



# NFOS NEWS

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF OPTICIANRY SCHOOLS

NOV 2014

## A Word from our President

November 2014

Special points of interest:

- *President's Message*
- *ABO-NCLE Task Force*
- *Melvin Jones Awardee*

For those of you who could not attend the September meeting in Nashville, you missed a terrific convention. This year we had a great representation from many of the NFOS schools. I hope in the future that more schools will plan to attend this important event. Once again, the ABO/NCLE provided a great venue for education, organizational business meetings and a chance for the NFOS faculty to showcase their talents. It is my understanding that the NFOS courses were very well attended.

The pre-convention activities started on Wednesday, with the Opticianry Summit Collaboration. As many of you are aware, opticianry is trying to find common ground where all the organizations can work together for the advancement of opticianry. At the meeting on September 3, twenty two optician leaders participated in the forum. Representing the NFOS were Kimberly Strickler, Vice President of the NFOS and myself. In summary, participants identified initiatives for potential alignment and collaboration. These issues involved the following: mobility of opticians from state to state, formal education access to opticians in unlicensed states via college programs and facilitating continued regular communication between all organizations. Regarding formal education, I presented to members of the collaboration committee that the NFOS is committed to helping unlicensed states start college degree programs for opticians. Presently, we have a number of states that are looking into starting degree programs.

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On Thursday, September 4, the NFOS had its business meeting in Nashville. At the meeting, I asked for the following resolution to be considered by the membership:

*The NFOS recommends that beginning in 2015 all newly hired full-time and part-time faculty have a minimum of a Bachelor's Degree*

*Note, this recommendation will not supersede the current hiring practices or credentials at individual institutions.*

*It will not affect the status of current faculty*

The resolution was passed unanimously and will take effect January 1, 2015.

This year our NFOS College Bowl was once again a huge success. The NFOS College Bowl was chaired by Kimberly Strickler from New York City College of Technology and a new NFOS College Bowl format was developed by Blair Wong from Benjamin Franklin Institute of Technology. This year, Michael Carrano from Middlesex Community College was our college bowl winner. I want to congratulate Ray Dennis and his school for a job well done. In fact, all the school contestants were just terrific and represented their prospective programs with great pride. We should all be proud of all our student participants.

In closing, I want to wish everyone a happy and joyous holiday season and a healthy new year. I hope to see everyone in Dallas in 2015.

Best,

Bob Russo

**News from Reynolds Community College**

Kristi Green, Program Director

This fall has brought a strong enrollment and a few new faculty changes at Reynolds. Many of you have met adjunct faculty member Ann Grubbs at previous NFOS meetings. We celebrated the birth of her second child this fall and Ann has decided to take some additional time off to focus on family. We have also welcomed two new adjunct faculty to our ranks – Janine Lewis started with her first laboratory clinical course this past fall and Greg Gearheart will be joining us in the spring as the new business management instructor. Hired for their specific areas of expertise, we are excited to have them both join our team.



Thanks to a community grant we received, our students, faculty and alumni were able to help over 150 children from Richmond City Public schools receive free eye health examinations and much needed eyewear this year.

Social services, along with school nurses helped identify the children with the most need. The prescriptions filled ranged from +5.00 to -15.00 with up to 3 diopters of cylinder in

several cases. Some of the children had never had eyeglasses before, others might have had eyeglasses in the past but they've been broken for 3 or 4 years.



Our Opticianry students will be the first to tell you that they also benefited from this program. Not only from getting hands-on learning by fitting, fabricating and dispensing the eyewear but from the tremendous feeling of pride and accomplishment that they were in to meet needs of the youngest in our own community.



I am so very proud of how eager our alumni and students were to support these events. It is our goal to continue to seek grants for the future so we can make these activities yearly events!

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## Goodwin College

Maryann Santos, Program Director



Goodwin College of East Hartford, CT is excited to share that in September 2014 we ushered in the first class into the Ophthalmic Science Program. Maryann Santos, Program Director and Rebecca Soto, FT faculty, Practicum Coordinator are busy setting up the Optical Training Store, Fabrication Lab and Contact Lens Clinic. OPS's first year students are studying Anatomy, Physiology and Pathology of the Eye, Introduction to Ophthalmic Science and Ophthalmic Fabrication 1. It is an exciting time for Goodwin College and we appreciate all of the help and support from the NFOS!

