

Fall 2009

NSU College of Optometry The Visionary Fall 2009 Vol 3 NO 2

Nova Southeastern University

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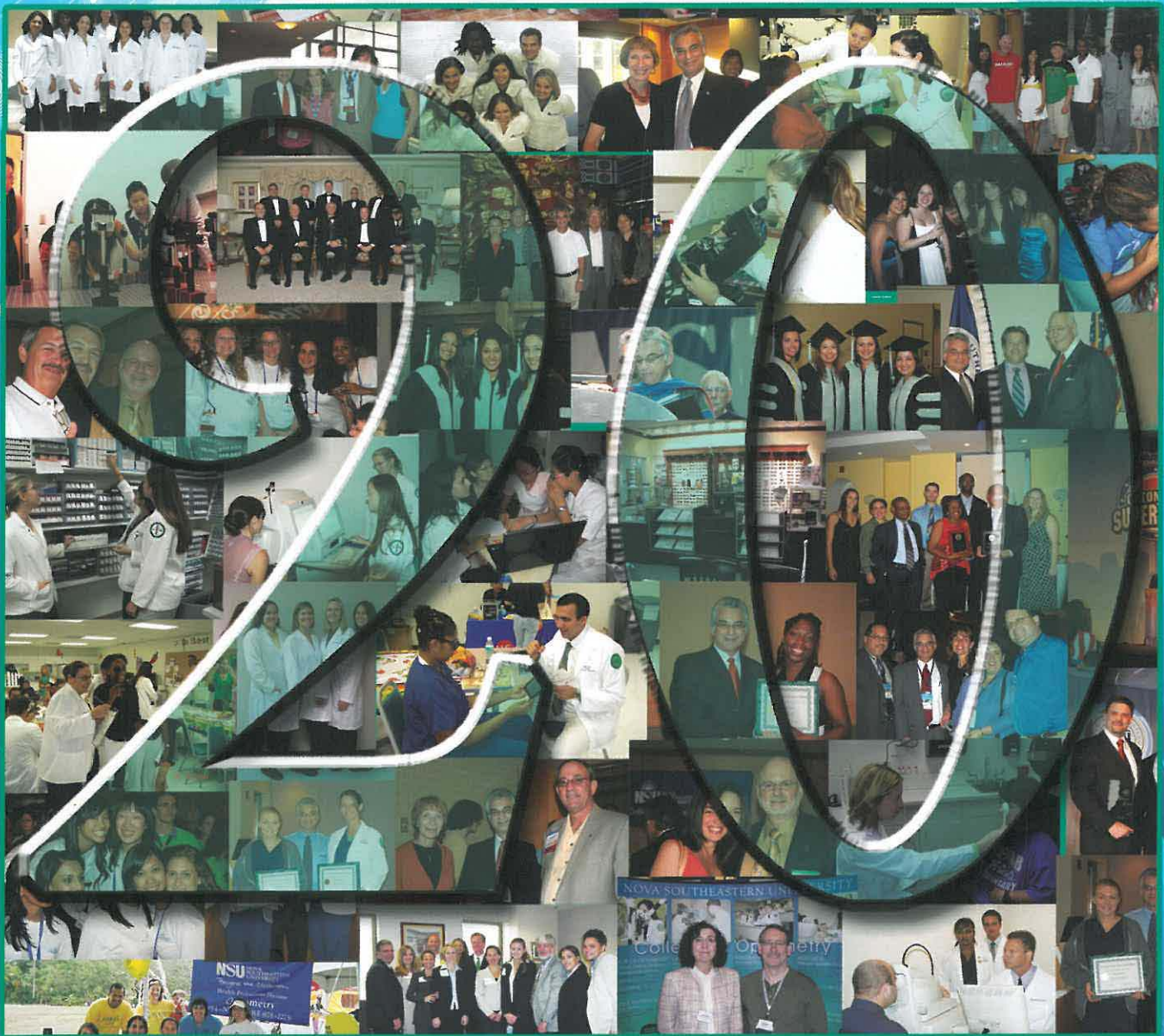
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Nova Southeastern University College of Optometry

the VISIONARY

Fall 2009 - Vol. 3, No. 2

Celebrating 20 years of dedication, education, and excellence!



Also in this issue:

Graduation 2009

Profile On Our Visionary Dean, Dr. David Loshin

Excellence Exemplified: OD4 Amanda Woodie

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The Visionary Editorial Team



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

As dean of NSU's College of Optometry (NSUCO), I would like to share with you some highlights of the journey the college has taken in the last 20 years. It is an outstanding story of ingenuity, dedication, learning, perseverance, and growth that even extends beyond the borders of the United States. It is a story that began with 27 students in 1989—and we haven't looked back since.

The College of Optometry was the third professional degree program created and launched by Southeastern University of the Health Sciences, which was already underway with the College of Osteopathic Medicine and the College of Pharmacy. After optometry, Southeastern went on to establish a college of allied health. In 1994, Southeastern University and Nova University entered into a merger agreement that was to change higher education in South Florida in a major way, especially for first professionals.

As the compact between Nova and Southeastern continued to unfold, Southeastern "morphed" into the Health Professions Division (HPD), which has also experienced tremendous growth that includes the creation of a dental school, a nursing program, and many other programs and degree offerings that simply didn't exist prior to 2000. HPD's innovative leaders, faculty, and staff have created forward-looking, evolutionary change that sets our programs apart.

The combined Nova Southeastern University has also grown exponentially year after year. Virtually every unit has developed new degree programs, added majors, and become more integrally involved in community affairs and community outreach. In addition, our physical presence has enlarged beyond the Davie campus so that NSU programs can be found in Las Vegas, Nevada, Ponce, Puerto Rico, Nassau, Bahamas, and many locations throughout Florida. New buildings and venues have also changed the face of the Davie campus. Recent additions include

- establishment of the largest library in the state of Florida
- construction of an entirely new complex for the University School (grades K-12)
- creation of the University Center, which accommodates students, faculty, and staff at a venue where basketball teams can compete or concerts can be held, along with a full-use gym and exercise center

I am proud to say that NSUCO is part of this incredible evolution—launching new programs, forging relationships far and wide, and establishing a curriculum that enhances the educational experience of our students, the care of our patients through our Eye Care Institute, and touching the profession and practice of optometry. Over the past two decades, we have established (to name a few):

- The Eye Care Institute (TECI) with four clinical locations (including the Lighthouse of Broward) that feature state-of-the-art equipment
- superior didactic and clinical teaching with an excellent, highly trained faculty
- new specialty areas within TECI, including advanced care (glaucoma and diabetes) neuro-rehabilitation/brain injury, and electrodiagnostic services
- an extended professional degree program that spreads the traditional four years of optometry school into five years.
- the Master's in Clinical Vision Research—an entirely online program for optometry professionals who have an interest in research
- the college's magazine—*The Visionary*—soon to have an online companion version
- exchange programs with Tianjin Medical University and Fudan University in China that allow our students to do a three-month externship
- the Visiting Scholar program, which is a component of the educational/informational exchange with China in which Chinese scholars spend a year at NSUCO
- an honors' student program
- the Preparatory Optometry Program for students who have the potential to be successful in the traditional program once they have shored up their basic science education
- a board review for students about to take the national boards (within the regular curriculum)
- an ACOE-professional program accreditation site visit that yielded no recommendations (next site visit scheduled for 2012)
- expansion of the college and external accredited residency programs

Along with our growth came a reputation for excellence, resulting in an increased applicant pool and a concurrent increase in the quality of students applying for and selecting NSUCO as their first choice. Our students have also begun to attain national and Florida board results that are significantly above the national average.

With the assistance of the faculty, staff, students, and administration, our momentum continues—always keeping the joint missions of Nova Southeastern University and the college in mind and ensuring that our programs and services integrate with those missions fully. Please stay connected with your College of Optometry—and share in our exciting journey along with us.

CHANCELLOR'S MESSAGE

Frederick Lippman, R.Ph., Ed.D.

It's hard to believe that 20 productive years have passed since the College of Optometry accepted its inaugural class in 1989.

How the college earned its place as a vital component within the NSU Health Professions Division is an interesting story. Dr. Morton Terry, founder of Southeastern University of the Health Sciences, which merged with Nova University in 1994, thought it was imperative to establish a primary eye care college that could train new generations of optometric professionals and provide essential services to communities throughout South Florida. Dr. Terry felt very strongly about these issues, so after many discussions with health professionals and health planners, he decided to forge ahead with the creation of the first—and still only—college of optometry in the state of Florida.

It was the third school we created in our thriving six-college structure now known as the Health Professions Division at Nova Southeastern University. And I'm proud to say it's been an absolute joy to watch the college mature and witness the multiple numbers of optometric professionals we have graduated over the years become leaders in the profession across the United States.

The College of Optometry had a very successful launch in 1989 and immediately began addressing a very large service need in the catchment area of care at its clinic in North Miami Beach. To this day, The Eye Care Institute at North Miami Beach remains a very vital source of primary eye care for the community of North Miami-Dade County.

The optometry program, as is the case with the maturation process of all academic programs, has gone through its share of proverbial bumps in the road over the past two decades. That's why I give a lot of credit to the pioneer faculty and particularly to the longtime dean of the college, Dr. David Loshin, who has served as dean since January 1997. He is clearly an example of not only a very capable education administrator but also an incredible education curriculum expert in the field of optometry. He is renowned in this country for the development of up-to-date eye care and for providing a tremendous amount of community benefit through his advocacy, especially in the areas of low-vision and multi-specialty care.

Over the years, Dr. Loshin and his dedicated faculty and staff have gone out of their way to provide the student doctors at the College of Optometry with the opportunity to learn leading optometric techniques.



They also have done a superlative job of advancing the clinical services provided at our eye care institutes in Davie, Fort Lauderdale, and North Miami Beach, all of which are extremely well thought of by the public. In addition to the aforementioned areas, the college has consistently demonstrated a very strong commitment to the community-at-large by providing free eye screenings through its participation in community outreach endeavors, local health fairs, NSU activities such as the annual A Day for Children event, and international medical outreach missions.

Another notable fact is that the College of Optometry spent a considerable amount of time developing the first international student exchange program at the Health Professions Division. Dr. Loshin and his administrative team established longstanding relationships with universities in Taiwan and China. As a result, these partnerships provide us with an opportunity to understand the type of health care relationships and the dissimilar styles of care available in countries that often have different traditions—and sometimes possess more comprehensive delivery—than we do.

No matter what anyone thinks politically or otherwise, there is going to be a health care reform bill impacting our country in the immediate future. I also think there's going to be a tremendous focus on primary care and the establishment of medical homes. As part of this medical home concept in many areas of the United States, these interdisciplinary care models are of particular interest where there is a disparity of health professional care services.

With the formation of a health care system where these medical homes will be created in tandem with various consortiums or cooperatives, optometric professionals will most certainly play a pivotal role in this reform. I truly think we have a great opportunity to show the rest of the United States how interdisciplinary teaching and the type of interdisciplinary care we provide here in our own health centers is the wave of the future. We clearly possess an educational and clinical structure that dovetails nicely with where our nation's policymakers are heading in regard to health care. As a result, optometric care is going to be even more important in the very near future than it's ever been before.

Once again, congratulations to the administration, academic colleagues, and support staff on the 20th anniversary of one of America's outstanding colleges of optometry.

Dr. Irvin Borish Visits Incoming Optometry Class



By Michael Bacigalupi, O.D., M.S., FAAO
Assistant Professor of Optometry and Assistant Dean for Student Affairs

Irvin M. Borish, O.D., has been called “optometry’s living legend” and “the most influential optometrist of this century.” Practitioner, teacher, and researcher, Dr. Borish has participated in the development of the optometric profession for the past 75 years.

On August 12, Dr. Borish visited the College of Optometry and spent 75 minutes captivating a group of future optometrists as he shared stories with the first-year students about the pivotal moments in history that shaped the optometric profession we know today. Interestingly enough, Dr. Borish seemed to be at the center of most of these important moments. Humble about his accomplishments, he told the students that if they “googled” him, they could read more about his history, but he reassured them that he “didn’t put any of that stuff out there.”

