

NFOS NEWS

VOLUME 3 ISSUE 9

MAY 2010

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF OPTICIANRY SCHOOLS

Special points of interest:

- *President's Message*
- *Spring Meeting Review*
- *COA News*

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A Word from our President Bill Underwood

Progress

- Improved industry relations and increased awareness of formal education.
- ABO-NCLE Meeting Academic Partner
- Guidance Counselor Conference
- Added value to membership
- First Vision Media presentations & booklets
- Improved opportunities for students.
- Transitions Healthy Sight Scholarship
- Hoya Scholarship
- NAO, OAA & CLSA Student Memberships

Work to be done

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ljbl-363A2Q>

- Establish an online Opticianry program at a community college in the twenty five states that do not currently have a program.
 - A single online program can serve the needs of an entire state. It will also allow in-state residents to access the program at a reasonable cost without relocating.
 - The project will require the stakeholders to change the mindset of ophthalmic professionals and employers to embrace the value of a degree in Opticianry.
 - Distance learning has evolved over the past ten years as an acceptable method of delivering Opticianry education.
 - The Commission on Opticianry Accreditation's position on distance education is essentially the same as SACS; it states "Accredited programs must meet the same requirements when instruction is offered through distance delivery".
 - This is consistent with the equivalency theory of distance education. The learning experience does not have to be identical, but it has to be equivalent.
 - The National Federation of Opticianry Schools (NFOS) can be of great assistance in starting a new program.
- (continued)

NFOS NEWS

A Word from our President Bill Underwood (Continued)

- Our Mission Statement is: “The National Federation of Opticianry Schools is an association of Opticianry schools dedicated to facilitating the development of formal educational programs in identified areas of need; upgrading the standards of Opticianry education; facilitating the exchange of teaching methods; working for the uniformity of formal education in Opticianry; and aiding other national Opticianry associations as deemed mutually beneficial.”
- States without an NFOS School
 - Maine
 - New Hampshire
 - Vermont
 - Delaware
 - West Virginia
 - Kentucky
 - South Carolina
 - Alabama
 - Louisiana
 - Arkansas
 - Missouri
 - Wisconsin
 - Iowa
 - Nebraska
 - Minnesota
 - North Dakota
 - South Dakota
 - Montana
 - Wyoming
 - Oklahoma
 - Colorado
 - Utah
 - Idaho
 - Alaska
 - Hawaii

Conclusion

- Congratulations to new officers!
- Thanks for a fun four years!

COA update for NFOS Summer 2010

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

Initial accreditation was granted to the Opticianry program at Baker College of Jackson. The COA welcomes Baker College of Jackson to the list of accredited programs.

Reaffirmation of accreditation was granted to:

The Ophthalmic Technology program at College of Southern Nevada.

The Ophthalmic Laboratory program at NOSTRA.

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

COA is now recognized by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA). CHEA is the organization of choice for recognition of accrediting organizations that are not eligible for listing by the U.S. Department of Education. Thanks to all who assisted in this process, and special thanks to Essilor of America for contributing the recognition fee.

As of May 31, Ellen Stoner is resigning as Director of Accreditation. Debra White will be taking over the position. Debra is a well-known optical consultant, writer and guest speaker. A graduate of the Ophthalmic Dispensing program at Erie Community College, she was formerly the Program Director of the Opticianry degree program at Mater Dei College; served as Commissioner in the past, including a term as Chair of the Commission; and is an experienced on-site evaluator. Debra is a licensed Ophthalmic Dispenser in NY and certified Contact Lens Practitioner. The Commission's new address will be PO Box 592, Canton, NY, 13617. The telephone number, fax number, website and e-mail address will not change.

COA update for NFOS (Continued)

The annual accreditation fee for the coming fiscal year remains \$1,250, and is due in the COA office by November 1, 2010. The Commissioners approved an increase to \$1,350 for the fiscal year 2011-2012, which will be due in the fall of 2011.

During fall 2010 and spring 2011 there will potentially be nine reaffirmations of accreditation visits. There is a new workshop posted on the website with information about the accreditation process, and we encourage everyone with a self-study and on-site coming up to read it. If you have done this many times before any suggestions on additions or changes to this document are welcome. In the workshop are templates for the documents and links to all materials related to the process. The first step in the reaffirmation of accreditation process is for the program director to indicate three dates that will work for the program's on-site. The team selection process and the setting of the date for submission of the self-study cannot begin until these dates are known. The date choices should be indicated by filling out the application for reaffirmation of accreditation, which is on the COA website.

