

NFOS NEWS

VOLUME 3, ISSUE 10
NOVEMBER 2010

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF OPTICIANRY SCHOOLS

A Word from our President

November 2010,

Special points of interest:

- *President's Message*
- *Homeless Project*
- *Conference Highlights*

As I reflect over the whirlwind that has been my life as your president for the past 6 months, I continue to be in awe of what we can accomplish as a group. For those of you who could not attend the September meeting in Cincinnati, all I can say is - you really missed it! Please accept my sincere gratitude to all the members who worked so hard to make this meeting and college bowl event so fabulous. *YOU GUYS ROCK.*

Thanks to Craig, Ursula, Bob, Jim, Laurie and Sally the college bowl event reached new heights this year. In an effort to create greater excitement and support for the event, much of the college bowl was videotaped this year and a promotional video is being developed. I look forward to sharing that with you in the early part of next year.

This is also an exciting time for NFOS students. Essilor's student membership grant has been continued this year and includes OAA, CLSA, and NAO. I would strongly encourage each of you to promote this opportunity with your 2nd year students. Please be reminded that it is very important for us to be able to show sponsors significant participation on our part when they provide opportunities such as these for our students.

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In addition to the membership grant we have multiple student scholarships available this year, including: the Transitions' Students of Vision, the Beverly Myers Award, Essilor's DCRP award, and I am excited to announce this year Hoya is offering the largest student scholarship ever utilizing an e-Poster format. For more information on any of these scholarship programs, see page 15.

Make your plans now - Our next meeting has been tentatively planned for June 3-5, 2011 at Durham Technical College, NC. The fall 2011 meeting will again be held in conjunction with the ABO/NCLE National Education Conference in Ohio. 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.

While this is an exciting time for NFOS, it is not a time to rest. Past President Underwood and fellow members have expressed strong opinions regarding the direction our federation should focus energies. Initiatives I will be focusing on in the upcoming year include: the creation and support of opticianry programs in every state, faculty development and succession planning. You will be hearing more from me on these initiatives in the months ahead.

I am humbled and honored by the responsibility you have given me as your president. I am committed to the mission of our federation and look forward to an exciting term.

Wishing you and your families a safe and happy holiday season,

Kristi Green

NFOS SCHOOL NEWS

J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College/Kristi Green

J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College opticianry student, Melissa Perry, has been awarded 1st place for the 2010 National Academy of Opticianry's Beverly Myers Student Paper Award. Melissa's paper topic was "Retinopathy of Prematurity and Other Pediatric Retinal Diseases and the Long-Term Effects on Vision". JSRCC faculty are very proud of Melissa and her accomplishment!

Seattle Central Community College/ Gary Clayton

Last weekend, October 15-17, was the Opticians Association of Washington's (OAW) fall convention. This convention is focused on education for Licensed Opticians, students and apprentices. Student, Gina Demmerly, and LDO/Campus Optical's Julia Stinson attended. The Opticianry Student put together a basket to be raffled at the convention. The basket raised \$400 (the most money made on a basket that weekend). This money will be used to send more students to the OAW's Spring convention and to offer more educational opportunities.

The second year students, and Instructors Lynn Coffman, Julia Stinson and Christian Van Vliet participated in the Homeless Project at the Tacoma Dome on October 14, 2010. Together with many volunteers from organizations around the state they helped provide services to those who needed them. They worked to help provide free eyeglasses. Doctors were there to diagnose and prescribe, LensCrafters provided free eyewear, and our students were there to help give subjective and objective visual acuity tests, scribe doctors' assessments, provide help in frame selection, order prescription needs as recommended from the prescription, take measurements for glasses, help with patient movement through the stations, and of course provide answers and any help we could.





Additional photos of Seattle Central Community College opticianry students providing eyeglasses as part of the Homeless Project at the Tacoma Dome on October 14, 2010.



NFOS SCHOOL NEWS

Roane State Community College/Michael Goggin



Students working in the newly remodeled dispensing lab at Roane State Community College.



Roane State Community College students give a thumbs up as they are pictured here in front of their new frame displays.

ABO/NCLE NATIONAL EDUCATION CONFERENCE

SEPTEMBER 16-19, 2010

By John Godert

The conference began September 16th with the biannual business meeting of the National Federation of Opticianry Schools. In addition to committee business, the meeting included preparation for College Bowl, “hands-on” workshops and the “Transitions Skills Challenge” to be offered by NFOS faculty during exhibit hall hours.

