.D., FCOVD ('03), and her husband, Joseph, welcomed a second child on June 19 when their daughter Olivia Claire was born, joining two-year-old son David Bear.

DUANE MOHON, O.D. ('98) was featured in *Focus* magazine as a nominee for the AOA's 2014 Optometrist of the Year. He was also named the Alabama Optometric Association's Optometrist of the Year.

MICHAEL MULL, O.D. ('09) was featured in the Montgomery, Alabama, magazine titled *RSVP* as part of "The LIST," which honors young professionals and business leaders who bring culture and energy to the area.

JUDY NGUYEN, O.D. ('10) and Daniel Thunnissen, Ph.D., were married on November 8 at Caltech's faculty club, the Athenaeum, in Pasadena, California.

JAKE ROCKMAN, O.D. ('14) was interviewed by *D'Latinos*, a local Univision news station, regarding diabetes and vision in a Spanish segment titled "La diabetes y la vista, entrevista con el Dr. Jake Rockman."

SUSAN LORRAINE TRAN, O.D. ('10) and Sonny Stuart Rull III married on December 6 at The Loft on Pine in the heart of downtown Long Beach, California.

JENNIE SMITH ZOLMAN, O.D., FCOVD ('06) was elected vice president of the South Carolina Optometric Physicians Association.

MICHAEL ZOLMAN, O.D. ('06) was elected to serve as director of the South Carolina Optometric Physicians Association and was named the 2014 South Carolina Young Optometrist of Year.



ZOLMAN



MANLEY



TRAN



NGUYEN



THE KAUDERMANS

Please share your alumni news with us by emailing your information and photos to Michelle Merida at [mm2094@nova.edu](mailto:mm2094@nova.edu).

# In Memoriam

## Dana King-Smith, O.D.

Dr. Smith ('07) passed away on September 10 at the age of 36 after losing a courageous battle with cancer. Dr. King-Smith received a bachelor's degree in Psychology from the University of Alabama and earned her Doctorate in Optometry from NSUCO. She owned and operated Elite Vision in Headland, Alabama, and will be greatly missed by her classmates, colleagues, and patients. She is survived by her husband, Tony E. Smith, and two daughters, Raeleigh and Kelsey.



## Rosebud Foster, Ed.D.

Dr. Foster, who passed away on July 20 at the age of 79, was a true champion for the delivery of health care to the underserved population. Dr. Foster, who served as special assistant to the NSU Health Professions Division (HPD) chancellor, deputy director of the College of Osteopathic Medicine's AHEC Program, and a member of the HPD Board of Governors, was a highly respected leader in local, state, and national academic and health care policy circles. For over 20 years, she played an instrumental role in the successful development of the NSU Health Professions Division, contributing greatly to the initial establishment of several HPD colleges and numerous HPD programs and initiatives. Dr. Foster also played a pivotal role in making the NSU AHEC Program one of the most successful and highly regarded AHECs in the nation.



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On the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the College of Optometry, we would like to honor the memory of our faculty members that are no longer with us.

We celebrate the wonderful contributions they made to the college:

**Manny Bergman, O.D. • Stanley Crossman, O.D. • Bob Gilman, O.D.**  
**Bob Hutchinson, O.D. • Terrance Ingraham, O.D. • Lester Janoff, O.D.**  
**Raymond Perrie, O.D. • Morton Silverman, O.D. • Jack Wolfe, O.D.**

# SPOTLIGHT ON RESIDENTS

## Introducing the Class of 2015 Residents



### **AMANDA N. BROWN, O.D.**

Primary Care with emphasis in Ocular Disease  
B.S., Exercise Science, Florida State University in 2010  
O.D., Nova Southeastern University College of Optometry in 2014

### **SARA BERKE- SILVA, O.D.**

Primary Care with emphasis in Cornea and Contact Lenses  
B.S., Biological Sciences, Florida State University in 2009  
O.D., Nova Southeastern University College of Optometry in 2014

### **CORY COLLIER, O.D.**

Primary Care with emphasis in Cornea and Contact Lenses  
B.S., Molecular Biology and Microbiology, University of Central Florida in 2010  
O.D., Nova Southeastern University College of Optometry in 2014

### **KARA COLLIER, O.D.**

Primary Care with emphasis in Pediatrics and Binocular Vision  
B.S., Molecular Biology and Microbiology, University of Central Florida in 2010  
O.D., Nova Southeastern University College of Optometry in 2014

### **HONH-HANH DINH, O.D.**

Primary Care with emphasis in Pediatrics and Binocular Vision  
B.S., Biological Sciences, Louisiana State University in 2007  
O.D., Nova Southeastern University College of Optometry in 2014

### **ALICIA GROCE, O.D.**

Pediatrics and Binocular Vision  
B.A., Biology, Clark University in 2010  
O.D., Nova Southeastern University College of Optometry in 2014

### **BRANDON J. PRETE, O.D.**

Primary Care with emphasis in Ocular Disease  
B.S., Honours Physiology, University of Saskatchewan in 2010  
O.D., University of Waterloo School of Optometry and Vision Science in 2014

### **JESSICA STEEN, O.D.**

Primary Care with emphasis in Ocular Disease  
Biology Major, University of Regina in 2010  
O.D., University of Waterloo School of Optometry and Vision Science in 2014

**WE HOPE TO SEE YOU AT THE SEVENTH ANNUAL RESIDENTS' DAY ON MARCH 22.**

*To learn about our residency programs, please visit <http://optometry.nova.edu/residency/internal/index.html> and be sure to view our resident testimonials for information on each unique position.*





### College of Optometry

3200 South University Drive  
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33328

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## CONTINUING EDUCATION UPDATE

As 2014 came to an end and the biennium for renewals was fast approaching, the demand for CE outpaced the seats available. The October conference in Orlando was the first request received and granted by the CE board for videoconferencing within the facility. As a result of the demand, additional weekends will be set aside for Orlando in 2016 to accommodate all who desire to attend.

On May 1-3, we will be hosting our 19<sup>th</sup> Annual May Eye Care Conference and Alumni Reunion. The classes of 1995 and 2005 will be celebrating their 10- and 20-year reunions as well as receive complimentary continuing education. They will be honored on Saturday evening with a reception at the IGFA Fishing Hall of Fame that will be both casual and family friendly.

Please see our remaining 2015 schedule and note that there are two events the weekend of March 21-22. Also, please consider joining us at St. Simons Island in Georgia for a great family vacation and CE. Our featured speakers will be Christine Sindt, O.D., FAAO, Kimberly Reed, O.D., FAAO, and Yin Tea, O.D., FAAO.

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

### CE CALENDAR of Events

March 22, 2015

Residents' Day  
Fort Lauderdale, Florida

March 21-22, 2015

West Coast Spring Conference  
Fort Myers, Florida

May 1-3, 2015

19<sup>th</sup> Annual May Eye Care Conference and Alumni Reunion  
Fort Lauderdale, Florida

July 31-August 2, 2015

Nova SEE Beach  
St. Simons Island, Georgia

September 26-27, 2015

Annual Fall Glaucoma and Systemic Disease Update  
Fort Lauderdale, Florida

November 7-8, 2015

Orlando Super Weekend  
Orlando, Florida

