



SCO VISIONS

SOUTHERN COLLEGE OF OPTOMETRY ALUMNI MAGAZINE | SUMMER 2018



family

It's not uncommon to hear references about the "SCO family." Generations of students have grown to appreciate the sense of family they find at SCO. From starting their own families to making connections that last a lifetime, SCO takes pride in the sense of community that defines our institution.

From our faculty and staff to our newest students and graduates, SCO actively supports everyone who plays a part in our success.

Show your appreciation for what SCO has meant to you as a member of the SCO family. Your support of scholarship opportunities helps us recruit the best and brightest students to carry on SCO's legacy of success.

Call (901) 722-3216 or visit sco.edu/donate to make your gift.



INSIDE

Leadership Message.....	4
A Look at EyeServe Memphis	5

SVOSH Partners with Alumni Council Member

1977 alumnus travels to Mexico.....	6
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Commencement 2018

New graduates ready to practice optometry.....	8
--	---

Introducing Prospective Students to Optometry	11
---	----

Class Notes	12
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On Campus Focus.....	14
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Sharing Bikes and Meeting Guide Dogs	15
--	----



There's never a shortage of volunteers for our popular EyeSpy: A Day at the Memphis Zoo event. Held each June, this year's event marked the sixth annual outing.

FOCUS

Look for SCO at these upcoming events...

August 24

*Class of 2022 White Coat Ceremony
SCO Campus
Memphis, TN*

October 4-7

*Homecoming and Fall Continuing Education Weekend
SCO Campus
Memphis, TN*

November 7-10

*American Academy of Optometry
San Antonio, TX*

January 8-9

*State Day
SCO Campus*

February 20-24

*SECO
New Orleans*

From the President

Thank You For Your Feedback

At SCO, we continually examine the strategies that will best enable the college to recruit and educate optometrists who are prepared to practice full-scope optometry. Just as you concentrate on your daily practice, we focus on recruiting and graduating the best prepared ODs that we can. It's simply the nature of our mission.

In recent years, it's become increasingly evident that interest in all healthcare careers, not just optometry, isn't growing. The number of qualified applicants is pretty much flat as new programs come online. A decade ago, there were 1.9 total applicants per available seat, but last year that number dropped to 1.4 total applicants per available seat.



SCO's graduates succeed, in part, because of the high standards which have come to define our institution. Simply put, we cannot compromise on the minimum qualifications for admission. We believe that academically excellent students with a passion for optometry are the best prepared for the rigors of a challenging optometry school program.

Presently, there are probably fewer than 1,000 applicants nationwide that meet our average admissions standards. This is concerning for the long-term success of our profession, and SCO is participating in a number of initiatives conducted by the Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry to help interest more qualified students in the profession.

What does this challenge mean for you? Simply stated, there's an immediate need for us to work together to encourage the best qualified applicants to consider optometry and SCO as their school of choice. We are committed to providing a superior education while working to minimize student debt levels.

The applicant pool crisis means that we need your help. When you're in your communities and practices, encourage bright young people to consider optometry as a career. It's a credit to our profession that the standards have risen through the years. Because SCO cannot rest on our laurels, we must be proactive in assuring that we recruit the best and most qualified students for each entering class.

SCO is working to expand scholarship opportunities so that the best qualified applicants recognize the college's commitment to partnering with them to assist in their success. We recently added a new section to our website highlighting our robust scholarship program. If you know a highly qualified applicant, help us communicate that these scholarship opportunities exist.

Above all, thank you for taking the time to think about these challenges. With your continued support and enthusiasm for optometric education, SCO will be well positioned to thrive as one of the nation's leading optometry colleges.

Lewis Reich, OD, PhD

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SCO Launches Eye Serve Memphis to Encourage Students and Alumni Collaboration

SCO is launching a brand-new community outreach initiative that aims to connect students and alumni on service projects to demonstrate the positive impact that optometry can make on a local community. Called Eye Serve Memphis, this new SCO day of service will be held during Homecoming weekend, October 4-7.

Eye Serve Memphis will consist of various service projects in which students and alumni will participate as partnered groups. The idea for the program originated in part with students who brainstormed creative ways that they could network with alumni on projects which offered them opportunities to collaborate and help others at the same time.

Additional support for the new Homecoming weekend program came from the college's strategic plan initiatives which called for encouraging networking opportunities between students and alumni as well as ways to help the local community understand optometry and the value that SCO brings to Memphis.

A student group spent the early part of 2018 mapping out their strategies for building the program. Assisted by the Office of Institutional Advancement in identifying community partners, the group surveyed students and alumni to come up with the name and logo for the concept as well.

