



FOCAL POINTS

Winter-Spring Newsletter 2013



Michigan College
of Optometry

Alumni Spotlight:

Dr. Bob Kocembo, O-87*

*Despite my best efforts to the contrary

What an MCO Education Means to Me



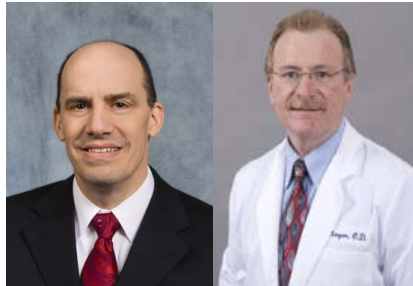
My memories of MCO still teach me to watch, to give thanks and to listen. The collective familiarity that is MCO is such a positive energy and attitude that it never fails to call back the memories of youth, colleagues, career foundation and hope. As with you, I cannot help but thank those who nurtured and disciplined me and all of us. As usual, I am making good my 30th year of nearly daily memories of several "See Me - NPK"s and yes, of "MPKs" too. I earned an OD, despite a dancing OS. I OU my friends...and my MCO.

See you and your family soon. Please pay us a visit as you are overdue. Come and see the new building with a personal tour or allow our students to perform your annual DFE for the practice and to bring back memories of your student days! Support current and future MCO students with your financial gifts because every little bit makes a big difference in their lives.

Let us not forget the place that helped to mold us into the doctors we have become. I wish you all well and hope to see you soon.

All my best,

MCO Welcomes New Dean, Thanks Interim Dean



Dr. David Damari Dr. Bruce Morgan

Spring winds are bringing change to our MCO family as we welcome our new Dean, Dr. David Damari. Dr. Damari's leadership and enthusiasm are contagious and we are thrilled that he has chosen to lead our talented team of faculty, staff, administrators and students. He began his Dean role officially on March 28, although he has been working behind the scenes to further educate himself about the program and prepare for his new role. As Dr. Damari takes the helm, Dr. Bruce Morgan will be stepping down as Interim Dean. He will remain an integral part of Dr. Damari's transition into the Dean position. MCO owes a debt of gratitude to Dr. Morgan. His leadership was unmistakable. His extra time, hard work and commitment not only carried us through the transition period but helped us continue to flourish. In addition, the leadership and commitment of Dr. Bob Buckingham, Associate Dean, was invaluable to Dr. Morgan in his interim role. He serves the college with enthusiasm and pride. Thank you to both of you, as well as to our other administrators, faculty and staff who continued to make MCO shine through this period of change.

How to Support MCO

We are very appreciative of the support received from our alumni and friends. Our current fundraising need of highest priority is student scholarships. Please consider donating to one of our scholarship funds at a level of giving in which you feel comfortable. Online donations can be made here:

https://ebill.ferris.edu/C20079_ustores/web/store_cat.jsp?STOREID=4&CATID=22

MCO Welcomes New Assistant Dean for Clinical Education, Faculty, Executive Research Director



Dr. Durkee began as the **Assistant Dean for Clinical Education** at the Michigan College of Optometry (MCO) in June. He is also currently serving as the interim

Director of Externships. Dr. Durkee is a 1981 graduate with High Distinction of the School of Optometry, Ferris State College. Academic awards included the Harold Kohn award for research projects and a Nikon Scholarship. Upon graduation, he became a part time clinical faculty with MCO at Duane Waters Hospital, Jackson Prison until 2012. While working his own private practice in Lowell, MI for 31 years, he also had part time duties on occasion seeing patients in nursing homes. He was very active in his local and state professional associations, having been president of both the West Michigan Optometric Association and the Michigan Optometric Association (MOA). The MOA awarded him the Emil Arnold award twice for literary contributions, along with a Keyperson and a Distinguished Service award. He currently serves on the Electronic Health Records Committee and Third Party Benefits Committee of the MOA, and has written many articles on technology and optometric applications. He enjoys working at MCO for the opportunity to work on research projects and with tomorrow's future optometrists.

