

# *the* VISIONARY

Spring/Summer 2013

A large, rusty metal wall with a large, irregular cutout in the shape of a tree. Two young boys are looking through the cutout. The boy on the left is wearing a dark green t-shirt and has short brown hair. The boy on the right is wearing a blue zip-up jacket and has short reddish-brown hair. They are standing in a grassy area with trees in the background. The metal wall is a dark, reddish-brown color, suggesting rust.

A Passion  
for Pediatrics

Nova Southeastern University • College of Optometry



“I truly believe the level of clinical training is the major strength of the NSU optometry program.”

# Dean's Message

By David S. Loshin, O.D., Ph.D., FAAO



As dean of the College of Optometry, I am pleased that 2013 has been another productive year for the college, the Health Professions Division, and the university. With defined *core values* developed with input from all constituent groups, the university continues to grow as a team with similar goals.

NSUCO's Preparatory Optometry Program (POP), in collaboration with the Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences, has increased student interest in optometry this year. This program allows students who are interested in the professional program, but fall short of the entrance requirements, to have the opportunity to demonstrate their abilities by successfully completing undergraduate and basic-science courses. The POP brings highly motivated students to the undergraduate and professional programs, thus supporting several core values while enhancing educational programs.

Academic excellence remains the driving force for the optometry professional degree program. The number of applicants for all the U.S. optometry programs has only slightly increased this year; however, our standards for admission have remained high. Dr. Michael Bacigalupi, assistant dean for student affairs, and Fran Franconeri, college recruiter, have a very robust recruitment program and continually update the college Web site, interacting with both students and applicants through blogs, Facebook, and Twitter and by visiting pre-optometry/health clubs throughout Florida, the United States, and Canada.

The Eye Care Institute—NSUCO's clinical arm, supports five sites—Davie, North Miami Beach, Broward Boulevard, the Broward Lighthouse, and Kids in Distress. With the diversity of patients, services offered, technology available, and outstanding faculty expertise, these sites offer clinical training to the students that are second to none. I truly believe the level of clinical training is the major strength of the NSU optometry program.

In addition, Dr. Linda Rouse, assistant dean for finance and chief operating officer for The Eye Care Institute, has

been continuously adding vision/health care insurance plans and grants so our students can provide faculty-supervised vision care to the community in primary care, binocular vision, pediatrics, contact lens, low vision, and specialty services (glaucoma, diabetes, retina, and electrodiagnostics).

Dr. Melanie Crandall, chair of the Accreditation Committee, led the college through its accreditation process by the Accreditation Council on Optometric Education in the fall of 2012. Results from this visit were released in March 2013, and I am proud to relay that this report yielded full accreditation for the College of Optometry through 2020.

Dr. Joseph Sowka, department chair for optometric science, and Dr. Barry Frauens, department chair for clinic education, continue to monitor the professional program and propose modifications that will enhance both didactic and clinical learning, while Dr. Josephine Shallo-Hoffmann, associate dean for academic affairs, formulates ways to assist faculty development through enhancing teaching and research.

This year, a new residency-match system was initiated through ASCO (Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry). Utilizing this new system, Dr. Lori Vollmer, director of residencies, has been able to fill the eight college residency positions for the 2013-14 academic year.

In addition, our student outcomes continue to excel, with over a 95 percent pass rate for Part I of the National Boards (NBEO) and an overall pass rate for all parts of the NBEO greater than the national average. Our students also receive many awards and grants from local and national sources.

As you can see from this message, the college's faculty and staff members, as well as the administration, are very involved in growing the professional degree program and the college. I look forward to another year full of challenges and opportunities, faculty and student accomplishments, and the exciting future of the College of Optometry and Nova Southeastern University.

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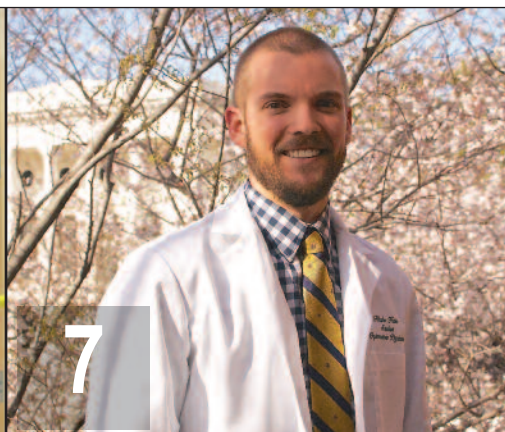
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**COVER STORY**

**Anthony “Blake” Hutto, O.D.**

**Dr. Rachel “Stacey” Coulter**



**Pediatric and Binocular Vision Clinic Experiences Major Growth:** Since moving to the Davie campus, the pediatric service has blossomed into a specialty clinical service providing typically developing children, special needs, and brain-injury patients with eye examinations and vision therapy. With more than 10 pediatric faculty members, the clinic has become a referral center for complex cases with patients traveling from across the state seeking care.

**Student, Husband, Friend, Optometrist:** When Dr. Hutto graduated from high school in 1999, he didn't foresee himself becoming NSUCO's class of 2013 president, vice president of Gold Key, and an NSU Honor Society member. He has steadily taken the initiative to become the O.D. he has dreamed of for years.

**A Passion for Pediatrics:** Dr. Coulter, who is a Diplomate and serves as associate professor, recently completed 20 years of NSUCO service. Since joining the faculty in 1992, she has been instrumental in the growth of pediatric services at the college and is being recognized for her work with patients experiencing autism spectrum.

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# Chancellor's Communique

By Fred Lippman, R.Ph., Ed.D.  
Health Professions Division Chancellor



“...NSU’s Health Professions Division is enhancing the quality of life for the people of Florida—and the nation...”

The conclusion of another academic year always brings my thoughts to graduation, which involves students from our seven Health Professions Division (HPD) colleges making their rites of passage as they confidently progress to the next phase of their careers.

I think the graduation process has taken on a greater significance for me this year due to the public’s knowledge that the country is in the midst of a dramatic shortage of health care professionals. Although many articles, columns, and TV news programs have addressed the dilemma of a growing shortfall of physicians, nursing professionals, and pharmacists, it’s really the entire compendium of health care professionals that we’re talking about.

As the shortage grows, the general public increasingly will be seeking the availability and expertise of qualified health care professionals to obtain the medical services needed to sustain and prolong life. In addition, patients are realizing that issues related to wellness and prevention need to be dealt with through discussions and interactions with qualified and educated professionals.

What you have now is a U.S. population keenly attentive to the ongoing debates and discussions about the Affordable Care Act. As a result, people care about one central issue: “Who is going to take care of me?” People are living longer due to science, research, and technology. Similarly, their ability to access medical information through the Internet and various social media platforms has

made them more aware of topics related to their health and well-being. As much as I’m an old-fashioned individual who still reads newspapers and books, the bottom line is the bulk of our community now receives information from a range of sources that were not available to earlier generations.

As a result, people are becoming more acutely aware that they need health care professionals to help them maintain healthy and active lifestyles. With all due respect to the numerous nursing homes and assisted living facilities that exist, most people don’t even want to contemplate the idea of residing in a long-term care facility or being cared for by strangers. They simply want to be independent individuals living in their traditional environments.

As many of you may already know, Florida is the epicenter for what I would call the new paradigm of life and culture continuance. The state has the largest percentage of residents over the age of 75 of any state in the union. However, if these individuals would look at their original lifespan tables when they first bought insurance when they were 20 years old, the charts predicted the average American would live to be about 62. But that’s certainly not the case anymore.

Based on what I have just discussed, you can understand why I’m so prideful of our graduates, many of whom already received their hard-earned diplomas on May 19 at the HPD Commencement Ceremony held at the BB&T Center in Sunrise. We witnessed 216 qualified osteopathic medical stu-

dents make the successful transition from students to physicians, who will now build on their NSU education during their residency training experiences.

We also graduated knowledgeable pharmacists that are immediately impacting not only the distribution but the knowledge base of pharmaceutical information and cooperation with the various health care professions. The same goes for our graduating optometrists, who are now the primary care interveners in eye care, and our highly skilled dental graduates, who will be making a positive impact on dental health care locally, nationally, and internationally. You’re also going to see many other qualified individuals, such as our physician assistant, nursing, occupational therapy, physical therapy, and audiology students, positively impact their future patients once they graduate in August.

As I previously mentioned, graduation season always makes me feel very warm inside. I am proud that I have the honor to provide assistance to our deans as well as the faculty and staff members who provide exemplary education and able assistance to the students and graduates who will in turn provide their patients with compassionate and comprehensive medical care.

When you think of it from a pure numbers perspective, NSU’s Health Professions Division is enhancing the quality of life for the people of Florida—and the nation—due to the large number of health care professionals that have or soon will be receiving their diplomas.





Dr. Feng Jiang

## NSUCO Visiting Researcher: Dr. Feng Jiang

Feng Jiang, M.D., who is serving as a visiting researcher at NSUCO, graduated from the Second Military Medical University in Shanghai in 2006, where he majored in ophthalmology. He then started to work as an ophthalmologist at Jinling Hospital's Department of Ophthalmology. After spending the first five years as a general eye surgeon, he further specialized in treating strabismus and amblyopia. In 2011, he completed his advanced studies by doing a strabismus and amblyopia fellowship at Tianjin Eye Hospital in China. At NSUCO, Dr. Jiang is conducting research on the neural mechanisms underlying binocular suppression found in strabismic amblyopia.

## NSUCO Receives Two STUEY Award Nominations

In March, the College of Optometry was recognized in two categories when finalists were announced for the 14<sup>th</sup> Annual NSU Student Life Achievement (STUEY) Awards nominations. OD3 student Morvarid Fallahzadeh was nominated in the Student of the Year category, while Fran Franconeri, who serves as the college's recruiter, was represented in the Staff Person of the Year category. However, when the awards were presented on April 16 at a festive ceremony held on the NSU Davie campus, neither Fallahzadeh nor Franconeri claimed the coveted STUEY.

For those who are unfamiliar with the STUEY Awards, the event was created in 2000 to honor the people and organizations that best exemplify the core values of academic excellence, student centered, opportunity, scholarship/research, integrity, diversity, innovation, and community within the university community.

### • Morvarid Fallahzadeh

Morvarid Fallahzadeh, who has served as the college's SGA president over the past year, was able to unify her class in a spirit of cooperation and fun by organizing many events, including the 2013 EyeBall. She also inspired the college's student body to raise money for World Sight Day, which is an annual event held to focus global attention on blindness, visual impairment, and rehabilitation of the visually impaired. Thanks to Fallahzadeh's direction, online fund-raising campaigns were held along with a very successful bake sale that raised over \$1,200 for the World Sight Day projects.

### • Fran Franconeri

Fran Franconeri is noted as someone who is always there for students and constantly striving to make sure all people she interacts with have a smile on their faces. As someone who truly cares for every single optometry student, she is always involved in activities that assist students, whether they be health fairs and fund-raisers or efforts to bring optometric care to the world during World Sight Day. Franconeri is a huge asset to the optometric community at NSU because she has a positive impact on students and faculty members. If the truth be told, she is like a pair of glasses—without her, student life at NSUCO would indeed be blurry.



Fran Franconeri and Morvarid Fallahzadeh

## Eye Care Institute Provides Community Diabetic Eye Disease Education

On March 26, NSU hosted American Diabetes Association Alert Day in the Carl DeSantis Building Courtyard on the main campus. Janet Leasher O.D., and Nicole Patterson O.D., represented NSUCO's Eye Care Institute at this event, educating the community about diabetic eye disease and reminding attendees to have annual comprehensive eye exams, which The Eye Care Institute offers at five locations across Broward County.

The event served as a one-day national *wake-up call* where attendees were asked to take the Diabetes Risk Test to discover if they were in jeopardy for developing type 2 diabetes. Early diagnosis is critical to successful treatment and delaying or preventing some of its complications such as heart disease, blindness, kidney disease, stroke, amputation, and death.

Attendees received educational information about diabetes as well as free blood glucose screenings, foot care and education, and vascular screenings. NSU is one of 10 locations in Broward County that partnered with the American Diabetes Association on this important event.



