

# NFOS NEWS

VOLUME 3, ISSUE 7

MAY 2009

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF OPTICIANRY SCHOOLS

## A Word from our President

### Special points of interest:

- *President's Message*
- *Spring Meeting Review*
- *In Memoriam*

### Spring 2009 NFOS Meeting President Report

I would like to thank Bob Russo and the New York City College of Technology for hosting our spring meeting. Bob has been very busy preparing for his program's 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary but found time to chair the college bowl committee. Along with the help of Kristi Green and James Reese, they have prepared another exciting event. Our next opportunity to display NFOS expertise will be at the ABO-NCLE Education Meeting in September. We will again serve as an academic partner and provide instructors for many of the CE courses. I was encouraged by the response to the February survey. The majority of programs reported that their enrollment had increased or remained steady. Programs also indicated that they were using the modules created by First Vision Media and intended to reorder. The final survey question asked if the program was using or planned to begin using distance learning materials the NFOS has created. Several programs that are not currently offering distance learning courses indicated they are considering starting. To help support the effort we will continue to work on revising and improving the materials this year. I hope your students are taking advantage of the scholarship programs available to our students. The deadline for the transitions Healthy Sight Scholarship is April 1<sup>st</sup> and the NAO Beverly Myers Award deadline is June 1<sup>st</sup>. In closing, I would like to remind all that this is your organization and we value the participation of every member. Please contact me if you would like to become more active in the organization. We have many projects that could use your help.

Thanks,

Bill

### Inside this issue:

Spring Meeting	2-4
COA Report	4-5
Transitions Scholarships	7
ABO-NCLE Conference	8

## In Memoriam

### Michael R. DiSanto

MICHAEL R. DiSANTO, age 60, of Hudson, OH, died Monday, May 25, 2009.

Preceded in death by his father, Michael N. DiSanto, in 1993 and his mother, Regina (nee Romanowski) DiSanto in 1996. He is survived by his beloved wife, Jennifer R.



nee Lawder) DiSanto; dear son, Michael Nicholas DiSanto and dear daughters, Misty (Robert) Anderson and Lindsay (Joseph) Yanock; grandchildren, Carson and Kennedy Anderson. Michael DiSanto was an independent industry trainer. He is the Past President of the Opticians Association of Ohio, a Masters Certified Optician and a graduate of John Carroll University. He devoted 30 years to the optical industry. Michael lived for his family and brought a smile to the face of everyone.

The NFOS mourns the loss of our friend and colleague

Michael DiSanto

Mike touched many lives throughout our profession  
with his knowledge and friendship

We offer our deepest condolences to his family

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## NFOS Spring Meeting March 26-27, 2009

By: John Godert

Our spring meeting was held at New York City College of Technology in Brooklyn, NY. Professor Bob Russo, Chair of the Vision Care Technology Program along with administration, faculty and students provided a warm welcome to the NFOS at the Jay St. campus. NFOS members were offered tours of the Vision Care Technology Program by faculty and students.

Thursday morning began with the NFOS business meeting. The meeting included financial reports, curriculum review, ABO-NCLE reports, COA updates and committee reports. Representatives of Luxottica Retail presented the One Sight Program and shared opportunities for partnerships with NFOS schools. Doug Pelkey, Angie Hartman and Joe Dezenzo of Luxottica were present to offer insight into the global outreach of the One Sight Program. For more information visit:

[www.onesight.org](http://www.onesight.org).

Following the meeting there was College Bowl set-up and the preliminary College Bowl rounds took place.

In the early evening, NFOS members joined faculty and alumni of the Vision Care Technology Program for a social gathering preceding the opening ceremony of VCT's 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration. The celebration included dinner, and an alumni and faculty reunion. The evening event was a wonderful tribute to the 40 year legacy of the Vision Care Technology Program at City Tech.

