

FOCAL POINTS

MICHIGAN COLLEGE OF
OPTOMETRY'S NEWSMAGAZINE

SPRING/SUMMER 2017
ISSUE 1

FACULTY FOCUS

Meet the Newest Faculty
Member

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Catch Up on the Lives of
Our Students

GOOD NEWS

The Who, What and Where
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Dr. Damari sits on the edge of a table in a MCO conference room

Welcome to our newly formatted newsletter. Dr. Sarah Hinkley has worked very hard to create a format that is more visually attractive with content that keeps you up to date with everything going on at MCO. I think the product of her efforts is outstanding and hope you will, too.

I would also like to thank Dr. Bob Carter. Bob helped us out by taking the position of interim Associate Dean for most of the fall and spring semesters in 2015-16. This year, in his role as the emeritus member of the Ferris Futures Steering Committee, he is working to bring the Ferris Futures Scholarship Challenge to the attention of MCO alumni all over the state and country. Clearly, Dr. Bob has difficulty understanding the definition of retirement.

What is the Ferris Futures Scholarship Challenge, you ask? Glad you did. Last year, the state of Michigan discovered that it had withheld funds from most of its higher education institutions, and decided to return those funds to those universities. Ferris received approximately \$18.5 million, which our president, Dr. Dave Eisler, has decided will be used to match donations to the University that exceed \$12,500. He chose that amount because, when it is matched, the \$25,000 can be placed in an endowment and the interest earned every year can be used for a \$1000 scholarship.

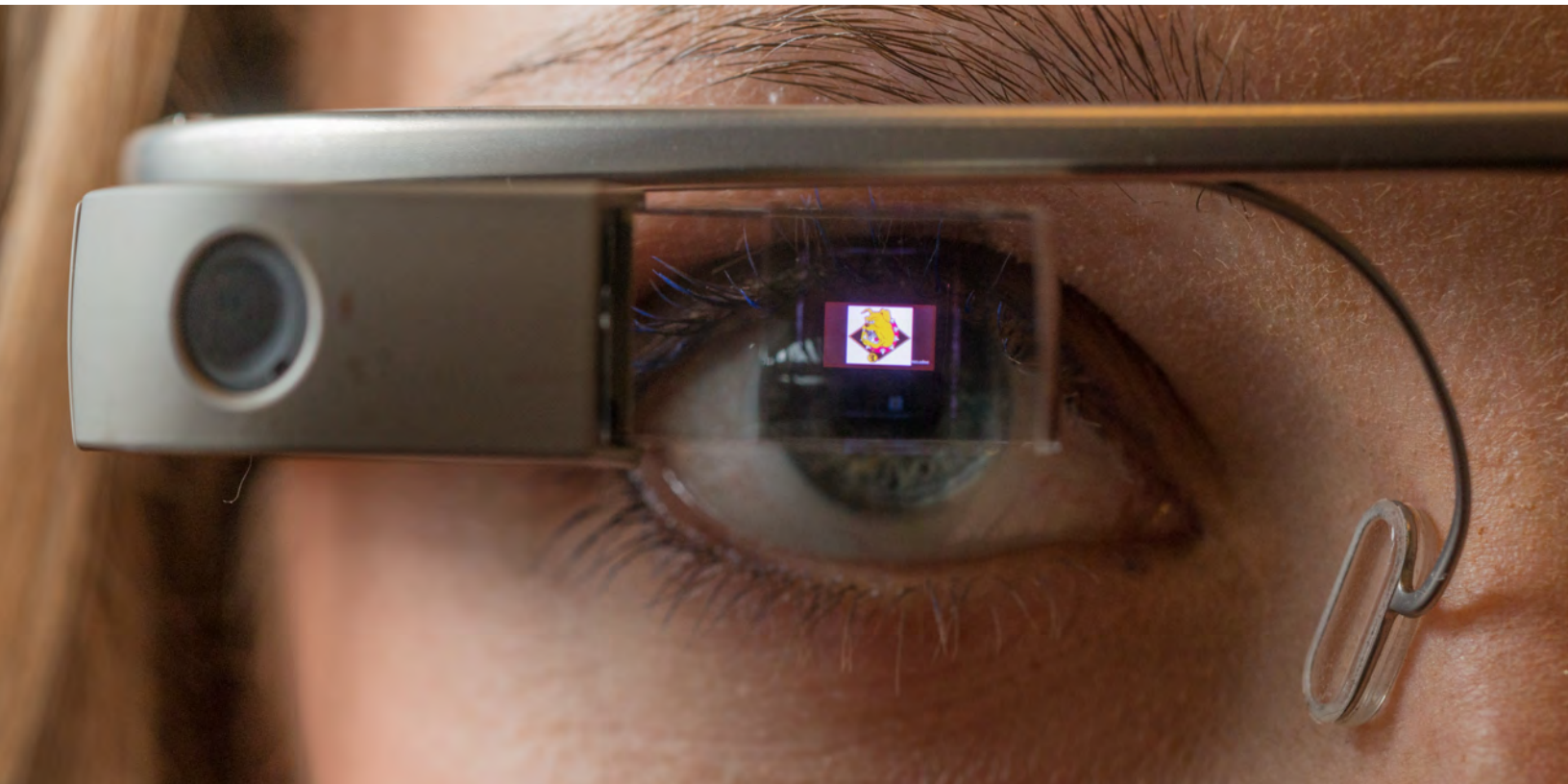
While this challenge was initially approved only for donations to undergraduate scholarships, it quickly became apparent that

THOUGHTS FROM THE DEAN

there was also significant interest in creating scholarships for pharmacy and optometry students, since debt for individuals entering those professions can be significantly larger than those who earn associates or bachelor degrees. Therefore, I am happy to announce that alumni of MCO who would like to have a significant impact on reducing optometry student debt can participate in the Ferris Futures Challenge.

