



NFOS NEWS

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NATIONAL FEDERATION OF OPTICIANRY SCHOOLS

Special points of interest:

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A Word from our President

NFOS President's Report June 2008

I hope you all have had a successful year and will be enjoying a break this summer. There is one item you may want to address before your departure. Please plan to attend the fall NFOS Meeting in Cincinnati. We will meet on Thursday, September 18th from 11:00 to 4:00pm. This will allow plenty of time to participate in the ABO-NCLE National Education Conference on Friday through Sunday. We will be sending out registration information in the next few weeks. We are the conference's academic partner and many NFOS faculty will be providing instruction. The conference is also providing space and refreshments for an NFOS Alumni Reunion Evening on Saturday, September 20th. Each school will have a table in a large ballroom. I hope you will encourage all you alumni to attend. The conference will help with alumni mailing materials and cost. It is a great opportunity to get in touch with your alumni. Please contact Craig Norman at craignorman@aol.com for more information.

I hope to see you all in Cincinnati!

Sincerely,

Bill Underwood

Commission on Opticianry Accreditation Summer 2008 Update

At the spring 2008 COA meeting three programs received reaffirmation of accreditation. Congratulations to the programs at DeKalb Technical College, Erie Community College, and Seattle Central Community College on their reaffirmation of accreditation. Three programs hosted on-site visits this past spring and will be considered at the fall COA meeting; three more are scheduled for the fall semester 2008.

The COA annual program fee notices have been mailed. The fee for the academic year 2008-09 is \$1,125, and will increase to \$1,250 for the academic year 2009-10. These increases were approved by the Commissioners in March 2007, and can be found on the COA website, <http://coaccreditation.com/forms.html>. This year the due date for the annual program fee is November 1 instead of October 1, to give a little more time for those who are not on campus during the summer months.

Those of you who attended the fall 2007 NFOS meeting know that the COA is in the process of reviewing the *Essentials*, the document that contains the requirements for an accredited program. This time the revisions will be done in two parts.

1. Part I is changes that were requested by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA), and are largely formatting and semantics. Early in June I e-mailed the changes for the degree *Essentials* to the COA accredited degree programs and for the laboratory *Essentials* to the COA accredited laboratory programs. Please let me know if you did not receive this notice, or have comments about the changes. If there are no objections to the changes they will take effect on September 1, 2008.
2. Part II of the proposed changes will be distributed in September, and will include some changes proposed during the NFOS review last November. Any comments that are received back in the COA office by October 15th will be considered by the Commissioners at the October meeting, at which time the changes will be approved or disapproved.

Many of the Commission's other documents have been updated to include the changes requested by CHEA. COA's response to CHEA's initial review of our documents is due on September 1, and will be reviewed by them in November.

As you all know by now, the COA is still looking for a program that is using COA accreditation as an eligibility requirement for non-HEA student or programmatic funding. Please contact me immediately if you have such a funding link. This link is required if the COA is to continue the application for recognition by the US Department of Education.

Those programs that submit their annual reports in the fall will have a due date of October 1, 2008. I will send out individual e-mail reminders about September 1.

Thanks to generous gifts from members of the NFOS, several state societies, the NFOS, OAA, and NAO, on May 31 the COA ended its 2007-08 fiscal year in the black. The list of contributors can be found on the COA website at <http://coaccreditation.com/contributors.html>.

Of course, now it is time to start the process again. Last year I sent fundraising letters to about 40 eye care related companies, and several informed me that they give to organizations identified by their employees. For those who are connected in any way to an eye care company, consider asking the appropriate person for a donation to the COA. In the same way, for those connected to a state opticianry society, please consider asking for a donation to the COA. If I can help in any way, particularly in providing information about the COA, let me know. The COA is a charitable organization for IRS purposes, and donations are tax deductible.

The COA has a new address; it is PO Box 208, Hillsborough, NC, 27278. Please change your records to this address. The COA's telephone and fax numbers have not changed.