Dr. Brian

Bobby K

Robert Thomas Kocembo was born 9 days late on 9 October 1963 at Mt Carmel Mercy Hospital in Detroit, MI. He remains just as punctual and breech. In commemoration of this the hospital was demolished shortly thereafter to make room for a Home Depot. Despite this, Bob continues practicing in his home town in Detroit. He is a member of the AOA, AFOS and NAVAO among others. His tendency to omit cylinder and go a tad far into the green, which may serve yet to be his professional undoing, is widely regarded and appreciated by his colleagues. Bob appreciates being your MCOAA Trustee and an Assistant Editor for your newsletter.

Dr. Amy (Crump) Sabin, O-96



L to R: Jeff Chadwick, Jeff Cosgrove, Tim Guthrie, Greg Morgan, Amy (Crump) Sabin, David Cook, Debbie (Sheere) Gallatin, Heather (Burgess) Peterson, Chad Gallatin, Angela (Harvey) Flynn, Kevin Flynn

"AZ has been wonderful for me. I moved here in 1998 and it was probably one of the best decisions I have ever made, aside from attending MCO. My parents move to AZ in 1999, so it has been nice to have my family here. I got married in August and we had our wedding in Frankenmuth. Several of my MCO c/o 1996 alums were able to attend which was wonderful: Chad & Debbie (Sheere) Gallatin, Tim Guthrie, Jeff Cosgrove, Jeff Chadwick, Kevin & Angie (Harvey) Flynn, Dave Cook, & Heather Burgess. It was a great time!

Go Bulldogs!

Amy"

MCO Prepares to Say Goodbye to Dr. Keating



On May 13, 2013, Dr. Michael Keating, Professor of Optics, will begin his next great adventure- retirement. He will be leaving with mixed emotions after a long, distinguished career as a beloved MCO faculty member and interim administrator. He has touched the life of every

MCO graduate through his excellence as an educator and personal kindness. As he prepares to leave MCO, we asked him a few questions about his time here and plans for the future.

What are your retirement plans in the short term?

In anticipation of my retirement, we bought a house in the woods on the North East side of Grand Rapids (about 1.5 miles east of 4 mile road and east beltline). Even though we moved there last summer, there are still a few "new to us" house and yard projects that need to be done.

Beyond that, I will have more time to attend grandkid activities! My wife, Mary Jean, owns and operates MJ Tours LLC, and I will continue to be an "unpaid" administrative assistant for MJ Tours - although I have been emphasizing to her that I am NOT retiring from MCO to go to work full-time for MJ Tours. I will be taking some MJ Tours trips – the first one to the Shaw Festival in Niagara-on-the Lake Ontario.

In July, we plan to attend a Keating family reunion in Nebraska and a family reunion on Mary Jean's side in Iowa. In August, we are planning a vacation trip to the Mount Tremblant region of Quebec Canada.

Any long term plans?

Once I get settled into retirement, I plan to do some volunteering activities – possibilities include: a docent at the Grand Rapids Art Museum, an "ambassador" for the city of Grand Rapids, a volunteer at Meijer Gardens and Sculpture Park, or a volunteer for other groups that help people in one way or another.



Once I have recuperated from the surgery for my ruptured left quadriceps tendon, I hope to resume competitive orienteering - including competing in National meets. Competitive orienteering is a race through the woods where you have to use a compass and a

topographical map to navigate through the woods and hit the specified "control" points. Orienteering is a tremendous mental challenge as well as a physical



McDowell is now an **Assistant Professor** at the Michigan College of Optometry. He received a Bachelor's of Science degree in Biomedical

Science from Western Michigan University with a minor in Applied Ethics. After completing his Optometry degree at the Michigan College of Optometry in 2011, he went on to be the founding resident of Henry Ford OptimEyes' Primary Care residency where he worked in a high patient volume practice as well as supervising 4th year interns. His current teaching responsibilities include supervising 2nd and 3rd year interns at the University Eye Center's Primary Care clinic as well as laboratory instruction for the Optometric Procedures course. Dr. McDowell also team teaches the Physical Exam and Diagnosis course and the Environmental Vision course. His clinical areas of interest include Primary care and Emergency care, as well as the use of advanced clinical technology to help facilitate learning. Dr. McDowell is also an active member of the Michigan Optometric Association and American Optometric Association.