As I have written before in this space, while at SCO, I was a member of the scholarship committee that would award scholarships of between \$1,000 and \$10,000, and not just for the first year of optometry school, but they would receive these scholarship funds each of the four years of the program. When I arrived at MCO four years ago, I was stunned to find that four-year scholarships are unheard of at Ferris. This challenge gives us the opportunity to change that.

It has never been more important for us to have MCO be highly attractive to the top optometry students in the country. In the last 10 years, the number of seats in optometry schools has increased from just under 1300 to over 1700. Our small size is a distinct advantage, but other, larger programs can reduce costs to far less than our tuition through their scholarships and tuition discounting. You can help make MCO the most competitive institution in the U.S. without increasing the number of students in our classes. Call me today to find out more about this opportunity.



A Ferris student wearing Google Glasses shows off the Ferris State logo

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

DR. EMILY ASLAKSON

We are happy to welcome Dr. Emily Aslakson to the MCO faculty! A native of northern Michigan, she earned her optometry degree at Indiana University (IUSO) in an effort to spread her wings and experience a broader world. After completing her residency training in Pediatrics and Binocular Vision at MCO, ; she fell in love with the environment. ; Throughout her time at IUSO, she took on the roles of a tutor and an assistant instructor so the thought of a teaching career was always in the back of her mind. During her residency, Dr. ; Aslakson was able to be heavily involved in clinical teaching along with some didactic lecturing, and absolutely fell in love with working with the students and watching them grow. The supportive staff, faculty and students made MCO a natural fit and make coming to work each day an exciting and rewarding experience! ;



Dr. Emily Aslakson

In her free time, Dr. Aslakson is an avid reader and an outdoor enthusiast. Snowshoeing, hiking and kayaking are among some of the activities she enjoys away from the office. Her cat, Sheldon, is of course named after the beloved Big Bang Theory star and is pictured below. She has been married to her husband Philip for the past nine years, and he is pictured with her below. Currently, Dr. Aslakson is heavily involved in the clinical neuro-optometry and neuro optometric rehabilitation track at MCO. She hopes to continue to develop her knowledge on these topics through research over the course of her career and speak to their assets.



Dr. Aslakson at the Childrens Vision Day at the Grand Rapids Children's Museum, pictured with resident, Dr. Morgan Ollinger and students Justin Ullrey and Natalie DeCook



Sheldon, the beloved cat



Dr. Aslakson and her husband

ALUMNI

Dr. Amanda Umlandt

Dr. Amanda Umlandt is an MCO alumna who graduated in 2009 and moved on to be a key figure in the political and private fields of optometry. Her passion for leadership began in her undergraduate career at Ferris, where she served as the president for Student Government and a term as president of Phi Sigma Sigma while enrolled at MCO. In addition, she was a part of the Student Alumni Gold Club, SVOSH, AOA Student Association, and the MOA Student Association which filled her already busy schedule and offered experiences that would direct her career. Dr. Umlandt is aware of the key role that politics plays in the world of optometry and has made it a point in her career to fight for the rights of optometrists such as herself and her colleagues. Currently a Virginia resident, she serves her local Tidewater Optometric Society as vice president and just began a term as a trustee for the Virginia Optometric Association. She also works closely with two state legislators, Senator Lynwood Lewis and Delegate Rob Bloxom.

In conjunction with her political aspirations, Dr. Umlandt also works at a private practice called Seashore Eyecare in Exmore, Virginia. She has been there for the past five years after practicing in Connecticut and another area of Virginia. A great deal of effort has been made on her part to manage the office



Dr. Umlant with her brother

and staff and help the company become a very important and recognizable entity in a small and rural community. In the future she strives to own her own practice and continue her political work in order to preserve the types of relationships she has with her patients. Despite juggling all of these commitments, she also tries to make time to relax by enjoying the outdoors, spending time with friends, attending community functions and bonding with her pets.



DR. UMLANDT AND A FEW OF HER CO-WORKERS FROM SEASHORE EYECARE

The future of optometry is bright in her eyes where she sees our role in primary care strengthening as optometrists expand their scope of practice. She would like our students and alumni to “work hard, live simple, pay off your debt and enjoy the little things in life,” she added. I can see the light at the end of the tunnel on the student loan debt and it’s so exciting!” We can all appreciate the hard work and dedication that Dr. Umlandt is putting in to further the profession.