Dr. Janet Leasher



## OD3 Receives National Grant Award

OD3 John Kauderman, Jr., who received the 2012-13 Essilor of America/Varilux® Student Grant Award, was chosen for this prestigious honor after submitting a paper entitled "Fitting of S Series 4D with Visioffice™." It is available to view on the Essilor Web site at [essilorusa.com](http://essilorusa.com) under Corporate Responsibilities/Professional Relations. As the recipient of this national award, Kauderman will receive a travel grant of \$2,500 to attend the AOA meeting in San Diego in addition to a \$1,000 Varilux Student Grant Award.

## NSUCO Students Accepted to Elite Program

Edgar Ekure and Jana Wegrzyn were accepted into the 2013 Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry Future Faculty Program, which is designed to address the unique and important issues graduate students face as they embark on a career in optometric education. Ekure and Wegrzyn are students in the NSUCO Master of Science in Clinical Vision Research program.

Funded by a grant from Wal-Mart, the program is offered to 15 graduate students and held in conjunction with ASCO's Summer Institute for Faculty Development. Applicants must be enrolled in a full-time graduate program at an ASCO member institution and demonstrate a strong interest in pursuing a career in academic optometry.

## NSUCO Students Present at UF



In late February, NSUCO students were invited to present at the University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences extension program, which is a coordinated effort to reduce eye injuries caused by improper tree-trimming techniques and safety protocols. The program focused on the importance of eye safety for tree trimmers, proper eye care protection, training on use of tools, and other safety measures that impact the health and safety of tree trimmers and the public. According to Janet Leasher, O.D., associate professor, the plan is to incorporate eye safety measures into the permanent safety certification courses for Broward County tree trimmers.



Edgar Ekure



Jana Wegrzyn

## AAO Student Fellowship Program Established

By Julie Rodman O.D., Associate Professor

The American Academy of Optometry (AAO) has introduced a new student fellowship program, which was established to promote interest and increase student attendance at the annual academy meeting. The AAO Student Fellowship Program enhances the educational experience by providing access to cutting-edge knowledge and advanced technology. Through active involvement in the academy as a students, they are encouraged to maintain interest through obtaining fellowship upon graduation.

To obtain the fellowship, students must attend

- the annual meeting and orientation breakfast
- four hours of continuing education (at least two hours must be in public health, jurisprudence, or practice management, binocular vision, low vision, or contact lenses)
- two hours of scientific talks

- two hours of posters
- one of the following: Plenary Session, Monroe J. Hirsch Symposium, Ezell Fellows Presentation, or Borish Festschrift
- one business meeting
- one section or SIG symposium

This year, four of our students received AAO Student Fellowships: Katherine Gonzalez, John Koehler, Gregori Osharov, and Megan Provence-Perry. We congratulate these students on their hard work, dedication, and support of our profession.



# Dr. Anthony “Blake” Hutto:

STUDENT,  
HUSBAND,  
FRIEND,  
OPTOMETRIST



*By Rachel Snell, Assistant to the Dean*

When Anthony “Blake” Hutto, O.D., graduated from Bacon County High School in 1999, he didn’t foresee himself becoming NSUCO’s class of 2013 president, vice president of Gold Key, and an NSU Honor Society member. What he did envision was taking the initiative to become an O.D., which occurred in May 2013 when he graduated from NSUCO.

## THE STUDENT: CHALLENGE AND TENACITY

Dr. Hutto, who described growing up in the small town of Alma, Georgia, as “far, far away from Atlanta,” was surrounded by a close community of extremely welcoming people and proud to be a part of Bacon County, which he said is “maybe the greatest county name ever.”

Although he was “always interested in all things medically related,” Dr. Hutto said he “never knew exactly what branch of the medical field was right for me until I explored optometry in my second year of undergraduate school. I quickly became intrigued by the eye and all its intricacies; in fact, the eye is the only aspect of human anatomy for which Darwin’s theory of evolution has no explanation.”

While obtaining his bachelor’s degree in Biology at Valdosta State University, Dr. Hutto also worked as a certified ophthalmic assistant. At the same time, he was met with a challenging life hurdle. In 2004, a year before graduating from Valdosta State, Dr. Hutto was diagnosed with adult-onset attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD). In hindsight, this had a negative impact on his grades, which meant no immediate acceptance into optometry school. Consequently, Dr. Hutto felt his options were limited.

Going against peer advice to continue on by pursuing an M.S. in Biology, Dr. Hutto chose to study for a B.S. in Nursing because he felt this path would

“make me a more well-rounded student in the areas of pharmacology, anatomy, physiology, and microbiology.” Because he had already begun treatment for his ADHD when he entered the nursing program, his grades improved dramatically. As a result, Dr. Hutto “was able to graduate from an accelerated nursing program with a near-perfect 4.0 GPA.”

However, his prior low grades were documented and remained an obstacle in regard to earning direct entry into optometry school. Unfortunately, graduate schools were sidetracked by his former grades, even though he had tried to prove himself by working full-time in the field of optometry while studying for his first degree. After receiving his B.S.N. degree in 2007, Dr. Hutto returned to his former practice and managed the ambulatory surgery center while he continued to apply to optometry school.

## THE ALUMNI CONNECTION

Thanks to three O.D.s, Dr. Hutto found his way to NSUCO. “I first heard of NSU’s College of Optometry from my friend, Michael Land, in 2001,” he said. “When Michael heard I was interested in optometry school, he mentioned that his sister, Natalie Land (class of 2004), was studying at NSUCO at the time. About a year later, I met Jennifer McCall (class of 2007) in a biochemistry class. Jenn mentioned she had applied to various optometry schools and was planning to attend NSU to pursue her optometry degree.

“However, the greatest influence came from my friend, Lisa Martin (class of 2009). Lisa and I met at Valdosta State University, and anyone who knows Lisa knows she possesses a captivating personality. Lisa would call frequently from NSU, where she was busy leaving her mark on the optometry program. She regularly emailed to encourage me throughout my application process and



even gave me my first tour of campus. I'm very thankful to call Lisa my friend and grateful she invested so much time and interest in me over the years."

Dr. Hutto was accepted into NSU's Pre-Optometry Program (POP) for entry in 2008. "The great thing about the program is having a means of entry into optometry school," he explained. "With acceptance as a POP student, the burden lies on your shoulders to determine if you are accepted into the four-year track. It allowed me the chance to achieve a lifetime goal."

Having faced significant hurdles to becoming an O.D., Dr. Hutto has great admiration for those who share his struggles and follow a similar path.

### THE HUSBAND: STRENGTH THROUGH STABILITY

Dr. Hutto also pays tribute to his wife of six years, Megan, who he met at Valdosta State University. He describes her as "the solidarity I've needed to get me through optometry school. It's funny. Many schools view being married as a distraction, but I can honestly say it's been the only thing to get me through some days."

Additionally, he proudly admitted that he hasn't driven his wife and family to madness throughout these past five years. "Joking aside, my faith in Christ, my marriage, and how I've been able to uphold them throughout school are by far what I am most thankful for. Professionally, I am most proud of the fact that I've proven I have belonged all along and that I put in the time to accomplish the small feats."

These *small achievements* are what seemed to drive Dr. Hutto through optometry school. "The milestones of finishing that 29<sup>th</sup> test of the semester—yes, that's the actual number—passing proficiencies, and diagnosing a condition correctly. The truth is all these things work for the betterment of your patient's care, and that's what's fulfilling about what we do."

Outside of NSU, Dr. Hutto and his wife were involved in Crossfit, which he described as "a high-intensity workout system harboring a strong community of participants across the world," which allowed them to do something challenging and active together. They were also active members at CityChurch in Fort Lauderdale, where they were involved with many community-based organizations that hoped to improve the city socially, spiritually, and culturally. They also worked with Hope South Florida to help diminish homelessness within Fort Lauderdale and partnered with several agencies to raise money and awareness to help end human trafficking in South Florida.

### THE FRIEND: ADMIRATION AND REMEMBRANCE

Sadly, Dr. Hutto's time at NSU and his experience as an O.D. student were profoundly influenced by tragedy. On May 15, 2011, the class of 2013 lost a "dear friend, classmate, and great man. Michael Fish was the oldest member of our class and was always the second person to show up to class," Dr. Hutto said. "I would be there early, studying in the classroom alone. When the door opened, I knew it was Mike. He would come in every morning diligently preparing for his day while his family members were at home preparing for their day. Mike would sit beside me and we would talk briefly about life before getting back to the books.

"More than once he would say how he wasn't focused on doing a residency, being number one in the class, or even receiving any accolades," added Dr. Hutto of his friend, who died in a tragic cycling accident. "Mike was there for his family and those he would serve in practice down the road. Mike no longer has the ability to fulfill his goals.

## The Alumni Connection

Natalie Rene Land



Lisa Martin



Jennifer McCall

### HUTTO EARNS TWO SENIOR AWARDS

During the Senior Awards Luncheon held on May 16, Hutto was the recipient of two awards: the X-Cel Contact Lens Award and the Southern Council of Optometry Award for Clinical Excellence. Previously, Blake was awarded the 2011 Georgia Optometric Association's Allen Wexler Scholarship and the 2012 AOA Optometry Cares Pat J. Cummings Award.



What he did accomplish instilled in me why I'm here and why I have become an optometrist. We do this to serve others. We do this not for recognition but for what goes unseen. We do this for those who are no longer able to. It is my sincere hope I can do right by Mike by becoming a great optometrist."

*(Michael Fish was honored along with the class of 2013 with a posthumous degree during the commencement ceremony in May.)*

### EXTERNSHIPS LEAD TO HOMETOWN RETURN

Dr. Hutto, who completed an externship at the veterans' administration in Salisbury, North Carolina, explained that, "This rotation focused on obtaining information quickly and forming treatment plans efficiently. Although there is some disease at this site, it concentrates more on producing a well-rounded optometrist."

In comparison, Dr. Hutto's first externship was done at Vision America in Birmingham, Alabama, where NSUCO had not sent an extern in many years. "It is a multi-doctor facility owned and operated by O.D.s that also employs M.D.s with various subspecialties (cataract, cornea, oculoplastics, and retina)," he said. "Working closely with three O.D.s and five M.D.s gave me the opportunity to see copious amounts of ocular disease and allowed me to manage each case under supervision. It was an amazing experience."

After graduation, Dr. Hutto returned to his hometown of Alma, where he partnered with a doctor whose practice is in its second generation and in desperate need of a third-generation practitioner to keep up with growing demand. "The practice was started by the partner's father, who was a huge asset to the field of optometry," he said. "Father and son built one of Georgia's most successful single doctor practices."

Now that Dr. Hutto is back in Alma, he is concentrating on the future of his practice as it focuses on serving the local community and is the only access to eye care for the county. He sincerely hopes to "continue to grow the practice and serve the people of Alma for many years."



We couldn't end Hutto' story without a mention of Fran Franconeri, the college's coordinator of Recruitment and Student Services. "I am eternally grateful to Fran for the many recommendations of local eateries she gave us," he said. "She was always spot on."





# Student Organizations Coordinate Multifaceted Activities

## Beta Sigma Kappa

The Beta Sigma Kappa (BSK) International Optometric Honor Society coordinated a successful wine-tasting event in Fort Lauderdale to raise money for the Lighthouse of Broward County. Thanks to the contributions of many, BSK raised \$1,000 in support of the blind and visually impaired. In the beginning of March, BSK board members organized the annual Mock Proficiencies to prepare the second-year students for their Clinical Proficiencies. Over 90 second-year students participated along with many third- and fourth-year students, making this year's Mock Proficiencies a great success. Finally, BSK would like to congratulate two top members—Ryan Beck and Nathalie Findlater—who received an award for being the most active within the organization. – *OD3 Gaby Olivares, president, Beta Sigma Kappa International Optometric Honor Society*

## Class of 2014

The class of 2014 had a very active year. Even with the impending national boards revolving around everyone's thoughts, many students participated in school events and chose to extend their academic knowledge to encompass subjects outside the practical scope of optometry.

During the academic year, 4 students received a student fellowship in the American Academy of Optometry meeting in Phoenix, Arizona, while 66 students took an intensive seminar in business and obtained a mini-M.B.A. in Optometry. Other highlights included NOPMA reaching its goal of recruiting 100 club members, SVOSH members journeying to Cusco, Peru, to examine over 1,500 patients, and the SGA coordinating a fantastic Hollywood-themed EyeBall that encouraged all NSUCO optometry classes to celebrate the ending school year. In the near future, both NOSA and FCO members will be participating in planned medical mission trips to examine patients.