A graduate of the University of Minnesota's Physician Assistant of Ophthalmology program **Mr. Craig Norman** was hired as the **Director of**

Research at the Michigan College of Optometry, Ferris State University. He will lead the newly formed **Vision Research Institute**. A clinician for the past 30+ years, he has been involved in the development and evaluation of numerous products and technologies in the soft, GP and scleral lens category. Mr. Norman is a Consulting Editor to the Contact Lens Spectrum where he has authored a column on Prescribing for Presbyopia for over a decade, an Editorial Board Member for the Refractive Eyecare journal and Editorial Advisory Board Member of AllAboutVision.com. He is a Member of the Advisory Panel of the GP Lens Institute and has been an Advisory

Dr. Elizabeth (Lane) Bow, O-09



(On left) "I'm practicing at Makar Eyecare in Anchorage Alaska. It's a full scope private practice. I'm practicing VT two half days/week, low vision one half day/week, and the rest is primary care. I got married last August, I've got an awesome dog, and we're having a great time up here adventuring and fishing."

Dr. Barbara Horn, O-98



Barbara L. Horn, O.D., was elected to the American Optometric Association Board of Trustees at the 114th Annual AOA Congress & 41st Annual AOSA Conference: Optometry's Meeting® in June 2011. Prior to her election to the Board, Dr. Horn served the AOA by volunteering her time as chair of the Clinical & Practice Advancement Executive Committee, Medical Eye Care Committee, and Membership Group and as a past president of the Michigan Optometric Association (MOA). In 2011, she was the MOA's Optometrist of the Year. Dr. Horn received the Ferris State University Pacesetter award in 2007. She also received the AOA's Young Optometrist of the Year award in 2006 and the MOA's Young Optometrist of the Year award in 2005.

challenge. Orienteering meets are held rain or shine, and the conditions can sometimes be rugged. (In an early December meet in Southern Indiana, it was snowing heavily and the course route zigzagged back and forth 7 times across a shallow river. So I did 7 river crossing at about 28 degrees temperature. At the other extreme, I competed in Colorado at 9000 feet elevation on a day when there was a record high temperature.) National scoring is by age brackets, so I am scored against people who are within 5 years of my age.

Eventually I would like to travel to some places that I have not yet visited. The first ones that come to mind are: Spain and Portugal, New Zealand and Australia, and the United Kingdom (outside London). However there are lots of possible destinations.

We have a daughter, son –in-law, and grandson in Austin, Texas. So we will probably "snow bird" some there in the winter. Southern Arizona is another possible snow bird destination.

I will undoubtedly spend some time reading historical fiction novels, attending plays, going to the symphony, etc.



What was your favorite part of teaching at MCO?

I taught for 3 years at the Pennsylvania College of Optometry (class sizes about 160) before coming to MCO, and I liked my job at PCO. However after teaching larger class

sizes, I feel that MCO's smaller class sizes were my favorite part. Large class sizes make teaching feel more like an impersonal factory job, whereas MCO's smaller class sizes make teaching feel more personal.

When did you start at MCO?

I was one of the first three faculty hired to start the optometry doctoral program at Ferris. When the three of us arrived in July of 1975: the first MCO student class had been accepted, but there was no curriculum, no equipment, no lab manuals, no clinic, no procedural policies, etc - and we had less than 2 months to get ready for the first MCO optometry classes to start. (By the way - shortly after the first MCO classes started, then Governor Milliken line-item vetoed the funds for MCO, so there was no state funds that year, but that is another story.)

What are your favorite memories of MCO?

In general, my favorite memories are the people: students, fellow faculty, administrators, and staff. Many people fall into this category, but if forced to pick one person for a favorite memory, it would be Jack Bennett, MCO's founding dean and the person that hired me to come to MCO. Jack was an efficient administrator and a wonderful person who related well with everyone. He had a charismatic personality and loved to tell his "Granddaddy Barndollar" stories as well as other stories.

What will you miss most?