At the age of 96, Dr. Borish, who promised to visit the College of Optometry again next year, is still passionate about his chosen profession. “When you’ve given so many years and have been so devoted, you can’t just give up,” he said. He challenged the entering class of 106 future optometrists to “carry on and never give up” on the development of optometry. In fact, he has often been quoted as saying, “You need to decide: Do you want to move forward or do you want to stay where you are?” Indeed, even as he approaches his 100th year, he clearly is still moving forward.

Dr. Borish, who lives in a retirement community in Boca Raton, Florida, is the author of more than 80 articles and 9 textbooks. His most influential work, entitled *Clinical Refraction*, was first published in 1944, but most optometrists simply call it “Borish” because it has become like a bible for optometry students and practitioners alike. In addition, he was the first optometrist voted into the National Optometry Hall of Fame, which was established in 1999, and has received both of the American Optometric Association’s highest awards.

Legislative Day in Tallahassee

By Michelle Levin, Class of 2012



Every year, student members of the Florida Optometric Student Association have the opportunity to get involved in organized optometry at the state level. On March 12, 2009, I, along with 11 other students and many Florida optometrists, attended Legislative Day at our State Capitol in Tallahassee, Florida. Together, we were a voice for Senate Bill 326 and House Bill 507, requesting the right for Florida optometrists to prescribe oral ocular pharmaceutical agents.

We met with many senators and House of Representatives members, including Senator Nan Rich and Representative Juan Zapata, both supporters of our bills. We were successful in getting Senate Bill 326 on the legislative calendar to be heard. Even though the outcome was, sadly, unfavorable, we will not stop advocating for our profession. The more optometry students and local optometrists that get involved with the legislative process, the louder our voice.



Student Leader Amanda Woodie Takes Top Honors at NSU STUEY Awards

By Barbara Karpel, M.S.

Director of Administration and Associate Editor, *The Visionary*



NSU President Ray Ferrero, Jr., J.D., presents Amanda Woodie with the NSU Student of the Year Award.



NSU President Ray Ferrero, Jr., J.D., and Fran Franconeri.

On April 21, 2009, the university held its 10th Annual Student Life Achievement Awards (STUEY) ceremony, which serves as a celebration of NSU's best in scholarship, leadership, involvement, service, commitment, integrity, and responsibility. When the festivities concluded, fourth-year student Amanda Woodie walked away with the evening's most coveted prize: NSU Student of the Year.

Woodie, who served as president of the College of Optometry's Student Government Association (SGA), was recognized for her all-around skills and numerous accomplishments, which include maintaining a high GPA while managing to revamp the SGA constitution and successfully encouraging all student classes to come together and act as a cohesive unit. She also organized the inaugural Organizational Fair and was deeply involved with several optometry student

organizations, such as the American Optometric Student Association and the College of Vision Development.

The college also received nominations in two other categories: Student Government of the Year and Staff Person of the Year for the college's admissions counselor, Fran Franconeri. Optometry SGA was selected as a STUEY finalist for helping to foster school spirit, bringing the individual classes together, and enhancing student life for future students. Franconeri, who was selected as a Staff Person of the Year finalist for the second consecutive year, was recognized for her skill in recruiting the most qualified students in the college's history and creating an incredible connection with incoming students.

We congratulate our finalists on a job well done and applaud Amanda Woodie, who has made the College of Optometry very proud by being selected as NSU's Student of the Year.

To learn more about Woodie's amazing rise to optometric distinction, please read the feature article titled "Excellence Exemplified: NSU Student of the Year Amanda Woodie" on page 15.

NSU College of Optometry students broke all-time records this year by achieving a first-time pass rate of 98 percent on both NBEO Part I (applied basic science) administered this March and NBEO Part II (clinical science) administered in December 2008. In related news, the college's fourth-year students achieved a 100 percent first-time pass rate on NBEO Part III.

Additionally, Evan Brinton, a fourth-year student, received the Dr. Norman E. Wallis Award for Excellence for attaining the highest score in the nation on the NBEO Part I examination. Brinton received his award during the American Optometric Association's conclave held in Washington, D.C., this past June.

BRAGGING RIGHTS



OPTOMETRY STUDENTS RECEIVE WHITE COATS



The journey to become optometrists formally began for first-year optometry students when they each received one of the most coveted symbols of excellence in their profession: a white coat.

The College of Optometry held its annual White Coat Ceremony on August 26 at the NSU Health Professions Division. The ceremony officially inducts the entering class into the profession of optometry, allowing the students to understand the mission and ethics of the profession, as well as the expectations of them in regard to patient care.

During the ceremony, students take the Optometric Oath, which consists of professional standards they must uphold as optometrists. The ceremony's highlight is when each student receives a custom-fit white coat bearing his or her name.



Pictured from left are Thanh Thao Ho (class of 2012), Steven Klein (class of 2012), Dr. Sherrol Reynolds (class of 1996), Magdalena Saint-Louis (class of 2010), and Aria Murphy (class of 2010).

NOSA Provides Vision Health Care for Jamaicans

By Sherrol Reynolds, O.D., FFAO
Assistant Professor of Optometry and NOSA Faculty Adviser
OD4 Magdalena Saint-Louis and OD3 Denise Saunders

The National Optometric Student Association (NOSA), representing the NSU College of Optometry, provided hundreds of individuals with eye exams in the parishes of Kingston and St. Mary, Jamaica, in June 2009. Vision health care examinations were implemented to screen individuals for refractive errors, presbyopia, and glaucoma, which are some of the more prominent conditions that lead to poor vision and blindness in the Jamaican population.

With support from NSUCO and the Fort Lauderdale Lions Club, NOSA's optometry team was able to provide the necessary spectacles and therapeutic treatments to individuals with poor quality vision, thus improving and preserving their vision health. NOSA optometry team volunteers included Dr. Smith Blanc (resident class of 2010), Bupathi Dissanayake (class of 2011), Thanh Thao Ho (class of 2012), Steven Klein (class of 2012), Aria Murphy (class of 2010), Magdalena Saint-Louis (class of 2010), Denise Saunders (class of 2012), Somayah Semati (class of 2012), and Jimmy Yang (class of 2010). They helped to provide comprehensive eye examinations to children and adults under the supervision of Dr. Greg Black (resident '97), Dr. Noel Henry ('01), and Dr. Sherrol Reynolds ('96, resident '97). A wide range of stages concerning retinopathy conditions were observed in individuals who have diabetes, glaucoma, hypertension, and vascular occlusions. The patients received educational information in regard to their conditions, and most were referred to the NSU osteopathic medicine and pharmacy teams for evaluation and therapeutic treatment.

In Jamaica, there is a high prevalence of poor vision and blindness due to ocular and systemic diseases that are not being treated. This is a result of the inadequate access to standard health care in impoverished

communities on the island. For the past decade, Paula Anderson-Worts, D.O, associate professor of family medicine at NSU's College of Osteopathic Medicine, has organized medical mission teams consisting of students, instructors, and practicing health professionals with the purpose of providing standard health care to the communities of Kingston and St. Mary. These mission teams, which feature over 100 volunteers, incorporate individuals from the NSU Health Professions Division colleges of optometry, osteopathic medicine, dental medicine, pharmacy, and allied health and nursing.

Due to the joint effort among the various health professions, the 2009 medical mission trip was a success. The interdisciplinary teams succeeded in providing optometric exams to communities in Jamaica that usually have little access to these types of services. In addition, previous health care mission team participants reestablished relationships with former patients, who were grateful to see them again this year. They showed their appreciation by offering gifts of homegrown produce such as sugar canes, pineapples, mangos, and coconuts, and by simply saying thanks with a warm smile and a hug.

The trip to Jamaica was enjoyed by all who participated, including those who partook in the fun outings to Ocho Rios at Dunn's River Falls and Mystic Mountain Park, which offered lifts above beautiful green landscapes, ziplining among the trees, and bobsledding down a grassy hillside. The trip concluded with a banquet held at a beautiful resort on the final night to acknowledge everyone who contributed to the success of the health care mission efforts and show gratitude to each volunteer with a certificate of appreciation.

UNESCO Chair in Visual Health and Development Celebrates Five Years at NSU

By Janet Leasher, O.D., M.P.H., FAAO

Assistant Professor of Optometry and North American Coordinator of the UNESCO Chair in Visual Health and Development at NSU

In February 2004, Dr. David Loshin, HPD Chancellor Dr. Fred Lippman, and NSU President Ray Ferrero, Jr., J.D., signed a Memorandum of Understanding to host the North American Associated Center of the UNESCO Chair in Visual Health and Development at NSU's College of Optometry. Janet Leasher, O.D., M.P.H., FAAO, assistant professor, was appointed as the center's coordinator.

The UNESCO Chair program, which is part of the United Nations Education Science and Cultural Organization, facilitates the advancement of research, training, and program development in higher education by building university networks and encouraging inter-university cooperation through knowledge transfer across borders. A group of universities in different countries pools its competencies to address a need in the international development context. Reinforcing this dynamic of networks and partnerships creates a reference of excellence at the regional level and builds upon the strength of each institution. This platform of information sharing and generation of new ideas through research and reflection facilitates enrichment of existing university programs while respecting cultural diversity.

In 2002, Anna Rius, O.D., and Laura Guisasaola, O.D., at the Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya in Terrassa, Spain, were awarded the Chair in Visual Health and Development by UNESCO. Along with NSU, Associated Centers of the UNESCO Chair were established at the University of El Salvador Medical Faculty for Central America and at the University of Santo Tomas College of Optometry in Bucaramanga, Colombia, for South America.

The UNESCO Chair's overarching philosophy is that visual health encompasses much more than a healthy eye free from disease, but involves the capacity of all people to maximize their human potential and quality of life through good vision and the actions that result from good vision. The Chair affirms that visual health heavily depends upon social, political, spiritual, educational, and economic determinants of health. The context of access to quality visual health care plays a crucial role in visual health, as does empowerment of all people to recognize and care for their own visual health.

The Chair's main goal is to improve high-quality visual health for the most disfavored populations through three action lines: education and raising awareness, research and investigation, and cooperation for development projects.

EDUCATION AND RAISING AWARENESS

Since 2002, the Chair has created a course entitled "Visual Health and Development" to educate about the process of all forms of development—social, economic, and human—and to examine the links between visual health and international development. A train-the-trainers capacity building course included educational materials (a bilingual CD-ROM, a textbook, and an instructor classroom guide) that were delivered to professors from 57 countries, including optometry schools in North America at a trainer's course in February 2004. At NSU, this course is currently offered as part of the online Master's in Clinical Vision Research program.

The Chair sponsored and hosted courses in cooperation for development techniques for nongovernmental organizations working in the visual health sectors in North America and Central America during 2007. The Chair also worked to develop a protocol for Corporate Social Responsibility for the Visual Health Sector along the lines of the United Nations Global Compact. A protocol for evaluating your company in accordance with international principles of corporate social responsibility is available from the Chair.

RESEARCH AND INVESTIGATION

At the initiation of the UNESCO Chair in Visual Health and Development, scarce scientific evidence existed on the relationship between visual health and international development even though many eye care providers make the assumption that the relationship is obvious.

SAVIM Study

The co-directors of the Chair, together with development experts, developed a research protocol known by its Spanish acronym SAVIM (Situación de la Atención Visual Mundial). The SAVIM protocol is a situational analysis of global vision care systems and the contextual determinants of visual health. This investigational research is designed to document the factors influencing visual health and the accessibility to eye care services in the developing countries of the world.