This semester provided the class with a stronger unity and a sense of pride and accomplishment. We have been through three years of schooling and have maintained a strong work ethic and motivating atmosphere. We have helped and congratulated each other on our various accomplishments, and now as we go our separate ways into our internships and externships, we know we have many friends who will motivate us to graduate alongside them. – *Mari Holderby, Class of 2014*

## Class of 2015

That first week of our second year here at NSUCO proved that this year was going to be no joke as we received our BIOs and syllabi—and wondered how we were going to survive. Second year was full of all sorts of challenges, like back-to-back tests, labs, and the dreaded Preclinical Proficiency Exam. With all that, you would think we had no time for anything else, but that was definitely not the case.

During the fall semester, we learned new techniques like gonioscopy and binocular indirect ophthalmoscopy, which was a challenge on its own. Classes like ocular disease and pharmacology haunted us almost constantly. But with all that, we were still able to do much more. Multiple clubs had events to coordinate every month, from bake sales to a dodgeball tournament. We also participated in the South Florida Vision Walk to bring awareness about low vision to the community as well as other community service events such as Yoga for the Blind.

However, the following semester was the truly hectic one because it determined, through the Proficiency Exam, whether or not you got into clinic. Countless hours of practicing and perfecting techniques in the lab engulfed many students' lives. The two weeks before proficiencies, we had five exams, including two of our hardest on the week of proficiencies, but that didn't stop us from being proactive in the community.

The entire class divided up into groups of five in Dr. Janet Leasher's Community Outreach course to conduct an event promoting the objectives of the Healthy People 2020 Program. Each group set up a table at events like NSU's CommunityFest to promote topics from dilated eye exams to safety eyewear. In addition, multiple students went on a medical mission trip with SVOSH during spring break to Peru, where they provided eye care to many underprivileged individuals in the community.

With all that happened this year, we are so excited to start clinic in the summer. Endless classes and exams only prepared us even more for the day when we would finally see our first patient and make all the hard work worthwhile. I certainly am excited and nervous to finally put my training to use in the clinic. With that said, I am proud to have gained my training at a school like NSU's College of Optometry. – *Lawrence Cruz, SGA vice president elect*





## NOPMA

The winter academic term has been an exciting one for the Nova Optometric Practice Management Association (NOPMA). The semester commenced with a joint general meeting with the College of Optometrists in Vision Development and also included a session about practice marketing presented by an optical marketing consultant. In other news, the 2013-14 NOPMA Executive Board was elected.

The incoming officers are as follows:

**President:** Lita Wu (2015)

**President Elect:** Sylvester Nguyen (2016)

**Secretary:** Anna-Kaye Logan (2015)

**Treasurer:** Stephanie Moore (2016)

**Event Coordinator:** Genny Vo (2016)

**Public Relations:** Erica Nieves (2015)

**Second-Year Representative:** Sophie Robinson (2016)

## SGA

The 2013 NSUCO EyeBall, which was held April 6 at the Harbor Beach Marriott Resort & Spa in Fort Lauderdale, focused on the *All Eyes on Us* theme. The glamorous evening began with a walk on the red carpet, continued with a wonderful meal, and concluded with an evening of dancing. Over 350 people were in attendance to celebrate the 2013 EyeBall and the faculty and administration honorees.

Student government officers, as well as Michael Bacigalupi, O.D., FAAO, assistant professor and assistant dean for student affairs and admissions, worked tirelessly to finalize every detail of the popular event, which was an unforgettable celebration of another successful NSUCO school year.

### 2013 HONOREES

#### OD1 Medical Science Teacher of the Year

*Bindu Mayi, Ph.D.*

#### OD1 Preceptor of the Year

*Lilliana Betancourt, O.D.*

#### OD1 Teacher of the Year

*Jamie Althoff, O.D.*

#### OD2 Preceptor of the Year

*Laura Falco, O.D.*

#### OD2 Teacher of the Year

*Chris Woodruff, O.D., M.B.A.*

#### OD3 Preceptor of the Year

*Robert Rego, O.D.*

#### OD3 Teacher of the Year

*Dave Woods, O.D., M.S.*

#### Appreciation Awards from the Class of 2014

*David Loshin, O.D., Ph.D.*

*Michael Bacigalupi, O.D., M.S.*

*Fran Franconeri*

*Jeanne DeCaro*





# Dr. Rachel “Stacey” Coulter:

## A Passion for Pediatrics

*By Rachel Snell, Assistant to the Dean*

Rachel “Stacey” Coulter, O.D., FAAO, FCOVD, who is a Diplomate and serves as associate professor, recently completed 20 years of NSUCO service. Since joining the faculty in 1992, she has been instrumental in the growth of pediatric services at the college and is being recognized for her work with patients experiencing autism spectrum disorder.

As a child, Dr. Coulter was a patient of William C. Lee, O.D., at the group practice Bayshore, Swanson, Sowers, Lee, and Yager. The practice was renowned for its progressive work in contact lenses, which was both innovative and quality orientated. Charles A. Bayshore, O.D., is now regarded as a pioneer in lens development, while Jack J. Yager, O.D., is a past president of the American Academy of Optometry. At the time, Dr. Coulter was a patient; however, fitting rigid lenses was quite an art form, requiring skill and dexterity. The variety of lenses and level of automation was not available as it

is today. As a high myope and fitted with contact lenses at age nine, she developed an interest in optometry, which was encouraged by Dr. Lee and the other practice partners.

### *Direction and Influence*

Dr. Coulter received her B.A. from Duke University in 1983 and her Doctor of Optometry degree with honors from the Pennsylvania College of Optometry (PCO) in 1991. At this stage, she knew her main interest lay in pediatrics and planned to go directly into private practice. However, on the advice of her teacher, who suggested she would learn more during a residency, Dr. Coulter reconsidered. Because fewer optometry schools existed in the 1980s, “Securing a competitive residency in pediatric optometry was a challenge,” said Dr. Coulter, who was raised in a family that highly valued education. “I only applied to PCO and was fortunate to be offered a position.”



While completing her residency in pediatric optometry and vision therapy, Dr. Coulter practiced as an associate in the private practice of Mitchell Scheiman, O.D., which also focused on pediatric and vision therapy services. “I was very lucky to work with Dr. Scheiman at the start of my career because he was an excellent teacher, researcher, and author of several textbooks,” she explained. “He exposed me to all sides of optometry—academia, private practice, research—and I was encouraged to accept work on projects and trials on a regular basis.”

## Pediatric Growth at NSUCO

Because she already lived in Florida and had a Florida license, Southeastern College of Optometry in North Miami Beach (the precursor to NSUCO) was an attractive option when it came time to pursue career opportunities. “Although I did not initially plan to work in the academic realm, it was not a big stretch,” she said.

Dr. Coulter accepted an appointment at Southeastern University of the Health Sciences in 1992, and the university “created a job around what I liked to do.” Dr. Coulter said that when she started, “There was just one lane for the pediatric service.” Within three short years, she was appointed as chief of the Pediatric Optometry Service.

“During this time, we grew from 1 to 10 lanes,” she explained. We started new clinics on Broward Boulevard and in Davie. In 1996, under Terry Ingraham, O.D., the interim dean at the time, we started the pediatric residency.”

Dr. Coulter served as chief of the Pediatric Optometry Service from 1995 to 1999 and believes the growth of the pediatric division to a center of excellence is the achievement she is most proud of, “bringing a national level of care to the local community.” Today, the pediatric service remains strong with 10 specialist faculty members and 5 out of 8 residents specializing in pediatric optometry and vision therapy.

## CITT Study

In 2001, Dr. Coulter served as principal investigator for NSU’s Convergence Insufficiency Treatment Trial (CITT), a multi-year study funded by the National Eye Institute (NEI). She regards this project as one of her proudest professional achievements, which she shares with her fellow faculty members. Interestingly, the project was an offshoot from one of the many pilot studies Dr. Coulter had been involved in following the advice of Dr. Scheiman early on in her career.

With a diverse patient base, NSUCO was one of just six optometry schools to participate in the trial, which resulted in publications in such journals as

*Archives of Ophthalmology, Optometry and Vision Science, and Ophthalmic Epidemiology.* “The pediatric faculty at NSUCO is one of the best groups of any optometry school,” she proudly stated. “I am very proud to have been part of that.”

In addition to the NEI funding, Dr. Coulter received an NSU Health Professions Division Research Grant for the “Base-In Convergence Insufficiency Treatment Trial” and the “Ocular Motility and Attention Study.” She also is a two-time NSU President’s Faculty Research and Development Grant award recipient for studies relating to preschool vision screening.

## Sabbatical Enhances Skills

In 2011-12, Dr. Coulter took a one-year sabbatical to complete a master’s degree in Exceptional Student Education and focus on an area of interest—autism spectrum disorder (ASD). “Less than one percent of children in the United States have ASD, and there are very few optometric publications or vision-related research studies on patients with ASD,” she explained. “Optometrists want clearer information and evidence-based practice guidelines.”

During her sabbatical, Dr. Coulter worked on several projects related to the care of patients with ASD. She travelled to the United Kingdom to meet with specialists working in this field and complete a research exchange with Glasgow Caledonian University. She also attended the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual International Meeting for Autism Research in Toronto, Canada, in May 2012 and visited a number of private practices throughout the United States, where she provided innovative care to patients with ASD. In addition, she completed her certification as a DIR/Floortime provider—an advanced clinical competency in a working interdisciplinary model with special needs children.

Since returning to NSUCO, she is receiving regular referrals for children with ASD from non-optometric practitioners in the local community such as physicians, speech and language therapists, psychologists, and CARDs. In addition, Dr. Coulter is receiving referrals from Bascom Palmer, showing clearly that there is increasing demand for this specialization. The attainment of her master’s degree has also attracted attention and is bringing her three or four referrals a week for children with other special needs.

“They may have learning difficulties, fallen behind in class, or reached a plateau after working with a therapist,” she said. Dr. Coulter explained that her master’s degree has helped her better understand the education system and the issues faced by the teachers and parents in these circumstances. It has also helped her with creating appropriate documentation to assist the school in offering aid or making





the appropriate allowances for each child's visual needs. Additionally, it has also helped her to know what questions to ask, leading to improved communication with the teacher and offering credible information to parents.

As Dr. Coulter develops these skills, she is passing on her knowledge to residents and students. She believes this new approach and further developments in ASD research will be invaluable to the community and believes that encouraging and participating in further clinical, teaching, and research collaborations is the future path.

### Family Support

With so much activity in her chosen vocation, Dr. Coulter says she is lucky to have a husband

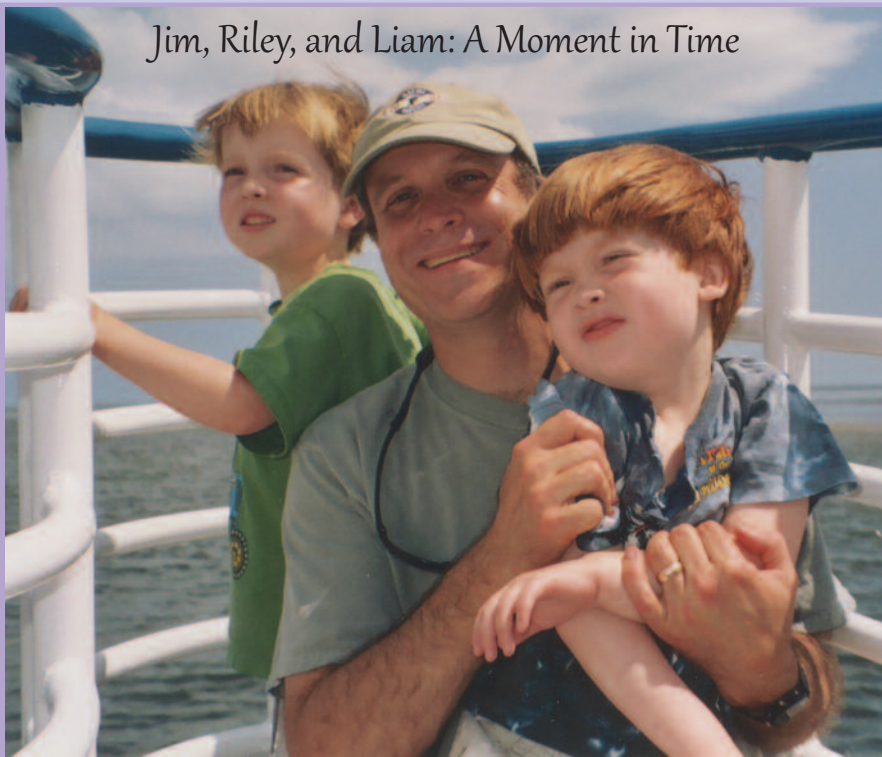
who supports her professionally, as well as being "a great dad" to their children Riley (13) and Liam (12). She met her husband, Jim, in college, but they didn't start dating until about 15 years later, which Jim described as their personal version of *When Harry Met Sally*.