"Being part of the Eye Serve Memphis Executive Council has been a great experience as we have watched an idea turn into a reality," said Jason Thomason, 3rd year student and Eye Serve Memphis Executive Council member. "From coming up with a name for the big day to organizing non-profit partners, we are each excited to see the ground work put down for future students and alumni to have an opportunity to give back to Memphis, a city that has been a great home and community for each and every one of us."

"Seeing our students' enthusiasm for Eye Serve Memphis has been a very positive experience for everyone involved in the planning of this new event," said Beth Fisher, SCO's Director of Alumni and Special Events.

"Our students are really interested in networking with our alumni and getting to know them better as role models and future colleagues, so this event is a great opportunity for alumni who are looking for future partners or who just want to connect more with today's optometry students," Fisher said.

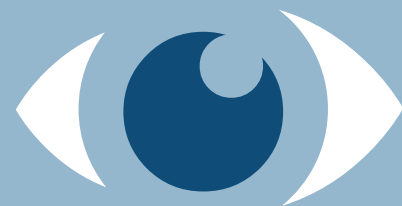
All service projects are scheduled for Saturday morning of Homecoming weekend and transportation will be provided to and from each location.

After the service projects, the students and alumni will join us back on campus for a Lunch 'n Serve event to network and share their experiences with each other.

SCO will partner with the following organizations to provide volunteer opportunities:

- Dorothy Day House
- Habitat for Humanity of Greater Memphis
- Memphis Animal Services
- Memphis District Collaborative
- Memphis Zoo
- Thistle & Bee.

Eye Serve Memphis is scheduled for Saturday, October 6, from 9 am until 12 pm. For more information about Eye Serve Memphis, visit sco.edu/homecoming. Contact Beth Fisher at (90) 722-3285 or bfisher@sco.edu with any additional questions.



EYE SERVE MEMPHIS

INAUGURAL EVENT

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 6
9 AM-12 PM**

*We are excited to
see the ground
work put down
for future students
and alumni to have
an opportunity
to give back to
Memphis.*

Making Memories in Merida, Mexico

Alumni Council Member Joins SVOSH Students on Mission Trip

By Larry Otten, OD '77, SCO Alumni Council member



In January 2017, while I was attending the winter SCO board meeting, I met with about 12 SVOSH members. I thought I would impress them with stories about VOSH Northwest and my independent eye care mission trips that I had taken.

However, it was SCO's dynamic SVOSH group that left me nearly speechless by asking if I could travel with them on a future trip. The answer was "yes," so on May 5, 2018, I left Seattle for Merida, Mexico. As far as trip preparation, this was my easiest mission trip as the inventory and equipment came with the students from Memphis. I packed my swimsuit and sunglasses along with my Welch Allyn direct ophthalmoscope and retinoscope.

Like many eye care mission trips before, I had little knowledge of Merida, Mexico. I had learned that it was the capitol of the Yucatan, is considered very safe for American travelers, and about a five-hour bus ride from Cancun, with Mayan pyramids in between. My flight from Seattle involved a Houston layover and then direct to Merida. May temperatures are warm and very comfortable.

Shortly after my arrival, I met Carissa Chambers, OD '15, along with her friend George Garland, who would be performing optician services. Dr. Chambers and I would be the staff doctors for this trip. Dr. Chambers practices optometry in Jonesborough, Tennessee. With me being an oldster from the Class of 1977, she's a recent grad who still had that youthful excitement and enthusiasm which would become an important attribute to have on this trip.

The next day, Sunday afternoon, the SCO students arrived at our hotel. Introductions were made, we had dinner together, and we had discussions about the week ahead. There would be four

days of clinic hosted at the Merida Lions Club facility.

The Merida Lions Club makes this one of their important annual events and had previously worked with SCO's SVOSH chapter. The LIONS Club was well prepared and organized even before our arrival. They had spread the word throughout the community about our eye clinic. On clinic days they organized patient sign-ups and directed them to testing. Throughout the day they answered many questions, provided food and beverages for us, and after a tiring day of clinic, they provided us with evening entertainment.

Our evenings involved a walking tour of the city, a gracious dinner at one of the Lion's Club member's home, and an excursion one evening to Progreso, a quiet town on the Gulf of Mexico just north of Merida. We learned that the Merida Lions know how to celebrate, which they graciously hosted us for a celebration dinner on our last evening there.

The twelve students ranged from students who had just completed their first year of class to two who had just graduated on Friday, May 4: Drs. Tyler Wadzinski and Logan Brunner. I was impressed with Drs. Wadzinski and Brunner's team leadership and organization skills.

The other students included Sara Stockwell, Hannah Fann, Katelyn Marks, Mackenzie Kohnen, Belinda Duong, Chawan Rasheed, Elizabeth McDowell, Kelly Cawley, Amrik Tiwana, and Kaitlyn Trahan. On day one of clinic, the first-year students certainly had questions. There were fewer questions on the second day, and after that, everyone seem to be getting it.