On Friday afternoon, NFOS students participated in the National College Bowl competition. The event took place at the Jacob Javits Convention Center during Vision Expo East. The Essilor sponsored College Bowl was well attended by students, faculty and Vision Expo Conference attendees.

The NFOS salutes all of our NFOS College Bowl students, committee members and faculty on an exciting competition. Special recognition goes to Selah Brown of New York City College of Technology for winning first place in the College Bowl. Congratulations to Selah and to all of our participating NFOS students.

## Commission on Opticianry Accreditation Summer 2009 Update on activities

In April 2009 the Commission held its semi-annual meeting in Durham, North Carolina. Among the items accomplished at this meeting:

Reaffirmation of accreditation was granted to:

The Ophthalmic Science program at Camden County College in Blackwood, NJ.

The Vision Care Technology program at Tyler Junior College in Tyler, TX.

The Ophthalmic Dispensing Program at TCI College of Technology, in New York City, NY.

The Commissioners congratulate the program directors and faculty on their excellent programs.

Annual reports and progress reports from nine programs were reviewed for compliance with the *Essentials* reporting requirements.

The *Essentials* for the Laboratory Certificate programs was reviewed, and is now available for comment by any interested parties. If you would like to review the proposed changes to this document, please contact the COA Director.

A change was made to the *Essentials* for the Opticianry degree program, to bring this document into compliance with a requirement of CHEA (Council for Higher Education Accreditation). This change requires that the accredited programs publish program outcomes. By September 1, 2009, all programs must report to the COA on how they are implementing this requirement. A second change to this document was discussed, and will be addressed at the fall meeting by the *Essentials* committee.

The Commissioners reviewed the COA mission statement, and adopted the following: "The mission of the COA is to foster excellence in opticianry education by setting standards, assessing educational effectiveness, and identifying those academic programs that meet the standards, in order to aid programs to produce competent graduates who will provide professional services to the public." The Commissioners will be reviewing the goals and objectives at the fall meeting.

Jayne Weinberger, Chair, Thomas Blair Jr., Vice Chair, and Amy Lewis, Treasurer, were reelected for an additional 1 year term.

The next meeting of the Commission will be in Durham NC in October 2009.

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## Commission on Opticianry Accreditation Summer 2009 Update on activities

Other updates:

There are three reaffirmation of accreditation visits scheduled for 2009, and one initial accreditation visit.

The Commission continues with its application for recognition by CHEA (Council for Higher Education Accreditation). CHEA took over the 'quality assurance' role that the US Department of Education dropped about 10 years ago. CHEA is now the organization of choice for accrediting agencies that do not need recognition by the US Department of Education for federal funding. Information about CHEA, including those regional and programmatic accrediting agencies that it recognizes, is available at <http://CHEA.org>.

The Commission's website is currently undergoing updating. Among the changes is a "donate" button allowing donations through PayPal directly to the Commission.

The Commission continues to request financial support from the eye care community, individuals, companies, and societies. Over the past year the Commission has received donations from a variety of eyecare companies and organizations, including NAO, OAA, NFOS; and many individuals. The Commissioners thank you for your support as we work toward self sufficiency. The Commission's current budget and year-to-date profit and loss statements are available on request from the Director. Donations to the COA are tax deductible under the IRS rules for charitable organizations. Donations should be mailed to the Commission's Indiana address, or made through the "donate" button on the Commission website. All donations will be acknowledged by letter and by listing on the Commission website.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ellen Stoner, Director of Accreditation  
Commission on Opticianry Accreditation  
PO Box 142  
Florence, IN 47020



## NEW YORK CITY COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY

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### Vision Care Technology Celebrates 40th Anniversary



**Edward Rauch, left, with Department of Vision Care Technology Chair Robert J. Russo**

The Department of Vision Care Technology at New York City College of Technology celebrated 40 years of excellence in opticianry education on March 26, 2009, at an on-campus alumni reunion attended by more than 200 department graduates, students, faculty, staff and other guests. The event was held in conjunction with the National Federation of Opticianry Schools annual meeting and the preliminary National Federation of Opticianry Schools College Bowl that attracted participation by students from 16 opticianry schools nationwide.