### Patient Rewards Bring Fulfillment

Dr. Coulter regularly feels rewarded and appreciated through her relationships with her many patients, students, and residents. She was very moved to receive a handwritten letter from a former student now residing in Idaho who graduated over 10 years ago. She is humbled by her long-term patients who have since moved away from Fort Lauderdale, but still make an appointment to see her

when they return to town. And she was touched to receive jewelry made by a patient with amblyopia as part of his therapy

Today, Dr. Coulter continues to serve as an NSUCO Associate Professor. Her current responsibilities include didactic instruction in pediatric optometry and learning-related vision problems, clinical preceptorship, residency supervision, and patient care in the Pediatric and Binocular Vision Service.



Dr. Coulter is a Fellow of the American Academy of Optometry and the College of Optometrists in Vision Development and is a Diplomate in binocular vision, perception, and pediatric optometry. She has held offices in several professional organizations, including the American Academy of Optometry, where she served as chair of the Binocular Vision, Perception, and Pediatric Optometry Section and vice chair of the Membership Committee. She also chaired the Florida Optometric Association's Children's Vision Committee and twice served on the American Academy of Optometry's Nominating Committee. In 2009, she was elected as a Distinguished Practitioner to the National Academies of Practice.

Dr. Coulter has authored numerous peer-reviewed journal articles in such publications as *Strabismus*, *Optometry and Vision Science*, *Optometry*, and *Optometry & Vision Development*. She has also authored a textbook chapter in the fifth edition of Bartlett and Janus's text *Clinical Ocular Pharmacology*. She serves on the *Optometry & Vision Development* Editorial Review Board and has served as a guest reviewer for the journals *Optometry and Vision Science*, *British Journal of Ophthalmology*, *Optometry*, and *Ophthalmic and Physiologic Optics*. Dr. Coulter has made many presentations, including scientific papers and continuing education lectures covering the topics of binocular vision and pediatric optometry.





*Nadine Girgis Hanna, O.D., and patient*

# Pediatric and Binocular Vision Clinic Experiences Major Growth

*By Annette Bade, O.D., FAAO, Assistant Professor*

NSUCO's Pediatric and Binocular Vision Clinic began very modestly on the first floor of the North Miami Beach campus with one attending optometrist and five students in each rotation, and the low vision, contact lens, and binocular vision services all shared space. Since moving to the Davie campus, the pediatric service has blossomed into a specialty clinical service providing typically developing children, special needs, and brain-injury patients with eye examinations and vision therapy.

With more than 10 pediatric faculty members, the clinic has become a referral center for complex cases with patients traveling from across the state seeking care. Faculty members have overlapping areas of expertise and provide didactic as well as clinical instruction to the students. The Broward and North Miami Beach clinics remain sites for vision therapy and eye examinations. In addition, the Kids in Distress clinic provides care for foster children and their families.

Much of the growth of this service can be traced back to **Rachel "Stacey" Coulter, O.D.**, who served as chief of the Pediatric Optometry Service from 1995 to 1999 and is the featured faculty member in this issue of *The Visionary*. Dr. Coulter has completed multiple studies focusing on preschool vision screening, ocular motility and attention, and convergence insufficiency management and has mentored other faculty members to pursue clinical research.

Through the NSU clinics, she has provided evaluations and treatment to many children and adults with autism. In her clinical approach, Dr. Coulter incorporates concepts from DIR/Floortime—an interdisciplinary clinical model used to treat children with autism and other developmental challenges. She uses these skills to teach students and residents in the Davie pediatric clinic.



**Yin C. Tea, O.D.**, assistant professor, currently serves as chief of the Pediatric and Binocular Vision Service and residency program supervisor. She brings her expertise from California and New York and has been instrumental in expanding the strabismus and amblyopia binocular vision clinics. Dr. Tea has been the recipient of the Teacher of the Year Award and the Golden Apple Award from OD3 and OD2 students. In addition to teaching the Abnormalities of Binocular Vision II course and lab, she is instructing the Optometric Theory and Methods II course and lab, where she provides basic skills and then advanced acknowledge of ocular assessment to the students.

**Gregory Fecho, O.D.**, assistant professor, currently serves as course instructor of the Anomalies of Binocular Vision I course and lab as well as the Optometric Theory and Methods I course and lab. His teaching emphasizes accommodative ocular motor and heterophoric conditions. He served as a vision therapist for the Convergence Insufficiency Treatment Trial (CITT) and CITT-Reading Study and was collaborator with testing protocol for the Convergence Insufficiency in Children and Adolescents with Autism Study (CICADA).

His passion, however, is technology, including its use and effectiveness in optometric education. He has been published in *Optometric Education* on the use of social media in the classroom and produced scholarly work on the use and value of podcasting in his courses. In addition, Dr. Fecho has been invited to lecture on innovative technologies at past American Academy of Optometry meetings. He also is the first to create an interactive electronic lab manual with multimedia for use on the iPad as well as the first to utilize Tegrity as a method of enhancing student engagement and performance. As a result, he is leading NSUCO's research and teaching into the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

**Mary Bartuccio, O.D.**, worked as the instructor of the Abnormalities in Binocular Vision I Laboratory course, where her primary teaching focus was to educate the students about vision therapy. She also evaluated and managed patients with special needs, vision-related learning problems, strabismus, amblyopia, and infants. In addition, she served as the instructor for the Pediatric Case Conference course, where is where the fourth-year students are taught the knowledge to become better pediatric clinicians.

In addition to her clinical participation, Dr. Bartuccio was involved in clinical research, including the CITT. She also published many articles in the area of special needs, including a book titled *Visual Diagnosis and Care of the Patient with Special Needs*. Autism,

cerebral palsy, traumatic brain injury, and many other specialty cases are described in detail in this book, including the examination and management of patients with special needs.

(Note: Dr. Bartuccio left the college in the spring to pursue other professional opportunities.)

**Deborah Amster, O.D.**, is currently the co-chair of the Associate-to-Fellowship Committee of COVD. She has been an active participant on several studies, including the CITT and CITT-RS studies as well as the CICADA study at NSUCO. She also authored a chapter entitled "Diagnosis and Treatment of Vision Information Processing Disorders" in the book *Visual Diagnosis and Care of the Patient with Special Needs*. Dr. Amster's particular areas of interest include visual perceptual dysfunction and learning-related vision disorders, preschool vision screening and exams, and vision training. In addition, she was awarded the Golden Apple Award for pediatrics and binocular vision.

**Jacqueline Rodena, O.D.**, who is serving her second term as president of the NSUCO Alumni Association, is an attending optometrist at both the Davie and Kids in Distress pediatric clinics and serves as the residency program coordinator. NSUCO trains three residents each year—two in pediatrics and one in pediatrics and primary care. Currently, she is a principal investigator for the Pediatric Eye Disease Investigator Group (PEDIG) focusing on intermittent exotropia and has participated in multiple other PEDIG studies. Dr. Rodena also co-wrote a chapter with Yin Tea, O.D., in *Visual Diagnosis and Care of the Patient with Special Needs*.

**Nadine Girgis Hanna, O.D.**, is an AAO Fellow who is working on her fellowship for the COVD. Her particular areas of interest include pediatric ocular disease, amblyopia, and vision training. She also volunteers for the Special Olympics and is the principal investigator for the Hyperopia Treatment Study—another of the PEDIG studies.

**Erin Jenewein, O.D.**, is the chief of service of The Eye Care Institute at Kids in Distress. Dr. Jenewein, who graduated with highest honors and professional distinction from NSUCO in 2009, completed a pediatrics residency at NSUCO in pediatrics and binocular vision and was the recipient of the 2009 Dr. Terrance Ingraham Pediatric Optometry Residency Award. Her teaching responsibilities include clinical preceptor and residency supervisor in the third- and fourth-year pediatrics and primary care clinics. She also teaches in



DR. COULTER



DR. TEA



DR. FECHO



DR. BARTUCCIO



the Master of Science in Clinical Vision Research Program and serves as the principal investigator for the Convergence Insufficiency Treatment Study (CITS), which is PEDIG sponsored and funded.

**Shannon Dehesa, O.D.**, has a broad area of interests that includes amblyopia, autism, and vision assessment for special needs children. She has authored and presented several posters on these topics at the American Optometric Association and SECO meetings. She also has been an assistant lab instructor for the Pediatric Optometry/Optomeric Management of Learning-Related Vision Problems Lab and the Anomalies of Binocular Vision I and II lab. In addition, Dr. Dehesa co-teaches the Pediatric Case Conference course for fourth-year students.

**Matthew Walsh, O.D.**, is the newest member of the pediatrics team and an NSUCO graduate who completed his residency at SUNY and joined the faculty just over a year ago. Dr. Walsh's instructional responsibilities include clinical supervision of strabismus, amblyopia, visual-skill and perceptual evaluations, and primary care examinations.

**The NSU Pediatric Optometry Program** provides excellent clinical instruction to students and residents. Faculty members are active in clinically focused research and have participated in many externally funded studies. In addition, faculty members work to provide consultations and care for referred patients from infancy onward. An endowment through the Jaworski program provides vision therapy to patients who qualify based on economic need. To support excellent pediatric vision care in optometric practices, faculty members also lecture at many state and national optometric meetings. The program strives to develop innovative care through its work in vision therapy, strabismus, and amblyopia treatment and autism.



DR. AMSTER



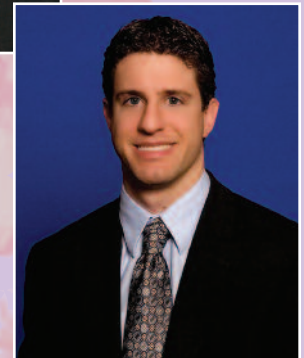
DR. RODENA



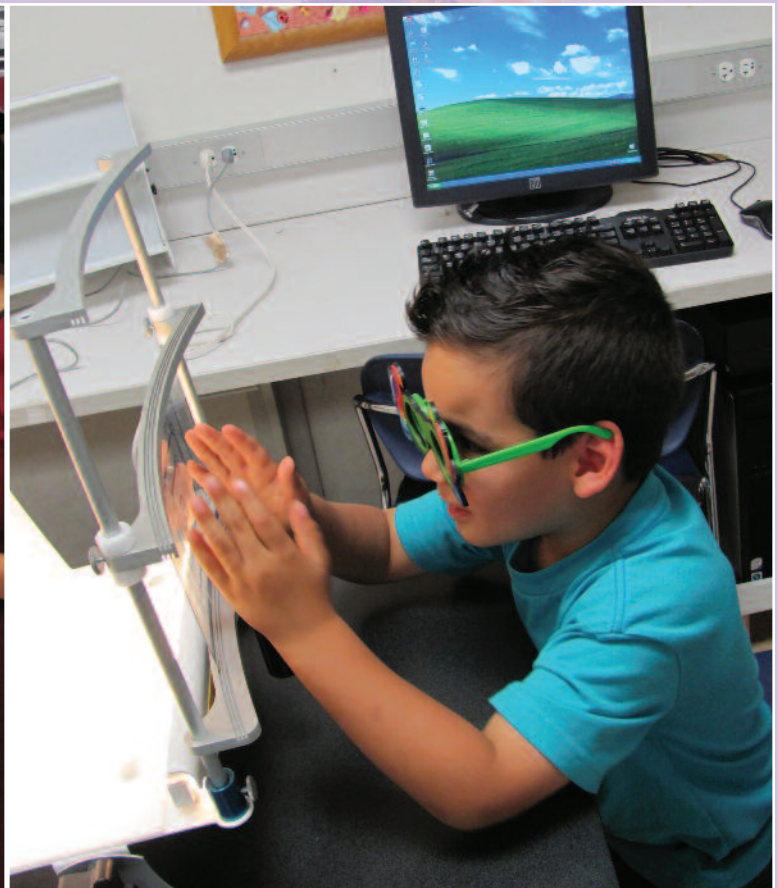
DR. JENEWEIN



DR. DEHESA



DR. WALSH





## Spotlight on New Faculty Getting to Know...Dr. Marlon Demeritt

By Nathaniel King, B.A., Co-Editor, *The Visionary*

“...I decided I wanted to share my knowledge and experience with the new generation of optometric physicians.”