In all there were 760 patients treated. Cataracts were referred for surgery and glaucoma treatment was offered to many. One patient exceeded minus 20 diopters. I had several high hyperopic patients who received eyeglasses for their first time. I was impressed with Dr. Brunner, who finished evaluating and treating an infant with the diagnosis of accommodative esotropia. The baby's mother was reassured and relieved to receive such expert care.

The SCO students performed in a most serious professional manner. I was proud to be a part of this team. Patients and Lions Club members asked us to return. My VOSH NW group was impressed with



my report of this successful mission.

On the last day of clinic, a young lady needed prism in her eyeglass prescription. We did not have anything for her in our inventory. Although she was given a new eyeglass frame, she did not have the money for lenses.

When I became aware of her dilemma, I agreed to have the lenses made in the U.S., and somehow I would get them to her. I was advised that mailing them would not work. Carlos and Jerry were locals who helped at our clinic. It just so happened that Jerry's mother was in Atlanta, and would be returning to Merida this summer. I mailed the eyeglasses to her, so she was the courier to Merida. Carlos and Jerry personally delivered the eyeglasses yesterday. With good intentions, everything came together for the young lady who came to our clinic seeking eye care.

Most eye care mission trips have an excursion following all of that hard work. Friday we traveled by a comfortable small private bus to the archeological site Chichen Itza, Mayan ruins, a nearby cenote, and late in the afternoon, we arrived at an all inclusive resort in Cancun.

The Cenote of Chichen Itza was a secret underworld turquoise pool where Mayans communicated with the gods. We saw natural pools of clear pure water formed by the collapse of porous limestone bedrock. I was not prepared for the remarkable experience of swimming in this pool.

Aside from this trip, SCO SVOSH members had simultaneous trips to Belmopan, Belize, Cartagena, Colombia, Ibarra, Ecuador, and Port-Au-Prince, Haiti. SVOSH had planned to go to San Juan Del Rio Coco, Nicaragua, but because of political unrest, wisely cancelled that trip this year.

SCO's Alumni Council would like more alumni to make connections to the current students. I found this to be a great opportunity for an SCO alum to continue to be part of the active student community.



HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS GAIN EXPOSURE TO OPTOMETRY

Fifteen high school students recently stepped upon the SCO campus to explore the profession of optometry during their participation in the Success in Sight program.

Since its inception in 2012, Success in Sight is a competitive, two-day program designed for high school students to get a first-hand look at SCO's four-year optometry program. Students meet optometry students and hear from practicing optometrists from a diverse background, and eye doctors share their experiences in the practice and how each one decided upon optometry as a career.

"I have always been interested in optometry and wanted to get a better insight, so I can better plan my career," said Emily Foster, sophomore at Lexington High School. "I now know what it takes to enroll in optometry school after participating in the program."

The participants also gain exposure with the equipment and the tools that optometrists use and spend time shadowing in The Eye Center, one of the nation's largest clinics designed for providing eye care to patients.

"Our hope for the students is that they learn that optometry is a viable option for a career," said Janette D. Dumas, OD, FCOVD, FAAO, Success in Sight Program Director, Associate Professor and Coordinator of Minority Recruitment.

During the students' first day of their visit, they dissected cow eyes, learned about the admissions process, participated in various eye activities and picked up valuable lessons from current SCO students during the Student Panel.

"I am interested in attending SCO and studying optometry, so being in the program has given me ways to help me improve my chances on attending SCO and becoming an optometrist," said recent East Poinsett County High School graduate Andrew Cavitt.

During their second day, the participants toured campus and learned from optometrists during the OD Panel.

"It was nice to hear from already established optometrists and use the same equipment that they use," said Taylah Winding, senior at Power Center Academy.

After participating in the program, Winding and Cavitt plan to attend college to study biology while Foster plans to study chemistry. All three of them will attend optometry school upon receiving their bachelor's degree.

"I would tell a high school student that may be interested in optometry to research the profession, talk to optometrists in different modes of practice and to shadow an optometrist if they have the opportunity," said Dr. Dumas.

To learn more about the Success in Sight program, visit sco.edu/success-in-sight.

Our hope for the students is that they learn that optometry is a viable option for a career.