The meeting included presentations from Transitions Optical, outlining the Students of Vision Scholarship 2011, which features a multicultural theme; First Vision Media, development of a new ophthalmic learning module; The Vision Council, describing a systems approach to anti-reflective lenses; Essilor’s continued support of College Bowl and donation of lens materials to NFOS schools; Jobson Publishing, developing educational resources for member schools; One Sight, detailing NFOS participation in fabrication of lenses for One Sight clinics and recent clinic in Paraguay; and PPG, an update on Trivex lens materials.

The weekend schedule included teaching “Hands-on Workshops” during the conference hours. In the Exhibit Hall, NFOS faculty offered 10 Minute Skills Challenges to conference attendees. Throughout the conference NFOS faculty participated in continuing education courses and “hands on” workshops.

One of the highlights of the conference was College Bowl in which eight NFOS opticianry students participated. The eight finalists were selected following previous preliminary rounds. This year’s National College Bowl winner was student Ramona Richardson of Erie Community College. The event honors all of the schools involved. It is a demonstration of excellence and collegiality among NFOS students. Many thanks to Bob Russo and to the College Bowl committee for all of their planning and hard work which helped to make this year’s College Bowl the best yet.

Following the College Bowl and just before the evening event commenced, the Dennis Tilley-Educator of the Year Award was presented. I was honored to be presented with this year’s award and wish to thank all of our NFOS members for their vote of confidence, continued support and friendship.

The success of this year’s ABO-NCLE Education Conference is the result of the efforts of many dedicated individuals. The conference participation of students, faculty, industry sponsors and partnering professional organizations has served to highlight the best that opticianry has to offer. Our special NFOS thanks to Craig and Ursula for their organization and creative support of the 2010 conference.

The winner of the NFOS- Essilor College Bowl 2010

Ramona Richardson: Erie Community College, NY

The other contestant included:

Sierra Andrews: Durham Technical Community College, NC

Lisbeth Aquino: Middlesex Community College, CT

Alan Cheung: New York City College of Technology Opticianry Program, NY

Shalimar Crayton: Benjamin Franklin Institute of Technology, MA

John Curran: Baker College of Jackson, MI

Gina Demmerly: Seattle Central Community College, WA

Samantha Marino: Cuyahoga Community College (Tri-C), OH

Becca Morton: Roane State College, TN

Ramona Richardson: Erie Community College, NY

Sandy Roberts: J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College, VA

Lydi Wand-DeJesus: Hillsborough Community College, FL

Time Keeper: Barb Smith, Michigan

Judges:

Tom Schultz: Dekalb Community College, GA

Sam Henderson: Southwest Indian Poly Technic, NM

Controller

Bob Russo: New York City College of Technology Opticianry Program, NY

Master of Ceremony

James P. Reese, Jr: Hillsborough Community College, FL

NFOS College Bowl Committee

Bob Russo: Chair

James P. Reese, Jr.

Laurie Pierce

Sally Stokes



Eight student College Bowl finalists on stage with emcee James Reese.

Professor John Godert is awarded
The National Federation of Opticianry Schools
“2010 Educator of the Year”



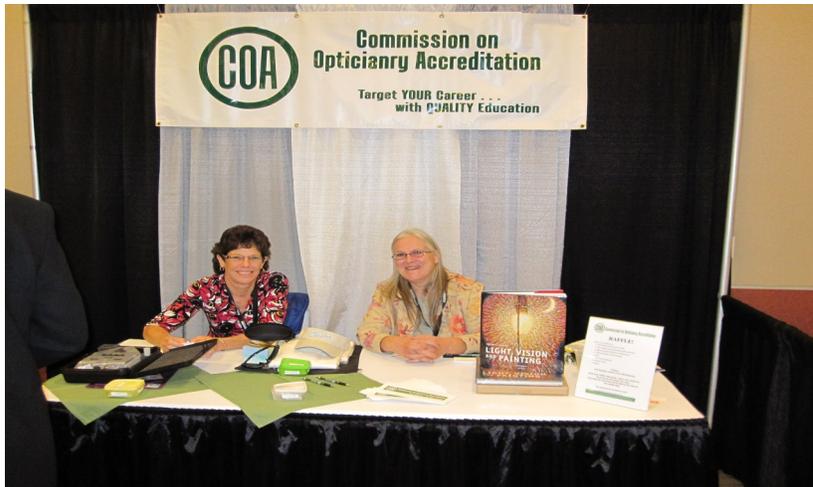
With College Bowl game face on John Godert is presented with Dennis Tilley Educator of the Year Award; pictured here with College Bowl Chair Bob Russo and NFOS President Kristi Green.