The Commission depends on donations for about 1/3 of its annual budget. The Commissioners would like to thank the NFOS for their generous and timely donation to the COA this spring. Donations to the Commission are deductible on your tax return as charitable donations. Donations by check are always welcome; the Commission also now takes credit card donations through PayPal from the website.

Respectfully submitted,
Ellen Stoner, Director of Accreditation
Commission on Opticianry Accreditation

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COA News Release

Florence, Indiana; May 7, 2010



Debra White, MEd, FCLSA, ABOM, of Canton, NY will become the Director of Accreditation of the Commission on Opticianry Accreditation as of June 1, 2010. Debra is a well-known optical consultant, writer and guest speaker. A graduate of the Ophthalmic Dispensing program at Erie Community College, she was formerly the Program Director of the Opticianry degree program at Mater Dei College; served as Commissioner in the past, including a term as Chair of the Commission; and is an experienced on-site evaluator. Debra is a licensed Ophthalmic Dispenser in NY and certified Contact Lens Practitioner.

The Commission's new address will be PO Box 592, Canton, NY, 13617.

At the spring meeting of the Commission, the Opticianry Program at Baker College of Jackson, MI, was awarded full accreditation.. The Program Director is Randall Smith, formerly of J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College in Richmond, VA.

Other action taken at the spring meeting was the reaffirmation of accreditation for the Ophthalmic Technology degree program at College of Southern Nevada in Las Vegas, NV; and the Ophthalmic Laboratory program of the Tri-Service Opticianry School at the Naval Ophthalmic Support and Training Activity (NOSTRA) in Yorktown, VA.

The Commission on Opticianry Accreditation (COA) accredits two-year opticianry degree programs and one-year ophthalmic laboratory technology certificate programs. There are twelve Commissioners; they are appointed by the National Academy of Opticianry, the Opticians Association of America, and the National Federation of Opticianry Schools, plus two public members.

The Commission is a not-for-profit charity under the IRS rules for 501(c)(3) corporations. Donations to the COA are tax deductible. Donations may be made through the website, <http://COAccreditation.com>. Any questions about the Commission may be directed to the Director director@COAccreditation.com.

Ellen Stoner, Director of Accreditation

Commission on Opticianry Accreditation

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contributions to COA are tax deductible

PayPal link to contribute to the Commission:

https://www.paypal.com/cgi-bin/webscr?cmd=s-xclick&hosted_button_id=5334897

NFOS SPRING MEETING 2010

John Godert

This year's spring meeting was held May 21-23 at Erie Community College in Buffalo, NY. For many of the members attending, it was their first visit to ECC for others it was a return to their Alma Mater.

During Curriculum Development Workshops on Friday, members worked in teams to collaborate on curriculum revisions. The breakout sessions updated courses in dispensing, ophthalmic laboratory, business and contact lenses.

Following curriculum review, Transitions Consultant, Mary Seguiti shared exciting news about Transitions Xtra Active Lenses, the newest technology from Transitions Optical. Mary was joined by Cheri Guy, Transitions Professional Development Manager and Manuel Solis, Multicultural Marketing Manager. A new Transitions Demonstration Tool and Multicultural Education Resource Packet including DVD was presented to support the education of ophthalmic professionals.

Saturday's business meeting lunch was hosted by Rene Soltis, Director of Education and Training for The Vision Council and Dale Parmenteri, Vice President of Balester Optical in Wilkes-Barre, PA. The Vision Council presentation focused on the AR Committee's goal of raising A/R awareness among ophthalmic students, professionals, manufacturers, government and consumers. A DVD and AR Demonstration Kits was presented to NFOS members. For additional information, visit the thevisioncouncil.org website.

While covering the Curriculum Development Report, members had an opportunity to collectively review the curriculum revisions of Friday's sessions. Other meeting highlights included College Bowl and installation of new officers. Please watch for email from Bob Russo, College Bowl Chair, regarding preparation for Fall 2010 Essilor Opticianry Bowl. The College Bowl Committee wishes to make this year's event the most exciting ever.

With the election of new NFOS officers we wish to thank those who have served and welcome new officers. Special NFOS recognition to Bill Underwood for his service, leadership and friendship. Thank you Bill.

Pictured L to R: Mary Seguiti, Bill Underwood, Kristy Green



NFOS SPRING MEETING 2010



New officers were installed during the May 2010 Business Meeting.

