



# NFOS NEWS

VOLUME 3, ISSUE 11

JUNE 2011

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF OPTICIANRY SCHOOLS

## A Word from our President

I am thrilled to share that NFOS is in the best financial shape it has been in many years! As Randy says “we finally have a reason to have a budget!” This is partly due to the unwavering support from several sponsors that have been committed to our mission for years, as well as the addition of some newly welcomed sources! Although we are currently on a “fiscal high”, please know that I am determined to make every dollar stretch as far as possible to further the progress of our initiatives:

Faculty mentoring / Succession planning

‘How To’ guide for new programs

Curriculum Review

Special points of interest:

- *President’s Message*
- *Spring Meeting Review*
- *Student Awards*

As a reflection of our focus on faculty mentoring and membership growth, we have allocated a portion of this money to our newly created **NFOS Faculty Travel Grant** program. Faculty that do not have the ability to attend a meeting due to financial concerns can apply for this travel grant.

At this past June meeting we dove head strong into the 1<sup>st</sup> stage of development of the “How To” guide for new programs. During the meeting it was decided to incorporate components of the faculty mentorship and succession planning into the guide as a chapter for newly appointed program directors to follow. We were able to fit two productive brainstorming sessions into our sponsor presentation packed agenda and I came back with a laundry list of items that I can’t wait to sink my teeth into.

Inside this issue:

Spring Meeting 3

COA Report 4

Transitions Scholarships  
10-12

Let’s not also forget all the fantastic opportunities that are available for our students! Please be reminded to share the following grants, awards and scholarship opportunities with your students every chance you get!

Student Memberships (NAO, OAA, CLSA)

Transitions’ Students of Vision Scholarship (open to both 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> year students)

Hoya e-Poster scholarship. (open to both 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> year students)

Beverly Myers Award

Essilor’s DCRP Award

NFOS College Bowl Competition (*new this year - Student Travel Grants!! more to come...*)

***Make your travel plans now!*** Our next meeting will be held in conjunction with the ABO/ NCLE National Education Conference in Ohio Sept 8-11, 2011. The executive board firmly agrees that our partnership with ABO/NCLE for this meeting is not only financially beneficial but also provides a venue for national exposure. **Our board meeting will be Thursday, September 8<sup>th</sup>, 2011.** Please plan to arrive Wednesday night or 1<sup>st</sup> thing Thursday AM if possible so you do not miss any of the meeting! We will be sending out registration forms by late July with details.

If there are any project ideas or suggestions for improvement, please feel free to contact me or another member of your executive board at anytime. We truly value your input.

Wishing you and your families a wonderful summer,

Your President Kristi Green

# NFOS SCHOOL NEWS

---

## **J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College/Kristi Green**

The Virginia Department of Education provides awards to outstanding educational partners within the Career and Technical fields each year. Luxottica Retail and JSRCC were honored at an award luncheon on June 16th, 2011 in Richmond VA. Luxottica was given an award by the Virginia Department of Education in the "Business and Industry Partnership" category for their corporate sponsorship and student clinical agreements with J. Sargeant Reynolds CC.

### **Student News:**

NAO highlighted a star among the 2011 graduates of JSRCC in it's latest newsletter issue. Andrea Edwards was recognized for her enthusiasm and passion for opticianry. She is also our 2011 College bowl contestant and winner of the Essilor DCRP Award for outstanding performance in dispensing.

Ashraf Karimi was the winner of our Hoya E-Poster contest and \$500 award. She is in the running for the regional competition and we will her the very best of luck!

### **Past-Member news:**

Edward DeGennaro was honored as with the "Optician of the Year" award at the Opticians Association of Virginia convention in April this year. Ed has given freely of his time and vast knowledge to our state society and JSRCC. JSR faculty were honored to be part of presenting the award to him at the meeting.

---

## **Erie Community College/John Godert**

Congratulations to graduates Nisha Patel and Justin Edwards on receiving Contact Lens Society of America Foundation 2011 Scholarship Awards. The students were awarded complementary registration, accommodations and transportation to attend the CLSA Annual Education meeting in Austin, Texas in April. Upon return to school, Nisha and Justin shared with classmates and faculty the incredible mentoring and learning they experienced at the CLSA meeting.

The winner of the 2011 Hoya E-Poster award is Brianna Hulburd for her presentation on Progressive Addition Lenses. Brianna will be awarded \$500 and an opportunity to compete in the regional competition.

Graduates Cynthia Epstein and Brianna Hulburd were awarded \$500 Transitions Student of Vision Scholarships for their presentation on "Multicultural Vision".