Utilizing a qualitative and quantitative approach, an analysis of global development indicators is performed, such as the

- Human Development Index
- Gross Domestic Product
- Gender Development Index
- Adult Literacy Rate
- Human Poverty Index
- Gini Index

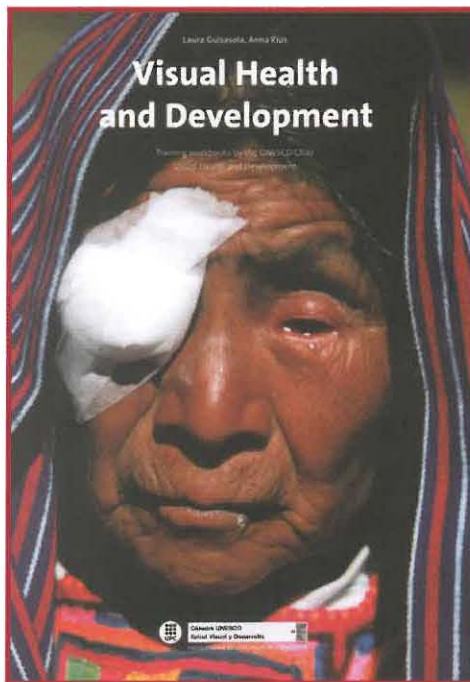
The socioeconomic, political, and cultural aspects of a country form the basis for accessibility to health care services. Health status indicators such as life expectancy, mortality rates, and physician-per-capita ratios are also considered. A situational analysis of the eye and vision care sector included the

- number, type, and distribution of eye care providers
- legislation and registration of providers
- distribution of educational programs for eye care providers
- existence of professional associations and nongovernmental or social service organizations working in the sector
- cost and coverage of common eye care services such as an eye exam, cataract surgery, and spectacles

The study was initially conducted in 7 Central American countries in 2004, then in 10 South American countries in 2008, and now again in Central America in 2009. Key stakeholders provided key informant interviews where governmental data did not exist. Study participants created consensus on strategic lines of action and priority objectives at the country and regional level at Forums for Visual Health, held in El Salvador in September 2004 and July 2009 and in Bogota, Colombia, in November 2008.

Social Organizations in Visual Health in Central America Study

In 2006, following the SAVIM study on Central America, the Chair's investigative team realized that a more complete study of the nongovernmental or social organizations working in the visual health sector in Central America was needed. The resulting report included a directory of organizations and fostered a series of meetings at the country level to create networks of visual health organizations to eliminate conflict between organizations and to generate cooperative projects that would yield productive results. In El Salvador, for example, an inter-institutional committee was formed at the national level to create a National VISION 2020 plan for the prevention of avoidable blindness. This group has sought to be inclusive of all organizations and to maximize the efficiency of all organizations to achieve effective goals for the country.



serves on the Sustainability and Partnership Discussion Groups.

The Chair has supported the firm actions of the VISION 2020 National Committees in the countries where it works and hosted the first encounter of those committees from Central American countries along with a representative from the Pan American Health Organization in El Salvador in July 2009. The San Salvador Declaration was an agreement signed by all participants at this meeting to achieve national plans that produce results worthy of presentation at the World Health Assembly in Geneva, Switzerland, in May 2010.

Proyecto VERAS

From the SAVIM study in Central America, Project VERAS was created. Strategic planning at the SAVIM forums highlighted the need to target children for a lifetime of good vision and learning, to raise awareness about visual health in rural areas, to increase the public provision of

Global Burden of Disease Study

The World Health Organization embarked on a periodic study of the global burden of all diseases, starting with the first study in 1990. The current study includes a section on vision loss (blindness and visual impairment), which evaluates the prevalence of ocular conditions per the ICD-10 list of diseases, the sequelae of systemic diseases causing blindness, the resulting impact on functional performance, a measure of disability, and a calculation of the global burden of disease. Dr. Leasher has been named to the Vision Loss Expert Group and has been conducting a literature review of available studies from across the Americas and Caribbean. The results of this work will be available in 2010.

eye care in rural areas, and to aggressively focus on improving visual health to potentially reduce the level of poverty and illiteracy in areas of extreme poverty. The word *veras* in Spanish literally means *you will see*, and the initials 'V.E.R.A.S.' are an acronym for Vision, Educacion, Rendimiento, Aprendizaje, Sostenibilidad (Vision, Education, Scholastic Improvement, Learning, and Sustainability).

Project VERAS is a program targeting children living in the departments of extreme poverty in Central America and serves as a collaboration between the Ministry of Health and Education, the UNESCO Chair, North American universities, and local nongovernmental organizations and universities. This interdisciplinary, inter-sectoral, international collaboration has created a system for school-vision screenings for children entering school, referrals, and optometric/ophthalmologic and optical care through the district-level hospitals. The project includes a community health education component for teachers, health promoters, families, and children about the importance of visual health.

The project started in one department of Nicaragua, El Salvador, and Guatemala in 2006 and has been brought to scale in El Salvador in the departments of Chaletenango, La Libertad, and Morazan. Resultant studies will be published describing the validity of the screening tool, the epidemiologic profile of ocular conditions found in children, a process evaluation of the system, the change in knowledge, attitudes, and beliefs of parents regarding children's vision, and a description of this successful example of a multi-agency, multidisciplinary, multi-level cooperation for development projects.

COOPERATION FOR DEVELOPMENT

Dialog

Through the platform of information sharing and generation of new ideas through research and reflection, the UNESCO Chair in Visual Health and Development has developed networks of professors, of researchers, and of universities to collaborate for the common goal of improving visual health. Complementing the forums held in El Salvador and Fort Lauderdale, Florida, the Chair has hosted two International Congresses on Visual Health and Development (Barcelona in 2003 and El Salvador in 2007). A forum also was held in May 2005 at NSU for North American organizations working in Central America.

IAPB VISION 2020: The Right to Sight

The UNESCO Chair is a Level C member of the International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness (IAPB) consortium of organizations working with the World Health Organization. Serving as the Chair's representative to the IAPB Council of Members, Dr. Leasher interacts with 162 different international organizations involved in blindness prevention. She also



For more information about the UNESCO Chair in Visual Health and Development, please visit www.unescovision.org or contact Dr. Leasher at leasher@nova.edu.

FLORIDA OPTOMETRIC ASSOCIATION UPDATE



By Barry J. Frauens, O.D., FAAO, Associate Professor of Optometry and Chief of Primary Care Service, The Eye Care Institute at North Miami Beach

The Florida Optometric Association (FOA) installed its new board of directors at its annual convention, which was held in July at the Fontainebleau Hotel in Miami Beach. There are currently three NSU alumni on the board, which is listed below:

- President:** Dr. Emilio H. Balius (Coral Gables)
- President Elect:** Dr. Michael A. Fregger (Fort Walton Beach)
- Vice President:** Dr. Kenneth D. Boyle (Melbourne, NSU class of 1994)
- Secretary/Treasurer:** Dr. David W. Rouse (Cooper City)
- Trustee:** Dr. Steven R. Kepley (Vero Beach)
- Trustee:** Dr. Barry J. Frauens (Coral Springs, NSU class of 1996)
- Trustee:** Dr. Kenneth W. Lawson (Bradenton)
- Trustee:** Dr. April L. Jasper (West Palm Beach, NSU class of 1995)

After a productive year as president and many years of loyal service, Dr. R. Andrew Wiles of St. Augustine assumed the role of chairman of the board. Dr. David S. Loshin remains as the NSU liaison to the board.

This year was a very active one politically for the FOA. I, along with several others, had the opportunity to testify in front of the Senate Health Care Committee in Tallahassee in support of optometry's oral-drug legislation. At the end of the day, power politics prevailed and the bill was

defeated by a vote of 6-3. This was an eye-opening experience that I will not soon forget. Legislation will be introduced again this upcoming session. This legislation will name 13 oral medications selected for the most encountered ocular conditions, which will allow us to provide the necessary care to our patients. We look forward to obtaining optometry and ophthalmology support for this legislation, which will ultimately be a win for our patients.

This year, one of our alumni—Dr. Mark Marciano of Palm Beach Gardens, class of 1997—announced his candidacy for the Florida House of Representatives District 83. His first race will be the Democratic primary on August 24, 2010. In addition, Dr. Alice Sterling of Orlando has announced her candidacy for the Florida House of Representatives District 33. This is a Republican district where the winner of the primary on August 24, 2010, will most likely win the election. Both of these candidates are exceptionally strong and need our support. I would ask each of you to help lend your support in whatever way you can. Having an optometrist, or possibly two, in the Florida legislature would be very favorable for our profession.

The remainder of 2009 and 2010 will prove to be another exciting time for the Florida Optometric Association. I encourage all of you to become members of your association and become involved. The future of our profession depends on it!

In Memoriam

George Burke, O.D. ('98)

Reverend Heiner Hoffmann (husband of faculty member Josephine Shallo-Hoffmann, Ph.D.)

Anthony Krevatas (infant son of Rosalia Caruso Krevatas, O.D. ('04) and Nicholas Krevatas, O.D. ('04))

Raymond Pierie, O.D. (former chief operating officer, The Eye Care Institute)



Colorado Beckons Dr. Paul Abplianalp

By Barbara Karpel, M.S.
Director of Administration and Associate Editor, *The Visionary*



retirement was only a few years away. Much to everyone's surprise, it is 10 years later, and Dr. A. is finally fulfilling his retirement dream. Before he departs, however, he must be credited for his good works at NSU's College of Optometry.

From the beginning, Dr. Abplianalp recognized a need to eliminate inconsistencies in our academic and student disciplinary policies. Working with the administrative team, he soon set about developing protocols and procedures that would address these inconsistencies. In addition, he improved the language in our student handbook so students would be clear about their rights and responsibilities. Student academic progress and disciplinary actions were better described and defined, and Dr. Abplianalp's tenet that all students should receive equal and equitable treatment began to emerge as a reality.

Another of Dr. Abplianalp's initiatives was the introduction of student focus groups. This has been a great success because students in small but representative groups are able to express any concerns they may have. And while major changes may not always be possible, the students know they have been heard. Dr. A. also established an honors program comprising a select group of high-achieving students. Honors students follow a slightly modified curriculum—in actuality, additional studies—that provide intellectual and clinical enrichment. Honors students respond to the program by reaching even higher.

Another area of focus for Dr. Abplianalp has been the faculty, which he has mentored in so many ways. Faculty members can be found in his office throughout the day—listening, learning, seeking advice, or even just chatting. There is something of value always received in a conversation with him. Over the years, he has also showcased an amazing aptitude for reviewing the teaching portfolios, which provide measurable assessments of teaching skills. They are reviewed annually by administration and are also a tool for peer review and self-evaluation. Dr. Abplianalp's approach has always been to motivate and encourage, providing constructive criticism that sets the stage for growth—going forward, not recriminating.

A small number of accomplishments over 10 years, you say? Not so!—I have simply provided the highlights. When everything is taken together, the most foundational and important change brought about with and by Dr. Paul Abplianalp's leadership, expertise, and influence is in the standards by which our faculty members teach, our students learn, and the college's reputation rests—and this will remain with us as his legacy to NSU. This man, a pillar of integrity, honesty, and compassion, is a man who has impressed since his first day on the job. In my mind, he will always be the gold standard for an academic dean.

From the day Dr. Paul Abplianalp first became associate dean for academic affairs in September 1999, it became clear that our college had found an academic administrator whose skills and qualities set him apart from the rest. During the recruitment process, accolades had abounded as superiors, colleagues, students, and friends alike (including our own dean, Dr. David S. Loshin) expressed their admiration and respect for Dr. Abplianalp—as a teacher, an administrator, a leader, an organizer, and as an individual who could inspire others to reach further and succeed. By all accounts, Dr. Abplianalp, we were told, was an extraordinary person, an accomplished administrator who could expertly manage events, people, and situations. In addition, his reputation as someone who possessed a unique way of perceiving and dealing with the world had preceded him—and we were a bit unsure of how we would take to this extraordinary personality.

Dr. Abplianalp became one of our most beloved individuals—at least for those whom he found to be forthright, intelligent, capable, and enthusiastic. There have been those few who encountered a different person, someone who could not be fooled and who would not succumb to pressures that would undermine his authority. Dr. Abplianalp (affectionately known to staff as Dr. A.) manifests an unerring insight into people's minds and possesses the ability to make accurate assessments. Over time, these traits have engendered great admiration among our faculty, staff, students, and administration.