SCO 2018

COMMENCEMENT



Front Row: Brooke Jones-Cannon, Tammy Holsclaw-Jones, OD '88, Deborah Chew, OD, Alexander Leong
Middle Row: Kathryn McCullough, OD '79, Trent Martin
Back Row: Burks McCullough, Ed Martin, OD '00

LEGACY GRADUATES



Front Row: Julie Rallo, John Popham
Middle Row: Rod Rallo, OD '80, Ray Popham, OD '78
Back Row: Mike Allee, OD '83, Jonathan Allee



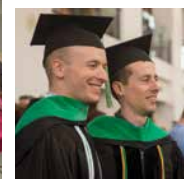
Front Row: Caleb Robinson, Nathaniel Robinson, OD '91
Second Row: Amanda Brewer-Lord, OD '97, Alexandra Elise Lord-Schwab
Third Row: Sarah Scoggin, Diana Scoggin, OD, Stephen Lord, OD '89
Back Row: Jeff Strossner, OD, Laura Wooten





COMMENCEMENT

COMMISSIONING CEREMONY





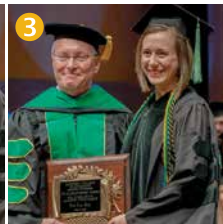
Southern College of Optometry awarded 133 doctor of optometry degrees during the college's annual commencement ceremony held at the Cannon Center for the Performing Arts in Memphis.

1 **C. Ellis Potter**, OD '67, delivered the commencement address and received the Doctor of Ocular Science degree in recognition of his significant contribution to VOSH and philanthropic causes.

Co-Valedictorians were 2 **Elizabeth Fahy** and 3 **Alex Soliz**. The class address was given by Class President **Elizabeth Ann Perch**.

The Class of 2018 included a number of legacy students, second- and third-generation alumni. Two graduates, **Jessica Ward** and **Nate Dederman**, were commissioned into the U.S. Army.

Full photo coverage can be viewed on SCO's website, and a recording of the commencement ceremony can be found on SCO's YouTube channel.



FAMILY CELEBRATION



CLASS SENDOFF



ACADEMIC AWARDS SPONSORS AND 2018 RECIPIENTS

SUSAN GRISSOM MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP
Mary Chase

NATIONAL BOARD OF EXAMINERS IN
OPTOMETRY PART II HIGHEST SCORE
Alex Soliz

NOSA RECOGNITION
*Brehana Hawkins
Shanelle Jenkins
Jessica Ward*

SOUTHERN COLLEGE OF OPTOMETRY
ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS
*Sneha Bagavandoss
Caitlin Condron
Chase Harter
Ashley Morneau
Emma Pope
Shelby Rogers
Chelci Schade
Bradley Schuster
Tessa Wellsandt*

ESSILOR LABS OF AMERICA AWARD
Mallory Harris

JOHNSON & JOHNSON AWARD OF
EXCELLENCE IN CONTACT LENS PATIENT CARE
Victoria Stewart

GP LENS INSTITUTE CONTACT LENS CLINICAL
EXCELLENCE AWARD
Michelle Chan

X-CEL CONTACTS OUTSTANDING GP
FITTING AWARD
Nicholas Roovers

VALLEY CONTAX AWARD
*Jacob Bowen
Kelsey White*

SOUTHWEST CONTACT LENS SOCIETY
Alex Soliz

LS&S GROUP LOW VISION AWARD
Alexander Leong

NOIR LOW VISION AWARD
Mary Chase

ESCHENBACH OPTIK LOW VISION
STUDENT AWARD
Corey Ommen

DESIGNS FOR VISIONS, INC. WILLIAM
FEINBLOOM LOW VISION AWARD
Kristian Mostert

OPTELEC EXCELLENCE IN
LOW VISION AWARD
Robert Smith

DR. LEWIS REICH LOW VISION
ENDOWED AWARD
Ethan Adkins

MARCHON EYEWEAR PRACTICE
MANAGEMENT AWARD
Julia Ham

ALCON CASE STUDY SCHOLARSHIP AWARD
Rachel Obrock

SOUTHERN COUNCIL OF OPTOMETRISTS
CLINICAL EXCELLENCE AWARD
Kalah Burchfield

DR. BERNARD L. KAHN MEMORIAL
ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP
Kelly Arnhart

HOYA VISION CARE AWARD
Elizabeth Perch

NATIONAL VISION, INC. AWARD
Hilarie Nixon

OCULAR INSTRUMENTS, INC.
AWARD OF EXCELLENCE
Keisha Sands

THE LASIK VISION INSTITUTE AND TLC LASER
EYE CENTERS AWARD
Gustavo Rodriguez

BEAVER-VISITEC INTERNATIONAL, INC. (BVI)
PARTNERS IN OPTOMETRY AWARD
*Theresa Cassidy
Elizabeth Fahy*

