

NFOS NEWS

VOLUME 3 ISSUE 6

NOVEMBER 2008

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF OPTICIANRY SCHOOLS

Special points of interest:

- *President's Message*
- *Fall Meeting Review*
- *NY City Tech Alumni Reunion*

A Word from our President

NFOS President's Report November 2008

I hope your fall semester is going well. It was great to see everyone at our meeting in Cincinnati. We have a couple of exciting opportunities for your students that I want to highlight. The first is the College Bowl which will be held in New York City in conjunction with our spring meeting and Vision Expo East. Bob Russo and his committee have already begun preparations for what should be a terrific event. Bob's school will host the preliminary round at 2:00pm on Thursday, March 26th. Our NFOS meeting will be held the same day starting at 9:00am. We are hoping to be able to provide rooms for Wednesday and Thursday nights for NFOS Schools and Students participating in the College Bowl. We will need to know by December if your school is planning on attending and sending a student. In a discussion at our last meeting we found that schools that have a local competition to determine a college bowl representative have been more successful in getting student participation. It was also suggested that using the Essilor Pupilometer Award as the local prize generates additional enthusiasm.

The second opportunity for students is the Transitions Optical Healthy Sight Scholarship. Details of this year's program will be sent out by December. The basic guidelines will not change so you can encourage your students to begin. In addition to the scholarship, the top five students will receive a trip to the ABO-NCLE Education Meeting in September.

I hope you will encourage your students to participate in the many programs available to NFOS Member Schools. Please e-mail if you have any suggestions.

Sincerely,

Bill Underwood

Inside this issue:

COA Report	2
College Bowl	6
Transitions Scholarships	5
Photo Gallery	9-15

Commission on Opticianry Accreditation
Fall 2008 Update on Activities

In late October the Commission held its semi-annual meeting in Durham, North Carolina. Among the items accomplished at this meeting:

1. Reaffirmation of accreditation was granted to:
 - a. The Ophthalmic Design and Dispensing Program at Middlesex Community College in Middletown, Connecticut.
 - b. The Opticianry Program at Ogeechee Technical College in Statesboro, Georgia.
 - c. The Opticianry Program at Roane State Community College in Harriman, Tennessee.The Commissioners congratulate the program directors and faculty for their excellent programs.
2. Annual reports and progress reports from nine programs were reviewed for compliance with the ***Essentials*** reporting requirements.
3. The latest ***Essentials*** review was completed with the approval of several changes to the document, which will become effective on January 1, 2009. The new document will be available on the Commission website, <http://COAccreditation.com>. By mid-November.
4. A new web-based ***Evaluator's Workshop*** was reviewed by the Commissioners. This will become available soon to anyone wishing to take it. When available, all current evaluators will be required to review it. The Commission requires all current evaluators to review the workshop every five years.
5. The Commission formed a Strategic Planning Committee.

Commission on Opticianry Accreditation
Fall 2008 Update on Activities (Continued)

6. Other updates:

- a. There was a reaffirmation on-site visit in October, and there will be two more in November. There are two reaffirmation on-site visits scheduled for spring 2009.
- b. The Commission continues with its application for recognition by CHEA (Council for Higher Education Accreditation). CHEA took over the 'quality assurance' role that the US Department of Education dropped about 10 years ago. CHEA is not the organization of choice for accrediting agencies that do not need recognition by the US Department of Education for federal funding. Information about CHEA, including those regional and programmatic accrediting agencies that it recognizes is available here: <http://CHEA.org>.
- c. The COA office is relocating to Indiana in early November. The new address is:
PO Box 142
Florence, IN 47020

The Commission continues to request financial support from the eye care community, individuals, companies and societies. Donations to the COA are tax deductible under the IRS rules for charitable organizations. Donations should be mailed to the above address. All donations will be acknowledged by letter and by listing on the Commission website.

Respectfully submitted,
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NFOS Fall MEETING 2008

Our Fall meeting was held in Cincinnati, Ohio on September 18-21, which coincided with the 2008 ABO-NCLE National Education Conference. Seventeen faculty members representing twelve NFOS programs participated in the business meeting on Thursday, September 18. The meeting included a COA update from Ellen Stoner, Director, Commission on Opticianry Accreditation.

On Friday, September 19, NFOS members participated in the ABO-NCLE National Education Conference. The conference included an education program, exhibit hall and special events. The NFOS served as academic partner providing hands-on training to conference participants. The hands-on activities included lead and assistant instructors and covered topics in frames, ophthalmic lenses, repairs, adjustments and measurements. Introductory and advanced contact lens topics were offered which included instrumentation. Members staffed the NFOS tables at the exhibit hall and offered assistance to conferees through "As the Tutor" sessions.

A highlight of the exhibit hall was the display of the Healthy Sight for Life Student Posters. Transitions Optical displayed posters of five NFOS students who were awarded Healthy Sight for Life Student Scholarships. Carol Bratteig of Transitions Optical was present to congratulate NFOS students.

