



# NFOS SCHOOL NEWS

APRIL 2015

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF OPTICIANRY SCHOOLS

Special points of interest:

- *President's Message*
- *City Tech Volunteers*
- *Spring Update*

## A Word from our President

Our spring meeting in Dallas this year was a tremendous success. Many of our attendees were first time participants and it was really nice to see many new faces. This year our NFOS business meeting was separated into two parts. We had our business meeting in the morning and in the afternoon, NFOS faculty presented interesting topics to our attendees. Bill Underwood, Hillsborough Community College and Scott Helkaa, College of Southern Nevada presented "Methods and Innovations and Integrating Advanced Technology in Opticianry Programs", Kara Pasner, City Tech presented "Integrating Visual Assessment and Refraction into your Curriculum," and Kimberly Strickler, City Tech gave an informative lecture on, "Clinic Design and Assessment." From the survey responses that I received, the format was very favorable and there was plenty of discussion and engagement from everyone. Everyone seemed to like the sharing of ideas from the different programs. As we move forward, I hope other NFOS faculty will share their expertise on various topic areas that many of our members want to hear about. The post meeting surveys sent out after the meeting, show there are many additional topics that NFOS members want to hear about.

Our educational programs thanks to Essilor and Silhouette, were both interesting and very informative. Once again, Danne Ventura put together another all star lineup of speakers for us. This year thanks to Silhouette, all attendees were fitted with frames from Silhouette and all were fitted using Essilor's Visio Office. It was a great addition to our meeting this year.

I was also pleased to announce that at the Leadership Conference in Las Vegas this year, Randy Smith, Kimberly Strickler and I presented a workshop to interested attendees regarding "Starting an Optical Degree Program in a College Setting." The lecture was very well received and states like California, Iowa, Vermont, New Hampshire, Montana, Alaska, Ohio, Massachusetts and New Mexico are all interested in starting opticianry programs. The NFOS will continue to provide guidance to these interested states.

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As a reminder, the NFOS received a grant to write an ABO-NCLE Basic review course. For those states that are interested in presenting these review courses, please send an email to Randy Smith and the dates requested. Randy can be reached at: [randall.smith@baker.edu](mailto:randall.smith@baker.edu). In addition, at the Dallas meeting, Dr. Roy Ferguson has graciously donated his book, "Ophthalmic Essentials" to the NFOS. This book will be sold through the OAA and the NFOS will have an opportunity through an appointed NFOS committee to add additional material to this review book. Further details will be forthcoming soon.

This year, the OptiCon Conference will be held in Nashville, TN on September 24-27, 2015. As you are aware, the NFOS College Bowl is held at this event. This is the time of year where the NFOS gets to showcase their students. I hope to see many of you at the convention this year.

As more information becomes available, I will send periodic emails out to keep everyone informed of the latest developments about the convention. Please keep in mind that we will need the name of your student representative by July 15, 2015. Kimberly Strickler who will chair the NFOS College Bowl this year will be sending out updates about the college bowl.

This year, the NFOS will be awarding the Dennis Tilley Award. In past emails, I already sent out the criteria for this award. All candidate recommendations with a rationale must be sent to me no later than July 15, 2015. As per the bylaws, the President, past recipient, Lynne Coffman, Seattle Central Community College and Janet Acara, Erie Community College and Daniel Banks, Camden County Community college will serve on the committee.

I hope everyone enjoys the summer and if anyone has any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at [russo9117@aol.com](mailto:russo9117@aol.com) or any other member of the Executive Board.

Best,

Robert J. Russo  
President, NFOS



# News from Seattle Central Community College

News from SCC School of Opticianry.

By Lynn Coffman

March 2015

In the last year we have been a busy group of students and faculty. The graduating class of 2014 had a successful time with their national and state tests. They had a 91% pass rate on the American Board of Opticianry (ABO) exam, a 100% pass rate on the National Contact Lens Exam (NCLE) pass rate and an 81% pass rate on the State Exam. The State Exam has three parts and the pass rates for each section is as follows: Basic Optics 91%, Contact lens 81% and Practical 100%.