For the fellow alumni of the class of 2009, here are the memories she still carries with her from her time at the College of Optometry. “I remember a lot of fun nights playing Guitar Hero so hard that our eyes were bright red and we found a new application of “after images” from Shansky’s Vision Science class. I remember Dr. Betts and how sad it was to see him gone so early. I remember many nights

spent sorting VOSH glasses, and late nights practicing for practicals. I remember being dilated in the brightest time of the day with snow on the ground and understanding the importance of sunglasses post dilation at that moment. I remember how awesome it felt to actually be learning about eyes in class as a First Year and feeling like a sponge absorbing it all. I remember not doing so well on a few of Dr. Walling’s tests and freaking out that I wasn’t going to make it through optometry school or I’d be a bad doctor, only to find that I actually loved Ocular Disease and proceeded to complete a Residency in it in Oklahoma and had great fun playing with Lasers. I really remember how amazing and emotional it felt to graduate and finally become a doctor of Optometry, with all my family and friends there to celebrate. And how fun it was to really celebrate that with all my classmates after!”

Dr. Barbara Horn

A graduate of the class of 1998, Dr. Barbara Horn has gone on to do amazing things with her degree. She came to Ferris because of the close proximity, good program and in-state tuition, but she stayed for optometry school because of the friends and community she found here. While enrolled at the college, she participated in multiple activities including serving a term as the Michigan Optometric Student Association (MOSA) president and was a representative for her class for two years. She also served as president of the Michigan Optometric Association. Currently, she works at a practice with five other colleagues and multiple ophthalmologists that help round out the care her community requires. In addition to this traditional role, she also travels roughly 100 days per year as the secretary-treasurer of the AOA. Dr. Horn strongly believes in completing the American Board of Optometry's



Dr. Barbara Horn and her husband, Dr. Mike Weisgerber (O'92), and their children, Brooke and Mick

maintenance of certification because she feels it has added to her ability to stay current and to commit to lifelong learning. Throughout the rest of her career, she hopes to continue her work in the AOA in an effort to encourage the advancement of the optometric profession and also protect the patients that it caters to. In order to do this she hopes to serve as the president of the AOA in 2019-2020 after serving since 2011 on the AOA Board of Trustees. Her main goal is to keep patients safe from disruptive and harmful technology and continue to get the message out about the importance of annual, in-person comprehensive eye examinations through the AOA Public Relations campaign and the Think About Your Eyes national initiative. In her free time, Dr. Horn enjoys spending time with her husband and kids in Myrtle Beach, her new hometown. She is heavily involved in volunteer work through the AOA and also rollerblades. Finally she has a special place in her heart for their boat, Tiki EYELand, I think we can all appreciate that pun.

Dr. Horn would also like the alumni and students to know; Your degree allows you to practice optometry, but your associations provide you the scope of practice you currently enjoy, and they continually fight discrimination to our profession and our patients. This safeguarding of our profession and practices is crucial, and every optometrist has an obligation to support the ONLY advocate we have to allow us to continue to provide the best care to our patients possible... the AOA and its affiliates. Only optometrists' support and membership can allow this protection to continue. Support your state, your national organization and the political action committees as only ODs can!

I'd also recommend that you volunteer in your local, state or national organization. Your expertise is appreciated and you'll get more out of it than you put in!" In addition, she would like to encourage the students and new graduates to attend Optometry's Meeting next June in Washington, DC. AOA is reaching out with a unique event called AOA+, taking place on Wednesday, June 21, designed specifically with you in mind. You'll learn about advancing the profession and see what it takes to engage with the greater family of optometry. You can find out more at aoa.org/aoaplus.

She hopes that the future of optometry will continue in the path of advanced primary care and develop new ways to serve our patients.

Finally, when asked about her memories from her time at MCO she had this to say:

"All good memories revolve around my classmates and now dear friends. The events attended such as the Eye Ball, Axis Chase, playing on teams such as softball, and the faculty breakfast feasts made for the students during exam week are a few the highlights of the tough years of grad school. AOA/AOSA conferences were very helpful for me to see the overall picture and the critical role we play in being the next generation to advance optometry. It is now our time to protect and advance our profession. Our students now need to see the big picture and know they are next! Their membership, participation and leadership will keep us strong as my generation passes the baton over the years."



Dr. Horn and her family on their affectionately named boat, Tiki EYELand



Dr. Horn with her new "Barbi Vette" blue Corvette with her children in the backseat