At the ABO-NCLE National Educational Conference in Cincinnati, Ohio on September 18, 2010, Professor John Godert, department head of the Ophthalmic Dispensing Program at Erie Community College, received the Dennis Tilley – Educator of the Year Award. The award was presented by the National Federation of Opticianry Schools and is presented to a faculty member in recognition of his/her distinguished service to opticianry education. In addition, a National Federation of Opticianry Schools award plaque will be shipped to the college for one year to be displayed and show all the previous winners from the past years.

NFOS Fall Meeting Highlights



NFOS President Kristi Green addresses conference attendees.



Conferees have an opportunity to meet with newly appointed COA Director Debra White (pictured left) along with former director Ellen Stoner.

NFOS Fall Meeting Highlights
September 16-19, 2010



Bob Russo assists a student during a frame alignment skills challenge.



College Bowl winner Ramona Richardson joins ECC Alumni.

ESSILOR OFFERS OPTICIANRY STUDENTS FREE MEMBERSHIP TO PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS FOR SECOND YEAR

Joint Venture Continues to Give Second Year Students the Opportunity To Join NAO, OAA and CLSA at No Cost

DALLAS – (Oct. 15, 2010) – After a successful first year, Essilor of America, the nation's leading manufacturer of optical lenses, announces the continuation of its program that provides second year students at National Federation of Opticianry Schools (NFOS) with the opportunity to join industry organizations at no cost. This year's program will once again include the National Academy of Opticianry (NAO) and Opticians Association of America (OAA) as well as new partner Contact Lens Society of America (CLSA). The program is a joint venture between all five parties and is funded by Essilor.

“Essilor is thrilled to continue to offer this exciting opportunity to a new class of opticianry students,” said Danne Ventura, director of professional services for Essilor of America. “We saw an overwhelming response to the inaugural program in 2009 and are proud to continue it in 2010 as part of our ongoing commitment to supporting the future of optometry. We are very pleased with the addition of the CLSA”

Second year students will have a six week window to sign up on the NFOS website, www.nfos.org. The students' names will then be shared with the NAO, OAA and CLSA for membership. Upon graduation, participating students will be offered discounted membership in all three professional organizations. For additional details, please visit www.nfos.org.

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COA update for NFOS Fall 2010

The Commission on Opticianry Accreditation (COA) was in attendance at the ABO Conference in Cincinnati in September. Many people visited the COA booth, and a silent auction/raffle was well-received, fun and a very successful fundraiser for the COA. It was exciting to see Ellen Stoner (past Director of COA) honored by both NAO and OAA at this meeting.

This past October the Commission held its semi-annual meeting in Atlanta, Georgia. Some important items that took place at the meeting:

- Welcoming of three new Commissioners: Diane Drake (NAO), Donna Hatch (OAA) and Public Member – Doreen Herron; and new Director of Accreditation: Debra White

- Review of the Essentials, which will soon be sent out for public review/comment

- Commissioners voted to discontinue the COA fax number. Lack of use and increased cost proved the fax outdated. Items that need to be sent to COA should be scanned, or mailed

- The Spring Data form that is completed by Program Directors is new and user friendly. It will be uploaded to the website in the near future.

- The Commissioners voted that all Annual Reports MUST use the Annual Report Template, located on the COA website.

- There is a new policy timeline for submission of Self Study Reports

- The COA wishes to attract opticianry programs who are currently not accredited by COA. Any NFOS school not currently accredited by COA is encouraged to contact COA with any questions on how to begin the accreditation process

Worthy of another mention, COA is recognized by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA). CHEA is the organization of choice for recognition of accrediting organizations that are not eligible for listing by the U.S. Department of Education. Special thanks to Essilor of America for contributing the recognition fee.

Last spring the Commissioners approved an Annual Fee increase to \$1,350 for the fiscal year 2011-2012, which will be due in the fall of 2011.

COA update
Fall 2010 (continued)

There are three reaffirmations of accreditation visits fall 2010, and potentially six during spring 2011. Each on-site must compose of at least one Commissioner, one educator and one other optical professional. The COA is always in need of more educators to fill the team member pool. If you have any desire to serve as an on-site evaluator, please take the Evaluator Workshop on the COA website, and submit the answers to the questions to Debra at director@coaccreditation.com.