In addition to continuing education and exhibit hall events, participants enjoyed getting together for the NFOS Alumni Reunion on Friday evening. The conference was particularly enjoyable as an event created by opticians for opticians. The Duke Energy Center offered a wonderful setting for the inaugural conference. Many NFOS members also enjoyed a taste of Cincinnati's outdoor Oktoberfest activities which were hosted nearby. Next year's conference is scheduled again for Cincinnati beginning a week earlier September 10-13, 2009.



TRANSITIONS HEALTHY SIGHT FOR LIFE

2008 NFOS STUDENT AWARDS

Congratulations 2008 U.S. Opticianry Student Awardees:

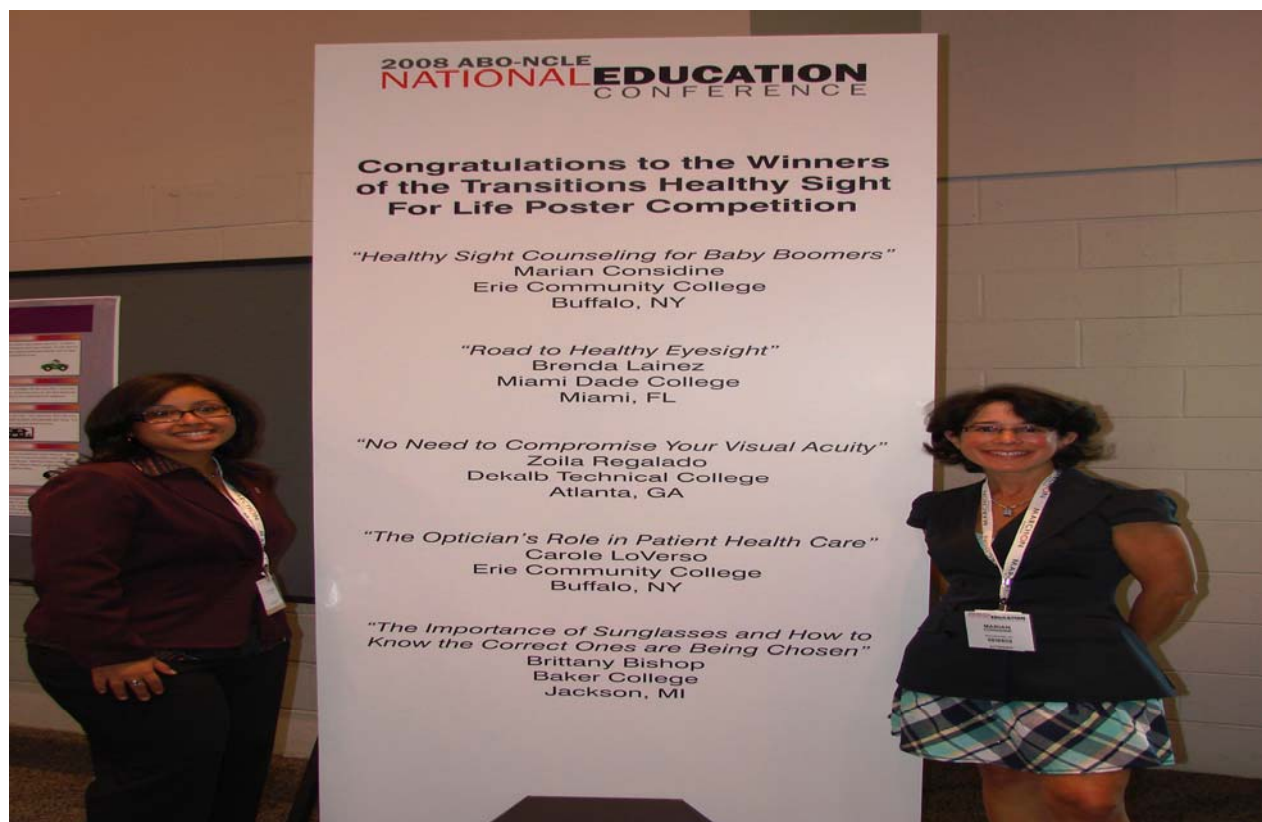
Marian Considine, Erie Community College

Brenda Lainez, Miami Dade Community College

Carole LoVerso, Erie Community College

Zolia Regalado, DeKalb Technical College

Brittany Bishop, Baker College



Pictured NFOS Students: Brenda Lainez, Miami Dade Community College (left) and Marian Considine, Erie Community College (right)

COLLEGE BOWL 2009

This year's NFOS College Bowl will once again take place at Vision Expo East on Friday, March 27 at 12:00 PM. The preliminary NFOS College Bowl event will take place at New York City College of Technology. This year the preliminary rounds will coincide with the 40th Annual Alumni Event at City Tech. Information about the event can be found in this newsletter. This year the NFOS College Bowl committee is made up of the following NFOS members: Robert J. Russo, Kristie Green, Raymond Dennis, Blair Wong, Jim Reese, and Laurie Pierce. Once again the format will include: Ophthalmic Fabrication, Ophthalmic Dispensing, Anatomy of the Eye, Optics and Contact Lenses. Faculty from member schools are welcome to submit questions. Questions should be in a word document format with answers. Questions can be sent to Robert J. Russo, email: rrusso@citytech.cuny.edu