KATENA / EAGLE VISION
*Catherine Danko
Andrew Belknap
Kendra Fink*

RAFIETARY ACADEMIC AND CLINICAL
EXCELLENCE AWARD
Allan McCleary

GOOD-LITE AWARD
William Wooten

COLLEGE OF OPTOMETRISTS IN
VISION DEVELOPMENT EXCELLENCE
IN VISION THERAPY
Laura Wooten

GLEN T. STEELE, OD AND L. ALLEN FORS, OD
DEVELOPMENTAL VISION SCHOLARSHIP
Alexander Leong

DR. W.C. MAPLES AWARD
Lauren Plewes

STEREO OPTICAL CO., INC.
Danny Garcia

OEP CLINICAL CURRICULUM AWARD
Anne Czelusniak

OUTSTANDING CLINICIAN AWARDS
*Ethan Adkins
Laura Aelvoet
Laura Brown
Melinda Dang
Marcus Daniel
Morgan Kickliter
Alyssa Louia
Allan McCleary
Alex Soliz
Anna Claire Spradling*

DRS. FRED AND CHARLENE BURNETT
STUDENT RESEARCH AWARD
*Laura Brown
Ryan Piche
Lauren Plewes*

SECO PAST PRESIDENTS ENDOWED AWARD
Melinda Dang

BEAU WILLIS ENDOWED AWARD
Carlos Grandela

DR. DAVID P. SLOAN MEMORIAL AWARD
Elora Dittmar

BAYS FAMILY SERVICE AWARD
Mong Linh Van

SOUTHWEST COUNCIL OF OPTOMETRY
ENDOWED AWARD
Caleb Robinson

OPTOMETRIC LEADERSHIP EXCELLENCE AWARD
William Stringer

CLASS OF 1967 ENDOWED AWARD
Jessica Ward

MARK J. MURPHY ENDOWED AWARD
Eric Woodward

SPARROW, EVANS AND WAYMON AWARD
Haley Kincannon

DR. SIDNEY EDELSTEIN MEMORIAL AWARD
Elizabeth Fahy

THE WINSTON FAMILY ENDOWED AWARD
Trent Martin

DR. FRED MOTHERSHED FAMILY
ENDOWED AWARD
Chelci Schade

HALPERN FAMILY ENDOWED AWARD
Laura Schwartz

DR. JAMES SANDEFUR ENDOWED AWARD
Jillian Duhon

DR. WILLIAM DICKERSON ENDOWED AWARD
Alyssa Mabry

EUROPA EYEWEAR
Taylor Nicks



Class Notes

1949 Orman Campbell, OD, was named Outstanding Citizen of the Year in Henderson, Tennessee.

1977 Thomas A. Roberson, OD, recently returned to Haiti for his seventh mission trip. His medical team's eye clinic screened 1,228 patients.

1982 Sam Garrett, OD, recently joined Clemson Eye.

1984 Warren Johnson, OD, recently worked with Total Eye Care Partners on the acquisition of his practice, Eyewear Gallery in Memphis. The venture marks the private equity firm's first acquisition in Tennessee.

1985 Kendell Krug, OD, was named 2018's OD of the Year in Kansas. He's pictured with his daughter, Laura Krug, and Julie Toon, OD.



1986 Stephen Lewis, OD, was selected as the Outstanding OD of the Year by the Optometry Association of Louisiana.

1989 Greg Ray, OD, is currently facing a battle with cancer. His friends and colleagues have launched an online fundraiser to assist his family with expenses.

1995 Tammy Than, OD, has been announced as this year's recipient of the Vincent Ellerbrock Clinician Educator

Award to be presented at the American Academy of Optometry meeting.

1998 Brent Fry, OD, recently opened a new practice as he commemorated 20 years of providing patient care in Knoxville.



2002 Nicole Patterson, OD, was recently named Assistant Dean of NSU College of Optometry.

2008 Christopher Smith, OD, opened a new location for his practice in Colorado.

Jeff Wiedrich, OD, has acquired his own practice in Colorado.

2011 Crystal Mirza Gustin, OD, was selected Outstanding Young OD of the Year by the Optometry Association of Louisiana.

2012 Greg Everett, OD, joined the practice of Tommy Ducklo, OD '78.



Cecelia Koetting, OD, was sworn in as President of the local AOA section, Tidewater Optometric Association, in Virginia Beach, Virginia.

2013 Alicea Smith Hill, OD, joined Hattiesburg Clinic Eye Physicians & Surgeons.

2015 Kaitlin Mayo Hawkins, OD, and Andy Hawkins, OD '15, welcomed their daughter, Rose Elizabeth, on May 17.

2016 Joseph Brewer, OD, and his wife, Denice, welcomed a son, Jack Lewis, in April.

Jarrod Griffis, OD, recently diagnosed a brain tumor in a young patient. The news reached Memphis when WMC-TV's Action News 5 broadcast a story about the case. The news anchors noted that Dr. Griffis received his training at SCO.

2017 Erick Henderson, OD, and Erin Keim, OD '17, traveled to rural Kenya in July to volunteer and provide eye exams at the Lamu Center of Preventative Health.