President:	Kristi Green – J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College
Vice President:	John Godert – Erie Community College
Secretary:	Kimberly Strickler – New York City College of Technology
Treasurer:	Brent McCardle – Durham Technical Community College



Pictured L to R: Bill Underwood, Rene Soltis, Dale Parmenteri and Kristy Green

NFOS School News

Vision Program at **Southwestern**

Indian Polytechnic Institute

Benefits from Davis Vision's Donation

Many Albuquerque, New Mexico residents see more clearly thanks to the vision program at Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute (SIPI). Davis Vision and its Focus on Americasm outreach program partnered with SIPI in its mission to provide affordable vision care to people with limited resources by donating 4,000 frames to the school's Vision Care Technology program. The Focus on Americasm program assists uninsured and underinsured members of the community by providing much needed vision services. "Davis Vision's donation was the largest ever received by the school," said Sam Henderson, SIPI's Coordinator Instructor, Vision Care Technology. "It will help SIPI provide vision care to the community for the next five years." The school will also use a portion of the donated frames in its vision program's laboratory and dispensing classes.



Students and teachers from SIPI's Vision Care Technology program welcome Tom Davis, Davis Vision's Executive Vice President/Chief Marketing Officer (second from right).

NFOS School News

New from J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College

JSRCC News - In Fall 2009, the opticianry program began an exciting new initiative to foster lifelong learning and the pursuit of educational excellence amongst our faculty. The initiative requires that all faculty in the program, full-time or adjunct, strive for the highest certifications within their teaching specialties in addition to their formal education requirements. The goal is to have all teaching faculty become advanced certified by 2012 with a continuing plan to become an ABO master and/or CLSA fellow (dependent on specialty area) by 2014. To kick it off, JSRCC is proud to announce the first faculty member, Yvonne Metten, successfully completed her NCLE-ADV examination at the CLSA Annual Education Meeting this past April in Jacksonville, FL. In addition, we are also proud to share the Essilor DCRP award recipient for the JSRCC graduating class of 2010 was Sandy Roberts.



Pictured above is adjunct faculty Yvonne Metten, graduate Sandy Roberts and program director Kristi Green at the 2010 class graduation ceremony.

NFOS School News

Vision Care Technology Students Honored at Spring 2010 Awards Ceremonies



Three outstanding New York City College of Technology students were honored during the spring semester hosted by the Department of Vision Care Technology Department. Pictured above, from left to right, are New York State Society of Opticians (NYSSO) Director Richard Bauman, student Ariel Gonzalez and Professor Robert Russo, department chair. Mr. Gonzalez was presented with NYSSO's 2009 \$500 Future of Opticianry Scholarship Award in recognition of his academic and promising future in the field at a ceremony on May 18.

NFOS School News



Also honored with a \$250 NYSSO Student presented the \$250 Joseph.L. Bacotti Scholarship Award to outstanding scholarship was student Ruslan Zhukov. Professor Russo also student Jeffrey Prophete on behalf of the Opticians Alliance of New York. Professor Bacotti founded the department more than 40 years ago and the scholarship in his memory is presented to an honoree who has displayed high ethical and moral conduct as a student.



NFOS School News

Erie Community College 2010 Student Awards Ceremony



The DCRP Award is presented to Ramona Richardson by Mickey Toppliffe, Essilor Lab Consultant during the ECC Student Awards Ceremony in May.

Below ECC instructor Janet Acara Congratulates Jill Zon as she is honored with the LensCrafters Student Scholarship Award .



TRANSITIONS HEALTHY SIGHT FOR LIFE
2010US OPTICIANRY SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

TRANSITIONS OPTICAL ANNOUNCES ITS 2010
STUDENTS OF VISION SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

Thirteen Winning Projects Demonstrate a “Focus on Children’s Vision”

PINELLAS PARK, Fla., May 3, 2010 – Optometry and opticianry students from across North America entered the 2010 Students of Vision Scholarship from Transitions Optical, Inc. Thirteen entries that demonstrated this year’s “Focus on Children’s Vision” were selected as the scholarship winners. Supported by the Transitions Healthy Sight for Life Fund, the scholarship program awarded 14 students from the U.S. and Canada.

Projects were judged by a group of Transitions Optical representatives, eyecare professionals and marketing specialists. To encourage creativity and a wide range of interpretations, projects were accepted in three categories: Activity/Event, Multi-media and Other. The Fund awarded six \$1,000 scholarships and seven \$500 scholarships. Additionally, the top six opticianry students will also receive a trip to the ABO-NCLE National Education Conference in Cincinnati in September. While there, students will be able to attend education courses, as well as present a summary of the winning entries at the posters session.