Even at the time of his hiring, Dr. A. was spending as much time as possible in Colorado—the part of our country that he most loves and where he planned to make his future home. When Dr. A. eventually agreed to take the job of associate dean, it was with the caveat that



Dr. David Loshin Reflects on a Career Filled with Professional Milestones

By Scott Colton, B.A., Associate Editor, *The Visionary*



Baby Loshin

Since becoming dean of NSU's College of Optometry in January 1997, David Loshin, O.D., Ph.D., M.S., has played an instrumental role in leading the institution to impressive heights of accomplishment by implementing progressive educational programs, enhancing research opportunities, and providing both students and faculty members with the most cutting-edge clinical equipment available.

His reputation as a skilled academician and administrator may be well known to those who are acquainted with him both personally and professionally. But what was the impetus that led him to pursue a career in optometry and become a leader in the field?

Dr. Loshin's road to optometric accomplishment began in the quaint city of Danbury, Connecticut, where he enjoyed a happy childhood with his parents and two sisters. "My father owned a glass store that sold various items, including mirrors and windshields," said Dr. Loshin, who spent many hours working in the store along with his mother. "I began helping out in the store when I was seven years old and really enjoyed

working with my hands. In fact, that's where I developed my love of tools and my love of woodworking."

As he progressed through his adolescence, Dr. Loshin cultivated a significant interest in optics and photography, which led him to construct a temperature-controlled dark room in the basement of his parent's home. "At that time, optometry was the farthest thing from my mind," he admitted. "I was into optics, optical engineering, and photography. I really was a huge photography buff, so I served as a photographer for my high school's football team and yearbook and even did some sports photography for the local newspaper."

Because he was so engrossed in photography and the particulars of how camera lenses worked, Dr. Loshin made the logical decision to attend the Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT) in New York, which is where he earned his A.A.S. and B.S. degrees in 1969 and 1971 in photographic science and instrumentation (optics emphasis).

Focusing in on Optometry

While pursuing his bachelor's degree at RIT, Dr. Loshin resolutely believed his destiny lay in the field of optical engineering. However, during his third year at RIT, a guest speaker from the University of



The Loshin family back in the day.



Dr. Loshin enjoys a bear hug with his sons Aaron and Ryan.



Mary and Dr. Loshin out on the town.

Rochester, who came in to address his class, radically altered Dr. Loshin's vision for the future. "When Dr. Robert Kintz, who was a researcher and a recent graduate from the Ph.D. program at the University of Rochester's Center for Vision Research, spoke to our class, I was immediately intrigued about the science related to different aspects of vision," he explained.

With his curiosity piqued, Dr. Loshin decided to visit Dr. Kintz at his University of Rochester lab. "He soon became a pivotal mentor to me as well as my adviser for my senior project at RIT titled "Time Duration and Spectral Color Naming," said Dr. Loshin. "In fact, Dr. Kintz encouraged me to apply to optometry programs. Even though he was a Ph.D., he thought the field of optometry was key, especially if you wanted to pursue applied research opportunities."

After mulling his options, Dr. Loshin decided to attend The Ohio State University (TOSU) College of Optometry, eventually earning an M.S. degree in physiological optics in 1974 and his O.D. degree in 1975. "TOSU had a dual M.S./O.D. program that also offered opportunities to get involved in research," said Dr. Loshin, who somehow found the time to study optometry, teach math, and take extracurricular courses just for the fun of it. "To make some extra money, I applied across campus to teach math before I started optometry school. A few days before classes began in my first year; I got a call from the math department and was offered a teaching assistant position."

"The perks were great since I received a full tuition waiver, plus \$400 a month," added Dr. Loshin, who taught math between his optometry classes two or three days a week. "Because I didn't teach every quarter, I also worked part-time from 1972 through 1974 as a student research assistant at TOSU for Dr. Glenn Fry, who took me under his wing and became my adviser for my master's degree and doctorate."

Incredibly, although his life was already packed to the hilt with various activities, Dr. Loshin availed himself of every opportunity possible to enhance both the personal and professional sides of his life. "I took other courses that were not required such as flight school, so I learned how to fly by spending many hours using the university's flight simulator," he said. "I also took 30 hours of graduate-level computer science courses that counted toward my Ph.D. degree and became a computer programming buff as well."

In his fourth year at TOSU, Dr. Loshin submitted a proposal for a postdoctoral fellowship from the National Institutes of Health's National Eye Institute, which was awarded and funded his post-O.D. graduate studies. "My Ph.D. dissertation explored underlying aspects of

amblyopia using visual evoked potentials, which was cutting edge at the time," he explained. "The computer I used filled an entire room and was very slow by today's standards."

Once he earned his Ph.D. degree from TOSU in 1977, Dr. Loshin accepted a faculty position as assistant professor of optometry and physiological optics at the University of Houston College of Optometry. "When I completed my education, my goal was to teach and conduct low-vision and optics research," said Dr. Loshin, who would remain at the University of Houston until 1995.

The move to Texas would prove to be a propitious one for Dr. Loshin, for it was there where he would meet his future wife, Mary, who was a student at the University of Houston's College of Optometry when he arrived on campus. Dr. Loshin and Mary, who went on to work as an optometrist and administrator in a staff model HMO in Houston, wed in 1979 and had their first son, Aaron, in 1982. Aaron, who graduated as a chemical engineer from FSU, is working in Tampa, while their second son, Ryan, who was born in 1984, is a business graduate from the University of Central Florida and is currently teaching media to sixth, seventh, and eighth graders at NSU's University School while working on his M.B.A.

During his 18-year tenure at the University of Houston, Dr. Loshin rose through the academic ranks, taught geometric and physical optics and graduate courses, precepted in the clinics, and served on over 15 thesis and dissertation committees. He also received research funding from several companies, including the NASA Johnson Space Center, the state of Texas, and the National Institutes of Health's National Eye Institute. Much of his research involved clinical application of contrast sensitivity, low vision, and optical design of contact and intraocular lenses. Dr. Loshin's administrative experience included serving as chair of the optometry school's residency programs in 1988 and being named assistant dean for finance and administration in 1990.

When Dr. Loshin was recruited to become dean of the University of Missouri School of Optometry in January 1996, he realized it was a golden opportunity he couldn't pass up—even if it meant being away for much of the time from his wife and kids, who decided to remain in Texas. "It was a difficult time because for one year I commuted back and forth from Missouri to Houston to spend time with my family every weekend," he stated.

Inevitably, the strain of being away from his family served as the incentive for him to leave Missouri. "I really enjoyed working at the University of Missouri, but my sons, who were seven and nine at the

time, really needed their dad to be at home," he stated. "Consequently, when I was offered the position to become dean at NSU's College of Optometry in late 1996, it was a family decision to move to Florida so we could all be together."

Analyzing the NSU Years

Upon arriving at NSU, Dr. Loshin leapt into immediate action, tackling the college's accreditation issues and working to modernize both the office and clinical equipment. "When I took over as dean, there were only two computers in the College of Optometry, so I worked with Ovid Lewis, who was president of NSU at the time, to help get us computers," said Dr. Loshin, who also restructured the various NSU eye care clinics. "Now we're cutting-edge, which is something I'm very proud of."

Because he believes in providing a variety of educational opportunities to students and working professionals, Dr. Loshin also expanded the college's curricular offerings beyond the traditional O.D. program. One such program is the online Master of Science Program in Clinical Vision Research (CVR), which was designed to help optometrists, optometric educators, optometric students, and other health-care professionals extend their career opportunities by developing and enhancing their ability to perform clinical research.

"I believed we needed a master's program that would teach clinicians how to perform applied research," said Dr. Loshin, who is working on a potential patent with Dr. Bai-chuan Jiang involving quality of images in the eye. "Nobody has ever developed an online program like this before. It can be completed at home or in the office at convenient times without compromising careers, families, and personal obligations. Several of our faculty members and graduates have taken the program, which teaches skills such as how to set up a research project with the appropriate experimental design and to report the results in a presentation or scientific paper."

Dr. Loshin also is extremely proud of the Extended Program, which allows an individual to complete the Doctor of Optometry degree over a period of five years instead of the traditional four. Students enrolled in the program, which was designed for individuals who have special circumstances such as small children, an ill spouse or parents, or other personnel obligations, complete the first two years of the traditional four-year program over a three-year time period, while the last two years of both programs are identical.

"Another program we established was the Preparatory Optometry Program (POP), which is designed for students who have potential but don't have the proper educational background or lack the necessary grades required to enter the College of Optometry," Dr. Loshin explained. "I talked with Dr. Don Rosenblum, dean of NSU's Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences, and we designed a one-year program where these students are considered undergraduates and take prep

courses to prepare them for possible acceptance into our optometry program. If these students earn a B average by the end of the year, we accept them into our college. It's proven to be extremely successful because 75 to 80 percent of the students in the program qualify for admission.

Dr. Loshin also helped initiate an M.B.A./O.D. as well as a business certificate program in conjunction with NSU's H. Wayne Huizenga School of Business and Entrepreneurship. The certificate program, which was created with student input, allows current optometry students to take 30 contact hours of business training where they spend a week in class with various faculty members from the business school, who discuss issues related to practice management. "Last year, about 25 students participated in the program, which I believe is the only one of its kind offered at any other optometry school," he proudly stated.

Dr. Loshin also has been involved in international optometric education through the development of relationships with institutions in China, South America, and Spain. "Our students have the opportunity to see patients in hospitals in mainland China as part of their externship, which has become a valuable experience beyond the traditional clinic training," stated Dr. Loshin, who has been a member of the World Council of Optometry for a number of years. "It is important to have insight into how other countries view the profession, especially with the United States having the most comprehensive program in the world."

As he approaches his 13th anniversary as dean of NSU's College of Optometry, this optometric visionary has no intention of slowing down anytime soon. "The exciting thing about working at NSU is that it's always growing and changing," said Dr. Loshin, who received the university's Student Life Achievement (STUEY) Academic Dean of the Year Award in 2003. "There's always an opportunity to try something new or collaborate with another school on campus. I came up with the idea for the POP program in May one year, and we started the program in July of that year, which is not something you can accomplish so quickly at most institutions. Thankfully, the administration here at NSU supports experimentation and positive change."

Due to the numerous academic enhancements that have been implemented during Dr. Loshin's deanship, the College of Optometry has positioned itself as a true leader in the realm of optometric education. "Our national board scores this year were the highest in the country, which means we must be doing something right," he said with a smile. "We've established a strong track record, which is why the caliber of students we are accepting is better than at any time in our history. Our faculty members are truly exceptional, and our Eye Care Institute (at all four sites) provides outstanding eye care for Broward and Miami-Dade counties. I am proud of what the college has become and look forward to an even brighter future."



Loshin family getaway.



Dr. Loshin and Dr. Lippman with a bevy of NSU beauties.



A family that plays together, stays together.



Amanda Woodie (center, class of 2010) with (from left) John Hoffman (class of 2010), Meagan Steg (class of 2010), Ray Ferrero, Jr., J.D., and Dr. David Loshin.

Excellence Exemplified: NSU Student of the Year Amanda Woodie

By Scott Colton, B.A., Associate Editor, *The Visionary*

Student Government Association president...NSU Student of the Year...class of 2010 president...optometric star of the future...



The preceding statements descriptively describe the successful résumé fourth-year student Amanda Ann Woodie has amassed since she began her NSU College of Optometry matriculation in 2006. Due to her deep-seated commitment to excellence, Woodie was driven by a desire to help her fellow classmates and bring campus-wide attention to the College of Optometry and her chosen profession. Those laudable qualities would eventually earn her

recognition as NSU's Student of the Year in 2009, which is the highest honor accorded to an NSU student.

Woodie, who was born in Georgia but moved to Auburndale, Florida—a small town in Polk County located halfway between Orlando and Tampa—before she was a year old, always knew she wanted to become a physician. Unfortunately, it was a family tragedy that occurred when she was a young girl that served as the impetus for her to pursue a career in the medical field. "When I was four years old, my younger brother died of brain cancer," she explained. "Ever since that happened,

I knew I wanted to be a doctor. I can remember telling my mom that I didn't understand why the doctors weren't able to *fix* what my brother had. I told her I wanted to grow up and be able to *fix* people."