Marlon Demeritt, O.D., a new NSUCO assistant professor, attended elementary, middle, and senior high school within the North Miami Beach and Aventura area during the 1980s and 90s. At the age of 14, Dr. Demeritt suffered a fractured wrist while playing football. It was at that moment he decided to pursue a career in health care.

Originally, his desire was to go to medical school and become an orthopedic surgeon. However, his interest in how we are able to see and the causes of blindness are what propelled him to pursue an optometric degree. One day, Dr. Demeritt's mother needed to see an optometrist because she had a red eye. During that visit, the optometrist questioned Dr. Demeritt on his plans after college and offered him the opportunity to shadow whenever he wanted. This allowed him to gain insight into the optometric profession. One week later, Dr. Demeritt was in the doctor's office daily during the summer months.

That memorable summer also provided him the opportunity to discover how optometrists are able to help patients see better, maintain a healthier lifestyle, and witness firsthand how interesting the eye and visual system is. With admittance to NSUCO, his passion for optometry grew stronger. Dr. Demeritt credits the strong NSUCO optometric foundation he gained for helping him complete his residency and requirements for becoming a Fellow of the American Academy of Optometry.

After completing his residency, Dr. Demeritt wanted to work in a setting where he could practice medical optometry daily. About six months after his residency, he began working at the LASIK Vision Institute. During his 18 months with the institute, he obtained a wealth of knowledge about LASIK. In fact, Dr. Demeritt considers the experience his second residency. “While I was at the LASIK Vision Institute, I was recruited by an ophthalmology practice,” he explained. “After several years of working in two different ophthalmology practices and teaching technicians, I decided I wanted to share my knowledge and experience with the new generation of optometric physicians.”

In addition, Dr. Demeritt noted that he wanted to be a part of a collegial environment that fostered higher education. He chose NSUCO because “the professors here are some of the best in their respective fields; in fact, many of them are responsible for the clinician I've become.”

Dr. Demeritt also feels humbled to be part of the college's faculty and considers it an honor to have joined the distinguished NSUCO team. “I really enjoy working with a faculty that has a vast amount of knowledge and experience,” he stated. “Additionally, I truly enjoy working with NSUCO students and watching the light bulb go on. It's wonderful helping them correlate the academic/textbook information with the clinical presentation and pointing out the clinical relevance.”





# Esteemed Professor Dr. Bai-Chuan Jiang Retires

By Ken Seger, O.D., Associate Professor

**Bai-Chuan Jiang, Ph.D., FAAO**, graduated from the Shanghai Institute of Physiology, Chinese Academy of Sciences in 1986 with a Ph.D. in Physiological Optics. Following graduation, he completed his postdoctoral training at the University of Toronto's Department of Physiology, Penn State University's Department of Psychology, and the University of Houston's College of Optometry between 1987 and 1990.

From 1991 to 2000, he worked at the University of Houston's College of Optometry, teaching in both the graduate and professional programs in various topics, including vision science, physiological optics, and optics. During this period, he obtained several research grants, including from the National Institutes of Health.

In 2000, he joined the NSUCO faculty with the rank of professor and taught Theoretical Optics 1 and 2 and Optics Lab 1 and 2. He was loved and appreciated by his students, who selected him as Professor of the Year in 2003, 2005, 2006, 2008, and 2011. Dr. Jiang taught in NSUCO's clinical master's program and worked with many Chinese visiting scholars, whom he was instrumental in bringing over to the college.

Dr. Jiang, who was awarded an NSU President's Faculty Research and Development Grant four times, has published over 70 papers and over 80 abstracts. He also is a visiting or consulting professor for four medical universities in China and serves as an editorial board member for the *Journal of Clinical Optometry*, *Chinese Journal of Ophthalmology*, and *Chinese Journal of Optometry*, as well as *Ophthalmology and Visual Science*. His research—comprising work on the oculomotor mechanism in the development of refractive error, the modeling of the visual system, and the evaluation of the retinal image quality—earned him worldwide respect from his peers.

His coauthored article entitled "Optimal Dioptric Value of Near-Addition Lenses Intended to Slow Myopic Progression," which was published in the November 2008 issue of *Optometry and Vision Science*, was named as one of the top 20 articles on myopia development over the last five years by Bio-MedLib. Having the opportunity to work with Dr. Jiang was perceived as an honor by those of us who were fortunate to do so.

His knowledge and sagacity will be greatly missed by both his students and colleagues. Dr. Jiang and his wife will be living in southern California with their son, where they plan to have a relaxed retirement.



Dr. Jiang receiving the 2012 NSU President's Distinguished Professor Award from NSU President George L. Hanbury II, Ph.D.



## Dr. Heidi Wagner Joins Interdisciplinary Health Care Organization

**Heidi Wagner, O.D., M.P.H., FAAO**, was installed as a distinguished practitioner/member of the National Academies of Practice on April 6 at the annual membership banquet held in Arlington, Virginia. The National Academies of Practice was founded in 1981 in recognition of the need for interdisciplinary collaboration in health care. It comprises distinguished practitioners and scholars from the primary health professions and now includes 10 disciplines: dentistry, nursing, optometry, osteopathic medicine, allopathic medicine, psychology, podiatric medicine, social work, veterinary medicine, and pharmacy.



### *In Memoriam:* *Dr. Manuel Bergman*

**Manuel Bergman, O.D.**, who started as an instructor with Southeastern University College of Optometry in 1989 and retired from NSU's College of Optometry as an assistant professor in 2005, passed away on April 22. A graduate from the Illinois College of Optometry, Dr. Bergman taught the Ophthalmic Optics course at NSUCO. Prior to joining the college, Dr. Bergman owned an optometric practice in Chicago and worked as a licensed dispensing optician in Florida since 1956.

He also served as an associate professor at Miami Dade College as a consultant and instructor for its Optometric Assistant Program and was a branch manager for Eyes Right Optical. In his free time, Dr. Bergman was the Boy Scouts of America district chairman of advancement. He also enjoyed photography and was a licensed ham radio operator. Dr. Bergman was a founding faculty member of the college and a community leader who will be sorely missed.





# NSU OVERVIEW: HPD Commencement... U School Grants Wishes...Drug Strategy Conference...Respiratory Therapy Program

## CDC EXECUTIVE SPEAKS AT HPD COMMENCEMENT

**Ursula Bauer, Ph.D, M.P.H.**, director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, was the keynote speaker at the Health Professions Division's Commencement Ceremony held May 19 at the BB&T Center in Sunrise. During the ceremony, 703 HPD students from a range of health professions colleges and programs received their long-awaited degrees.

In her role, Dr. Bauer sets the strategic direction for the center's winnable battles of tobacco use prevention, improved nutrition and physical activity, and prevention of teen and unintended pregnancy, as well as key priorities related to the leading causes of death. The National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion has an annual budget of about \$1 billion and 1,300 staff members dedicated to preventing chronic diseases and promoting health across the lifespan, in key settings, and with attention to the primary chronic disease risk factors.

Before becoming director of the center, Dr. Bauer was director of the New York State Department of Health's Division of Chronic Disease and Injury Prevention. She received her Ph.D. in Epidemiology from Yale University, her M.P.H. in Family Health from Columbia University, and a master's degree in Political Science from Rutgers University.

## U SCHOOL STUDENTS RAISE FUNDS TO GRANT WISHES FOR TERMINALLY ILL KIDS

It's the simplest acts of kindness that make the biggest impact. **NSU University School** students collected and sold toys, books, and music to raise more than \$20,000 last year for the Make-A-Wish Foundation. This year, they returned to duplicate their efforts. For several weeks this spring, more than 100 fourth-grade students collected a variety of slightly used and new items, including stuffed animals, novelties, toys, and knickknacks from other University School students.

On April 15, the collected items became part of the annual weeklong lunchtime sale inside the school's cafeteria—known as the Make-A-Wish Lunch Market—where the fourth graders sold the items to other University School students. When the sale ceased on April 18, the money was donated to the Make-A-Wish Foundation. The project, entirely managed by the fourth graders, with the advisory help of teachers and parents, has contributed tens of thousands of dollars to the Make-A-Wish Foundation over the past 20 years.

"This project not only reinforces the character education we teach our students every day, but it also incorporates a significant educational component," said Sheila Szikman, a fourth-grade University School teacher who helped organize the fund-raising drive. "Students learn real-life math and business skills, including counting money,

giving change, and computing sales, expenses, and profits."

The Make-A-Wish Foundation grants wishes to children between the ages of 2 and 18 that suffer with life-threatening medical conditions. The concept of granting wishes was born in 1980 when a group of individuals helped a young boy fulfill his dream of becoming a police officer. Now, with 69 U.S. chapters, the foundation is the largest wish-granting charity in the world.

## NSU HOSTS HEMISPHERIC DRUG STRATEGY CONFERENCE

In early May, NSU's main campus in Davie hosted a **three-day international conference** to discuss drug strategy in Latin America and the Caribbean. NSU hosted the conference as part of a strategic partnership between the university's Institute for Behavioral Health and Wellness, the United Way of Broward County, and the Organization of American States (OAS) to assist in the implementation of a hemispheric drug strategy.

The conference featured the Coordinators of the National Drug Information Networks in Central America in Broward County, the United Way of Broward County Commission on Substance Abuse, and the Organization of American States' Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD). Representatives from Costa Rica, Guatemala, El Salvador, the Dominican Republic, Honduras, Nicaragua, Haiti, and Panama attended





the conference along with NSU faculty members with expertise in this field of study.

The CICAD is the Western Hemisphere's policy forum for dealing with issues stemming from global drug trafficking, while its Hemispheric Drug Strategy reflects the firm commitment of member states to address the consequences of the drug trade, which pose a growing threat to health, economic development, social cohesion, and the rule of law of the region.

In 2012, as part of its Hemispheric Drug Strategy, CICAD initiated the Project on Drug Information Networks in Central America. These efforts are aimed at the development of national drug observatories as an essential component to combat drug use. NSU's Institute for Behavioral Health and Wellness joined the Project on Drug Information Networks in Central America initiative with the announcement of the formation of NSU GO!—the NSU Global Observatory.

"NSU's Global Observatory will feature research, curriculum, and certification opportunities as well as community outreach strategies for our global partners developed by world-renowned NSU faculty experts in the fields of substance use, prevention, addiction research, and epidemiology," said Raymond G. Ferrero III, J.D., executive director of health affairs for NSU's Health Professions Division and chair of NSU's Institute for Behavioral Health and Wellness. "South Florida has always been a gateway for global drug trafficking, which makes NSU uniquely positioned to be a strategic partner with the OAS and the 37 other observatories established throughout Latin America to make a lasting impact on a global scale."

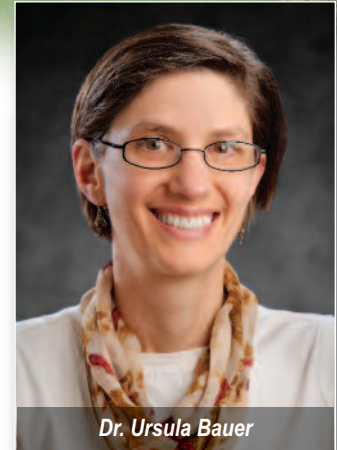
### NSU TO LAUNCH FLORIDA'S FIRST RESPIRATORY THERAPY PROGRAM

NSU's College of Health Care Sciences will offer Florida's first-ever bachelor's degree program in respiratory therapy for licensed registered respiratory therapists (RRT). The program, which offers students a Bachelor of Science degree, will start in October at NSU's Palm Beach Student Educational Center (SEC).

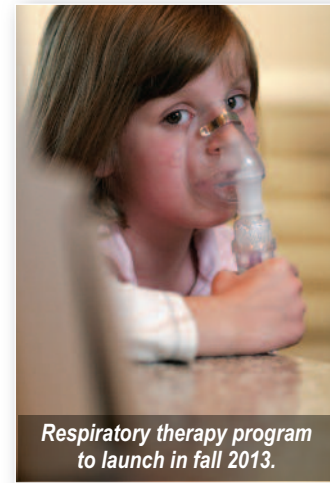
"Our unique respiratory program provides every opportunity for students to succeed in being life-long learners, critical thinkers, evidence-based practitioners, managers, and the best providers of care in a multitude of environments," said Marianne Jankowski, DHSc., RRT, chair of the Department of Cardiopulmonary Sciences and director of the Respiratory Therapy Program. "Students will be challenged to achieve their highest potential in this field."