Panel Member to numerous SCL and GP lens companies. Presently, he is also an Education Committee Member of the Global Specialty Lens Symposium. He has published over 115 articles, posters, videos and book chapters on GP and Soft Lens Design, Presbyopic Contact Lenses, Specialty Contact Lens Uses and Eye Care Practice Management and has traveled extensively throughout the world lecturing on a variety of contact lens and eyecare related topics.

Did You Know?



MCO's University Eye Center operates an active patient care site in Baldwin at Family Health Care, a community health center. The combined many types of medical services under one roof including family practice, dental, laboratory, x-ray, full service retail pharmacies, medical social work, health education, perinatal, and school-based teen health centers along with optometry.

Because of growth, we recently moved our clinical services into an area with more space and additional equipment. This is yet another way we are providing our students with a diverse and engaging patient care experience



Moving photos, thanks to Todd from Walman Optical for his help (above)

MCO Student Profiles

(All photos courtesy of Bill Bitzinger, FSU Photographic Services)

Chelsea
Richards

Dr. Horn has a private practice, ExpertEyes, Family Eye Center & Optical, with two locations in Washington and Chesterfield, Mich. She is the charter president of her local Optimist International chapter; North Macomb Optimist Club.

She has two children with her husband, Michael Weisgerber, O.D., Brooke and Mick.

MCO Good News (a few of many)

The MCO 3rd year class participated in the first portion of the **STAPLE program**. This is a national program sponsored by **Alcon, B+L, and Vistakon**. In the workshop each group of students was able to fit 3-4 pairs of toric contact lenses on real patients. The program organizer informed MCO that it is always one of the easiest sites in the country because it is well organized (thanks **Rhonda Atteberry** and **Dr. Andrea Sewell**) and students are better prepared having already had experience with the lenses in the University Eye Center. MCO was able to show off its clinical strength to company executives. Thanks to the doctors who helped out, **Drs. Paula McDowell, Allison Jenerou, Amy Dinardo, Andrea Sewell, Shawn Andrus and Josh Lotoczky**.

Dr. Jim Miller presented 2 hours of continuing education to optometrists at the annual Michigan Optometric Association Fall Educational in Lansing, October 10. The first hour was titled **Optometric Ethics Review and Update** and the second hour was **Emotional Pain Management... Tempering Our Temperaments**.

Dr. Bob Buckingham, MCO Associate Dean, and **Dr. Sara Bush**, Alumnus and Former Adjunct Assistant Professor, presented a poster titled **"Predictors of Success in Optometry School"** on October 23, 2012 at the American Academy of Optometry in Phoenix, AZ. The poster reviewed the ability of Optometry Centralized Application Service (OptomCAS) variables to predict graduation and cumulative GPA of students in the Michigan College of Optometry. In addition, the poster revealed the importance of the Optometry Admissions Test (OAT).

MCO's **American Optometric**

I will miss the intellectual challenge of teaching the material. James Freedman, former president of the University of Iowa, expressed this challenge in the following words: "Teaching is a continuous struggle to learn afresh what remains fundamental about an evolving discipline, and to bring that knowledge to life in the minds of students."

I will also miss the intellectual challenge of scholarly activity - learning new things, doing research (my favorite research area was in the matrix analysis of astigmatic optical systems), reviewing scientific journal articles, and writing books (in my case the first and second editions of "Geometric, Physical, and Visual Optics"). I plan to continue some intellectual activity in retirement. As an example: For the last several years, I've been slowly working on learning Geometric Algebra. (Geometric Algebra is a powerful, alternate algebra where in 3-dimensions the fundamental entities are scalars, vectors, bivectors, and trivectors.)

Some alumni shared these Dr. Keating memories on the MCO Facebook page:

"Fantastic professor, I still kept my journals that you actually read and remarked in. Best memory was getting near 100% on geometric optics portion of national boards... thanks to you. Genuine interest in the student and their academic growth. Michigan was lucky to have you!"- Dr. Helen Tower

"I enjoyed his use of different colored chalk for demonstrating example problems on the board!"- Dr. Elysia Talaski

"The colored chalk that always seemd to end up all over him by the end of the lecture."- Dr. Lara Eenigenburg

"The ties."- Dr. Nicole Gdowski

"Ronnie RayGun. He was involved in a lot of Optics test questions."- Dr. Bradley Taylor