When she enrolled in the University of Central Florida (UCF) in Orlando, her intention of pursuing medicine grew even stronger. "I really thought sports medicine and orthopedics or neurology were what I wanted to do," said Woodie, who majored in molecular and microbiology and minored in psychology before graduating with her Bachelor of Science degree in May 2005. "I kept getting more and more involved with athletics at UCF and actually served as the UCF mascot—a masculine cartoon character called Knightro—for two years. Knightro's identity is a school secret, and as the only girl that played Knightro, I was always afraid my ponytail would sneak out from the head and give me away."

Her time at UCF proved to be fruitful on several fronts, for it was there where she met her boyfriend, J.T., who also served as the school mascot, and developed her passion for university involvement. In addition to her stint as Knightro, Woodie stayed busy serving as a resident assistant, an admissions ambassador/tour guide, a member of the UCF dance team, a member of Delta Delta Delta, and a co-founder of the on-campus shuttle system. During this time, she also broadened



her science background by working in a neuro-cancer research lab. However, as she was wrapping up her UCF educational experience, Woodie approached the most important decision of her life to that point—what medical field to pursue. Although there were many areas of medicine that interested her, she was still unsure of her career path. Fortunately, all that changed one day during a conversation with a familiar figure from her life.

A Focus Toward Optometry

After many years of uncertainty, a conversation with her longtime optometrist set into motion a chain of events that would forever shift her focus to optometry. "I had been going to the same optometrist, Dr. Ismail, since I was seven years old," Woodie explained. "He had tried to convince me that optometry was an amazing field in the past; I even shadowed him several times in his practice. However, it wasn't until Dr. Ismail starting telling me about optometric residencies that I could see optometry as an option for me. He told me more about his experience in pediatrics and binocular vision and about the residency that specializes in traumatic brain injury rehab. Hearing that suddenly triggered something inside of me. I started looking into the residencies and discovered I could potentially be working with kids that had eye turns and other binocular vision problems, which were problems my brother was left with after his many surgeries. Finally, I had found a link to my brother.

"The idea of going to optometry school just kind of fell into my lap," she added. "Consequently, because I still wasn't sure what area I wanted to pursue, I decided to apply to both the optometry and osteopathic medicine programs at Nova Southeastern University. I figured I would know what to do when the time came."

As is often the case with situations such as these, fate intervened in the form of an acceptance letter from NSU's College of Optometry. There was, however, one caveat. "I was contacted by NSU's optometry program first, and I was told they were aware that I had also applied to the osteopathic school," she stated. "I had to make the choice that would be one of the biggest decisions of my life, so I sent a letter to the D.O. program withdrawing my application."

Inevitably, Woodie's sense of family and desire to spend as much quality time as possible with her loved ones proved to be the deciding factor in her decision-making process. "I liked the idea of having more time with my family, working fairly normal hours, and being minimally on call," she said. "Growing up, my mom was such a big part of my life. She was always at football games and dance competitions. My parents never missed a UCF game when I danced, and I want to be able to be there for my kids someday. I want to be very successful, but I also want to go to every tee ball game. Optometry can give me that."

Optometric Commitment Leads to Accolades

Once she arrived at NSU's College of Optometry, Woodie immediately showcased the same brand of enthusiasm and commitment that had earned her praise and kudos during her days as a UCF student. Over

the next several years, she would assume various student leadership positions within the college, including serving as both class of 2010 president and SGA president, and become a member of the NSU Optometry Honors Program and the Gold Key National Honors Society.

While Woodie committed an immeasurable amount of time to the class of 2010 serving as class president, it was her role as SGA president that she is most proud of. "We—the SGA officers—met with the presidents of student organizations during the summer and told everyone we weren't going to just meet the status quo and that our goal was to make the college a better place for students," she stated. "We had plans to rewrite the outdated SGA constitution, turn the SGA office into a functional workspace for organizations, and increase club membership and student services."

Woodie explained that one of her biggest goals was to get students involved in the college and on campus. "Students won't graduate and say, 'Boy, I sure do remember how great gross anatomy class was,'" she admitted. "They'll remember going to conventions with AOSA, volunteering with SVOSH, and learning more about their chosen specialty through COVD or the new disease club. I want everyone to have that extra experience."

In order to increase student involvement, Woodie and SGA Vice President Meagan Steg coordinated the college's first organization informational brochure and Organization Fair. Because the event proved to be a huge success in terms of increasing membership in every club, the Organization Fair will now be an annual event for welcoming first-year students and providing them with information on how to become more involved. As SGA president, she also represented the college on a campus-wide level through the PAN-SGA, which is composed of the SGA presidents from the universities 16 colleges and centers. In addition, she was one of five PAN-SGA members asked to attend the NSU Board of Trustees annual retreat and speak on the students' behalves.

In April 2009, her dedication to the college was recognized with NSU's highest student honor when she received the Student Life Achievement

(STUEY) Award as NSU Student of the Year, which marked the first time a College of Optometry student had been accorded this prestigious honor.

So what drives Woodie to accept additional responsibility and serve as a

well-liked and respected role model to her classmates? According to this optometric dynamo, it's a combination of unifying factors. "I've always taken pride in being given the chance to represent my peers," she said. "But even though a lot of extra work was required, I knew I would be dedicated enough to be that person my classmates could go to for help. "I don't mind taking on a little extra work; I've always been that way. I need to feel motivated, so the more I have going on, the more it keeps me going. I wanted my classmates to feel like they weren't ever shortchanged on anything and that if there was something that could benefit us, I would be there to assist. My friends that served as SGA and class officers all worked very hard to make this happen. When we graduate next year, we will do so knowing we changed the school in ways that will make it better for those students who come after us. Our goal as a class is not just to leave, but to leave something positive behind as a legacy."

"Our goal as a class is not just to leave, but to leave something positive behind as a legacy."

While her stints as both class and SGA president were demanding time-wise, Woodie never lost sight of the fact that she was attending NSU to receive the type of education that would allow her to pursue her dreams. In fact, she credits her time at NSU's College of Optometry for expanding her horizons while also exposing her to areas of interest she never knew existed. "At some point during my first year, a speaker who specializes in golf vision training, Dr. Lampert, came in to talk to us about sports vision," she explained. "He discussed his practice and how he enhanced the athletes' games by analyzing and training their vision. For example, if they have a tendency for their eyes to rest in, they usually swing short. Or if they rest out, they swing long. I was like, 'Sports...this is great! I can work with athletes and be an eye doctor.' Right then and there, I knew what I wanted to do, which was work in sports vision, which is a further specialization of binocular vision therapy. That way, I could still work with children experiencing vision anomalies as well as professional athletes that wanted to enhance their games."

Woodie Eyes the Future

Woodie, who is in the midst of doing her fourth-year externships, spent her summer doing a three-month rotation in Pembroke Pines, Florida, with Robert Davis, O.D., and Jim Morris, O.D., who serve as the official eye care specialists to the Miami Dolphins football team. She also worked with Dr. Rick Ross doing vision screening for the Orlando Magic basketball team last year and has been involved in several research projects to enhance her overall educational experience. "To further my development in binocular vision as well as my special interest in sports vision, I am conducting research with the NSU baseball team, where I hope to successfully demonstrate improvements of dynamic visual acuity and pitch recognition through vision training," she explained. "This research could open the doors for our program to coexist with the Department of Sports Medicine in a joint project offering vision training to various athletic programs at NSU."

Not surprisingly, with her NSU commencement looming in the not-too-distant future, Woodie has already mapped out a postgraduate plan of action that includes shadowing a renowned optometrist in Connecticut who is one of the pioneers of sports vision and establishing her own practice in Orlando, which she has already named Orlando Sports Vision and Family Eye Care. Another one of her long-term goals is to help develop externships in the sports vision field. "If I am able to establish a successful sports vision practice in Orlando, eventually my practice can be an externship site where NSU students can come to learn," she explained. "I don't expect to fill my practice with athletes all the time, but sports vision will give me a niche and help keep the practice growing toward bigger and better things."

As she reflects on her time spent at NSU's College of Optometry, Woodie makes a point of acknowledging the college's dedicated faculty members, whom she calls "amazing," for making her educational odyssey so interesting and enjoyable. "We have such diverse faculty members here that are renowned experts in so many different areas," she stated. "But the thing they all have in common is that they treat us like we're not just students, but future colleagues. That's been a completely different experience than I expected. They're not just teaching us the skills we need; they're teaching us how to be the most dedicated and compassionate doctors possible."



Amanda and boyfriend JT looking sharp at the Eye Ball.

Amanda gets a hug from the NSU Shark, Razor.



Amanda enjoying the day with her family.



Amanda and her horse, Dusty.

Dr. Loshin with Amanda and her Student of the Year Award.

Happy 20th Anniversary

NSU College of Optometry



By Michael Bacigalupi, O.D., M.S., FAAO, Assistant Professor of Optometry and Assistant Dean for Student Affairs

On August 10, 2009, something historic happened at Nova Southeastern University College of Optometry (NSUCO). Any ideas? On this date, we welcomed the 21st entering class to the College of Optometry family.

In 1989, Southeastern University of the Health Sciences opened the doors to the first college of optometry in the state of Florida. During the early years, 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). This new college differed from the rest of the schools and colleges of optometry at the time in that the curriculum was intertwined with the College of Osteopathic Medicine. In fact, the College of Optometry was housed in a former hospital building on 163rd street in North Miami Beach, Florida. For the first time, optometry students would be educated by basic science faculty alongside osteopathic medicine students.

This revolutionary interdisciplinary concept in optometric education was not without problems or complications, but the original administration and faculty of the College of Optometry made this new educational system work. The original four faculty members were Bob

Gilliam, O.D., Manuel Bergman, O.D., Martha McKay, O.D., and Wanda Able, O.D. Other notable early faculty members included Morton Silverman, O.D., Robert Hutchinson, O.D., Paul Farkas, O.D., N. Scott Gorman, O.D., M.S., Ed.D., Stan Crossman, O.D., and Jack Solomon, O.D.

The early years of Southeastern University College of Optometry were difficult as the medical science faculty learned how to teach optometry students and optometry students learned how to learn from medical science faculty. Incredibly, in many classes, the medical science professors had to create two separate tests—one multiple-choice for medical students and one fill-in-the-blank for optometry students. But everyone persevered, and at the end of four years, Southeastern University College of Optometry graduated its first O.D.s in May 1993.

Maria Adis, O.D., was the first student to walk across the stage and receive her degree as a graduate of Southeastern University College of Optometry. The class consisted of 27 students: 17 men and 10 women. These 27 O.D.s are the only optometrists in the country that have a degree that reads "Southeastern University College of Optometry." They should be very proud of this designation because they were truly the

pioneers. One of the most unique students in those early years was Charles Woody, Ph.D., who was an instructor in the College of Medical Sciences and was teaching general physiology to optometry students but ended up joining their class and graduating with an O.D. degree in 1996. In fact, there were times when he was both student and faculty!

In 1994, Southeastern University of the Health Sciences in North Miami Beach merged with Nova University in nearby Davie. This merger of academic institutions provided Nova University with a college of osteopathic medicine, a college of pharmacy, a college of optometry, and a college of allied health. This merger also brought about a name change for the institution from Southeastern University of the Health Sciences to Nova Southeastern University. Dr. Abel continued to serve as dean of the college, and the second graduating class was awarded 46 O.D. degrees. This time, the degrees read "Nova Southeastern University College of Optometry" for the first time.

The period from 1994 to 1996 was truly a time of transition for NSUCO. In the summer of 1996, classroom teaching, laboratories, and patient care clinics made their move from North Miami Beach to the new \$60 million Health Professions Division complex on the NSU campus in Davie. State-of-the-art equipment and modern classrooms transformed the learning experience for the students, while faculty members who were here at the time stated that everything was bigger and better on the new campus—except for their offices!