In October the now second year students worked at the Remote Area Medical Community outreach program at the Seattle Center. The faculty were there as well. We fit about 300 people a day with new glasses after the Doctors' in the area did free exams. Seattle Central's Campus Optical and Manager Amy Sabella-Malone facilitated the ordering and dispensing of another 250 pairs of glasses. These were donated by a local Lab, Jorgenson-Peninsula Optical to help with patients who could not have their glasses made by the on sight truck at the RAM event.

Lori took all of the first year students to Erickson Labs. The lab is an oculist lab where they fit and hand make prosthetic eyes. The students were fascinated and learned a lot. We will need to make this a regular trip.

Amy is the lead optician for an eye care humanitarian trip to Jamaica in October as well. Several of our graduates attended this trip with her. In a two week period of time 3500 people received eye care services including dispensing glasses to all that needed them. Amy developed another trip coming up soon that will provide services to 500 kids in the Jamaica school system.

Our students and alumni Work at VOSH to prepare glasses for these trips and work at the Millionaires club here in Seattle. Opticians Association of America just had its leadership conference and one of our second year students attended.

Upcoming events: Our students are getting ready to attend the Opticians Association of Washington convention. Each of the students work at the convention to help with cost and will be attending classes taught by nationally recognized speakers in our industry. On May 11, 2015 Campus Optical will be having a Trunk show with the frame manufacturer Europa. We will be highlighting this line of frames for the day. Second year students will be helping customers with frame selection and all that is involved with creating a pair of glasses. May 12 to May 29<sup>th</sup> 2015 the Optical Department is having an Art Show in the Gallery. We will be displaying art, equipment, frames, lenses and hope to have several interactive pieces to show the history and innovations in the optical industry.

As far as faculty news Lynn Coffman just presented a new class that the National Federation of Opticianry Schools wrote for preparing opticians that want to take the NCLE exam and Christiaan VanVliet will be presenting the course for the ABO exam in April. Lynn's class was given to the Opticians Association of Michigan and Christiaan's will be offered to the Opticians Association of Virginia. Both Amy and Christiaan will be completing Bachelor's degrees next spring.

## City Tech Students Volunteer at New Eyes for the Needy

By Robert Russo



From Left to Right, Alejandro Campos, Robert Kurta, Aide Ramirez, Peter Pineandi, (Student Optical Society Moderator), Jared Crystal, Fatme Saleh, Valentina Ramku, Sharnit Kaur, Jessica Huang, Kenesha Lewis, Nichole Mak, Ying Poon, Oksana Klochan, Nahim Mishi, Bryan Medrano, Noelia Ballinas, Marianna Vertman, Irene Huang and Anthony Li.

On March 26, 2015, senior students from the Department of Vision Care Technology, New York City College of Technology, Brooklyn NY visited New Eyes for the Needy, Short Hills, New Jersey. Under the supervision of Mr. Peter Pineandi, full-time laboratory technician in the Vision Care Technology Department, the students volunteered their time to sort, pack and verify donated eyeglass prescriptions.

New Eyes for The Needy was founded in 1932 by Julia Lawrence Terry and is a non-profit organization. New Eyes for the Needy Overseas Program distributes used glasses worldwide. Volunteers test and sort donated glasses into different categories. These glasses are then distributed through international charitable organizations and small medical missions. This organization helps the under privileged around the world see better by sending recycled eyeglasses to countries in need.

In the United States, New Eyes for the Needy purchases basic prescription eyeglasses for people in financial need in the U.S. New Eyes for the Needs uses a voucher system that must be submitted by a social service agency. Once an application is approved, a voucher is sent to the agency and is provided to the applicant. Applicants can take the voucher to a local optical dispenser where payment is made for a basic pair of eyeglasses. New Eyes for the Needy will directly reimburse the optical dispenser.