Classes will be taught in a fully online format by faculty members at the SEC, which is located in Palm Beach Gardens. The program, which will offer students the flexibility to continue to work while obtaining their degrees, can be completed in as little as 24 months and is designed to help students perform a range of services requiring more complex cognitive abilities and patient management skills. It also will provide the necessary background to become involved in higher-level respiratory therapy education and allow respiratory therapy professionals to further their education to master's and doctoral levels.

Graduates from this program, which is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, will benefit from job opportunities in the respiratory therapy field in the areas of sales, clinical educators, and health and medical services management.



Dr. Ursula Bauer



Respiratory therapy program to launch in fall 2013.



NSU University School students collected and sold a variety of items to raise more than \$20,000 for the Make-A-Wish Foundation in 2012.



# Research/Scholarly Activity Highlights

January 1 – April 30, 2013

## PEER-REVIEWED JOURNAL ARTICLES

**Leasher J.** Disability weights for vision disorders in global burden of disease study. *The Lancet*, Vol.381:9860, January 5, 2013;23.

**Leasher J.** On behalf of the Global Burden of Disease Vision Loss Expert Group. New systematic review methodology for visual impairment and blindness for the 2010 global burden of disease study. *Ophthalmic Epidemiology*, Vol.20:1, Feb 2013;33-39.

**Seger K.** Directions in optometric education. *Optometric Education*. 2013 38;48-49.

**Vollmer L.** The diagnosis and management of ocular lymphoma. *Optometry and Vision Science*. Vol. 90, No. 2, e56-e62. Feb 2013.

**Zhang B.** Receptive-field subfields of V2 neurons in macaque monkeys are adult-like near birth. *J Neuroscience*. 2013. 33(6):2639-49.

## MULTICENTER RESEARCH PROJECT

### MultiCenter Development of a Risk Assessment Survey for College-Aged Soft Contact Lens Wearers II

The current phase of this project is informally titled "Red Eye Lite" and is a prospective fielding of the risk survey to SCL wearers with acute red eye as they present for care. This project is administered by Nova Southeastern University and funded by Alcon Research Limited.

In addition to the NSU College of Optometry, sites include Indiana University School of Optometry in Bloomington, Ohio State University

College of Optometry in Columbus, Pacific University in Forest Grove, Oregon, Southern California College of Optometry in Fullerton, and State University of New York.

As the research moves from a community-based project to a clinical setting, the newly identified NSU investigators are **Melanie Crandall, O.D., Eva Duchnowski, O.D., Andrea Janoff, O.D., Perla Najman, O.D., Zoe Schinas, O.D.,** and **Heidi Wagner, O.D., M.P.H., FAAO** (principal investigator).

## POSTER PRESENTATIONS

**Besada E, Frauens B.** Cat Scratch Neuroretinitis. *SECO International, Atlanta, Georgia, February 28, 2013.*

**Duchnowski E, Rodman J, Schinas Z.** Mini-Scleral Contact Lens Management of Exposure Keratitis Due to Lagophthalmos from Bell's Palsy. *SECO International, Atlanta, Georgia, March 2013.*

**Duchnowski E, Makhlof R, Rodman J.** Intralenticular Neovascularization as a Result of Cataract Phacolysis. *SECO International, Atlanta, Georgia, March 2013.*

**Janoff A, Leisner J, Wagner H.** Silicone Hydrogel Material for Custom Soft Contact Lenses in the Treatment of Pediatric Patients. *Global Specialty Lens Symposium 2013.*

**Janoff A, Leisner J, Wagner H.** Custom Contact Lenses in Pediatric Patients. *SECO International, Atlanta, Georgia, March 2013.*

**Kabat A, Schinas Z, Tyler J.** It's All Relative: An Afferent Pupillary Defect Associated with Optic Nerve Head Drusen. *SECO International, Atlanta, Georgia, March 2013.*

**Kang D, Rodman J.** Chronic Anticoagulant Use Contributing to Choroidal Hematoma Formation. *SECO International, Atlanta, Georgia, March 2013.*

**Leasher J.** On behalf of the Vision Loss Expert Group. Estimates of the Temporal Trends Estimates of Temporal Trends in the Magnitude of Blindness and Visual Impairment in the Americas from the Global Burden of Disease, Risk Factors, and Injuries Study 2010 from 1990 to 2010 and Estimated Temporal Trends in Global Blindness and Visual Impairment Age-Standardized Prevalence (1990-2010). *World Council of Optometry and European Academy of Optometry and Optics, Malaga, Spain, April 20, 2013.*

**Moiseiykina O, Sowka J.** Not Turning a Blind Eye on a Blind Eye. *SECO International, Atlanta, Georgia, February 2013.*

**Rodman J.** Synchysis Scintillans: A Case Report. *SECO International, Atlanta, Georgia, March 2013.*

**Rodman J.** The Conundrum of Optic Disc Pit Related Maculopathy. *SECO International, Atlanta, Georgia, March 2013.*

**Rodman J, St. Martin J.** A Twist of Fate: A Case on Racemose Hemangioma of the Retina. *SECO International, Atlanta, Georgia, March 2013.*



**Schinas Z, Tyler J.** Rings Around the Conus: Wessely Ring in a Patient with Concurrent Keratoconus. *SECO International, Atlanta, Georgia, March 2013.*

### CONTINUING EDUCATION LECTURES

**Coulter R (Stacey).** Is Your Practice Ready for the Patient with Autism Spectrum Disorder? and Horses or Zebras? You Make the Call in Diagnosing Pediatric Cases. *Albuquerque, New Mexico, April 2013.*

**Shechtman D.** PVD and Vitreoretinal Anomalies: Management for Primary Care Optometrists and Agent: Glaucoma and/or Retinal Disease? *New Orleans, April 2013.*

**Sowka J, Kabat A.** Anterior Segment Grand Rounds, Diagnosing and Managing Neuro-Ophthalmic Disease, The Clinician's Guide to Glaucoma: Managing Cases and Complexities, and The Clinician's Guide to Glaucoma: Therapeutic Strategies for Success. *Denver Metro Optometric Society, January 2013.*

**Sowka J.** Diagnosing and Managing Patients with Neuro-Ophthalmic Disease. *BCOA Gold Coast. Fort Lauderdale, Florida, January 2013;* Glaucoma Update: Management Strategies,

Glaucoma Pearls and Cases, and Prevention of Medical Errors. *Vision Expo East. New York, New York, March 2013;* Rethinking the Role of IOP in Glaucoma. *University of Alabama School of Optometry. Birmingham, Alabama, March 2013;* Anterior Segment Grand Rounds, Diagnosing and Managing Neuro-Ophthalmic Disease, and The Clinician's Guide to Glaucoma: Managing Cases and Complexities. *New Mexico Optometric Association, Albuquerque, New Mexico, April 2013;* Diagnosing and Managing Neuro-Ophthalmic Disease. *Dallas County Optometric Association, Dallas, Texas, April 2013.*

**Reed K.** Practical Approaches to Clinical Nutrition: A Case-Based Series, Update in Ocular Inflammatory Disease, and Ocular Infectious Disease Grand Rounds. *New Orleans, April 2013.*

**Crandall M.** Revisiting Mono-Vision Contact Lens Fitting. *New Orleans, April 2013.*

**Reynolds S.** ABC's of Diabetes: Providing a Comprehensive Review for the Primary Care Practitioner, Cardiovascular Disease and Your EYES, and Obesity and Eye Care. *New Orleans, April 2013.*

### ADDITIONAL NEWS OF NOTE

**Heidi Wagner, O.D., M.P.H., FAAO**, was installed as a distinguished practitioner/member of the National Academies of Practice on April 6 at the annual membership banquet held in Arlington, Virginia. **Rachel (Stacey) Coulter O.D.**, and **David Loshin, O.D., Ph.D.**, are current members.


**Joseph Sowka, O.D., FAAO**, served as a Merck Pharmaceuticals Glaucoma Advisory Board participant in Atlanta, Georgia, in January and as an Alcon Labs Glaucoma Advisory Board Participant this April in Dallas, Texas.

**Rachel (Stacey) Coulter, O.D.**, received her Master of Science in Education degree with a specialization in Exceptional Student Education last December from NSU's Fischler School of Education.

*Please note that only NSUCO faculty members are listed above in relation to lectures, journal articles, and presentations. In addition, only presentations given at meetings or conferences located outside of the NSU campus are listed due to space constraints.*



# Your Support Makes a Difference!

An illustration on a teal background showing two hands, one on the left and one on the right, holding several dark blue puzzle pieces. The puzzle pieces are arranged in a shape that resembles a graduation cap. There are also some white, fluffy cloud-like shapes scattered around the puzzle pieces.

## JOIN US IN CREATING THE NEXT GENERATION OF VISIONARIES

As NSUCO alumni, you know the importance of receiving the best educational experiences. That's why we ask that our alumni give back to their alma mater with annual fund gifts.

Alumni donations allow NSUCO to provide extraordinary opportunities for learning and discovery and extend the financial-aid program to students in need with scholarship support. This support is so important to students that may otherwise not have the ability to attend optometry school or have the tools necessary to succeed.

Addressing emerging needs and challenges gives our college the opportunity to continue to provide the most comprehensive

educational opportunities to our students and the optometric community. Educating the next generation of optometrists is the key to growing the profession in new and exciting ways. NSUCO seeks to attract the best and brightest new students. Providing these needed scholarships allows your alma mater to succeed in its efforts to do just that.

Please make an alumni contribution to Nova Southeastern University's College of Optometry by visiting [www.nova.edu/changingtheworld](http://www.nova.edu/changingtheworld). Click the "Make a Gift Online" link under "Giving to NSU." You may also use the enclosed envelope to send your contribution directly to the college.





## Alumni Chapter President's Message

**By Jacqueline Rodena, O.D.**  
**Assistant Professor**  
**President, Alumni Chapter**  
**NSU College of Optometry**

It is my pleasure to address you again in the spring/summer 2013 edition of *The Visionary*.

NSUCO is celebrating not only a 10-year reunion, but for the first time a 20-year class reunion. Next year, NSU's College of Optometry will be a quarter of a century old, which is a huge milestone for our program. It is interesting to reflect back on the evolution of the program, as well as the amazing advancements in our profession locally, nationally, and internationally.

In recent news, NSU's College of Optometry and the state of Florida finally won the battle to have the rights to prescribe oral medications. Florida is now the 48<sup>th</sup> state to achieve this important legislative victory. In the past 25 years, our college has taught doctors from a vast number of states and countries. We have a unique location where our patient population is diversified with different nationalities, which provides a wonderful experience for our students. The combination of learning and hands-on experience, along with the leadership of our alumni, all help advance our great profession.

Some of you may have never visited our ever-changing campus since you graduated, so it's important to note that the college currently has four clinics in which the students

rotate through—Davie, Broward Boulevard, North Miami Beach, and Kids in Distress. Each of the clinics serves and examines different population groups and ages.

For example, the Davie NSU Eye Clinic has diversified into different specialty practices. In addition to primary care, pediatrics, cornea and contact lens, geriatrics, and low vision, the students rotate through strabismus and amblyopia, electrodiagnostics, glaucoma, and diabetes/macula services. The newest clinic at Kids in Distress, which is located in Wilton Manors, provides services to primary care and pediatrics patients.

We are so proud of our diversity and expansion that we want all alumni to help us celebrate these successful triumphs. Since next year will be the college's silver anniversary, we invite all our alumni to join us in reflecting and celebrating this event in 2014 (details to follow).

As my term comes to an end, I thank you for the opportunity and encourage all of you to remain in close touch with your NSUCO family and continue to pay it forward by donating to our scholarship funds that help our future optometrists.

Please remember to join our Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/nsuoptometryalumnichapter](http://www.facebook.com/nsuoptometryalumnichapter), where you can receive the latest news about our upcoming events.