From 1995-96, Terrance "Terry" Ingraham, O.D., served as the interim dean of NSUCO along with Dr. Janoff (associate dean for academic affairs), and Dr. Gorman (associate dean for clinical affairs). During Dr. Ingraham's time leading the college, enrollment grew in both size and diversity. In fact, he is often credited with creating the "family of NSU College of Optometry." Dr. Ingraham was a gifted clinician, researcher, teacher, administrator, and volunteer who in 1978 became the first African American to graduate from the University of Alabama at Birmingham College of Optometry. Dr. Ingraham was known for his extraordinary rapport with students and served as both the associate dean for student affairs and the interim dean. The 53 graduates of 1995 and the 77 graduates of 1996 were honored to have Dr. Ingraham as their dean. He passed away in January 2002 and will always be missed by the College of Optometry.

By 1997, NSUCO continued to grow as class size increased from the original 27 students to 84 students. The college, however, needed visionary leadership, which it found following a national search in David S. Loshin, O.D., Ph.D. Dr. Loshin came to NSUCO after serving as dean of the University of Missouri St. Louis College of Optometry and as an assistant dean at the University of Houston College of Optometry. Well known for authoring the *The Geometrical Optics Workbook* in 1991, Dr. Loshin brought a passion for academics to NSUCO. In 1998, Paul Abplanalp, Ph.D., O.D., joined the college as the associate dean of academic affairs; a role he continued until his retirement in the summer of 2009.

The profession of optometry continued to grow and change throughout the 1990s and beyond into the new millennium. During this time, the scope of practice in most states grew to include the use of all topical therapeutic medications as well as the use of some oral medications for the management of ocular diseases. However, not only was the practice of optometry changing...so were the students. The class of 1999 was

the first class to ever graduate more female optometrists than male optometrists. This class of 100 students had 54 ladies and 46 gentlemen, which is a trend that has continued. Each subsequent graduating class increased the female-to-male ratio. By 2005, the entering class was 70 percent female and 30 percent male. Applicants for admission grew rapidly, and by 1997, the number of students applying for the 100 available seats in the college reached 564. This trend continues today with almost 800 applications received in each of the most recent application cycles.

In addition, The Eye Care Institute has continued to grow. Serving both Broward and Miami-Dade counties with over 48,000 patient visits per year at four locations, the clinics are well established as centers of excellence. Patient care is provided on the main NSU campus in Davie, the former Southeastern University campus in North Miami Beach, the Specialty Care Center in downtown Fort Lauderdale, and at the Lighthouse of Broward County. Specialty clinics such as glaucoma, low vision, pediatrics, strabismus, diabetic/macula, and electro-diagnostics have grown each year and provided outstanding learning experiences for all of the NSUCO graduates. In 2005, when the Accreditation Council on Optometric Education evaluated the entire professional program at NSUCO, it made "no recommendations" and provided the school with the longest possible accreditation. We should all be proud of this significant accomplishment.

Another fact we must be extremely proud of is the great success of NSUCO students on the National Board of Examiners in Optometry (NBEO) examinations. In 2008, the passage rate for NSUCO first-time takers of Part I Applied Basic Science was 98.06 percent. This is truly an outstanding accomplishment that all of the faculty, staff, and alumni should be proud of. Following the most recent administration of Part 2 of the NBEO examination in 2008, 98.04 percent of the NSUCO students passed on their first attempt. Part 3 of the NBEO examination typically lets our NSUCO student show off their clinical skills. On several occasions throughout NSUCO's history, the pass rate for this exam has been 100 percent. We are confident these great achievements will continue as NSUCO enters its next 20 years.

What do the next 20 years hold for Nova Southeastern University College of Optometry? Continued growth in students, faculty, research, and optometric practice are all in our future. The 21st entering NSUCO class members took their seats on August 10, 2009. They entered a very different college than those first students in 1989. Today's students come to our school from 26 states and 3 countries and work in state-of-the-art facilities with over 100 exam rooms alongside 46 highly skilled faculty members. However, one thing that has remained the same since the earliest days of our college is that we are one family working toward a common goal of educating excellent future optometrists.

Happy 20th Anniversary NSU College of Optometry

(Authors' note: I would like to thank Drs. David Loshin, Arnie Patrick, and Chris Woodruff for offering their institutional memory and assistance with this article.)

Join Us in Creating the Next Generation of Visionaries

Evan Brinton, Class of 2010
NSU College of Optometry

Dear Alumni and Friends of the College,

This year we achieved a 98 percent pass rate on Parts I and II of the National Board of Examiners in Optometry. Also, we achieved a 100 percent pass rate on Part III. On a personal level, it was my distinct honor to receive the 2009 Dr. Norman E. Wallis Award for Excellence for earning the highest score in the United States on Part I. This is a momentous achievement for our college. However, a critical component to maintaining this success is support from alumni like you.

By making an annual gift to the College of Optometry at Nova Southeastern University, you are helping ensure that future students have the same opportunity to receive the great education we benefited from. Your gift helps our college remain competitive by attracting and retaining the best students. Any gift, no matter the size, makes a major difference. Please consider making an annual gift today.



*Evan Brinton
Student
Optometric Physician*

Faculty News

By N. Scott Gorman, O.D., M.S., Ed.D., FAAO

Professor of Optometry and Director of Development, Alumni Relations, and Continuing Education

Deborah Amster, O.D., FAAO, FCOVD (Resident '03) and **Mary Bartuccio, O.D., FAAO, FCOVD** ('97) became a Fellow of the College of Optometrists in Vision Development at the organization's 39th Annual Meeting in Denver, Colorado, on October 13-17.

Eva Duchnowski, O.D. ('08, Resident '09) was named Preceptor of the Year by the class of 2009.

Greg Fecho, O.D. ('01, Resident '02) was named Teacher of the Year by the class of 2012.

Barry J. Frauens, O.D., FAAO ('96) was promoted to associate professor of optometry.

Bai Chaun Jiang, Ph.D., FAAO, was appointed to the editorial board of the *Clinical Optometry* journal.

Janet L. Leasher, O.D., M.P.H., FAAO, was promoted to associate professor of optometry. She also was installed for a two-year term as chancellor of the Beta Sigma Kappa (BSK) International Honor Society in June. BSK recognizes optometric honor students maintaining a high grade point average and offers student research grants to further optometric scientific inquiry.

Sherrol A. Reynolds, O.D., FAAO ('96, Resident '97) was promoted to associate professor of optometry.

Julie Rodman, O.D., FAAO, was named Preceptor of the Year by the class of 2009.

Joseph Sowka, O.D., FAAO (Diplomate) was the keynote speaker at the Tasmania Lifestyle Congress in Hobart, Tasmania, Australia, in August. In addition, Dr. Sowka and **Nadine Girgis, O.D.**, presented a poster at the World Glaucoma Congress in July.

Yin Tea, O.D., FAAO, gave birth to a baby boy, David Charles Boeckel, on June 30 at 6:57 p.m. David weighed in at 7 lbs., 3 ½ oz.

Julie Tyler, O.D., FAAO (Resident '97) was named Preceptor of the Year by the class of 2010.

Heidi Wagner, O.D., M.P.H., FAAO (Diplomate) was promoted to professor of optometry.

Chris Woodruff, O.D., M.B.A., FAAO, was named Teacher of the Year by the class of 2011.

Albert D. Woods, M.S., O.D., FAAO, was named Teacher of the Year by the class of 2010.



Dr. Amster



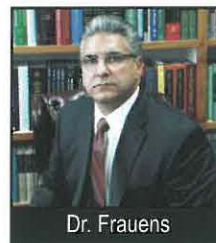
Dr. Bartuccio



Dr. Duchnowski



Dr. Fecho



Dr. Frauens



Dr. Jiang



Dr. Leasher



Dr. Reynolds



Dr. Rodman



Dr. Sowka



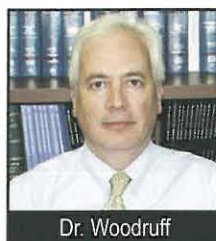
Dr. Tea



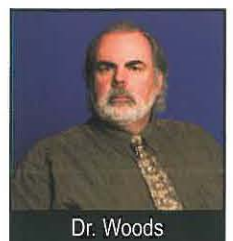
Dr. Tyler



Dr. Wagner



Dr. Woodruff



Dr. Woods

Research and Scholarship

Submitted by Josephine Shallo-Hoffmann, Ph.D., FAAO, Professor of Optometry and Chair of the Department of Research and Graduate Studies

Shintani K, **Shechtman D**, Gurwood A. Review and update: current treatment trends for patients with retinitis pigmentosa. *Optometry*. 2009;80:384-401.

Sowka JW, Luong VV. Bitemporal visual field defects mimicking chiasmal compression in eyes with tilted disc syndrome. *Optometry*. 2009;80(5):232-42.

Wells KH, Wagner H, Reich LN, Hardigan PC. (2009) Military readiness: an exploration of the relationship between marksmanship and visual acuity. *Military Medicine*. 174:398-402.

POSTERS AND PRESENTATIONS

Bourne RR, **Leasher JL**, Keefe JE, Gichuhi S, Naidoo K, Pascolini D, Wong T, Dandona T, Taylor HR, Sieving PC. Global burden of diseases, injuries, and risk factors study (GBD)—the vision loss." Group: Methodology and Results of Systematic Review. Association of Research in Vision and Ophthalmology. May 4, 2009. Program 2493/D876.

Espejo A, Tyler J. Salzmann's nodular degeneration: optometric management and surgical considerations. *Optometry - Journal of the American Optometric Association*. 80:6; page 321. 2009 AOA Poster.

Seeger KR, Crandall M, Nan L, **Jiang BC**. The effect of a customized add on near work induced transient myopia. 2009 ARVO abstract #3976.

Sowka JW, Girgis N. Bilateral phacomorphic glaucoma in a highly myopic patient secondary to spherophakia. World Glaucoma Congress 2009. Boston, July 8-11, 2009.

Yao P, **Jiang BC**, Chu R. The effect of blur adaptation on objective depth-of-focus and accommodative response in different refractive groups. 2009 ARVO abstract #3046.

GRANTS

Reynolds S, Pizzimenti J, and **Oliver P** were awarded The Healthy Eyes Healthy People® (HEHP) Florida Optometric Association Grant, which will be facilitated via the Lions Club of Fort Lauderdale. The American Optometric Association received \$3,000 from Luxottica, Inc., and Vision Service Plan (VSP), and the above College of Optometry faculty members were awarded support for the Florida's HEHP project—The South Florida Glaucoma Awareness Campaign.

Wagner H, Najman P, and **Nguyen TL** were awarded \$7,700 in funding from CIBA Vision to participate in a multicenter retrospective record review entitled "Contact Lens Assessment in Youth."

PUBLICATIONS

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Davis J, Schecter SH, **Sowka J**. Eales' disease: the great masquerader. *Optometry*. July 2009;80(7):354-9.

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Reed, KK. Powerfoods, supervitamins, and mega-supplements: does the evidence support popular claims? *Eye Care Review*. 3:3, June 2009;26-32.

Reed, KK. Taking the pressure off: nutrition's role in glaucoma. *Review of Optometry*. 146:7, July 2009;50-54.

Rius A, Guisasaola L, et al. Informe de la Salud Visual en Centroamérica 2009. UNESCO Chair Visual Health and Development. Co-editors: **Leasher JL**, Rius A, Guisasaola L, Villalobos A. July 2009.

Student News

By N. Scott Gorman, O.D., M.S., Ed.D., FAAO
Professor of Optometry and Director of Development, Alumni Relations, and Continuing Education

Cheryl Baker (class of 2011) was selected as a recipient of the Eyecare Professional Scholarship Award sponsored by Walman Optical.

Evan M. Brinton (class of 2010) was the recipient of the 2009 Dr. Norman E. Wallis Award for Excellence. This award was established to honor Dr. Wallis' 25 years of outstanding service as executive director of the National Board of Examiners in Optometry and is given each year to the candidate who receives the highest score on the targeted or main Part I Applied Basic Science Examination. The award consists of a personalized plaque and a full refund of the Part I registration fee. Brinton was recognized for his outstanding accomplishment in June at the 2009 American Student Optometric Association conclave at Optometry's Meeting in Washington, D.C.