"I vaguely remeber a story that involved Dr Keating recalulating his Rx for his raquet ball glasses due to the high wrap."- Dr. Peter Oppermann

"He was the Peyton Manning of orienteering!"- Dr. Brian Schmidt

"A favorite memory from the class of 2004- I remember Dr Keating drawing ray diagrams vigorously in his famous colored chalks across all three chalk boards... His hand was writing at mock 10+ and I was trying so hard to keep up drawing with my (famous to my friends) bag of colored pens that I couldn't even pause to try to learn what he was drawing. Then, when he was done with his work of art, he whipped around (topic related tie air born as he whipped around) and said, "Any questions?!?!?" -with chalk dust all over one side of his face and his hair all crazy, going the wrong direction. The class was silent. (Lo!!)"- Dr. Lauren Zabowski Skarnulis

"To this day the only man I have known that has a holster for his calculator."- Dr. Adam Castle



MCO graduation year: 2013
Hometown: Lake Orion, MI
Undergraduate Education: Ferris

State University, Honors Program
Undergraduate Major: Applied Biology with a Pre-Optometry emphasis

Why Optometry? I was inspired by O.D.s I shadowed while in high school. I have a unique ocular health condition that brought me in to O.D. offices as a patient.

Interesting fact: I love sports of all kinds. I have two different colored irises that also change color in different lighting conditions. I have been a Resident Advisor throughout college.

How would a scholarship help you? Although loans are available, being in so much debt does not allow young practitioners to have flexibility to choose the type of career we want. I don't want to have to take a higher paying job in a practice setting that doesn't make me happy just to pay off my loans.



Jessica Hartwig

MCO graduation year: 2013
Hometown: Iron Mountain, MI
Undergraduate Education: Lake Superior State

University
Undergraduate Major: Biology with a Chemistry minor

Why Optometry? I was inspired by my father who is an O.D. I have worked for him since I was 18 years old and fell in love with the profession.

Interesting fact: I am a huge sports fan— every sport but especially basketball. I also love watching sports on TV. I am a big fan of NFL football and love my Green Bay Packers

How would a scholarship help you? Student loan debt is huge and federal loans don't even cover tuition costs, forcing us to obtain our own individual loan funding with really high interest rates. Getting a scholarship would make it so much easier to not worry about having extra money for rent,

Student Association held a fundraiser for MOAPAC/AOAPACat the Blue Cow Café on September 28th. There were 90 people in attendance (breakdown: 54 students, 16 doctors, 2 Congressmen, and guests). When everything was counted at the end of the night, the AOSA ended up raising \$2,030 placing MCO **first in the nation** in student fundraising for AOAPAC.

Dr. Daniel Wrubel has been informed that the Government of the Commonwealth of Dominica wishes to confer on Volunteer Optometric Services to Humanity (VOSH) Mission the **Meritorious Service Award** for meritorious service to the Commonwealth of Dominica the ceremony took place on November 3, 2012.

The \$10,000 faculty research awarded Arinze Okere (Pharmacy), also includes co-investigators Drs' Avesh Raghunandan and Dean Luplow from the Michigan College of Optometry. The study will be on the Use of Alpha Lipoic Acid for the Treatment and Prevention of Diabetic Retinopathy.

Congratulations go out to **Drs. Dean Luplow**, Jeff Bates, Stephen Lee, Susan Owens, and the Interprofessional Wellness Clinic for being awarded the **2012 Building Michigan's Healthcare Award for Interprofessional Education Initiative**. The Michigan Health Council recognized that Ferris State University's Michigan College of Optometry, School of Nursing, and the College of Pharmacy have all put forth outstanding efforts to improve patient care through a delivery of a comprehensive educational program in an inter-professional format. The Interprofessional Education Initiative Award was presented at the Michigan Health Council (MHC) Annual Luncheon on November 13th, 2012 at the University Club in East Lansing, MI.

Dr. Alison Jenerou held an induction ceremony on November 27th and welcomed 15 new student members to the **Beta Sigma Kappa International Optometric Honor Society**. The ceremony was held on November 27th in the MCO atrium. The members represent scholastic excellence as honor students at MCO, membership is based on GPA.