Recognized for a winning Healthy Sight for Life Scholarship entry is Miami Dade student Brenda Lainez (on left) with Carole Brattieg of Transitions Optical at the ABO-NCLE



**NEW YORK CITY
COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY**

The City University of New York

300 Jay Street, Brooklyn NY 11201-1909



40th Anniversary Alumni Reunion

The Department of Vision Care Technology, formerly Ophthalmic Dispensing, at New York City College of Technology is celebrating “40 Years of Excellence” in opticianry education.

- Date: Thursday, March 26, 2009
- Where: New York City College of Technology
- Why: Past, Present and Future will come together, with our friends and supporters to celebrate and reminisce, and visit the department where it all began...
- Highlights: National Federation College Bowl Preliminaries
Complimentary CEC seminars
Vision Care Technology Department Tour
Historical Photo Presentation
Social Gathering with Wine and Cheese
Evening Buffet

Each attendee will receive a 40th Anniversary commemorative pin

We look forward to celebrating with our alumni, friends and industry supporters. Everyone is invited to this milestone celebration!

For more information please contact:

Professor Robert J. Russo, Chair

Email: rrusso@citytech.cuny.edu

News from our Schools



Roane State Community College students . Program Director Mike Goggin remarks that RSCC began the Fall semester with 33 students in freshman class...the most ever!



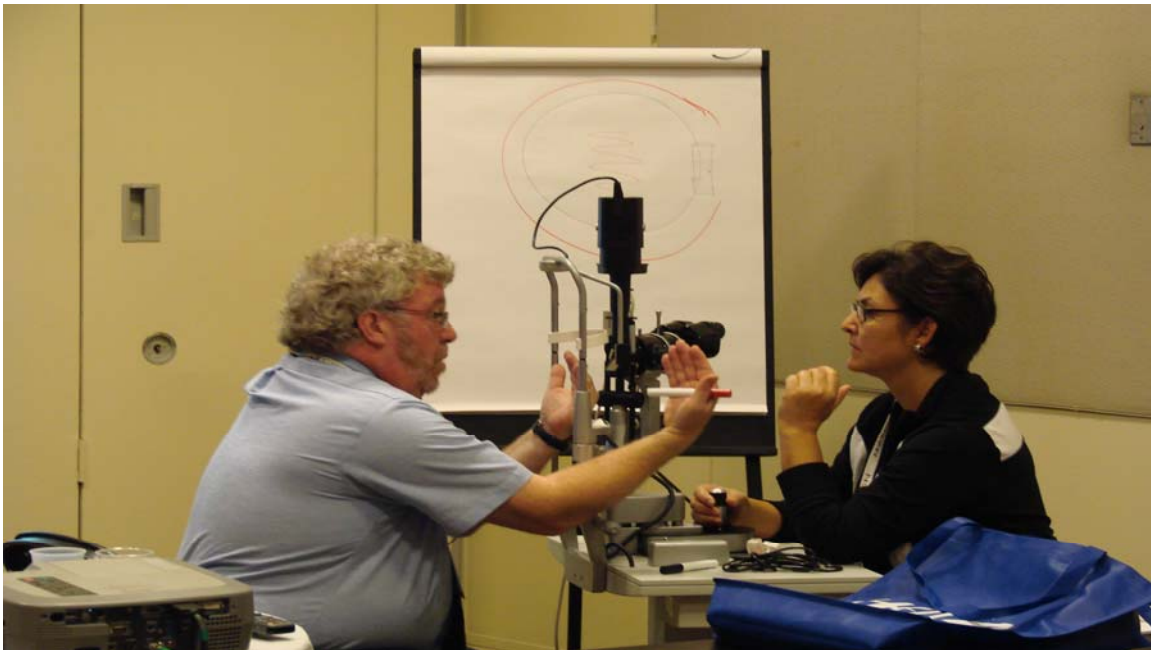
Erie Community College Foundation honored Ophthalmic Dispensing graduates John Alofs '81 and Edward Tomasik '56 as 2008 Distinguished Alumni. Pictured above: Corky Fratello, Margaurite Alofs, John Alofs and John Godert.

NFOS PHOTO GALLERY



ABO-NCLE National Education Conference “Hands on Sessions”





ABO-NCLE National Education Conference “Hands on Sessions”













Our bespectacled NFOS friends

The last word...

Congratulations to Jim Reese of Hillsborough Community College on the addition to your family! Jim and Jennifer had a baby boy.

**Best wishes to all of our NFOS Family
and Friends for a Healthy and
Happy Holiday Season.**