Assistant Professor Kathleen Sweet retired in May after teaching in the Ophthalmic Dispensing Department for 30 years. Faculty and students wish Kathy a healthy and happy retirement!

The department completed COA re-accreditation self-study and on-site visit in April. Thanks to the COA team of Diane Drake, Skip Rivard and Robert Russo for their diligence during the visit.

---

## NFOS Spring Meeting June 2-4, 2011

By: John Godert

Our spring meeting was held June 2-4 in Durham, NC. This year's meeting was scheduled later than usual to avoid conflict with end of semester faculty responsibilities. Attendance was excellent with 27 member participants. It was great to meet new members. A warm welcome to Desiree Lewis-Nelson of J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College; Dennis Prescott of Highline Community College; Evangelina Laboy of Ben Franklin Institute of Technology; Ricardo Trevino of Tri-Service Opticians and Lydia Wang De Jesus of Hillsborough Community College.

Thursday arrivals were treated to a reception sponsored by First Vision Media Group. As always, it's great to reconnect with members after a busy school semester. Thanks to Ed DeGennaro and Frank Giammanco for joining us and supporting the evening event.

On Friday morning it was back to business as usual. Presentations began with Mary Seguiti and Cheri Guy, representing Transitions Optical. Mary announced the 2010 Transitions "Students of Vision Scholarship" winners. Later that morning, Mike Elton of Hoya Vision Care highlighted Hoya's new Student Scholarship Program. Mike noted that the 36 NFOS schools are divided into 4 groups. Each school participating will select a winner. There will also be a winner selected from each of the 4 groups, who will be sponsored to attend the ABO/NCLE Education Conference. Additionally one of the 4 regional winners will be selected to receive a \$2500 award. Upon request, a Hoya Representative is available to visit your school to talk with students about the program.

Frank and Ed of Vision First Media discuss a new "Partners in Learning" module on Trivex which is being produced with support from PPG. The "Day One" e-newsletter will be available again as a communication tool for our new graduates. John Doran, Trade Communications Director for Luxottica, joined the meeting on Friday to provide an overview of Luxottica's [luxandme.com](http://luxandme.com) website. During the special projects session, Kristi Green lead group discussion on 2 initiatives - succession planning and creating a "How to Guide" on development of new opticianry programs.

On Saturday, Randy Smith distributed thumb drives of a new "Optician Careers" video. The video was provided by the Vision Council. The Vision Council has given the NFOS permission to add school program information to the last slide for recruitment purposes. If you are interested in receiving a copy, please send an email to [godert@ecc.edu](mailto:godert@ecc.edu). We were fortunate to have Debby White, Director of COA join us on Saturday. The COA is seeking on-site evaluators from among the membership. For more information, visit the workshop link at [coaccreditation.com](http://coaccreditation.com).

As we wrapped up business and committee work, we encourage members to get involved! With "Go to meeting" hopefully our committees will take advantage of the opportunity to meet throughout the year.

Thanks to members and industry friends for your participation. I look forward to seeing you at the fall meeting in Cincinnati!



## Commission on Opticianry Accreditation Summer 2011 Update

### COA News:

The Commission on Opticianry Accreditation currently accredits 20 degree and 2 laboratory certificate programs. The Commissioners had a successful meeting in April, held in Denver. One important outcome of that meeting was the decision to offer any school not currently accredited a financial incentive by applying the \$500 application fee to the first year accreditation fee. There are two schools who have sent in applications for initial accreditation. The Commissioners also elected Amy Lewis to serve another year as Chair, with James Reece as Vice Chair, and Renato Cappuccitti as Treasurer. The Commissioners reviewed parts of the Essentials, and propose the following changes: 1) adding a Social Science to the Behavioral Science requirement; recommending an instructor/student ratio of 1:40 in lecture settings and 1:14 in lab/clinical settings. Two retiring Commissioners (Jayne Weinberger and Danne Ventura) will be greatly missed, and are being replaced by Jeffrey Rohlf (OAA) and Jonathan Parrelli (NAO).

For those programs on the Fall Annual Report list - your Annual Report is due by September 15. Accreditation fees for all are due Nov. 1.

Director Debra White attended the June NFOS meeting. She gave the NFOS members updates on COA happenings, and presented an Evaluator's Workshop.

Many new evaluators came from that, adding a greatly-needed number to the educator evaluator list for on-site visits. Anyone not present at that meeting can take the Evaluator's Workshop found on [coaccreditation.com](http://coaccreditation.com). The Essentials require that one member on an on-site team be an educator. There are four on-site visits slated for fall 2011.