Cameron Clinard, OD, Hunter Foutch, OD, and Meagan Williams, OD, were among the 2017 alumni who recently completed their SCO residencies.



2018 Nate Dederman, OD, and Jessica Ward, OD '18, are currently undergoing officer training at Fort Sam Houston. Once completed, Dr. Dederman will be stationed in El Paso, Texas, and Dr. Ward at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri.



Chelci Schade, OD, and her husband welcomed a son, Jordan James Schade, on May 10.

SCO recently welcomed new on-campus residents, including Drs. Carolyn Draude, Andrea Lee, Lauren Plewes, OD '18, Katlyn Martin, Lily Wang, Amber Delly, and Emma Pope, OD '18.



Mallory Harris, OD, joined Murray Ophthalmology in Kentucky.

Shanelle Jenkins, OD, visited with Janette Dumas, OD, and Lewis Reich, OD, PhD, at the meeting of the National Optometric Association.



Dalton Miller, OD, joined Wood Vision in Hampton, Iowa.

Whitney Stock, OD, has joined Fischer Laser Eye Center in Minnesota.

IN MEMORIAL

Floyd Thornton, OD '50
Richard Jewell, OD '51
Kenneth Wells, OD '54
James P. Gardner, OD '57
Tom Mathews, OD '57
James O. McCord, OD '57

William D. Roscoe, OD '57
Don Temple, OD '58
Floyd Allen, OD '61
Charles Denaburg, OD '62
James S. Fowler, OD '63
Norris W. Preston, OD '64

Bruce Wallace, OD '74
Allen J. Blume, OD '75
William J. Manint, OD '78
Craig Dunlap, OD '94

Arkansas



Alumni elected to positions of leadership at the Arkansas Optometric Association's annual convention included **Belinda Starkey**, OD '04, President; **Jeff Netzel**, OD '02, Vice President; **Joe Sugg**, OD '09, Secretary/Treasurer; **Matt Jones**, OD '09, Immediate Past President; **Melia Robertson**, OD '10, **Rusty Simmons**, OD '83, **Alex Bell**, OD '09, and **James Hertzog**, OD '07, remain as directors on the board, while **Katie Brown**, OD '12, was elected as a new member. Dr. Brown was also awarded the 2018 Arkansas Optometric Association OD of the Year Award.

Alumni participants in their association's new leadership program include **Drs. Katie Brown**, '12, **Kirsten McKnight**, '16, **Megan Baureis**, '07, **Chris Harlan**, '16, **Hayden Sowers**, '11, **Jade Coats**, '16, **Jessica Dinwiddie**, '11, **Barrett Brown**, '13, and **Jacob Dufour**, '15.

A.B. Naylor, OD '96, was appointed to serve on the board of Vision Arkansas. Other graduates serving include **Allyson Mertins**, OD '97, **Angela Howell**, OD '90, **Matt Jones**, OD '09, and **Chevron Ergle**, OD '04, who was recently elected as board president.

Louisiana

Cory Boudreaux, OD '08, was recently elected President of the Board of Directors of the Optometry Association of Louisiana. Other alumni serving as society presidents include: **Jane McDow**, OD '86, **Marc Ardoin**, OD '07, **Jonathan Bowman**, OD '10, **Amanda Hickman**, OD '16, and **Hunter Chapman**, OD '16.

FOCUS | AOA 2018 | DENVER



Academic Affairs, was recognized for completing nine years of service leading the Accreditation Council on Optometric Education, including seven years as chair. >>>

VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR FULL AOA PHOTO COVERAGE.

>>> President Emeritus **Billy Cochran**, OD '68, received the 2018 ASCO Lifetime Achievement Award. Pictured L-R are **Kristin Anderson**, OD, **Bart Campbell**, OD '87, **Dave Damari**, OD, **Lewis Reich**, OD, PhD, **Dr. Cochran**, **Carolyn Cochran**, **Steven Reed**, OD '95, **Sandra Stephens**, **Marty Regan**, and **Lisa Wade**, OD '84.

David Cockrell, OD '81, was inducted into the National Optometry Hall of Fame.

Matt Jones, OD '09, was named the AOA's Young OD of the Year.

Bart Campbell, OD '87, Vice President for



1981 GRADUATE SUPPORTS SCO THROUGH ESTATE PLANNING



Many alumni carry with them an appreciation and memories of optometry leaders who used their influence to encourage and motivate greater involvement in the profession.

Organized by faculty member **Murray Leggett**, OD '66, the Tennessee Club regularly welcomed speakers like **Virgil Rhodes**, OD '50, **David Sullins**, OD '65, and **Winston Thaxton III**, OD '66, to campus in the 1970s and early 1980s. Students heard updates on legislative efforts to secure therapeutic privileges.