Lisa Cossetto (class of 2011) was selected as one of the optometric students in the United States to win the 2009 Transitions Students of Vision Scholarship Program sponsored by Transitions Optical. Her group's entry was reviewed by a committee of eye care professionals and communication specialists who found her submission to be an excellent example of the "Understanding Healthy Sight" theme.

Sarah Henney (class of 2010) was awarded the American Optometric Foundation 2009 Carl Zeiss Vision Fellowship. This award carries with it a \$5,000 scholarship.

Jenalyn Jotie (class of 2012) conducted a study evaluating the optical performance of silicone contact lenses in Professor Jiang's Vision Science Lab. On her behalf, Dr. Janet Leasher accepted a BSK Student Research Grant at the June 2009 AOA conference in Washington, D.C. Jotie highly encourages every optometric student, including novices such as herself (she had no previous research experience as an undergraduate), to pursue research activities to broaden one's learning beyond the classroom setting. She truly appreciates the mentoring she has received from Dr. Jiang and the Chinese visiting scholars from the EENT Hospital of Fudan University—Drs. Feng Xue and Ying Wu—who are currently investigating questions in myopia and accommodation. The Vision Science Lab is a collaborative environment

where each individual researcher presents his or her work to the group to share ideas.

Michael Rebarchik (class of 2010) was selected as a recipient of the Eyecare Professional Scholarship Award sponsored by Walman Optical.

Seth Salima (class of 2012) was a second runner-up in The Fittest Person of the Year contest, which was presented by *SobeFit Magazine*. Over the past six months, 600 applicants were narrowed down to six final contestants. Salima is a men's Junior Olympics gymnastics instructor who competed in gymnastics throughout his life. Prior to attending optometry school, Seth performed with Cirque de Soleil in Las Vegas. Winners will be featured on the cover of *SobeFit Magazine's* November/December issue.

Lethu Truong (class of 2010) was awarded the 2009 Vision Service Plan Scholarship.

Ben Cook (class of 2013) and his wife were blessed with the arrival of an 8lb., 3oz. girl, Jasmine, on October 30.



Melody Bolanos (class of 2012), following completion of her first year of optometry school, married her high school sweetheart on May 23 after dating for eight years.

Student Organizations Report

By Elliott Snyder (Class of 2011)
President, Student Government Association

Student Government Association (SGA)

The Student Government Association is having an awesome 2009-10 school year full of education both in and out of the classroom. The executive board consists of Elliott Snyder (president), Sarah Brehm (vice president), Carrie Carpenter (secretary), and Michelle Levin (treasurer). We have been keeping busy not only building school spirit and bringing classes together, but enhancing student life for all future optometry students that will be here after we have graduated. The year began with our second annual Organization Fair, which introduced the OD1s to the many ways they can get involved and enrich their NSU experience. Prior to the fair, students were given an *Organization Booklet* featuring info on each club as well as information on how to join and officer contact information. Before the fair, the first-year students were also introduced to their second-year big brothers and big sisters so they could walk around the fair while they got to know each other.

A few weeks later, everyone was welcomed to our first-ever Treetops Park picnic. Students from all four classes came out to have some fun in the rain and sun. We enjoyed food, friends, volleyball, whiffleball, and some water balloon games followed by an awesome tug-o-war battle. The academic year also featured the annual Fall Equipment Fair, now in its fourth year of existence, for the first-year students. The purchase of equipment can be an overwhelming decision for students who do not initially know how to use it. As a result, before the night of the big purchases, the OD1s were invited to attend a workshop hosted by upperclassmen in order to inform students before they were faced with the decision of which equipment to purchase.

American Academy of Optometry (AAO)

The AAO exists "to enhance excellence in optometric practice by fostering research and disseminating knowledge in vision science through the continuing education presented at its annual meeting." The Conversion of Students to Candidates program is an initiative by AAO board members that exists to recruit new graduates to apply for fellowship. This year in Orlando, we hope to have the greatest student representation of all the schools in the country. As part of the AAO's Mentor Program, the plan is to have a local practicing O.D. who is a fellow come and speak to our students on how to apply for fellowship and the benefits of being a student member of the AAO.

American Optometric Student Association (AOSA)

The AOSA represents over 5,600 students attending the 19 schools and colleges of optometry throughout the United States, Canada, and Puerto Rico. Judy Posner (AOSA trustee) and Vicky Wong (AOSA trustee elect) are anxiously anticipating the annual Mini Super Bowl event during the spring semester, which selects the contestant for the Varilux Optometry Super Bowl at the annual AOA/AOSA meeting. This year, the annual meeting will be held in Orlando, Florida. The AOSA hopes to encourage as many students to attend this fun, exciting educational event. The association also hopes to win this year's coveted Spirit Award, which is presented to the school that demonstrates the most school spirit in a creative way, because the winners get to create the rules' video for the following year's Super Bowl competition.

Beta Sigma Kappa (BSK)

Beta Sigma Kappa recently invited approximately 35 new members across the 2010, 2011, and 2012 classes to join the club. The induction dinner welcoming the new members was held in early September, as was the tutoring program. One goal of BSK is to help any and all of our fellow classmates in need of extra assistance. The recently mandated requirement of 20 hours of tutoring per year of all BSK members will again be implemented. Planning for the Mock Preclinical Proficiency Exam is anticipated to begin in January 2010 for the 2012 class. The mock exam is a great way for students to gauge their clinical skills and target areas they need improvement in while building their confidence for the upcoming exam. Also new this year, Dr. Pamela Oliver is taking over the adviser position for Dr. Scott Gorman. We would like to thank Dr. Gorman for his time and efforts in BSK; he will be greatly missed.

Canadian Association of Optometry Students (CAOS)

As the number of Canadian optometry students continues to grow each year, the CAOS strives to become a support group for all Canadian students. Co-founders Lisa Cossetto's and Christina Chan's goal for the CAOS is to provide Canadian students with support for all the common issues they face as Canadians studying in the United States. This encompasses everything from issues with immigration papers and provincial loans to obtaining a Florida driver's license or writing the Canadian boards. In March, the CAOS invited Dr. Lillian Linton, CAO secretary-treasurer to speak to the Canadian students about the practice of optometry in Canada. This past summer, Cossetto attended the 31st Biennial Congress in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island. CAOS will also be planning a Halloween bake sale and a Canadian Thanksgiving social in October. As one of the college's newest organizations, the CAOS has over 30 members and strives to be the place our Canadian students come to get answers.

The College of Optometrists in Vision Development (COVD)

The COVD is a nonprofit, international membership association of eye care professionals including optometrists, optometry students, and vision therapists. Established in 1971, the COVD provides board certification for eye doctors and vision therapists who are prepared to offer state-of-the-art services in behavioral and developmental vision care, vision therapy, and visual rehabilitation. These specialized vision care services develop and enhance visual abilities and correct many vision problems in infants, children, and adults. The COVD provides its members and the public with access to the latest research, educational programs, and information in the areas of behavioral vision care, vision therapy, and related fields. Information can be found on our national Web site at www.covd.org and includes topics such as our annual meeting, student grants and awards, externship manual, sites and director lists, and residency opportunity listings.

Fellowship of Christian Optometrists (FCO)

FCO's primary mission is to help optometrists become established in the type of mission work that combines eye care and the furtherance of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, both in the workplace and on mission fields around the world. We also

desire to promote and maintain fellowship among optometrists while creating an environment for spiritual growth. We aim to establish, maintain, and operate educational training programs and clinics in optometry and allied ophthalmic fields for students and those who are members of or affiliated with FCO International. At the end of the 2009 winter semester, a group of students from the NSU FCO chapter went to Tegucigalpa, Honduras. Our goal was to provide eye care to people who are not able to access it in their daily lives. In Honduras, we partnered with His Eyes Clinic and Valerie Colby, O.D., to go out to the rural areas of Tegucigalpa to perform eye exams and give out glasses that were donated by Luxottica and Lions Club. As a result of the trip, over 500 patients received the gift of sight, and many more were impacted in Tegus and its surrounding villages.

Florida Optometric Student Association (FOSA)

FOSA is the student branch of the Florida Optometric Association (FOA). We encourage participation of young optometrists and optometry students to join with the FOA in all phases of its work and efforts. We inform optometry students about important political issues pertaining to our future profession in Florida and encourage student advocacy. We also provide many opportunities for optometry students to make connections with local optometrists through events we hold. This year brought us over 50 new student members. In July 2010, we will be welcoming Ernesto Cepero, incoming FOSA president elect, so mark your calendar for the FOA Convention, which will be held July 22-25, 2010, in Orlando.

Nova Optometric Practice Management Association (NOPMA)

NOPMA has started off the 2009-10 school year on the right foot. The first NOPMA meeting of the year welcomed the most attendees in NOPMA history here at NSU's campus. The word is getting out that business and optometry go hand in hand. Having business knowledge is vital to being successful no matter what modality is chosen. The organization meets monthly and features guest speakers from the full range of optometric professions. These nationwide speakers bring their experience and encouragement to students considering private, commercial, and group practice. Other speakers that are not optometrists include representatives from retail and drug companies, business bankers, and financial advisors. NOPMA's goal is to expose the members to as much business knowledge as possible before they graduate and go into practice. As a perk to joining the club and to emphasize the importance of networking, business cards will be distributed again this year to all new members. It will be an exciting and busy year for all NOPMA members.

National Optometric Student Association (NOSA)

The National Optometric Student Association (NOSA) continues to promote community involvement locally and internationally through health fairs, vision screenings, and mission trips. During the months of July and August, NOSA took part in the Memorial Healthcare System's Back-to-School Health Fairs by participating in vision screenings for Broward County students at various community centers in Hollywood and Miramar.

In June, NOSA, along with Dr. Sherrol Reynolds, Dr. Greg Black, and Dr. Noel Henry, participated in the annual NSU College of Osteopathic Medicine's Jamaica Medical Mission. NOSA screened over 400 residents of Kingston and St. Mary, Jamaica, for refractive errors, presbyopia, advanced cataracts, glaucoma, and diabetic retinopathy, which are the most prevalent conditions for reduced vision in the Jamaican population. With support from NSU's College of Optometry and the Fort Lauderdale Lions Club, NOSA's optometry team was

able to provide individuals the spectacles and therapeutic treatments needed to improve and preserve their vision health.

The Jamaica Medical Mission was successful in providing most of the basic health care needs for Jamaicans through the joint effort of NOSA's NSU student chapter, which consisted of nine members: Dr. Smith Blanc, Bupathi Dissanayake, Thanh Thao Ho, Steven Klein, Aria Murphy, Magdalena Saint-Louis, Denise Saunders, Somayeh Semati, and Jimmy Yang, along with other teams from NSU's Health Professions Division. These teams incorporated individuals from the Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine and its Master of Public Health Program, Dental Medicine, Pharmacy, and Allied Health and Nursing.

During the past fall and winter/spring semesters, NOSA hosted several fundraising events such as bake sales, multicultural lunch sales, valentine candy-gram sales, and a car wash. In April, NOSA hosted its third annual banquet at which the new NOSA officers were installed. They are: Denise Saunders (president), Somayeh Semati (vice president), Huma Jeelani (secretary), Asinech Mida (treasurer), and Bupathi Dissanayake (fundraising chair).

Optometric Student Association for Ocular Disease (OSAOD)

The OSAOD is entering into its second year at NSU, and it promises to be an exciting one. The OSAOD's first meeting of the new academic year was held on September 24, and Dr. Joseph Sowka once again served as our featured speaker. In other news, the OSAOD is looking forward to inviting speakers from different modalities of practices who will share how they have incorporated disease practice into their practice. We welcome members from all of the classes. The OSAOD will provide exposure to the first- and second-year students and will broaden the depth of disease knowledge and practice for the third- and fourth-year students.