## News from Roane State Community College

By Mike Goggin and Sally Stokes

### Roane State Community College Honors Forum Program



First year opticianry honors student Emily Lenna presented at Roane State Honors Forum and Banquet on April 23, 2015. Each year honors students complete special projects and are recognized with an honors diploma at commencement. Emily presented contact lens care to the honors forum audience.

By John Godert



Mike Czik presents to students at Erie Community College on April 16, 2015. Mike's visit was made possible through support from Bausch and Lomb and Contact Lens Society of America.

First year opticianry student Duane Noble was presented with a Ford Motor Company Endowed Scholarship at ECC Foundation Scholarship Luncheon on April 17, 2015. Duane receives congratulation from ECC President, Jack Quinn and trustee member Dennis Murphy.



ECC President Jack Quinn and trustee member Stephen Boyd present second year student Hector Santos with the Eyewear by R.O.I. Ophthalmic Dispensing Scholarship.

The award was created by alumnus John Alofs, to benefit an Ophthalmic Dispensing student.



By Maryann Santos

Goodwin College (East Hartford, CT) Ophthalmic Science students will start their third semester this summer. The Optical Training Store will be open to the Goodwin community. We had a terrific turnout for our Open House which gave students, staff and faculty a glimpse of what our students will offer this summer!



The Goodwin College optician program — the only one of its kind in the Capitol Region — combines the best practices in hands-on, technical work with caring customer service and patient interaction skills. As an optician, you will be responsible for analyzing and interpreting prescriptions to determine lenses that are best suited for a patient’s lifestyle and visual needs, as well as ensuring the best fit and visual acuity of contact lenses.

Our brand new facility is a unique educational environment in which to learn and grow. Working with a dedicated team of eye care professionals, you will learn to design, fit, and dispense corrective eyeglass and contact lenses in our state-of-the-art optical fabrication laboratory, contact lenses laboratory, and training store.

Students will be prepared to sit for both the American Board of Opticianry’s (ABO) and the National Contact Lens Examination (NCLE). In order for students to be eligible to take the state exam to be a licensed Optician in Connecticut, they must pass both the ABO and the NCLE and graduate from a program accredited by the Commission on Opticianry Accreditation (COA) and approved by the Connecticut Board of Examiners for Opticians.

Goodwin College is actively pursuing national accreditation from the Commission on Opticianry Accreditation. Once COA accreditation is received, Goodwin College will seek final approval from the Connecticut Board of Examiners for Opticians.



## Commission on Opticianry Accreditation (COA)

### Spring 2015 Update

Spring has finally sprung in Northern NY, and so with that comes the nearing of the end of your academic year!

The Commissioners met at VEE on March 22, and here are some updates for you:

Your Annual Dues for 2015/16 will be \$1432.25 (a 3% increase over last year). I will send invoices in a few weeks.

There are 2 new programs in the COA pipelines: one in GA and one in CT.

Election of officers are: Doug Nunes (his term was extended one year, as no Commissioner stepped forward to accept Chair), Jerry Reback as Vice Chair and Billy Weaver remaining as Treasurer.

The 6-year term of one of our Public Members has ended, and the COA seeks a new Public Member. Please send me contact information if you know of a person who would enjoy attending semi-annual meetings, and working on formal opticianry education endeavors.

A reminder for those of you on our "Fall Program List" – your Annual Report will be due August 15.

As always – best wishes as you finish yet another semester/year of educating tomorrow's opticians!

Sincerely ~

Debra White, MEd, ABOM, FCLSA

Director of Accreditation

Commission on Opticianry Accreditation

[director@coaccreditation.com](mailto:director@coaccreditation.com)



NFOS Spring 2015 Meeting  
February 26-March 1, 2015  
Dallas, Texas



NFOS faculty gather for a tour during the spring meeting. The meeting was hosted by Essilor at the corporate office in Dallas, TX. Pictured in front are Maryann Santos (right) and Rebecca Soto, faculty members of the new optician program at Goodwin College in Connecticut.