**Catherine Awad, O.D.** ('08) had her thesis study for the M.P.H. degree she was awarded by NSU's College of Osteopathic Medicine in December 2012 published in the January issue of *Eye and Brain*. The thesis is entitled "Sensitivity and Specificity of the iVue iWellness Exam in Detecting Retinal and Optic-Nerve Disorders."

**Douglas Ayre, O.D.** ('96) is the current president of the Kansas Board of Examiners in Optometry and is being reappointed to a three-year term.

**Joanie Bauernfiend, O.D.** ('09 residency graduate) conducted a radio interview discussing vision therapy.

**Ernesto Cepero, O.D.** ('12) received the Dr. Lenny Cherdack Student Legislative Award from the Florida Optometric Association.

**Adrienne Manzo, O.D.** ('04) went on a medical mission trip to the Dominican Republic and provided eye care to hundreds of people in need of health care.

**Nga Nguyen, O.D.** ('10) will be attending Harvard University School of Public Health to earn her M.S. in Health Policy and Management this fall.

**Rebecca Schoonover, O.D.** ('04) continues to volunteer for the Junior League Scranton and held a food drive and fundraiser in April for the Army National Guard Family Readiness Group in the Scranton area. She also helped with a fund-raiser benefiting the Lackawanna Branch PA Association for the Blind on Helen Keller Day. In addition, her Eighth Annual Cocktails for a Cause continues to benefit the Lackawanna Branch PA Association of the Blind and Research to Prevent Blindness.

**Adam Stelzer, O.D.** ('07) received the 2012 Florida Young Optometrist of the Year award from the Florida Optometric Association.

**Jennie Smith Zolman, O.D., FCOVD** ('06) was reelected to the South Carolina Optometric Physicians Association Board of Directors as a trustee and published an article entitled "The Profitability Puzzle" in *The IDOC Quarterly*. On October 2, 2012, she was featured on the Charleston Channel 2 news, where she discussed the benefits of InfantSEE. She also was awarded, along with her husband, Mike Zolman, O.D., the Outstanding Adult Volunteers of 2013 accolade from South Carolina's Special Olympics and was named the 2012 Young Optometrist of South Carolina.

**Mike Zolman, O.D.** ('06) is the current chair of the South Carolina Optometric Physicians Association's Membership Committee.



# Running Makes a World of Difference to 2009 Alumna Dr. Dedra Ling

By Dedra Ling, O.D.

My dad, who was an officer in the Army, started training for his first Chicago marathon when I was 8 years old and he was 40. He inspired me to start running, so my older brother and I began training for a one-mile race, and all three of us exercised together. The excitement of the race and the adrenaline was intoxicating; I loved feeling the energy of the crowd.

In middle school, I joined the cross-country and track teams and continued with track and field into high school. My favorite race was the 200-meter dash, but I mostly ran the 400 meter and the 4 x 400-meter relay. Unfortunately, during undergrad and optometry school, my running went to the back burner while I focused on school. I was reintroduced to running during my senior year at NSUCO when my roommate ran a marathon with minimal training and encouraged me to take on the challenge.

My dad had always dreamed that our family would run a marathon with him, but none of us had ever considered running a race that long and

daunting. In 2009, my dad served a one-year tour in Afghanistan, and during that tour my family and I vowed that when he returned, we would run a race with him. My sister, brother, and mom trained for and ran the Chicago half marathon (13.1 miles), while my boyfriend, my dad, and I ran the Chicago marathon (26.2 miles).

The longest distance I had ever consistently run was about 15 miles, but my dad, at age 58, continued to inspire me and finished the marathon in less than 4.5 hours. My boyfriend and I stayed together for the first 13 miles (about two hours) before our paces separated us. At mile 18, the overwhelming pain and exhaustion took over and I started walking. I started to alternate between running and walking, with every muscle in my body hurting with over eight miles remaining.

With two miles remaining, I heard an encouraging voice behind me shout, "You better start running or you won't finish in time!" I was in disbelief when I turned around and saw my boyfriend. We crossed the finish line together with

less than 10 minutes remaining before they closed the race. It was the most difficult yet fulfilling feat I have ever accomplished, but I would never have done it without my father's inspiration.

After moving to Key West, I decided to continue running and joined the Key West Southernmost Runners Club (KWSRC), where I eventually became the leader of the weekday 6:00 a.m. runs. When *Runner's World* magazine contacted the KWSRC about a photo shoot in the Florida Keys, I immediately volunteered. The goal was for the shot to be at sunrise and attempt to capture the beauty and serenity of running on the bridge that parallels the Seven Mile Bridge and goes out to Pigeon Key. I was ecstatic when *Runner's World* called to interview me and let me know the two-page spread would be featured in the April 2013 issue—the month of my 30<sup>th</sup> birthday.

*Runner's World* made the picture its cover photo for Facebook and received over 1,500 likes and over 100 comments within a couple of hours.



# Educational Sabbatical Reenergizes Dr. Annette Bade



By Arnie Patrick, O.D., Assistant Professor

Annette Bade, O.D., FAAO, is the only faculty alumni who can claim she has seen it all at Nova Southeastern University's College of Optometry (NSUCO). That's because she was a member of the first class admitted in 1989 when we were still Southeastern University of the Health Sciences (SEUHS) in North Miami Beach. As a result, Dr. Bade has a greater appreciation of where our school has come from than most other people.

During the college's early years, she and her colleagues endured dimly lit classrooms, antiquated equipment, a one-lane Optometric Theory and Methods (OTM) Lab housed in a converted closet, and an external clinic in Opa Locka where gunfire was a regular part of the street music. That's why she treats the Davie facilities we moved into during the summer of 1996 with near reverence.

Dr. Bade's journey to NSUCO began in Cliffside Park, New Jersey, where she hails from. She traces her interest in optometry back to the fourth and sixth grades when she was prescribed spectacles and then contact lenses, respectively, for playing basketball. Despite being a terror on the boards, Dr. Bade realized at this tender age that a career in optometry was more realistic than one in professional basketball.

While in high school, she underwent orthokeratology—the application of gas permeable contact lenses while sleeping to temporarily reshape the cornea for the purpose of reducing myopia. Thrilled by the results, she formally began to investigate optometry as a career, learning that it offered a lifestyle and earning potential that were commensurate with her desires.

Unlike the guidettes from New Jersey who've recently been lionized for their apathy, Dr. Bade worked hard to earn a B.A. in Classics and Philos-

ophy from Atlanta's Emory University in 1987. She learned about SEUHS and the start of the College of Optometry through a sorority sister who was attending the university's College of Pharmacy. Dr. Bade ultimately had the honor of being a member of SEUHS's inaugural graduating class in 1993. Her class also has the distinction of being the only one not to have diplomas from NSUCO because the merger with Nova wasn't completed until the following year.

After graduation, Dr. Bade remained in Florida working first in a joint M.D. and O.D. practice, and then as a self-employed contractor in a number of commercial and private optometric practices. The Lone Star State beckoned, however, because her husband had to relocate to Austin due to his job. It was during her time in Texas that Dr. Bade discovered her passion for both professional and community service. She chaired a number of committees as a member of the Texas Optometric Association Board of Directors between 1999 and 2002 and also served as the president and secretary/treasurer of the Central Texas Optometric Society. In addition, Dr. Bade was the coordinator of the Texas Statewide Gift of Sight Program, which provided free eye examinations to indigent children in five major cities in the state in association with the Lion's Club, Prevent Blindness, the Vision Service Plan, and Vision USA.

Dr. Bade returned to South Florida with her growing family in January 2003. She welcomed the change, hoping to open her own practice or even teach at her alma mater. What she didn't know was her career at NSUCO was at hand. With no regular faculty appointments available, Dr. Bade began teaching part time in the OTM Lab in the winter semester of 2003, and then during the summer se-

mester under a research grant held by Pamela Oliver, O.D. A full-time position finally became available in October 2004.

Dr. Bade has worn several hats at NSUCO. She's been an integral member of the OTM Lab team, having served as both instructor and instructor of record at all levels of the track. These laboratories are of great importance because it's there where our students learn the nuts and bolts of conducting an optometric examination. In fact, it's not uncommon for her to continue teaching these labs even after they've finished because students stop her in the stairwells, trying to wring every last bit of knowledge from her.

In addition to OTM labs, Dr. Bade is currently the instructor of record for the Physical Diagnosis Lab, where our students receive more medically centered training in skills like injections. Although she enjoys the time spent in these labs, Dr. Bade most cherishes her role as a preceptor in the school's third- and fourth-year Primary Care Clinics. It's here that Dr. Bade has the opportunity to not only teach students, but to interact with patients—something she has never lost her fondness for. She gets many *ah-ha* moments in this setting as her students tie together their academic and clinical knowledge.

Besides her teaching duties, Dr. Bade has embraced clinical vision research. Although every NSUCO faculty member is required to do research/scholarship, her introduction to it was wholly unique because she bypassed the research part by volunteering to be the school's research coordinator—an administrative position. While she found this post to be to her liking, it more importantly gave her a window into the impact research has on the profession. Consequently, she became

*Continued on next page...*

## Dr. Annette Bade

the principal or co-investigator in a host of projects, including the Feasibility of Adult Convergence Insufficiency Treatment Trial, Adaptation to Spectacle Wear in Children and Adolescents with Autism, Modalities of Feedback for Computer Users with Diabetes Mellitus, and Convergence Insufficiency in Children and Adolescents Diagnosed with Autism.

Dr. Bade, who is on the cusp of finishing her M.S. in Clinical Vision Research, also served as the school's representative to NSU's Institutional Review Board from 2004 through 2010 and was its interim director in 2011 and 2012.

Clearly, her return to Florida didn't diminish her enthusiasm for professional and community service, which is evidenced by the fact that she has been the president, vice president, and treasurer of the Broward County Optometric Association, as well as a member of its board of trustees. In addition, she has generously donated her time to the Florida Optometric Society's Children's Vision Task Force.

Although Dr. Bade has strived to make a difference in people's lives for many years, it's only now that she grudgingly admits to the full impact she has had. Whether training students, devoting time to organized

optometry, or helping the less fortunate, she has touched many lives. Dr. Bade's colleagues, though, already knew the quality of her character, having bestowed upon her NSUCO's Alumni Award of Excellence in 2007 for her commitment to the profession and the community.

While Dr. Bade's career has been immensely satisfying, nothing is more important than the time she spends with her children Alexandra, Ariana, and Annika. Despite the fact that there are 25 other letters in the alphabet she could have chosen names from, Dr. Bade's fascination with the letter A doesn't stop her from reveling in their exploits. Alexandra is 17 and a mature junior in high school; Ariana is 12 and figuring out the complexities of being a middle school seventh grader; while Annika is 10 and in the fifth grade.

As some people know, Annika had an accident four years ago that required multiple ophthalmic surgeries and the wearing of an aphakic contact lens. She has adapted well, and Dr. Bade will always be grateful to the members of the optometric community who offered their assistance during this trying time for her family. Her selflessness made it easy for us to respond in kind.



## Alumni Named SECO's 2013 Young Optometrist of the South

**Jennifer Smith Zolman, O.D., FCOVD ('06)** was named the recipient of the prestigious 2013 South Eastern Congress of Optometry Young Optometrist of the South award. The award recognizes an optometrist in practice for fewer than 10 years that has already made a significant impact in the field of optometry.