The Commission depends on donations for about 1/3 of its annual budget. Donations to the Commission are deductible on your tax return as charitable donations. Donations by check are always welcome; the Commission also now takes credit card donations through PayPal from the website.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra White, Director of Accreditation

Commission on Opticianry Accreditation

PO Box 592

Canton, NY, 13617

<http://COAccreditation.com>

713- 468- 0566

director@COAccreditation.com

2011 Transitions Students of Vision Scholarship

Enter Now

Develop a project – any format – demonstrating your **Multicultural Vision**. Projects can be videos, educational presentations or engaging events.

Be creative! There is no limit as long as you explore your role in patient care relative to ethnically diverse patients.

Projects will be judged in three categories: Multi-media, Activity/Event and Other

Top category winners receive \$1,000; additional winners receive \$500

Submit Your Project To

education@transitions.com

or

Students of Vision Scholarship
c/o Euro RSCG Worldwide PR
4 PPG Place, 2nd Floor
Pittsburgh, PA 15222

Include

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

Projects must be submitted by March 10, 2011

Winners announced April 15, 2011

All Optometry, Opticianry and Para optometric students can enter.

Top five Opticianry students will also win a trip to the ABO-NCLE National Conference to be featured in the poster session.

For more information on culturally diverse patients, visit the multicultural section of www.Transitions.com/Pro



2010 Students of Vision Scholarship from Transitions Optical

Thirteen entries that demonstrated this year's "Focus on Children's Vision" were selected as the scholarship winners. Supported by the Transitions Healthy Sight for Life Fund, the scholarship program awarded 14 students from the U.S. and Canada.

Projects were judged by a group of Transitions Optical representatives, eyecare professionals and marketing specialists. To encourage creativity and a wide range of interpretations, projects were accepted in three categories: Activity/Event, Multi-media and Other. The Fund awarded six \$1,000 scholarships and seven \$500 scholarships. Additionally, the top six opticianry students will also receive a trip to the ABO-NCLE National Education Conference in Cincinnati in September. While there, students will be able to attend education courses, as well as present a summary of the winning entries at the posters session.

Scholarship Recipients

Winning Opticianry Entries

- First place in Activity/Event category: Yasmeen Beverly, Cuyahoga Community College – Story cube, Healthy Sight
- First place in Multi-media category: Mie Wada, Douglas College – Slide show, Healthy Sight for Children
- First place in Other category: Jelena Cakic, Cuyahoga Community College – PowerPoint presentation, Kids' Vision
- Additional winners: Heather Beun, Cuyahoga Community College; Leslie Ip, Raritan Valley Community College; Vanina Vazquez, Miami Dade College



Important Dates to Remember

Essilor sponsored student memberships which include National Academy of Opticianry (NAO), Opticians Association of America (OAA) and Contact Lens Society of America (CLSA)-deadline **December 3, 2010**

Crizal Digital Corneal Reflex Pupilometer Award Program – **Names should be submitted by February 1.** Faculty submits name of student based on school develop criteria. Student should possess strong dispensing interest and skills. Preferably with an interest in entering private practice.

2011 ABO-NCLE National Education Conference Schedule will be online **February 2011.**

Transitions Students of Vision – The theme for this year's projects is "Multicultural Vision". **Applications must be postmarked by March 10.** Projects will be judged by a panel of eyecare experts and winners will be announced by April 15. Projects will be judged in three categories: Multi-media, Activity/Event, Other. Category winners will receive \$1,000; additional winners will receive \$500. The top five opticianry students will win a trip to the 2011 ABO-NCLE National Education Conference in Cincinnati to be featured in the poster session.

International Vision Expo East at Jacob Javits Convention Center -Conference **March 16-20, 2011**

Contact Lens Society of America 56th annual Education Meeting **April 6-9, 2011** Sheraton Austin at the Capital-Austin, Texas.

Beverly Myers Award – **Paper submissions need to be received by the National Federation of Opticianry Schools by June 1, 2011.** The Entries selected by the National Federation of Opticianry Schools (NFOS) to be considered for an award should be submitted to National Academy of Opticianry (NAO) no later than June 30, 2011. Awards will be made at the Academy's Annual Business Meeting in Cincinnati, Ohio in September 2011. A first prize of \$1,000.00, second prize of \$500.00 and a third prize of \$250.00 will be awarded.

NEW Hoya Student Scholarship – This scholarship will be in the form of an e-poster contest. A student at each school will have a chance to win \$500, the top winners will go into a regional competition to win \$2,000 and a trip to the ABO/NCLE National Education Conference September 2011. The NFOS executive committee is currently working with Hoya representatives to determine how to split the member schools into the 3 regions. More details will follow soon.