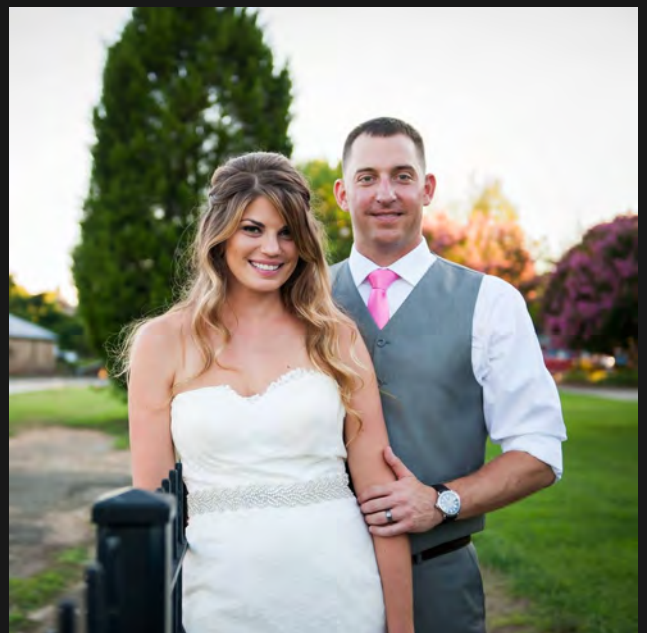
Dr. Melanie Denton Dombrowski

Alumna Dr. Melanie Dombrowski came to MCO for some of the same reasons all of the outstanding students we have here do, small class sizes and proximity to home. However, she was also drawn in by the willingness of the school to accommodate her ambition to set up her own externship site in North Carolina. These externships were a key part of the experiences she had through her time with the college and have allowed her to set up a base in the state she knew she wanted to practice. She also enjoyed the professors that taught at the school and always looks forward catching up with them at national meetings. After Dr. Dombrowski graduated, she chose to do a residency in Miami, Florida, at Bascom Palmer Eye Institute in Ocular Disease. It was an amazing year. After that, she moved to North Carolina, as she had always planned to and worked in several private practices. She decided

a few years out that she wanted to start her own practice, so she got an MBA at night after clinic. Once she had graduated from that program, she started her practice cold. Her practice has been open for 17 months and has been her most challenging, fun, rewarding experience in Optometry yet! In addition, she has also gotten involved with a lot of lecturing, consulting and working with industry, giving back to her state as a board examiner and writing articles. On top of all of the career goals she has accomplished, Dr. Dombrowski was also married last summer. She and her husband have 5 dogs and 5 chickens! When asked about her career goals for the future, she had this to say, "I really want to establish myself as a key opinion leader in the profession, and so I see myself continuing to write and speak. I've also got big goals for the practice and our growth. And of course, continue to care for my patients and their families." Dr. Dombrowski would also like to encourage both students and alumni to contact her if they have any questions about starting a practice from scratch because it is one of her favorite topics to discuss!



Alumna Dr. Melanie Dombrowski



Dr. Dombrowski and her Husband, Adam

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

BRET WILLIAMS SECOND YEAR

Bret Williams has transitioned through his first year at MCO with grace and is now one step closer to his dream job. His journey started in his hometown of Macomb County, where he took some classes at their local community college before transferring to Ferris for the rest of his undergraduate program. His love for optometry brought him to Ferris, but Bret stayed for the doctoral program because of the small class sizes and the strong bond he had developed with other pre optometry students. His friends and family were an important factor in his decision to stay close to home because they can help support and encourage him throughout the program. Of course, the stunning building, along with the equipment and faculty that fill it, was much appreciated and offered what he felt was the best chance at a fulfilling educational experience. The close community that is found within the school between faculty, staff, students and alumni are second to none and is an aspect of the college Bret holds close to his heart.



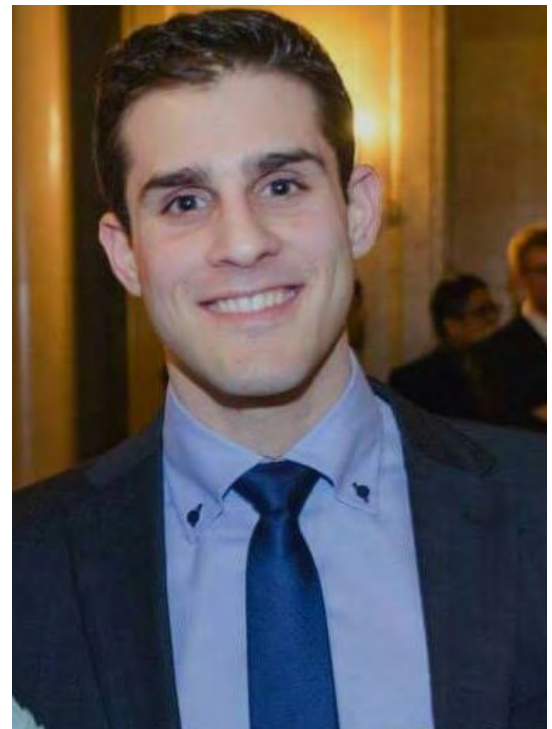
Bret Williams

Between all of the studying and classroom time he blows off steam by enjoying the outdoor activities Big Rapids has to offer, such as tubing, and also settling down to watch Law and Order SVU with his friends. Bret is looking forward to the challenges that his second year will present him and would like to thank the alumni for their donations of time and money to the school and its students.

ROBERT LIMA THIRD YEAR

Finishing up his second year at the college of optometry, Robert Lima has spent the last two years quite far from his home in Ottawa, Ontario. He spent his undergraduate career at the University of Ottawa before deciding to cross into the United States to continue on his optometric journey. He chose MCO because he felt the facility and equipment were truly state-of-the-art and unparalleled to the opportunities he had in Canada. These facts, coupled with the faculty who are always approachable and sincerely want to help the students achieve their best, made him confident in attending MCO. Due to the ten hour drive that comes with going back home, Robert found a second family here at the college. Being so far from home and in such an intense program can be very difficult at times. Fortunately, the atmosphere at MCO is always supportive and there is always someone willing to go out of their way to make sure the students have everything they need. The small class sizes allow for plenty of bonding and an opportunity for Robert to enjoy some sports with his classmates. This year his class even won the intramural soccer championship and went undefeated during the season. In the future, he plans on going into solo private practice and eventually a multi-doctor private practice. Robert's goal is to open a medical center in Canada with his two older brothers who are also medical professionals.