Jeff Foster, OD '81, was one of those students. He joined a Newport, Tennessee practice originally founded in 1950 by **Nathan Ford**, OD '50. Today, Vision Source of Newport continues to thrive under Dr. Foster, **Kurt Steele**, OD '95, and **Emily Eisenhower**, OD '17.

Dr. Foster continues his active support of his profession, including making new commitments to the Virgil and Peggy Rhodes Fund at SCO. The influence of Dr. Rhodes reached beyond Tennessee to the national level in the 1970s as a member of the AOA's steering committee which helped secure privileges for diagnostic drugs. Dr. Rhodes and his wife were honored when a group of Tennessee ODs memorialized them with a fund to encourage future optometry students to continue the tradition of active involvement in the profession.

Dr. Foster recently expanded his commitment to the fund by earmarking a certain percentage of his estate to bequeath to the fund in the event of his passing.

"I support this particular fund because the interest is being used to bring political awareness to optometry students," Dr. Foster said. "Because we are a limited scope provider, we must always keep our edge, so I'm supporting this fund to help students travel to Nashville for their annual Day on the Hill event to meet elected officials and to bring in high profile figures to campus to speak to students about why they should become politically active."

Cecily Freeman in the Office of Institutional Advancement notes there are additional ways that someone can follow Dr. Foster's lead in supporting SCO:

- Making SCO the beneficiary of a life insurance policy allows a donor to designate a gift to SCO.
- Providing documentation to SCO helps us record your gift properly.
- Stocks and bonds can also be donated to particular SCO funds.

"Above all, it's important for us all to find ways to give back, sustain, and enhance our profession," Dr. Foster added.

To learn more about designating SCO as a beneficiary of your estate planning, please contact cfreeman@sco.edu or visit us online at sco.edu/givetosco.

On Campus Focus

Faculty Promotions

Congratulations to these three faculty members on their promotions, effective July 1:



Marc Taub, OD, MS,
Associate Professor to Professor



Amanda Tompkins, OD,
'13, Instructor to Assistant Professor



Alicia Groce, OD,
Instructor to Assistant Professor

Welcome New Faculty



Daniel Powell, OD, MS, PhD, has joined SCO's faculty as an associate professor. He previously served on the faculty of the University of Houston, where he taught anatomy and conducted dry eye disease and contact lens research. A graduate of Pacific University, he received his PhD at Ohio State University. He is a two-time recipient of the William C. Ezell Fellowship and was named Instructor of the Year several times by the students at the University of Houston College of Optometry.

Faculty Briefs

Marie Bodack, OD, was interviewed by Action News 5 in Memphis about the research she's participating in as part of a national pediatric vision study.

Chris Borgman, OD, recently saw a patient from Mongolia who likely set the record for the longest distance ever traveled by a patient to visit The Eye Center. The patient, also pictured here with **Morgan McClintic, '19,** came to Memphis to visit her son with secondary hopes of possibly improving her vision. She had a severe macular scar in one eye and a small macular scar with a cataract in the other eye. Dr. Borgman consulted with Eye Specialty Group for treating the patient's retinal condition. After cataract surgery at ESG, the patient went from having little hope to seeing much ever again to 20/50 vision after surgery in her good eye. "She no longer walks with a cane and has gone back to Mongolia a new woman," Dr. Borgman reports. He added that her success story represents one of his top five optometry career wins.



Bart Campbell, OD '87, Vice President for Academic Affairs, was recently appointed Vice President for SCO's not-for-profit corporation. Dr. Reich serves as President of the Corporation, and Joe Hauser, Vice President for Student Services, serves as Secretary/Treasurer.

Cheryl Ervin, OD, recently wed Anthony Lerma, and will now be using her new married name, **Cheryl Lerma, OD.**

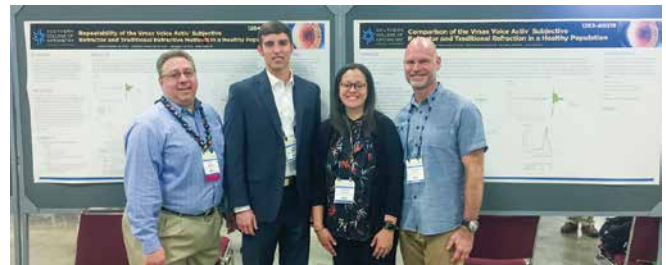


Dan Fuller, OD, and **Whitney Hauser, OD '01,** were interviewed for *Review of Optometry* about effective dry eye screening.

Paul Harris, OD, was one of nearly 60 authors who contributed research on what amounts to a complete reassessment of amblyopia, how to test for it, and how to treat it. The portions he contributed were published in *Visual Neuroscience*. Dr. Harris, **Marc Taub, OD, MS,** and **Pam Schnell, OD '01,** were among the faculty who joined visiting ODs on campus for a meeting of the Conference on Clinical Vision Care (CCVC).