I will be on a summer vacation soon. During this time Teresa Dark will be available to handle any routine items that come up. During this time I will be working on the *Essentials* proposed changes, and I will be updating the Evaluator's Workshop presentation.

Respectfully submitted,
Ellen Stoner, Director of Accreditation
Ellen@COAccreditation.com
703 468-0566 voice, 888 306 9036 fax

NFOS SPRING MEETING 2008

NFOS members enjoyed a number of excellent presentations from leaders in our field during our Spring meeting in New York City. Craig and Ursula Norman presented an overview of the ABO-NCLE Education Conference scheduled for September 18-21 at the Duke Energy Center in Cincinnati, Ohio. The education program will feature speakers and hands-on courses. As an educational partner, NFOS faculty will participate in the hands-on component which will take place September 19-21, 2008. Special events include an Alumni Night planned for Saturday-September 20th. Graduates of NFOS schools are welcome to attend. For conference information visit www.ABO-NCLE-conference.com.

The Normans also presented the Bausch and Lomb Educator's Community Website. The website provides access to lectures, videos, slides, supplies and lenses. NFOS members may access the site at www.bauscheducators.com.

Dr. Richard Clompus of the Vision Care Institute discussed culturally competent eye care as NFOS faculty viewed excerpts from a DVD produced by SECO International. The Cultural Diversity in Eye Care DVD is funded and is available through the Vision Care Institute.

The first vision media team of Ed DeGennaro, Debbie Corvo and Frank Giammana presented two new teaching modules – *Modern Eyewear Dispensing* and *Photochromic Lenses*. A fourth module featuring *Anti-Reflective Coatings* is proposed for fall release. News of a student career fair scheduled for Saturday-November 1, 2008 was announced. At the completion of the live career fair, the event will be archived through mid 2009 with links available from www.totallyoptical.com.

Transitions consultant, Mary Seguiti encourages schools to participate in the Transitions Healthy Sight for Life Scholarship Program. She notes that a new Transitions CD is available to NFOS members through Transitions Optical.

NFOS SPRING MEETING 2008 (Continued)

Ellen Stoner, Director of COA indicated that NFOS schools should expect to receive correspondence from COA involving two important matters. One issue involves identifying NFOS schools which have used COA Accreditation in application for non-HEA funding. Another correspondence will be sent regarding school statistics. Your cooperation with these COA matters is important!

NFOS election of officers was held reaffirming current board members for the new term including the reappointment of Randy Smith as Executive Manager.

2008 Elected NFOS Board Members:

President	Bill Underwood
Vice President	Kristi Green
Secretary	John Godert
Treasurer	Sam Henderson

Thank you to our NFOS Executive Board and Executive Manager and to all of our NFOS Faculty Members and Industry Partners for their support of our mission this academic year.

ABO-NCLE EDUCATION CONFERENCE COURSES

SEPTEMBER 18-21, 2008

1. Lensometer Part 1 (Spheres/Cylinders) and Part 2 (Adds/Prisms)-1 hr each on Friday, Saturday and Sunday.
2. Managing in Office Repairs – 1 hr on two of three days.
3. What Are All The Adjustment Tools and How Do I Use Them? - 1 hr on two of three days.
4. Mastering Lens Measurements (PDs, Progressive and Bifocal and OC heights) – 1 hr on Friday, Saturday and Sunday.
5. Frame Adjustments, Including Rimless Styles – 1 hr on Friday, Saturday and Sunday.
6. Frame Styling – 1 hr on Friday, Saturday and Sunday.
7. Using Low Vision Devices – 1 hr on two of the three days.
8. In-Office Lens Manufacturing (Surfacing, Edging, Tinting) – 2 hrs on Friday, Saturday and Sunday.
9. Taking Corneal Measurements (Keratometry, manual/automated) – 2 hr on Friday, Saturday and Sunday.
10. Application and Removal and Lens Care – 1 hr on Friday, Saturday and Sunday.
11. Slit Lamp Part 1 (Bulbs, filters, etc.) and Part 2 (Illuminations) – 1 hr each on Friday, Saturday and Sunday.
12. Slit Lamp Photography – 1 hr on one day.
13. How To Use Fresnel Prisms – 1 hr on one day.