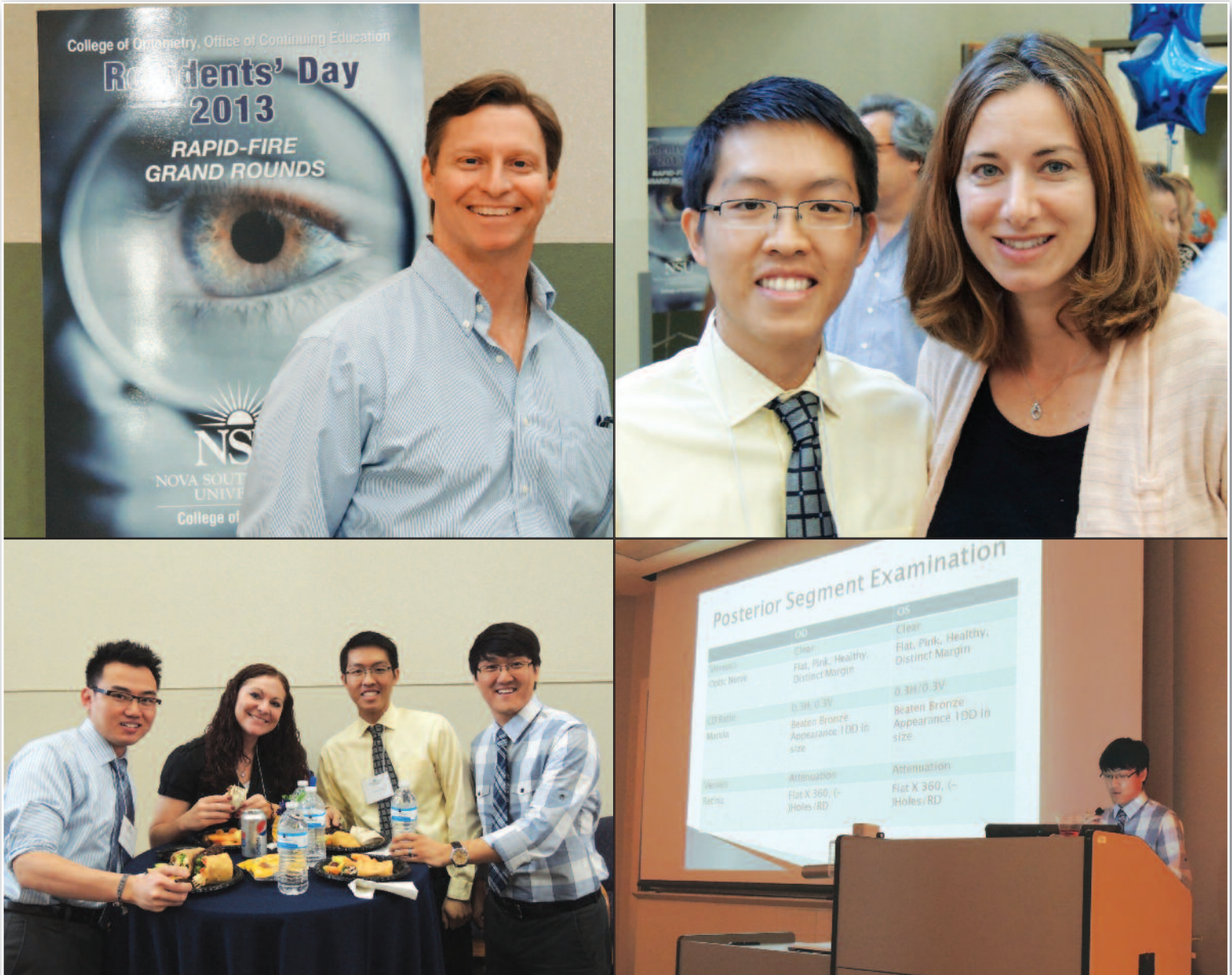
Dr. Zolman currently is a primary care optometrist and co-owner of the Draisin Vision Group. She also serves as the South Carolina InfantSEE State Leader program and co-clinical director of South Carolina's Special Olympics Lion's Club International Opening Eyes Program. In addition to private practice, she is involved in numerous optometric organizations, including the Coastal Carolina Optometric Association, the American Optometric Association, the South Carolina Op-

tometric Physicians Association, and the Ocular Nutrition Society. In her local community, Dr. Zolman is involved in the Charleston Junior League, Boys and Girls Club, Girl Scouts of America, and Big Brothers/Big Sisters program. In 2008, she was recognized with the President's Volunteer Service Award.

While attending NSUCO, Dr. Zolman served in a number of student leadership positions, including president of her class and president of the college's Student Government Association. She also has completed three medical missions to third-world countries with her NSUCO community and is an adjunct professor at five colleges, including NSU's College of Optometry. In addition, she allows her practice to serve as an NSUCO student externship program site.



# Residents' Day 2013



On January 27, NSUCO hosted its Fifth Annual Residents' Day, which highlighted 23 outstanding optometric residents from programs affiliated with NSU throughout the state of Florida. The residents presented interesting and challenging cases encountered during their training in the form of rapid-fire grand rounds, which included topics such as anterior segment disease, posterior segment disease, binocular vision anomalies, and vision ther-

apy. All courses were COPE- and Florida Board-approved for eight credit hours of continuing education.

In addition to the outstanding education, the program provided an opportunity for students to interact with residents from the various programs and learn more about residency training and the opportunities residency training provides.

Please join us for the Sixth Annual Residents' Day on January 26, 2014.

To learn more about NSUCO's residency programs, please visit <http://optometry.nova.edu/residency/index.html>.

# Affiliate Residency Program Spotlight

## Lake City VA Medical Center Optometry Residency Program

By Wendy McGonigal, O.D., FAAO  
Residency Supervisor and Program Coordinator

The Lake City VA Medical Center (VAMC) Eye Clinic is housed in the outpatient area of the Lake City VAMC in Lake City, Florida, and has a clinic area measuring approximately 3,124 square feet. In addition to primary service, the VAMC has a laboratory, pharmacy, and other services including radiology, prosthetics, dental, physical therapy, occupational therapy, podiatry, nutrition, mental health, psychiatry, cardiology, neurology, social work, chaplain, substance-abuse program, women's health, and emergency triage. The facility also has a 230-bed nursing home and domiciliary.

Working in conjunction with the Gainesville VA, University of Florida Department of Ophthalmology, and Nova Southeastern University College of Optometry, the Lake City VAMC offers a one-year residency in primary care/low vision. The residency program's mission is to provide qualified postdoctoral practitioners with an advanced educational experience that will enhance their clinical skills in primary care, low-vision rehabilitation, and ocular disease. Individuals completing the program will be able to deliver an advanced level of optometric care in a clinical setting, participate in co-management and multidisciplinary practice, and/or serve as clinical instructors at optometry schools or teaching institutions.

The eye clinic staff consists of one associate chief of optometry, one director of low-vision services, two full-time optometrists, two full-time ophthalmologists, one full-time ophthalmology resident every quarter, two optometry residents, one surgical coordinator, four full-time technicians, two or three optometry externs every quarter, one visually impaired service team coordinator, one blind rehab outpatient specialist, and two scheduling clerks. The staff members work daily with the other hospital services. Additionally, daily interaction with the Gainesville optometry and ophthalmology clinics occurs through the networked computerized patient record system or by telephone.

The eye clinic consists of 13 examination lanes, one special testing room, one treatment/laser room, one optical shop, and five offices. All rooms are fully equipped to provide comprehensive primary care to patients. The residents are provided an exam room and computerized workstation solely for their use. Additional equipment includes the following:

- *Low-vision charts and assorted low-vision optical devices*
- *Tangent screen and Humphrey field analyzer II (2)*
- *Cirrus HD-OCT and Topcon retinal camera*
- *Bausch and Lomb orbscan and Nidek MP1 analyzer*



- *Zeiss IOL Master and I 3 System-ABS*
- *Sonomed E-Z Scan and Haag-Streit CM900 anterior segment camera*
- *Retinomax handheld auto refractor/keratometer*
- *Icare tonometer and Kowa cordless slit lamp*
- *Tonoref II auto refractor/keratometer/tonometer*
- *Tomey EM-3000 specular microscope*
- *Gentle Max laser and Zeiss YAG II plus*
- *Zeiss argon laser and Marco brightness acuity tester*
- *Marco potential acuity meter and DGH handheld pachymeter*
- *Oculus exophthalmometer*
- *Prodigy II 2200 electric blood pressure meter and cuff and tonopens*

The Lake City VAMC is one of four veterans' administrations to have a program called the VICTORS program, which stands for Visual Impairment Center to Optimize Remaining Sight and is an interdisciplinary outpatient program utilizing a team approach to vision rehabilitation. A team of ophthalmologists, optometrists, social workers, audiologists, and occupational therapists works collaboratively to help veterans stay independent longer. The program provides an ocular health examination and a functional low-vision examination, followed by a rehabilitation session using devices prescribed in the low-vision examination.

When the residents are not in the low-vision clinic, they perform 10 or 11 examinations per day in Lake City or assist in the ophthalmology retina clinic at the Gainesville VAMC. Additional activities include presenting at two different VISN 8 Optometry Resident Grand Rounds as well as at NSU's Optometry Resident Grand Rounds, journal review presentations, four-hour interdisciplinary rotations for a minimum of 24 hours, and attendance at multidisciplinary grand rounds as part of the Geriatric Research, Education, and Clinical Center (GRECC). The residents may also attend one major educational meeting (i.e., AAO, SECO, AOA) at their own expense during the year and meetings of the North Central Florida Optometric Society. Each resident must prepare a manuscript of publishable quality in order to successfully complete the residency program.

**For more information on the Lake City VAMC Optometry Residency Program, please contact Dr. Wendy McGonigal at (386) 755-3016, ext. 7500 or via email at [wendy.mcgonigal@va.gov](mailto:wendy.mcgonigal@va.gov).**



# Continuing Education Update

## CE BRIEFS

Continuing education kicked off in 2013 with New Orleans fanfare. The event was well received from an educational and vacation vantage point, so look for future events in the Big Easy. The 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Eye Care Conference and Alumni Reunion will have taken place by the time this issue has gone to print, making history for our alumni since this was the first reunion to honor two milestone graduating class years—1993 and 2003.

*Workcation* is an urban term for combining work and vacation, and St. Simons Island in Georgia affords both. Doctors can meet their educational needs at this July 26-28 conference, bring their families, and enjoy the beach as well as The King and Prince Beach and Golf Resort, which is located an hour south of Savannah. Joseph Sowka, O.D., will be the lead speaker for this conference, which includes 18 hours of COPE- and Florida Board-approved continuing education. Additional information can be found at: <http://optometry.nova.edu/ce/novaseeb/>.

The College of Optometry and The Shepard Broad Law Center, in conjunction with the NSU Alumni Association, will be hosting a Royal Caribbean weekend cruise during the first quarter of 2014. The cruise will be open to all NSU alumni, employees, families, and friends. Continuing education will be offered for both optometrists and attorneys, along with festive social events that all can enjoy. For dates and pricing, please refer to our Web site in early July at <http://optometry.nova.edu/ce/index.html>.

NSUCO is in the final stages of planning 2014 continuing education events, which will offer some new destinations as well as the popular Orlando conference that has become a signature event. Stay tuned to future issues of *The Visionary* for dates and locations.

## Partners in Education

We gratefully thank our Partners in Education for their continuing support of the college's students, faculty members, alumni, and continuing education programs.

**Alcon**

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Quality Products for Health and Well-Being

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**LUXOTTICA** The Working Together Group

**essilor**

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Perfecting Vision. Enhancing Life.®



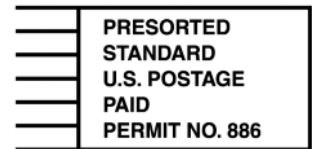
## Calendar of Events

**JULY 26-28, 2013**  
NSU SEE Beach  
St. Simons Island, Georgia

**AUGUST 18, 2013**  
Super Sunday 2013  
Orlando, Florida

**SEPTEMBER 21-22, 2013**  
Annual Fall Conference  
Fort Lauderdale, Florida

**FEBRUARY/MARCH 2014**  
Alumni Cruise  
Royal Caribbean Florida Programs



## NSU Alumni Cruise Set for February 2014



The NSU Alumni Cruise, which will take place February 20-24, 2014, on Royal Caribbean's *Liberty of the Seas*, will depart from Fort Lauderdale to Cozumel, which is the only port of call on the cruise agenda. The NSU Alumni Association will be extending an invitation to all NSU employees, alumni, and friends to join the fun.

For those affiliated with the College of Optometry, eight hours of continuing education will be offered. More information will be forthcoming this summer regarding cabin rates and entertainment, so stay tuned—this is sure to be the highlight event of NSUCO's 2014 CE offerings.

The Doctor of Optometry Program at the Nova Southeastern University College of Optometry is fully accredited by The Accreditation Council on Optometric Education (ACOE). The ACOE (243 N. Lindbergh Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri; telephone number 800-365-2219) is the accrediting body for professional degree programs offered by all optometric institutions in the United States.

Nova Southeastern University is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges to award associate's, baccalaureate, master's, educational specialist, doctorate, and professional degrees. Contact the Commission on Colleges at 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097 or call 404-679-4500 for questions about the accreditation of Nova Southeastern University.

Nova Southeastern University admits students of any race, color, sex, age, nondisqualifying disability, religion or creed, sexual orientation, or national or ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school, and does not discriminate in administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, scholarship and loan programs, and athletic and other school-administered programs.