When asked if he had a message to the Alumni, he had this to say, "To our Alumni, I would encourage them to stay in contact with MCO and stay involved. There are always ways to give back to MCO, either through monetary funds or coming to talk to the current students about what challenges and opportunities they face in real world Optometry."



Robert Lima



Evan, pictured with his light saber, MCO teammates and Dean Damari

EVAN ANDREWS, RECENT ALUMNUS

Evan Andrews graduated from MCO in the spring of 2017 as the first winner of Optometry's Meeting Verilux Student Bowl for the college. Not only was he involved in this wonderful experience, but Evan is also a member of SVOSH, attending a trip to Mexico with them, and is a liaison for the American Academy of Optometry. He participated in Broomball all three years he was at the school and also played volleyball with the other students. The new building stocked with brand new equipment was a big draw for Evan when he was considering schools, along with the general vibe at the school.

His favorite part of being a student at MCO is the faculty that make it feel as though everyone is moving toward a goal of being the best doctors for their patients, whether it be by being a doctor currently or by helping to produce the next generation of optometrists. Evan is currently looking for a position that focuses on specialty contacts and anterior segment disease. Looking back on his time at MCO, he remembers talking about

rock & roll history with Pole the Younger as well as the "grades don't matter" rant from Pole the Elder.

Everyone at MCO would like to congratulate Evan on his performance and encourage him to embrace his bright future after graduation! When asked about his experience at the Student bowl, Evan had this to say: "The contest will probably be one of the coolest things I ever do. There's this weird blend of being completely unaware that hundreds of people are staring at you and feeling like a rock star. The MCO group was pretty close to the front so I could see them go nuts every time we got a question correct (and for the other schools, they were good sports) and that was phenomenal. As far as winning... I don't really have a good way of describing it. It was such a big thing, I didn't fully process what happened for weeks. There was a moment when the MC said the wrong thing and it sounded like we were third, though, and I'm pretty sure that's what a stroke feels like."

ADVENTURES WITH THE MOLTERS

On Oct. 1, 2016, Drs. Kim (O'88), and Bob (O'85) Molter left their comfortable "retired" life in Charlevoix, Michigan, and boarded an airplane for Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam. The previous year, Bob and Kim had sold their successful private practices and had decided to enjoy a "sabbatical" of several years and perhaps travel a bit. They started their retired lives by working part-time as Adjunct Clinical Professors at the Michigan College of Optometry. Both Bob and Kim enjoyed the interactions with the students. They had also enjoyed volunteering previously on VOSH trips. Building on these positive experiences, and after some simple online searches, Bob contacted VOSH and then the Brien Holden Vision Institute in Australia in search of an extended overseas opportunity. After several Skype interviews and some paperwork, the couple was enlisted to teach with BHVI in Vietnam. The process took about six months from the initial inquiry until they signed the contracts and flew off for Southeast Asia.

The Brien Holden Vision Institute has undertaken an ambitious world-wide campaign to address preventable

blindness by seeding optometry schools in developing nations with the idea that optometry should play a key role in addressing preventable blindness, specifically the problems of refractive error and early disease detection. Currently, in Vietnam, there are less than 10 optometrists for a population of over 97 million. There are about 1,300 ophthalmologists in Vietnam, but they are overwhelmed with the case loads. There is only one ophthalmologist for every 75,000 people. Further enhancing the problem, as in the US, ophthalmologists are concentrated in the large cities leaving the smaller towns without convenient eye care. Brien Holden oversaw the grand opening of the optometry school in Ho Chi Minh City just three years ago. Brien has since passed away, but his good work continues through the Brien Holden Vision Institute. Laying the groundwork for the optometry program in Vietnam took many years, but in 2014 the first class of 18 students was admitted. The school partners with the Pham Ngoc Thach Medical University, that houses the program, as well as the Ho Chi Minh City Eye Hospital. In 2015, a second program was started in Hanoi, the Vietnamese capital. BHVI has started or assisted in starting several schools of optometry in other countries, with the latest partnered project in Haiti.

Life for Bob and Kim in Vietnam has been “a great experience.” They write, “The students and faculty have been warm and welcoming. The character of the Vietnamese population in general is one of tolerance and generosity. The area of the city that we live in is mostly Vietnamese with few foreigners so the flavor of our neighborhood is quite authentic. Yet, one can get along quite well with a warm smile and the limited Vietnamese that we have learned to speak. Learning the language is difficult as the tones that you need to use are quite different from what English

speakers are used to and with the local variations, it's tough.” Dr. Bob adds, “I used to think that I was pretty good at language skills and enjoyed learning languages when we travelled as a family

but this isn't anything like French or Italian! Still, we can count and say please and thank you, as well as some other common phrases, we just aren't to the level of a full conversion yet...not even close. Thankfully, many Vietnamese know some English and don't mind speaking what they can with you.”

Living in Vietnam and having quick and easy access to the region has resulted in several excursions during their time based in HCMC. The couple has enjoyed visits to Cambodia, Thailand, and to several other places in Vietnam such as DaNang/Hoi An, Dalat, and Phu Quoc Island. The stipend that they receive from BHVI has been sufficient to cover their living expenses as well as to fund some extras such as travel around the region. “Two people can live very affordably in this region of the world or they can spend a lot if they so choose. I can choose an excellent street-food type of place and feast on delicious braised duck with noodles for about \$2.50 or I can eat at an up-scale brewpub with some very nice craft beer and a burger on artisan brioche and easily spend \$30-40 just like in the states. In Saigon/HCMC, it's actually less expensive to eat out on the street than to cook for yourself. For instance, there is a frog guy just around the corner where you get a wonderful pot of frog with veggies in a brown gravy served with rice porridge for about \$1.50. He does a lot of business.”