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## Roane State Community College

Michael Goggin, Program Director



Sally Stokes receiving the Melvin Jones award at Kingston Lions Club meeting

Lions Clubs world-wide recognize outstanding individuals by bestowing on them an award that is named for its founder, Melvin Jones. This award is the highest form of recognition and embodies humanitarian ideas consistent with the nature and purpose of Lionism. The recipient of this award becomes a model of exemplary service to his club and the community which it serves. The Melvin Jones Fellowship Award is a nation-wide award.

Congratulations Sally!

Seattle Central Community College  
J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College  
Hillsborough Community College

## NFOS Schools Participate in Jamaican Mission to Serve Vision Needs

**Faculty of three NFOS Schools shared in a two week mission  
to help patients with vision health in Jamaica**

Amy Sabella Malone From Seattle Central Community College is the lead Optician with Great Shape Inc. i-Care missions trip in Jamaica. Amy oversaw a two week project serving more than 3,600 Jamaicans. Patients had access to eye exams and screening, eye surgery referrals, Rx glasses, reading glasses, sunglasses as well as blood pressure and blood sugar screenings.



Doug and Yvonne Pelkey and their group from J. Sargeant Reynolds participated in the first week.

## Jamaican Mission: Week two



Mary Seguiti and students from Hillsborough Community College participated in week two!  
The students gained invaluable experience and developed a love for giving back!



## Middlesex Community College Student Michael Carrano 2014 College Bowl Champion



Student Michael Carrano of Middlesex Community College  
shares a proud moment with Professor Ray Dennis

Congratulations to Michael Carrano and Middlesex Community College Ophthalmic Design and Dispensing Program as 2014 College Bowl Champions. Michael was presented with a \$500.00 award and College Bowl trophy which will be displayed at his school for the following year. The competition was held at the ABO-NCLE OptiCon Conference in Nashville, Tennessee. Sponsored by Essilor of America, College Bowl is modeled on the television show “Jeopardy” and features questions in anatomy and physiology, ophthalmic dispensing, ophthalmic fabrication, contact lenses and optics.

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## National Federation of Opticianry Schools - ABO-NCLE Task Force Committee

On November 7-9, 2014 at Camden County College in Blackwood, NJ, faculty members from various NFOS college programs (see photograph) met to put together a comprehensive ABO-NCLE review course for potential ABO-NCLE candidates. These courses have incorporated the new domains for both the ABO-NCLE basic certification examination. These courses will be available to state societies in 2015. For more information, please contact Mr. Randy Smith, National Federation of Opticianry Schools at randall.smith@baker.edu

Special thanks to the members of the task force and especially Patrick Goughary (Camden County College) for being a terrific host at this meeting.



From left to right (Dean Ann McGinley, Camden County College, Ms. Lynn Coffman, Seattle Central Community College, Professor Kimberly Strickler, Vice President, NFOS, New York City College of Technology, Mr. Randy Smith, Executive Manager, NFOS, Baker Community College, Mr. Jack Braun, Erie Community College, Professor Robert J. Russo, President, NFOS, New York City College of Technology, Mr. Patrick Goughary, Camden County College, Ms. Janet Acara, Erie Community College and Dr. Brian Thomas, Raritan Community College.

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## Commission on Opticianry Accreditation Update

Debra White, Director

### COA reports new by-law at Fall 2014 meeting

“The voting Commissioners shall, to the extent possible, be competent and knowledgeable persons, qualified by experience and training regarding the purposes of this organization, *having possession of at least an Associate’s Degree*, and shall be selected in accordance with nondiscriminatory practices.

Last but not least...



Professor Mike Goggin is proud to announce Roane State Community College Reaccreditation...and he has the certificate to prove it.

Happy Thanksgiving to all of our  
NFOS Friends and Families!