Whitney Hauser, OD '01, was named by *Vision Monday* to the publication's "most influential women in optometry" list.

Several faculty members, residents, and students recently traveled to Hawaii for the ARVO conference. Pictured with their posters are **Alan Kabat, OD,** **Jake Weber, '20,** **Christina Newman, OD,** and **Chris Lievens, OD, MS.**



Tyler Kitzman, OD '16, **Jessica Lam, OD,** **Alison Moore, '20,** and **Chris Lievens, OD, MS,** published an article about multifocal contact lens fitting for *Contact Lens Spectrum*.

Chris Lievens, OD, MS, recently appeared on WREG-TV's Live at 9 program to talk about protecting vision from the sun.

Pam Schnell, OD '01, had one of the two top posters presented at the International Congress of Behavioral Optometry meeting in Australia. **Glen Steele, OD '69,** delivered the Getman Memorial Lecture at the same conference.

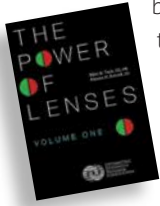
Julie Shalhoub, OD, **Pam Schnell, OD '01,** and **Brian Knight, OD '14,** were among the faculty members who joined students in volunteering at the National Civil Rights Museum for the Ruby Bridges Reading Festival.

Glen Steele, OD '69, was interviewed by *AOA News* about research calling for more monitoring of babies born prematurely; the study found that preemie babies were more likely



to develop vision problems as they grow up. He later appeared on the CBS-TV affiliate in Memphis to talk about the research.

Marc Taub, OD, MS, and Pam Schnell, OD '01, were joined by former SCO resident Ragna Godtland, OD '10, in editing a new book, *Visual Assessment in the Elderly*, available through the OEP Foundation. Drs. Taub and Schnell also published a new book, *The Power of Lenses: Volume One*. A number of alumni and residents contributed material, as well as faculty members Drs. Paul Harris, Alicia Groce, Glen Steele, '69, and Marie Bodack.



Canine Special Guest Pays a Visit to Low Vision Students

Representatives from Leader Dogs for the Blind, along with a furry friend, recently visited the campus to talk to students about the benefits of low vision patients having a guide dog.

Leader Dogs for the Blind empowers people who are blind, visually impaired, or deaf-blind with skills for a lifetime of independent travel, opening doors that may seem to have closed with the loss of sight.

“For someone who is blind or visually impaired, independent travel can be very difficult, especially in unfamiliar areas, and this can cause someone to lose their confidence to interact with the outside world and become withdrawn,” said Karen Squier, OD, MS, Associate Professor and Chief of Low Vision Services.

Guide dogs are recommended during a person's training to learn independent travel with an orientation and mobility specialist as it can provide an extra layer of security by providing more direction and feedback to obstacles and people in their route. They also provide a layer of companionship and security to its owners.

During the lecture, the students had plenty of insightful questions and learned a lot about how service animals can interact



in their world. In recent years, there have been stories about service animals and whether or not they are allowed in certain places, such as restaurants and airplanes, which prove relevant to the understanding of our students and ODs. More people are traveling with support animals who may not fit into the category of ADA service animals.

“All of these students will have practices of their own one day, and I'm hopeful they learned at least a little bit so they will know their patients' rights as well as their rights as business owners should someone present with a service animal to their practice,” said Dr. Squier. “After all, who doesn't love a puppy?”

To learn more about Leader Dogs for the Blind, visit leaderdog.org.

SCO Expands Mobility with Two New Initiatives

SCO is on the move as we embark on new adventures on new methods of transportation in Memphis.

The college is hosting a station for the city's new bicycling initiative, Explore Bike Share. The 501(c)(3) organization features a 600-bike, 60-station share system that allow riders to rent bicycles and ride throughout Memphis.

Participants use an app to rent bikes for a nominal fee. The bikes are geo-tracked for their availability at different stations around town. In its first month, nearly 3,000 bicyclists went on 6,423 bike rides in the downtown and midtown areas.

In addition to participating in the Explore Bike Share program, SCO has partnered with My City Rides to provide rent-to-own scooters as a mode of transportation to staff and faculty. My City Rides is a nonprofit organization that makes reliable transportation more affordable and ownership possible for those in the workforce, particularly appealing to employees with limited income.



Dr. Betty Harville



Dr. Lewis Reich

Members of our SCO family have now been riding to work on their scooters including Institutional Advancement's Fran Anthony, faculty member Wil McGriff, OD, and Security Manager Don Henson. My City Rides will be open to SCO students soon.

To learn more about Explore Bike Share, visit explorebikeshare.com. To learn more about My City Rides, visit mycityrides.org.



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