Any questions can always be directed to the Commission office at 703-468-0566 or [director@coaccreditation.com](mailto:director@coaccreditation.com).

Debra White  
Director of Accreditation  
Commission on Opticianry Accreditation  
[director@coaccreditation.com](mailto:director@coaccreditation.com)



## NEW YORK CITY COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY

THE CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

300 JAY STREET, BROOKLYN, NY 11201-1909

VISION CARE TECHNOLOGY  
718.260.5298 • Fax: 718.254.8521  
Email: rrusso@citytech.cuny.edu

# Vision Care Technology Students Honored at Spring 2011 Awards Ceremonies



Three outstanding New York City College of Technology students were honored during the spring semester hosted by the Department of Vision Care Technology Department. Pictured above, from left to right, Professor Robert Russo, department chair. Mr. Vincent Salerno and NYSSO representative Ms. Stephanie Gallo-Hess was presented with NYSSO's 2011 \$500 Future of Opticianry Scholarship Award in recognition of his academic achievements and promising future in the field at a ceremony on May 18.



## NEW YORK CITY COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY

THE CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

300 JAY STREET, BROOKLYN, NY 11201-1909

VISION CARE TECHNOLOGY  
718.260.5298 • Fax: 718.254.8521  
Email: russo@citytech.cuny.edu



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



## ECC Students Honored at Spring 2011 Awards Ceremonies



Cynthia Epstein is presented with New York State Society of Opticians Future of Opticianry Certificate and \$500 Award by NYSSO Region 1 Director Mickey Topliffe. Below : Region 1 Director Art Todaro presents Justin Edwards with the NYSSO Student Scholarship and \$250 Award. The awards were presented in May at the ECC Awards Ceremony.





## Luxottica Presents Donation to National Federation of Opticianry Schools at OAA Leadership Conference



John Doran, Director of Trade Communications for Luxottica Wholesale presents NFOS Members Jim Reese and Laurie Pierce with a donation of \$10,000. John emphasizes Luxottica's commitment to the NFOS and our mission. "As a proud supporter of Opticianry, Luxottica is pleased to partner with the National Federation of Opticianry Schools which plays a crucial role in the formal education of future opticians."

### Get "Hands-On" with Transitions!



For the first time ever, Transitions Optical has developed a turnkey workshop enabling instructors to perform hands-on photochromic learning experience for their students. This turnkey workshop is designed to help students explore the key performance factors considered when developing a photochromic product.

Students in the workshop will learn and see first-hand how photochromic lenses perform:

- In various temperatures
- With and without AR lens treatments
- Across a variety of lens materials and thicknesses

In various wavelengths of light

Transitions Optical provides all of the materials and lenses required to conduct all of the experiments. For the instructor, a step-by-step facilitator guide is provided with a professional developed presentation and presenter notes. For participants, Transitions also provides workbooks with powerful graphics and key point graphics that may be taken home at the completion of the workshop.

For more information on how to obtain this turnkey photochromic workshop for your school, please contact Cheri Guy at 1.727.545.0400 x7391, or email [cguy@transitions.com](mailto:cguy@transitions.com).



## 2012 TRANSITIONS OPTICAL STUDENTS OF VISION SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

SUPPORTED BY THE TRANSITIONS HEALTHY SIGHT FOR LIFE FUND, THE TRANSITIONS STUDENTS OF VISION SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM SUPPORTS THE NEXT GENERATION OF OPTICIANS, OPTOMETRISTS AND PARAOPTOMETRISTS.

### ENTER NOW

Being a leader in the optical industry can mean many things... Industry association leadership, community education leadership, or being a leader in a practice or office. Transitions Optical is considered a leader because we never stop pushing the boundaries of adaptive technology. How will you be a leader?



MULTI-MEDIA



ACTIVITY/EVENT



OTHER

DEVELOP A PROJECT – IN ANY FORMAT OR CATEGORY – THAT DEMONSTRATES HOW YOU WILL TAKE A LEADERSHIP ROLE AS AN EYECARE PROFESSIONAL.

#### REWARDING THE NEXT GENERATION OF EYECARE PROFESSIONALS

Projects will be judged in three categories: Multi-media, Activity/Event and Other. Top category winners receive \$1,000; additional winners receive \$500. The top Optician students will also win a trip to the ABO-HCLE National Educational Conference to be featured in the poster session.