“Switching the focus this year to children’s vision enabled the students to take a creative look at how they would interact with young patients,” said Carole Bratteig, professional development and education manager, Transitions. “We could not be more pleased with the entries received this year. I have faith that the next generation of patients will be in good hands with these students of vision.”

Students were encouraged to be creative as they explored their role in care for patients 18 years old and younger. Projects included research papers, presentations, videos, posters and community outreach. Winning students will also have their entries featured on the Transitions Healthy Sight for Life Fund Web site, www.HealthySightforLife.org.

Scholarship Recipients

Winning Opticianry Entries

First place in Activity/Event category: Yasmeen Beverly, Cuyahoga Community College – Story cube, [Healthy Sight](#)

First place in Multi-media category: Mie Wada, Douglas College – Slide show, [Healthy Sight for Children](#)

First place in Other category: Jelena Cakic, Cuyahoga Community College – PowerPoint presentation, [Kids' Vision](#)

Additional winners: Heather Beun, Cuyahoga Community College; Leslie Ip, Raritan Valley Community College; Vanina Vazquez, Miami Dade College

Winning Optometry Entries

First place in Activity/Event category: Nicole Pogue, University of Missouri - St. Louis – Video of on-site program, [Elementary School Presentation](#)

First place in Multi-media category: Trung Tran, Southern California College of Optometry – Video, [Jack Goes to the Eye Doctor](#)

First place in Other category: Doua Lor, Salus University – Education piece, [Olly the Owl Healthy Eyes Fowl](#)

Additional winners: Pravina Patel, Nova Southeastern University; Marilyn Zuniga, Illinois College of Optometry; Amy Lin, The Ohio State University; Naomi Aguilera and Leslie Rosenthal, Nova Southeastern University

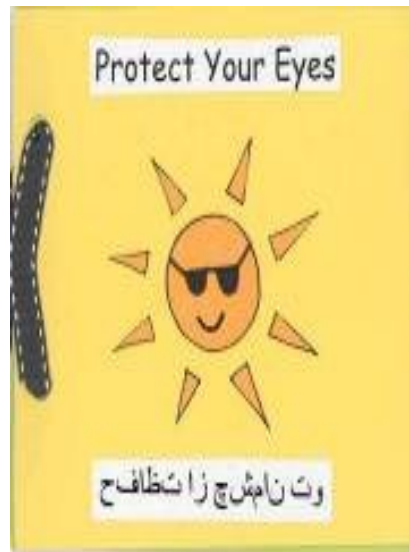
About Transitions Optical

As the leading provider of photochromics to optical manufacturers, Transitions Optical, headquartered in Pinellas Park, Fla., offers the most advanced photochromic technology in the widest selection of lens designs and materials. Transitions Optical is driven by innovation to support the advancement of healthy sight and adaptive eyewear, and to providing its partners the tools and programs their businesses need to thrive. Transitions® lenses are the #1-recommended photochromic lenses worldwide.

Transitions Optical's family of products includes everyday lenses, designed to be worn indoors and darken outdoors, and performance lenses, designed to be worn outdoors in place of sun lenses. Transitions everyday lenses adapt to light to provide more comfortable vision while protecting eyes from UV. Transitions performance lenses include the company's sunwear line, Transitions® SOLFX™ sun lenses, which enhance visual performance in specific outdoor activities by adapting to optimize color and darkness in changing light conditions.

For more information, visit Transitions.com or TransitionsSOLFX.com, or contact Transitions Optical Customer Service at (800) 848-1506 (United States) or (877) 254-2590 (Canada).

KIDS' VISION



Winners of the Transitions Optical, Inc. 2010 Students of Vision scholarship program submitted a wide variety of projects – including PowerPoint presentations, books, cartoons, videos and research papers – demonstrating the theme “Focus on Children’s Vision.”

NOTE: For high resolution versions of these images, or for additional images, please contact Lauren Appel at lauren.appel@eurorscg.com or (412) 456-4301.

NFOS PHOTO GALLERY

Meeting new NFOS members at the Spring Meeting



Seated above is Jonan Root, instructor at Tri-Service Optician Schools.
Below is George Bourque of Ben Franklin Institute of Technology.



Welcome Jonan and George!

NFOS PHOTO GALLERY



Final NFOS moments with Laurie Pierce of Hillsborough Community College. Pictured above Mike Szczerbiak of Durham Technical Community College and below Bob Russo of New York City College of Technology



Hope to see everyone in Fall at the 2010 ABO-NCLE National Education Conference in Cincinnati, September 16-19.

Have a great summer!