Following an afternoon lecture, "Optics and People, Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow," by Dr. Joseph Bacotti, Jr., the evening festivities began with the presentation by Danne Ventura of Essilor of America and City Tech Vision Care Technology Instructor Thomas Woods of a gift collection of rare ophthalmic textbooks from the estate of the late Irwin Vogel. Mr. Vogel was an adjunct lecturer at the College before becoming the program director at Cañada College in California. This fine collection of books will be placed in custodianship in City Tech's Ursula C. Scherwin Library.

Department Chair Robert Russo, who served as master of ceremonies, then presented Edward Rauch, the last surviving founding member of the department, with a Lifetime Achievement Award in recognition of his lifetime of service in opticianry and his dedication in the development of what originally was called the Department of Ophthalmic Dispensing. Professor Russo also paid tribute to Professor Joseph Bacotti, founding father of the department, who together with Dr. Alvin Schiff, Professor Donald Evans, Professor James Coleman, Mr. John Williams and Mr. Rauch established a strong and vibrant program that has produced many of New York City and the nation's top vision care technology professionals.



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**Peter Bacotti, left, Professor Robert Russo and Dr. Joseph Bacotti, Jr., right**

Professor Russo presented a plaque in honor of the late Professor Bacotti to his two sons, Dr. Joseph Bacotti, Jr. and Peter Bacotti, both past adjuncts at the college. Professor Bacotti was remembered for his unselfish service and dedication to his students and his visionary leadership in advancing professional opticianry. Generous appreciation also went to all past faculty, staff, advisory board members and graduates whose support of the City Tech program across the years helped make the department's 40th anniversary celebration possible.

Professor Russo expressed special appreciation to the New York State Society of Opticians for the donation of New York State approved continuing education credits and The Opticians Alliance of New York for its support of opticianry education and for providing student scholarships in memory of Joseph L. Bacotti.

In addition to serving as master of ceremonies, Professor Russo coordinated all aspects of the event, which was more than a year in the planning. He offered thanks to City Tech Vice President for Finance & Administration Miguel Cairol and Special Assistant to the President for Institutional Advancement Stephen Soiffer as well as to Office of Image/Visual Communications graphic designers Alberto Vargas, Yue Chen and Omayma Stephan for production of the Anniversary Journal, invitational materials and a commemorative pin. A very personal note of thanks was extended to all current Vision Care Technology students and faculty, Advisory Board members, and Kimberly Strickler and Emily Fleischman for all that they did to help plan and stage the event.





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### City Tech Student Selah Brown Wins First Prize in College Bowl



**Selah Brown is flanked by Professor Robert J. Russo, left and NFOS President Bill Underwood**

Selah Brown, 19, a senior majoring in vision care technology at City Tech, walked away with the \$500 first prize in the National Federation of Opticianry (NFOS) Schools College Bowl. The win brings him one step closer to his goal of building recreation centers in the communities in which he lives and works.

This was the second time in three years that City Tech won the top prize, beating out students from colleges in Connecticut, Florida, New Jersey, Georgia, New York, Tennessee, Massachusetts, Virginia, Washington State, and British Columbia.

The competition was held at the International Vision Expo at the Jacob Javits Center in Manhattan. Sponsored by Essilor of America, the event is modeled on the television show “Jeopardy” and features questions in anatomy and physiology, ophthalmic dispensing, ophthalmic fabrication, contact lenses and optics.

Brown, a Rosebank, Staten Island resident, will use the prize money to help pay for the state licensing exam, New York State Board for Ophthalmic Dispensing Practical. After he graduates from City Tech, he will attend Brooklyn College where he will major in biology in order to satisfy the pre-requisites for optometry school.