Drs. Bob and Kim Molter stand in front of a building in Vietnam

As the time for the Molters to go home grows near, there is added urgency to tick items off their to-do list. Kim belongs to a “Foodies in Saigon” group that loves to review restaurants and her list of places to try is long. Bob is trying to manage his home and spring gardening from afar as well as keeping up with his soccer group here. Bob has even found a place to play ice hockey... yes there are Canadian expats living in Saigon too. Tests are coming up at school and lectures are wrapping up. Class projects must be graded and plans laid for the next year. The college Vision Clinic was delayed all year but now is opening May 15, adding just a bit more to the hectic pace. The couple is scheduled to return to Michigan on June 23rd. When asked if they would do it again, Dr. Bob just smiles and laughs. “Well, as a matter of fact, yes, I just signed us up for another year. I think one more year and then I’ll be ready for that break I promised myself.” The Molters have been, at times, excited, frustrated, hot, tired,

homesick, sick, happy, sad, amazed, and touched, And they’ve laughed, cried, and just about every other emotion that humans experience...but will be back next September. Bob says, “I think this project is worthwhile and I feel I’m contributing. I would recommend anyone who has a heart to do this type of work to put away your misgivings and jump in...the water’s fine. Optometry has given Kim and I a wonderful life and we feel that this is just a way that we can “give back” for the fortunate circumstances we have found ourselves in.”

Anyone wishing to know more about opportunities abroad can search the web for the Brien Holden Vision Institute, The Fred Hollows Foundation, and, of course, VOSH. Drs. Bob and Kim also invite anyone with questions to contact Dr. Bob at: rem41@drmolter.org or to check out Dr. Kim’s blog at: www.moltervietnamadventure.blogspot.com



The entire faculty is pictured, from L to R: Dr. Kim Molter, Dr. Hui Hiang Koh (Singapore), Ngan Tra Thi Kim BS.Optom (Vietnam, Optom education Malaysia), Dr. Phuong Tran Yen (Vietnam, the young ophthalmologist), Long Tran, MS.Optom (Vietnam, optom in France, masters in Australia) and, finally, Dr. Bob Molter



Top: The third-year class during the "This is how we patch, now never patch anyone!" lab session. The students are all about 21 years old, so a bit younger than what we are used to at MCO. **Bottom:** Kim and Bob out touring in Hoi An. Bob writes, "Getting around by motorbike is one of their favorite activities because you see so much."



Mr. Long, the optometry school headmaster, accepting the gift of this Greens phoropter



The Molters at one of their favorite steak joints downtown



Good News! ;

Congratulations to **Sara Bush, O.D.**, for the article written about her in the Aug. 31, issue of The American Optometric Association. The link is here: [http://www.aoa.org/students/eyes on the future/meet sara bush od?sso y](http://www.aoa.org/students/eyes%20on%20the%20future/meet%20sara%20bush%20od?sso=y)

MCO's **Craig Norman, FCLSA** was named one of the "30 Most Influential in Contact Lenses" in this month's issue of Contact Lens Spectrum. The article (referenced below), states, "by helping develop several "global" meetings, he was also fortunate to play a role in the education of specialty contact lens eyecare practitioners from around the world." Read it here: [http://www.clspectrum.com/articleviewer.aspx?articleID 114659](http://www.clspectrum.com/articleviewer.aspx?articleID=114659)

Sara Bush, O.D. was chosen to be the American Optometric Association's Eyes on the Future optometric educator for the month of September.

Philip Walling, O.D. presented two hours of continuing education hosted by the Fraser Eye Care Conference in Troy, MI on Sunday, Sept. 18, 2016. One hour was on Pain Management and the other was on Secondary Glaucoma.

Sarah Hinkley, O.D. published an article on how being a patient affected her attitudes as a doctor that was featured in New Grad Optometry. Read it here: [http://www.newgradoptometry.com/power empathy doctor becomes patient/](http://www.newgradoptometry.com/power-empathy-doctor-becomes-patient/)

The October 2016 edition of Contact Lens Spectrum had TWO featured articles highlighting MCO talent. **Chad Rosen, O.D.** and **Josh Lotoczky, O.D.** had an article, "Five Tips for Scleral Lens Success" published. "A Retrospective Look at Children Fit with Ortho K Lenses" was authored by our very own **Stephanie Ramdass, O.D.**, **Chad Rosen, O.D.**, **Craig Norman, FCLSA**, and former administrator **Bob Buckingham, O.D.**

Alison Jenerou, O.D. and alumnae **Addie Bauer, O.D.** and **Kim Reich, O.D.** had their article "Stereopsis' Play on Baseball" published in the peer reviewed journal, Optometry and Visual Performance. Jenerou A, Bauer A, Reich K. Stereopsis' play on baseball. Optom Vis Perf 2017; 5 (1): 114.