#### SUBMIT YOUR PROJECT TO

[education@transitions.com](mailto:education@transitions.com) or  
Students of Vision Scholarship  
c/o Euro FSOG Worldwide PR  
4 PPG Plaza, 2nd Floor  
Pittsburgh, PA 15222

#### INCLUDE

1. Name
2. Phone Number
3. E-mail
4. Mailing Address
5. School
6. Category Being Entered



Transitions Healthy Sight

Projects must be submitted by March 10, 2012.  
Winners announced May 2012.

---

Visit [Transitions.com/Pro](http://Transitions.com/Pro) or  
contact Britney Gillison at [Britney.Gillison@eurofso.com](mailto:Britney.Gillison@eurofso.com)  
for additional information.

## Transitions Lenses: Healthy Sight Professionals

**CONTACT:** Courtney Myers  
Euro RSCG Worldwide PR  
(412) 456-4707  
or  
Mary O'Hara  
Transitions Optical, Inc.  
(727) 545-0400 ext. 7431



### **TRANSITIONS OPTICAL ANNOUNCES ITS 2011 STUDENTS OF VISION SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS AND THEME FOR 2012 PROGRAM**

#### ***Fifteen Winning Projects Demonstrate “Multicultural Vision”***

PINELLAS PARK, Fla., May 24, 2011 – Optometry and opticianry students from across North America submitted projects for the 2011 Students of Vision Scholarship from Transitions Optical, Inc. Supported by the Transitions Healthy Sight for Life Fund™, 15 entries demonstrating this year’s “Multicultural” theme were selected as scholarship winners.

To encourage creativity, projects were accepted in three categories: Activity/Event, Multi-media and Other. Six top category winners received \$1,000 scholarships and nine \$500 scholarships were also awarded. Additionally, the top six opticianry students will receive a trip to the ABO-NCLE National Education Conference in Cincinnati in September. While there, students will be able to attend education courses, and present their projects during the poster session. The 2012 program theme – “Leadership” – asks students to explore how they’ll be leaders in the optical industry.

“It’s essential that the next generation of eyecare professionals understand how to serve their culturally diverse patients,” said Cheri Guy, professional development manager, Transitions Optical. “The projects we received this year show that our students not only understand that the face of the nation is changing, but that they are ready to meet the individual needs of their patients when they enter the workforce.”

Students were encouraged to be creative as they explored their role in patient care relative to ethnically diverse patients. Projects included research papers, presentations, videos, posters and community outreach. Projects were judged by a group of Transitions Optical representatives, eyecare professionals and marketing specialists. Several of the winning projects will be uploaded to the scholarship section of Transitions Optical's professional website, [Transitions.com/Pro](http://Transitions.com/Pro), to share with industry professionals and other students. Students can also look there for more information on the 2012 program. Submissions for the 2012 scholarship are due by March 10, 2012. For more information, email [education@transitions.com](mailto:education@transitions.com).

### **Scholarship Recipients**

#### **Winning Entries**

Activity/Event category winner:

Yusufali Pirmohamed, Georgian College – Community Outreach Brochure

#### **Multi-media category winners:**

Avin Kishore, Douglas College – Video

Jermi Santos, Douglas College – Video

Natalie Nguyen and Nicole Pogue, University of Missouri - St. Louis – Video

Other category winners:

Ryan Nicholas, Western University of Health Sciences College of Optometry – Interactive Kiosk

Mariel Ruocco, Camden County College – Scrapbook

#### **Additional Winners**

Cynthia Epstein, Erie Community College

Ernesto Hernandez, American Career College

Brianna Hulburd, Erie Community College

Jessica Kopala, University of Missouri - St. Louis

Maryann Macchiaverna, Raritan Valley Community College

Tiffany McDaniel, Roane State

Zoila Regalado, DeKalb Technical College

Aaron Shurley, Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute

Lydia Wang-De Jesus, Hillsborough Community College

### About Transitions Optical

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

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

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

###



Winners of the Transitions Optical, Inc. 2011 Students of Vision scholarship program submitted a wide variety of projects – including PowerPoint presentations, books, brochures, videos and posters – demonstrating the “Multicultural” theme. Submissions for the 2012 scholarship, themed “Leadership,” are due by March 10, 2012.

**NOTE:** For high resolution versions of these images, or for additional images, please contact Christina Wetzel at [Christina.wetzel@eurorscg.com](mailto:Christina.wetzel@eurorscg.com) or (412) 456-4301.

## Spring Meeting Photos



At right: NFOS President Kristi Green Addresses the Federation during the Spring meeting.

Below: COA Director Debra White and Lydia Wang-DeJesus from Hillsborough Community College.



Enjoy a great summer!