"First hearing of the 9-11 attack from him...."- Dr. Jodi Russell Gordon

"The calculator holster made him the John Wayne of geometric, physical, and visual optics."- Dr. Michael Buck

"Well I was there in his 1st class -1975! And that is where our class first heard of the term Optical Bench! Say what?! But the coolest thing was when we got a laser. Yup he wrote out the acronym on the Board too: Light Amplification by Stimulated Emission of Radiation!"- Dr. Dan Fortenbacher

"Mike is to this day, the most remarkable teacher I've ever had. He took a rather difficult subject and approached it so logically, that all who studied under him developed a keen understanding of geometric optics. I've found this knowledge invaluable in my career and have Dr. Keating to thank for this. Mike, you have literally helped probably thousands of patients see better through your wonderful teaching career. Congratulations and best wishes!

I will never forget your kindness and wonderful passion for our profession. Thank you!"- Dr. Paul Marvin

"Every lunch time he had his diet Dr. Pepper, the fuel of champions."- Mrs. Maureen Watson

Dr. Michael P. Keating and Michigan College of Optometry Student, Alana Herron, Honored by Michigan Optometric Association

(Press release from the Michigan Optometric Association)



EAST LANSING, Mich. – (Feb. 11, 2013) – Dr. Michael P. Keating, optics professor at the Michigan College of Optometry (MCO) at Ferris State University, has received the

Michigan Optometric

Association's (MOA) *Jack W. Bennett Optometric Educator of the Year* award and Alana Herron, MCO 4th year optometry student, has received the MOA *Student of the Year* award.

The two were presented their awards during the MOA's Winter Seminar at the Kellogg Hotel & Conference Center in East Lansing on Feb. 6.

Dr. Keating has a PhD in physics from Indiana University (1972) and has taught optometric optics courses at the Pennsylvania College of Optometry, University of Houston College of Optometry and for 30 plus years at MCO. He currently teaches Geometric, Physical, Visual, and Ophthalmic Optics, and Optics of Low Vision Aids

equipment, living expenses and other necessary non-tuition costs.



Lindsay Reder

MCO graduation year: 2013
Hometown: West Branch, MI
Undergraduate Education: Ferris State University,

Honors Program

Undergraduate Major: Applied Biology with a Pre-Optometry emphasis

Why Optometry? I got my first pair of glasses in high school and saw leaves on the trees for the first time. The visit made a difference in my life and I want to do that for others.

Interesting fact: I grew up on a farm with horses, sheep, steer and chickens. My mom is a carpenter, so I learned a lot about construction growing up, like designing kitchens. I will be the first doctor on both sides of my family.

How would a scholarship help you? The best O.D. is focused on patient care and lifelong learning. A scholarship would allow me, as a young O.D., to focus on those things instead of worrying about paying the loan bills. The amount of debt I have is a huge financial burden and a long-term stress that would be greatly reduced with scholarship money.



Mark Deban

MCO graduation year: 2014
Hometown: Kaleva, MI
Undergraduate Education: Westshore

Community College then Ferris State University

Undergraduate Major: Biochemistry with a minor in Cellular and Molecular Biology

Why Optometry? I wanted a career that would work well with commitment to my family as well as be financially rewarding.

Interesting fact: I am married with two young children and that makes time management a very important skill in my education. How would a scholarship help you? I am fortunate to have received the Health Professions Scholarship with the

MCO 4 year student, **Chelsea Richards** had an article published in the AOA's Vision Rehabilitation Section *Cross Sections* newsletter. The link is entitled, "**Vision Rehabilitation for Anoxic Brain Injury Induced Vision Loss**".

Drs. Jenerou, Hinkley and Wrubel coordinated a **Visual Information Processing Assessment- Academic Service Learning Project** with White Cloud Upper Elementary school. The project was a win-win for both MCO and White Cloud; the project targeted elementary students who are struggling in school and provided MCO 3rd years experience performing Visual Information Processing Assessments.