Tracy Dard, ABOC, NCLC presented an eight hour ABO Review course at the Optician's Association of Michigan's Spring Conference on March 4 and 5 . At the conference Tracy was also elected to the OAM's Board of Director's

The American Academy of Optometry is pleased to congratulate the recipients of the 2016 Student Travel Fellowship Awards and Resident Travel Fellowship Awards. These travel fellowships allowed students and residents to attend Academy 2016 Anaheim, Nov. 9-12, 2016. The 2016 recipients were MCO 4th year **Andrea Shank** (now O.D.) and resident **Anthony Swanholm, O.D.**

Josh Lotoczky, O.D. and **Chad Rosen, O.D.** presented two hours of continuing education entitled "Hot Topics in Contact Lenses" for the West Michigan Optometric Association (WMOA) at their monthly meeting in Grand Rapids.

Jamie Brady, MEd lectured at the National Opticians annual meeting, OptiCon, Sept. 29. His lecture was based on recently completed research on task specific near vision computer lenses. Mr. Brady is contracted through the Attorney General's office of the State of New Jersey to deliver the written State Licensing examinations for all opticians, technicians and qualified technicians. He proctored the exams Oct. 20, 2016. This concludes his ninth year doing these licensing examinations for the State of New Jersey.

The Vision Rehab Club hosted the fourth annual Vision Rehabilitation Olympics, a fun event meant to teach students what it is like to live with vision loss or blindness.

The American Optometric Foundation announced that the 2016 VSP Global Scholarship Recipients for the Michigan College of Optometry were fourth year students **Gabrielle Smiley** (now O.D.) and **Hannah Rillema** (now O.D.).

Congratulations **Chad Rosen, O.D., MBA, FAAO** who just earned his Master of Business Administration as well as an advanced studies certificate in Management Tools and Concepts.

MCO third year student **Alyssa Drew** was the second place winner of the AOA Foundation, InfantSEE Scholarship! Watch the video she submitted here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eR9h4ITQ54>

Craig W. Norman, FCLSA published his "Prescribing for Presbyopia" column in Contact Lens Spectrum called "The Latest Challenges to Presbyopic Contact Lenses."

Amy Dinardo, O.D. was promoted to Regional Chair for the American Academy of Optometry's Admissions Committee. She oversees 40-50 applicants for Fellowship into the AAO.

Anthony Swanholm, O.D. won a travel grant from the Scleral Lens Education Society to attend The Global Specialty Lens Symposium in Las Vegas at the end of January for his scleral contact lens research poster.

Lillian Kalaczinski, O.D. was the recipient of the 2017 Michigan Optometric Association Educator of the Year Award, which was voted on by the Third Year Class of the Michigan College of Optometry.

Sarah Hinkley, O.D. had her articles, "Incorporating Low Vision Rehabilitation into Primary Care Practice" published in Optometry Today (2016 Dec;42(4):7-9) as a three part series. The journal is an international publication that seeks to advance optometry around the world.

Chad Rosen, O.D. presented four hours of continuing education material over various contact lens topics at the Opticians Association of Ohio meeting in Cleveland on February 5.

On March 22, 2017, **Jamie Brady, MEd** began his second decade as author/proctor of the licensing examinations for Opticians, Technicians and Qualifying Technicians for the State of New Jersey. The examinations are given bi annually.

MCO third year students participated in the Vision Rehabilitation Grand Rounds Workshop on April 3rd. Mentoring doctors/alumni from across the county returned to MCO to supervise low vision rehabilitation exams on volunteer patients.

Sarah Hinkley, O.D. presented to the campus on "Using Academic Service Learning to Enhance the Classroom Experience; Practical Applications and Examples" as part of the Compelling Approaches to Teaching and Learning series through the Faculty Center for Teaching and Learning.

The Best Poster at the Vision by Design Meeting in Dallas, TX was awarded to **Anthony Swanholm, O.D.**; **Stephanie Ramdass, O.D., M.S.** and **Craig Norman, FCLSA** for "Clinical Impact of Day One Removal of Orthokeratology Contact Lenses (DORO)."

Stephanie Ramdass, O.D., M.S. published an article titled "Color Customizations in Tinted Soft Contact Lenses" in the April issue of Contact Lens Spectrum.

Craig Norman, FCLSA presented the lectures "What's New, What's Different in Contact Lenses" and "Techniques for the Management of Myopia" at the Ontario Association of Optometrists.

Alison Jenerou, O.D. featured an article in the AOA Focus magazine's cover story "The Competitive Edge" April 2017 issue for her work with the FSU Hockey Team.

David Damari, O.D. (Dean of MCO) received the President's Award at the College of Optometrists in Vision Development (COVD) annual meeting on Saturday, April 29.