“Eventually, I want to own my own business in the optical field, maybe a couple of stores in Brooklyn and Staten Island,” he says. “But most importantly, I want to run a business that gives back to the community.”



## NFOS SCHOOL NEWS

# Congratulations!

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### The winners of the 2008 Beverly Myers Award

1<sup>st</sup> place: Lynne Postman, Raritan Valley Community College \$1,000 “Lasik Surgery”

2<sup>nd</sup> place: Lauren Lilly, Indiana University Optician Program \$500  
“Retinoblastoma in the infant eye”

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### 2009 ABO Board of Directors Appointment

Mike Szczerbiak, Program Director at Durham Tech Community College has been appointed to the ABO Board of Directors by the Opticians Association of America.

# Transitions

## TRANSITIONS OPTICAL AWARDS \$10,000 IN SCHOLARSHIPS TO OPTOMETRY AND OPTICIANRY STUDENTS

### *Eighteen Winning Entries Promote an Understanding of Healthy Sight*

PINELLAS PARK, Fla., May 21, 2009 – Transitions Optical, Inc. has recently awarded opticianry and optometry students with 18 scholarships totaling \$10,000 through its Transitions® Healthy Sight for Life Fund. In its third year, the newly revamped program – the Transitions Students of Vision Scholarship – saw an influx of entries that ran the gamete from educational music videos, posters and calendars

. Students were asked to develop projects that demonstrate an understanding of healthy sight in any format. Whether exploring their role in patient care or expanding upon *Healthy Sight Counseling*, limitless creativity was encouraged. Scholarship amounts for both opticianry and optometry programs were: \$1,000 for first place; \$750 for second place; \$500 for all other winners.

“We were pleased to see another round of creative and insightful projects from these students of vision,” said Carole Bratteig, professional education manager, Transitions. “Awarding the participants is a great joy, as we continually look for ways to support the future of our industry – most importantly through education.”



## **Scholarship Recipients**

Submissions were reviewed by a committee of Transitions representatives, eyecare professionals and communications specialists who selected the following 18 winning entries:

### **Winning Opticianry Entries**

First place: Ellen Gelsen, Hillsborough Community College – Collage, [The Optician's Role in Healthy Sight Counseling Throughout a Lifetime](#)

Second place: Jelena Cakic, Cuyahoga Community College – PowerPoint presentation, [Healthy Sight Counseling](#)

Third place: Kate Jacobs, Camden County College – YouTube video, [Eyes and Computers](#)

Fourth place: Abdallah Yeslam, Raritan Valley Community College – Poster, [There's More to an Eye Exam than Vision Correction](#)

Fifth place: Carole LoVerso, Erie Community College – Bilingual Power Point presentation, [Healthy Sight Counseling](#)

Additional winners: Kelly Garcia, Middlesex Community College; Samantha Marino, Cuyahoga Community College; Sonya Ramkishun, Broward College; Selah Brown, New York City Technical College

The top five opticianry students will also receive a trip to the ABO-NCLE National Education Conference in Cincinnati in September, to present a summary of the projects at the posters session.

### **Winning Optometry Entries**

First place: Julia Tran, Southern California College of Optometry – Tutorial CD, [Healthy Sight Counseling](#)

Second place: Bridget Ducote, University of Houston College of Optometry – Calendar, [Healthy Eyes](#)

Honorable mention: Lisa Cossetto, Suhaib Al-Janabi, Kevin Nehaul, Judy Posner, Elliot Snyder, Nova Southeastern University College of Optometry – Music video, [UV 101: Your Future is Bright, Protect Your Sight!](#)

Additional winners: Aaron Severson, University of California Berkeley School of Optometry; Aaron McNulty, Indiana University School of Optometry; Tara Vacharkulksemuk, Southern California College of Optometry; Pei-Chen Hsieh, University of California Berkeley School of Optometry; Monica Roy, Ohio State University College of Optometry;

Renee Newman, University of Missouri-St. Louis College of Optometry; Jaclyn Benzoni, State University of New York College of Optometry

Winning students will also have their entries featured on the recently redesigned Transitions Healthy Sight for Life Fund Web site, [www.HealthySightforLife.org](http://www.HealthySightforLife.org).