MCO has four faculty members who have been accepted into the prestigious **Pediatric Eye Disease Investigator Group (PEDIG)** which is a national research consortium. **Drs. Mark Swan, Alison Jenerou, Sarah Hinkley and Paula McDowell** (Principal Investigator) will be participating in and recruiting patients for national pediatric eye disease studies, following established protocols.

Under the leadership of **Sarah Hinkley, OD**, the University Eye Center has begun an **interdisciplinary Vision Rehabilitation Service** in partnership with the Grand Rapids non-profit the Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired (ABVI). MCO fourth year clinical interns will continue to perform vision rehabilitation examinations under Dr. Hinkley's direction and then follow their patient through a vision rehabilitation appointment with a certified low vision therapist or orientation and mobility specialist from ABVI. Dr. Hinkley and her students will also participate in home visits with ABVI where a patient's activities of daily living, home environment and safety can be more accurately assessed. This partnership embraces the interdisciplinary model of healthcare and student education and received a **Fredric Rosemore Low Vision Educational Grant** from the American Optometric Foundation.

The Michigan College of Optometry is initiating a **Vision Rehabilitation Club** to stimulate student interest in low vision rehabilitation as a career option. Dr. Sarah Hinkley will be the founding advisor and students will be represented by the American

and is the author of "Geometric, Physical, and Visual Optics" - a 613 page textbook, now in its second edition. Dr. Keating is the recipient of numerous awards including: 1972 Indiana University Physics Department Award for Outstanding Performance as an Associate Instructor, 1994 Michigan Association of Governing Bodies Distinguished Faculty Award, 1996 Ferris State University Distinguished Teacher Award, 2002 Michigan Optometric Association Optometric Educator of the Year Award, 2008 Ferris State University Student Government Faculty of the Year Award and 2005 & 2009 Michigan Optometric Student Association First Year Student Choice for Outstanding Professor. He was selected as Educator of the Year by his students for his abilities to teach complex subjects in a simple, effective and organized manner and for his dedication to, and availability to assist in, their learning.

Alana Herron graduated with a Bachelor's of Vision Science. She is currently the class representative for the MCO class of 2013 and has served as Treasurer for the Michigan Optometric Student Association and Secretary for the Michigan Optometric Private Practice Association. She also acted as the student liaison for the College of Optometrists in Vision Development for two years. She is active in student organizations and optometric events and has participated in a American Optometric Association (AOA) Volunteer Optometric Services to Humanity (VOSH) mission trip to Dominica and provided vision screenings at the Michigan Special Olympics. She has a passion for pediatric optometry and enjoys working with a variety of patients. She is currently completing her final optometric externship at the Grand Rapids VA Outpatient Clinic and will graduate this May with her degree in Doctor of Optometry.

The MOA *Jack W. Bennett Optometric Educator of the Year* has been awarded annually since 1995 and is given to an MCO faculty member as selected by students. The *Student of the Year* award has been given annually since 1971 to a student, selected by faculty, who has demonstrated a commitment to their studies and the profession of optometry.

Drs. Gormezano, Raznik and Horn Make Generous Contributions to MCO

We are incredibly grateful to our many alumni who have donated to our new building, scholarship programs or who have made donations to our general funds. Here are some examples of the generosity of our alumni and supporters:

Drs. Susan Gormezano and Dr. Philip Raznik have donated significant funding to support the Vision Rehabilitation Grand Rounds Workshop with its goal of inspiring MCO graduates to consider a career in the practice of low vision rehabilitation.

Dr. Barbara Horn donated this infant examination cart, complete with the equipment necessary to complete an infant examination. Students and faculty have been benefiting from the cart for months and are incredibly grateful.

Navy. The stipend allows me to go to school and my wife to stay home with our children. Without this scholarship support, I would not be here. It would have been impossible in my family situation. I am extremely grateful for the scholarship assistance.



Nina Glauch

MCO graduation year: 2014
Hometown: Ann Arbor, MI
Undergraduate Education: University of Michigan

Undergraduate Major: German major, Bachelors of Science with Pre-Optometry focus

Why Optometry? I wanted a career involving patient care that allowed me to have a family life. I considered other professions but they lacked appreciation by patients. I fell in love after shadowing a couple of O.D.s.