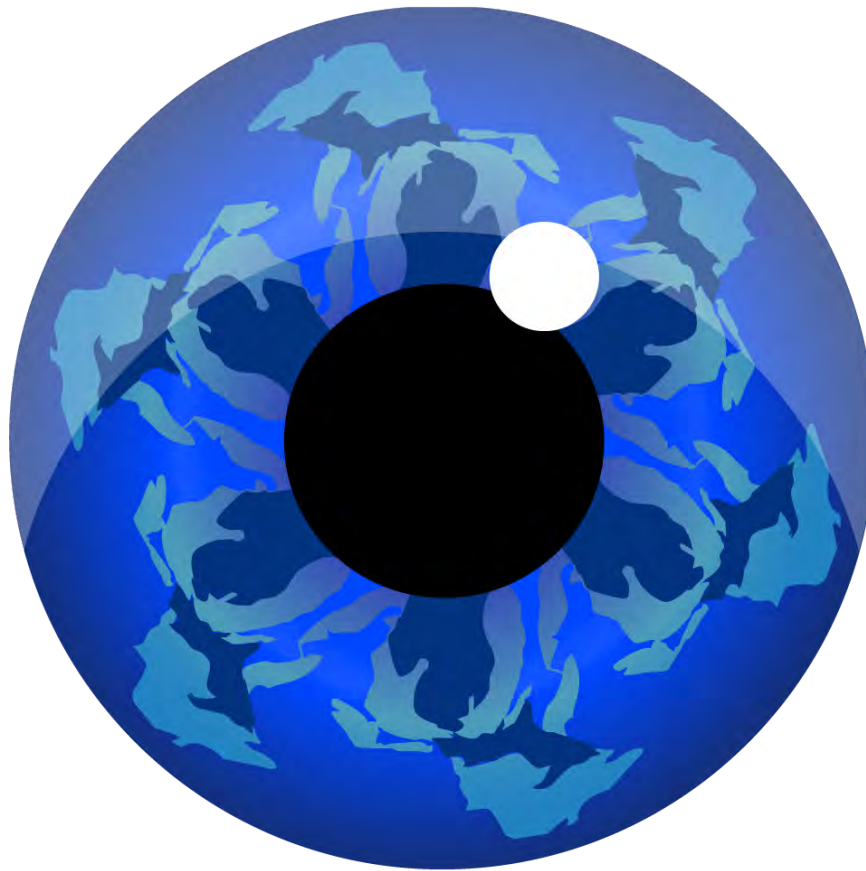
The FSU Michigan College of Optometry's local chapter of the Fellowship of Christian Optometrists co sponsored an Eye Care Mission trip with First Baptist Church of Zeeland, Michigan, and a local church in Jacmel, Haiti. The eye care team included eight volunteers led by **Ann Hemmeke, O.D.** (MCO 2004), **Ben Lawless** (MCO Second Year), **Rami El-Bkaily** (MCO Second Year) participated in the mission. The five day clinic performed approximately 350 eye exams.

Congratulations to faculty members **Phil Walling, O.D.** and **Joe Pole, O.D.** whose article "Condensing Lenses: Sharpen Your Skills in Choosing and Using" was featured in the March 15, 2017 edition in Review of Optometry.

Congratulations to our Vision Research Institute fellow, **Stephanie Ramdass, O.D., M.S.**, on her article "Color Customizations in Tinted Soft Contact Lenses" in CL Spectrum.

Jamie Brady, MEd and **Tracy Dard, ABOC, NCLC** presented the Practical Training for Opticians course held at MCO on April 7 & 8, 2017.

***Special thanks to Pre-Optometry student Elyse Wieszczecinski for her assistance with the creation of this emagazine!**



GREAT LAKES EYECARE CONFERENCE

powered by the MOA & MCO

This year marks the second time MCO will partner with the Michigan Optometric Association to bring all optometrists in the region an opportunity to continue your professional development at the Great Lakes Eyecare Conference. The continuing education is world class and the networking with your colleagues and industry vendors will be invaluable. This year, all residents affiliated with MCO will be presenting cases and their latest research at GLEC during the Residency Day, Friday, June 16. In addition, MCO will be holding a reception for alumni and friends after the residents' presentations have concluded in the Amway Grand Plaza Hotel's Ford Presidential Ballroom. Join your favorite MCO faculty and friends at the 2017 Great Lakes Eyecare Conference!

Greetings Colleagues



I hope this piece finds you well. I beg your indulgence to share some thoughts and a couple of invitations. Even if we have not met, please consider this a personal communication as we share the same honorable profession and the fine institution where we were educated.

My enthusiasm for optometry and my appreciation for Ferris State have never been greater. This summer I will be inducted as president of the Florida Optometric Association and would love to have you there to participate in the festivities as proud MCO alumni. The conference will take place at Disney's Contemporary Resort in Orlando.

As part of the celebration, I have renewed my annual commitment to the Michigan College of Optometry. After supporting the fundraising for the new building, I believe it to be more important than ever to support optometric education. There's no better place for that investment than MCO.

So, I invite you to support MCO through the Ferris Foundation and come visit July 20-23 at the FOA convention. You can email me at info@englewoodeyecare.com for additional information or to connect. Whether you graduated 3 years ago or 3 decades ago, I hope you will consider supporting MCO and its students.

Sincerely,

Tad R Kosanovich, OD
O '86

DR. TAD R. KOSANOVICH

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

**TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE A
DIFFERENCE!;**

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CLASS OF 2017



**THE MICHIGAN COLLEGE OF OPTOMETRY CLASS OF 2017 ON
THE STEPS OF THE FERRIS STATE UNIVERSITY CENTER**

**Check out our new MCO giving webpage! We appreciate any support
you can provide our students.**

<http://ferris.edu/giving/MCO/homepage.htm>

CONTACT US -

WE WOULD LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU ABOUT
SPECIAL NEWS, POSITION CHANGES OR
ANYTHING FUN OR EXCITING!

EMAIL NEWS TO SARAHHINKLEY@FERRIS.EDU

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