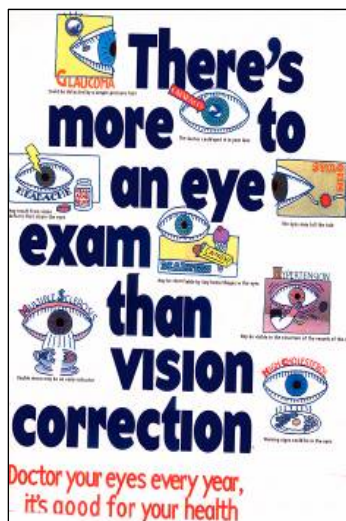
### **About Transitions**

Transitions Optical, headquartered in Pinellas Park, Fla., was the first to successfully commercialize a plastic photochromic lens in 1990. As the leading provider of photochromics to optical manufacturers, Transitions Optical offers the most advanced photochromic technology in the widest selection of lens designs and materials.

Transitions Optical's core product line, Transitions® lenses, are the #1-recommended photochromic lenses worldwide. As higher-performing everyday clear lenses, Transitions lenses change from clear indoors and at night to sunglass dark outdoors in proportion to the intensity of UV light. Transitions Optical also offers several special-purpose dynamic sun lenses that change from a tinted state indoors to a darker state outdoors when activated by UV light. These lenses are marketed as Transitions® SOLFX™ sunlenses.

Transitions Optical has manufacturing operations in Pinellas Park; Tuam, Ireland; Laguna, Philippines; Sumare, Brazil and Chonburi, Thailand. Sales offices are located in Pinellas Park; Cambridge, Canada; Paris, France; Adelaide, Australia; Singapore; Mexico City, Mexico; Sao Paulo, Brazil; Bangalore, India; Tokyo, Japan and Shanghai, China.

For more information about the company and Transitions lenses, the first to earn the World Council of Optometry's Global Seal of Acceptance for Ultraviolet Absorbers/Blockers and the American Optometric Association's Seal of Acceptance for Ultraviolet Absorbers/Blockers, visit [Transitions.com](http://Transitions.com).



**2009 ABO-NCLE NATIONAL EDUCATION CONFERENCE  
DUKE ENERGY CENTER CINCINNATI, OHIO  
SEPTEMBER 10-13, 2009**

ABO-NCLE CONFERENCE HANDS-ON SESSIONS

FRIDAY

USING LOW VISION DEVICES

CONTACT LENS I & R AND LENS CARE

FRAME STYLING

LENSOMETER PROCEDURES - PART 1

LENSOMETER PROCEDURES - PART 2

MANAGING IN-OFFICE REPAIRS

MASTERING LENS MEASUREMENTS

SLIT LAMP PROCEDURES - PART 1

SLIT LAMP PROCEDURES – PART 2

FRAME ADJUSTMENTS INCL. RIMLESS

SATURDAY

FRAME ADJUSTMENTS INCL. RIMLESS

FRESNEL PRISMS

LENSOMETER PROCEDURES - PART 1

LENSOMETER PROCEDURES - PART 2

SLIT LAMP PROCEDURES - PART 1

SLIT LAMP PROCEDURES - PART 2

SUNDAY

USING LOW VISION DEVICES

GP LENS INSPECTION, POLISHING, MODIFICATION

FRAME ADJUSTMENTS INCL. RIMLESS

PROGRESSIVE LENS ID

MANAGING IN-OFFICE REPAIRS

And Finally....

The photo below was submitted by COA Commissioner Mike Goggin following a COA on-site visit at Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute in Albuquerque, NM earlier this year..



Have a great summer!