COLLEGE BOWL 2008

College Bowl Preliminary Rounds were held on April 10, 2008 to determine the eight national finalists. The final competition was held on April 11, 2008 at Jacob Javits Convention Center. Co-chairs Robert Russo, Kristi Green and Jim Reese did a spectacular job of organizing an exciting event again this year.

This year's winner Timothy Ho from Erie Community College received a certificate and \$500 award from Danne Ventura of Essilor of America. The NFOS is pleased to recognize Essilor of America as the Opticianry College Bowl Sponsor.

Congratulations to all of our NFOS College Bowl Contestants!

Lida Roderick	Middlesex Community College
Phillip Hamrick	Durham Tech
Peter Anagnostov	New York City Tech
Paul Mason	Tri Service Opticians School
Tara Esola	Camden County College
Victoria M Arellano	Essex County College
Christopher Rahe	Ben Franklin Institute
Will Rincon	Hillsborough
Doug Blaylock	J Sargeant Reynolds
Timothy Ho	Erie Community College
Nancy Jarin	Roane State

TRANSITIONS HEALTHY SIGHT FOR LIFE
2008 US OPTICIANRY SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Once again Transitions Optical offered \$500 Scholarships to outstanding opticianry students through the Healthy Sight for Life Fund. The fund was established to help ensure a better understanding and achievement of healthy sight. We appreciate Transitions Optical's continued commitment to opticianry education. A special thanks to Carole Brattieg for her professional support and encouragement of our next generation of eyecare professionals.

2008 U.S. Opticianry Student Awardees:

1. Marian Considine from Erie Community College
Healthy Sight Counseling For Baby Boomers
2. Brenda Lainez from Miami Community College
Dade Road To Healthy Eyesight
3. Carole LoVerso from Erie Community College
The Optician's Role In Patient Health Care (Poster)
4. Zolia Regalado from DeKalb Technical College
No Need To Compromise Your Visual Acuity
5. Brittany Bishop from Baker College
The Importance of Sunglasses

Five additional scholarships will be awarded in September for Canadian Schools.

NFOS PHOTO GALLERY



Ophthalmic Dispensing Students from Roane State Community College enjoy a picnic lunch



Roane State Community College enjoyed a successful visit from the COA on-site team during the Spring 08 Semester

(Pictured left to right)

Jeannie Branum— Roane State Allied Health Science Division Secretary

Robert Russo— Team Chair of the on-site committee

Dr. Howard Steed— Public Member of the Commission

Ms. Karla Sasse— Owner, Findlay Optical of Findlay, Ohio



New York State Society of Opticians Regional Directors congratulate Erie Community College student Nicholas Geschwender with the 2008 NYSSO Scholarship Award. (from left, Mickey Topliffe, Art Tardaro, Nicolas Geschwender and Les Varin)



Ophthalmic Dispensing Senior Yelena Korsak is joined by College President Jack Quinn at the Foundation Scholarship Ceremony at Erie Community College in May 2008.



Congratulations 2008 Ophthalmic Dispensing Graduates of Roane State Community College

The last word...

Congratulations to Kristi Green of J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College and her husband Mike on the birth of their son Jacob.

On a recent trip to his home town of Buffalo, NY, Michael Goggin of Roane State Community College visited John Godert at their Alma Mater, Erie Community College. Colleagues Mike and John had lunch together at Grovers Restaurant, which aside from being voted for serving the best burgers in Buffalo, was once the hunting lodge for President Grover Cleveland ...a little hometown trivia.

Hope to see everyone in Cincinnati in September

Have a safe and enjoyable summer!