Interesting fact: German was my native language so I had to learn English better in elementary school. I was a figure skater on Team USA in 2003-4, attending nationals and an international competition in Switzerland.

How would a scholarship help you? Undergraduate scholarships saved my dad's life by allowing him to retire and not have to worry about paying for my schooling when he had health problems. I am a frugal person and have saved as much money as possible but the debt load is still overwhelming. Scholarships would lessen my financial burden, especially after getting married and taking on each others' debt.

Optometric Association Vision Rehabilitation Section student liaison for MCO and the Neuro-Optometric Rehabilitation Association Student liaison for MCO.

Dr. Dan Wrubel recently got back from VOSH Mission #19 to Dominica with MCO Interns **Joe Morse, Cory Grifka, and Anna Baumgartner**. Other MCO Alumni **Dr. Paul DeWitt, Dr. Joe Lawless, Dr. Jamey Seals, Dr. Aimee Bronson and Dr. Rita Messing** also were in attendance. The Team of 33 Members did; almost 1,600 eye exams, over 2,500 pairs of glasses dispensed, over 1,000 pairs of Plano Sunshades given out, and over 100 referrals for medical eye care.

MCO hosted Dr. Peter Bradley, FSU Honors Program Director, on Monday, March 4th. **Drs. Buckingham, Hinkley, and Morgan** provided Dr. Bradley with information on MCO as well as a tour of the facility.

Interns **Josh Smith-Hanen** and **Sonya Iverson-Hill** along with **Dr. Paula McDowell** and **Dr. Shawn Andrus** provided an all day vision screening to approximately 50 high-risk students at Nelson Elementary in Muskegon on Wednesday, March 6th. The staff and students at Nelson Elementary greatly appreciate the MCO faculty and interns performing this valuable screening each spring.

The Annual **Vision Rehabilitation Grand Rounds Workshop** was held on March 1 for the third year students. The workshop provided an opportunity for students to perform comprehensive vision rehabilitation examinations on two patients with vision impairment while being mentored by vision rehabilitation optometrists from across the state, MCO residents and fourth year students. The workshop was funded by the **Michigan College of Optometry, the Michigan Optometric Association Vision Rehabilitation Section** and from a private donation from **Drs. Susan Gormezano and Phillip Raznik**.

Dr. James Miller and optometry third year student **Cynthia Brown** represented FSU and MCO at the 2013 **Grand Valley State University Professional School Fair** on Thursday, March 14 in Allendale, MI. The event was sponsored by GVSU's College of Liberal Arts and Sciences



Dr. Wendy Moyle Joins the MCO Alumni Association Board



We are pleased to announce the appointment of Dr. Wendy Moyle to the MCOAA Board. Dr. Moyle came highly recommended and will be a fantastic addition, replacing Dr. Gregory Ford who will assume duties as the president of the MOA this summer. If you have an interest in serving on the MCOAA Board, please contact Dr. Sarah Hinkley at sarahhinkley@ferris.edu. We currently need one additional member and can always use additional names for the future!

and College of Health Professions and was promoted to over 1400 pre-professional students at GVSU as well as students attending other colleges in west Michigan including Aquinas College, Calvin College, Grand Rapids Community College, and Hope College.

Jamie Brady was notified by the New Jersey Attorney Generals' office that he has been awarded the contract to author/deliver the **licensing examinations for opticians** in the state of New Jersey, which marks five consecutive years.

Dr. Sarah Hinkley was chosen as a "Champion" in the **FSU Strategic Planning** efforts led by Provost/VPAA Erickson and Dr. Sandy Balkema. She will be engaged as an active member of the planning team over the next year or so.

Dr. Andrea Sewell, the current Cornea and Contact Lens Resident, was awarded one of the **Sheldon Wechsler and George Mertz Contact Lens Residency Awards** from the American Optometric Foundation. These awards are intended to promote the practice and development of the field of contact lenses by providing incentive and support to talented optometric residents who demonstrate a passion and commitment to practice, research, and education.

4th year MCO student, **Danielle Smith** received a **Student Fellowship of the American Academy of Optometry**. Danielle is the first MCO student to receive this prestigious title.

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