Student Volunteer Optometric Services to Humanity (SVOSH)

SVOSH is a nonprofit organization that was founded in 1997 by NSU College of Optometry students. Our goal is to provide primary eye care to individuals who do not have access either due to geographical or financial reasons. Our main mission is during spring break of each year. We travel to a Caribbean or Central/South American country where there is great need for optometric care. We collect thousands of used glasses, many from the Lions Club and local optometrists, and prepare them for distribution in these underdeveloped areas. For most of the people we help, our services may be the only form of health care they will ever receive.

Our last mission, during March 2009, was to help the residents of the rural suburbs of Quito, Ecuador. It was a joint effort between NSU's College of Optometry and the local optometrists of Ecuador. Eye examinations were given over a three-day period, with the average workday lasting 10 hours. The patients' journey through our free "clinic" began with a thorough ocular/medical history, near and distance visual acuities followed by eye motility, confrontation fields, pupil testing, direct ophthalmoscopy, and overall health evaluation. Refractions were then performed along with slit lamp, ocular pressure, and indirect biomicroscopy. Glasses were distributed to those in need, along with medications and referrals to those diagnosed with disease and other ocular problems. Over the three-day period, the team was able to examine over 1,000 patients and dispense over 2,000 glasses and sunglasses. These trips are a great experience for not only the patients but also the students and doctors who are able to participate in the trips.

Graduation 2009

A true sense of celebration was evidenced during Senior Week, which provided a multitude of opportunities for the class of 2009 to get reacquainted while participating in the senior luncheon and a festive awards banquet at the Westin Diplomat Resort and Spa in Hollywood. The week culminated on Sunday, May 24 when 103 optometric physicians received their Doctor of Optometry degree during the NSU Health Professions Division Commencement Ceremony at the Bank Atlantic Center in Sunrise.

During the ceremony, 790 graduates from various NSU Health Professions Division colleges received their long-awaited diplomas in front of an enthusiastic audience filled with family, friends, and faculty members. Congresswoman Debbie Wasserman Schultz (D-Weston), who represents Florida's 20th Congressional District, delivered a stirring commencement address where she spoke of the need to pass health care legislation that ensures all Americans will receive health coverage.



Proudly Announcing ERIN JENEWEIN, O.D.

The College of Optometry proudly congratulates Dr. Erin Jenewein for demonstrating outstanding academic performance during her four years at the college. In addition to winning five senior awards, she ranked first in her class and graduated with honors as the class of 2009 valedictorian.



Dean's Award

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

Beta Sigma Kappa International Silver Medal Award

Presented to the graduating chapter member who has attained the highest academic average.

Luxottica Award

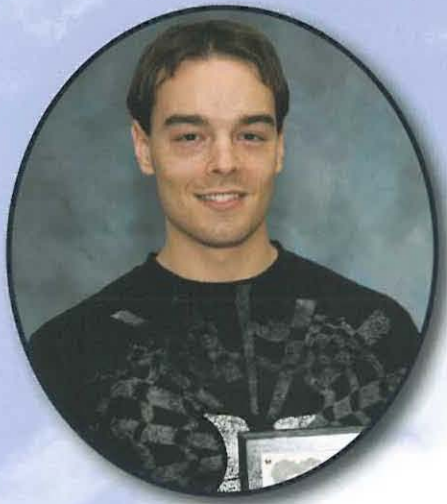
Presented to a graduating student who has demonstrated excellence in clinical pediatric care and vision therapy.

Milroy Optical Scholarship Award

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

Lester E. Janoff Scholar Award

Presented to a student for outstanding performance in a scholarly activity; in memory of a renowned educator, researcher, and pioneer in the area of cornea and contact lenses; a gentleman and a scholar who exemplified lifelong learning.



GRAHAM RASANEN, O.D.

Pediatric and Binocular Vision Clinical Excellence Award
Presented to a graduating student who has demonstrated outstanding clinical skills and patient care in The Eye Care Institute Pediatrics and Binocular Vision Service.

**Essilor Student Grant
NSU College of Optometry and National Award**
Presented to a student for the best case report on patients fit with Varilux lenses.



LISA MARTIN, O.D.

**College of Optometrists in Vision Development
Award of Excellence**
Presented to a graduating student who has demonstrated strong interest and clinical skills in the area of vision therapy.

X-Cel Contact Lens Award
Presented to a graduating student for excellence in fitting RGP contact lenses.



NADDIA BARRIOS, O.D.

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

MiraMed Tech Academic Achievement Award
Presented to a graduating student in recognition of his/her outstanding academic performance and contributions to the eye care community.

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



Sarah Gaib, O.D.

Florida Optometric Association Presidential Award

Presented to a graduating student for academic performance, demonstrated leadership, and participation in volunteer activities.



Jennifer Bauza, O.D.

GP Clinical Excellence Award

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



Tara Weisbeck, O.D.

Odyssey Dry Eye Award

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



Tamatha Tomeff, O.D.

Contact Lens Practice Management Award

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



Roxanne Buffano, O.D.

Odyssey Dry Eye Award

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



Michael Mull, O.D.

Essilor Corneal Reflection Pupilometer Award

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



Jason Oilar, O.D.

Marchon Practice Management Award

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



Angeline Mouton, O.D.

Southern Council of Optometry Award for Clinical Excellence

Presented to a graduating student who has demonstrated outstanding clinical performance



Roger Davila, O.D.

Pioneer Instruments Primary Care Award

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



Linda Pak, O.D.

Vision Care Inc. Primary Care Clinical Achievement Award

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



Fredy Otalora, O.D.

Module Directors' Award

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



Teresita Bollar, O.D.

Aran Eye Associates Excellence in Ocular Disease Award

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



Mayden Borrego, O.D.

Braverman Eye Center Excellence Award

For demonstration of superior clinical skills and excellence in diagnosis and treatment of ocular disease.



John Leffers, O.D.

Braverman Eye Center Extern of the Year

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



Kinga Jakson, O.D.

Advanced Medical Optics Contact Lens Award

Presented to a graduating student who attained the highest academic average in all didactic courses related to contact lenses.



Elizabeth Vanderpool, O.D.

Cooper Vision Excellence in Contact Lens Award

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



Christen Russell, O.D.

Vistakon Award of Excellence

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



Jocelyn Hunerdosse, O.D.

William Feinbloom Low Vision Award

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



Heather Spampinato, O.D.

Heine Award of Excellence in Optics

Presented to a graduating student who has attained the highest academic average in all didactic courses related to optics.



Neha Joshi, O.D.

Lombart Instruments Optometric Award

Presented to the individual with the highest overall grade in the optometric theory and methods courses.



Julie Abraham, O.D.

Volk Ocular Disease Excellence Award

Presented to a student for excellence in ocular disease.



Elena Laskova, O.D.

Welch-Allyn Award of Excellence

Presented to a graduating student for outstanding performance in all areas of optometry.



Gianne Castellanos, O.D.

The Lenny Cherdack Student Legislative Award

Presented to the student who exhibited behavior consistent with the high ideals and moral ethics of organized optometry and has demonstrated outstanding dedication to the profession, the FOA, and the legislative process, including representing optometry at the state capitol.

Spotlight Shines on Class of 2010 Residents



By Lori Vollmer, O.D., FAAO
Assistant Professor of Optometry and Director of Residency Programs

Another residency year is well underway, and we are fortunate to have a full class of eight residents.

NSU's College of Optometry offers eight onsite residency positions. These include one full pediatrics position as well as seven primary care positions. Of the seven primary care positions, three provide an emphasis in ocular disease, two concentrate on pediatrics and binocular vision, one focuses on cornea and contact lenses, while another accentuates geriatrics and low vision.

NSU is also affiliated with 10 external residency programs. There are three ocular disease sites at Aran Eye Associates, Bascom Palmer Eye Institute, and Braverman Eye Center and one primary care site with emphasis in ocular disease at the Clayton Eye Center. The other six are in primary eye care at the Tallahassee VA, Orlando VA, Bay Pines VA, Gainesville VA, Lake City VA, and Daytona Beach VA.

Residency training is available to any graduate of an optometry program accredited through the Accreditation Council on Optometric Education (ACOE). All optometric residency programs affiliated with Nova Southeastern University are accredited by the ACOE.

What is the importance of accreditation? Accreditation is a process of self study and external review, which ensures that an educational program meets or exceeds predetermined standards. The ACOE is recognized by the United States Department of Education as an authority on the quality of the educational programs it accredits. These residency programs are evaluated through the development and publication of standards, development of a self study with learning goals and outcome measures, and external site visits by the ACOE.

Establishing and maintaining accreditation requires a tireless commitment from both the college and the residency site to accomplish continued excellence and program improvement. It is this type of commitment to teaching that makes residency training such a valuable year because it provides unique opportunities for learning and attainment of advanced competencies not available to new graduates or even some practicing optometrists.

Why choose residency training? Let's ask our current class members what motivated their decision.

Dr. Angeline Mouton (primary care with emphasis in ocular disease): "I wanted to have an extra year of experience to increase my knowledge base so I can feel confident when diagnosing and treating ocular disease."

Dr. Jocelyn Hunerdosse (primary care with emphasis in geriatrics and low vision): "I felt as though I would be selling myself short if I did not do a residency. It was also very important for me to find my own niche within optometry."

Dr. Kelly Meehan (primary care with emphasis in pediatrics and binocular vision): "I chose to do a residency so that I may practice at the highest level of optometry. I also wanted to specialize within a specific area of optometry. Doing a residency opens all career options and will allow me to choose my career path."

Dr. Smith Blanc (primary care with emphasis in cornea and contact lenses): "I wanted all doors to be open to me. While in optometry school, I realized there are some job positions in optometry that are only offered to those with residency training (teaching positions or VA positions). Completing a residency would make me more competitive. I also wanted



EXTRA! EXTRA!

It's Time to Send Us Your News!

As *The Visionary* continues to evolve and grow, our goal is to make it a truly informative publication that details the accomplishments of our alumni, faculty, students, and staff.

We are in the process of compiling information for the spring 2010 issue of *The Visionary* and invite you to submit suitable news and photos.

Please keep us apprised if you have

- purchased a practice
- been promoted or accepted a new professional position
- had a major article or book published
- been appointed to a local, state, or national committee or board of directors
- conducted noteworthy research
- received any special awards or recognition
- gotten married or had a baby

Also, please be sure to update your contact information regularly so we can continue to send you *The Visionary* as well as other important college and alumni information.

ALUMNI

you may update your contact information at
<https://www.nova.edu/webforms/alumni/>

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

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We also wish to thank the following companies for their support of the college's continuing education programs during 2009-10.


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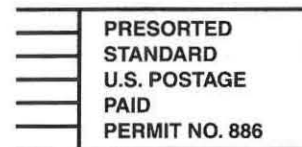
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BUSINESS SYSTEMS

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 **RAND**
EYE INSTITUTE
EXCELLENCE IN OPHTHALMOLOGY





2009-10 Calendar of Events

JANUARY 31, 2010

Resident's Day, NSU Health Professions Division

FEBRUARY 12, 2010

Alumni and Friends Reception, SECO International 2010,
Atlanta Marriott Marquis, Atlanta, Georgia

APRIL 10-11, 2010

Spring Doubleheader: Interdisciplinary Care of the Diabetes Patient
and Retina Update, NSU Health Professions Division

MAY 14-16, 2010

14th Annual Clinical Eye Care Conference and Alumni Reunion,
NSU Health Professions Division

JUNE 18, 2010

Alumni and Friends Reception, Optometry's Meeting, Orlando, Florida

SUMMER 2010

132-Hour Therapeutic Pharmaceutical Agents Certification Course

JUNE 26-27, 2010

Florida Board of Optometry Examination Review Course,
NSU Health Professions Division

JULY 23, 2010

Alumni and Friends Reception, Florida Optometric Association Convention,
Hilton Orlando, Orlando, Florida

AUGUST 28-29, 2010

Summer Doubleheader: Neuro-Optometry Symposium and Glaucoma Update 2010,
NSU Health Professions Division