



NFOS SCHOOL NEWS

SPRING 2019

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF OPTICIANRY SCHOOLS

A Word from our President

Our spring meeting at the historic Peabody Hotel in Memphis was well attended with 21 NFOS faculty present at the meeting. It was great to see many old and new faces at the meeting.

Special points of interest:

- *President's Message*
- *OAA Leadership Conference*
- *Roane State CC College Bowl Victory*
- *In Memory of Thomas Acara*
- *COA Update*
- *Retirement Celebration at HCC*

As a reminder in 2020, general elections for NFOS President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer will take place at our spring meeting. At our fall meeting at Vision Expo West, nominations for the above positions will be considered. In addition, the NFOS will need to look for someone taking over the NFOS College Bowl that will include, developing questions for the college bowl next year at Vision Expo East. The Chair of the committee should also work with an NFOS College Bowl committee in developing questions for the upcoming event. This is an important meeting at both Vision Expo West and the upcoming OAA Leadership conference in spring 2020. Dates and place to be determined.

At the end of spring 2020, I will be retiring from the college full-time and Bill Underwood will be retiring from Hillsborough Community College this summer. I would like to thank Bill for his national leadership and for all the work that he has done for the NFOS throughout the years.

At this time, I would like to welcome Daytona State College as the newest member of the NFOS. Mr. George Stanley is the current program director. George can be reached at: George.stanley@daytonastate.edu Please send an email to George and welcome him to the NFOS family

Inside this issue:

SUNY Erie faculty member honored

Raritan Valley CC students promote optical clinic

Goodwin College students participate in College Bowl

At Vision Expo East in New York City, the NFOS College Bowl returned to the "Big Apple." HOYA was the major sponsor for this year's event. I would like to thank Cheri Guy and Bob Alexander for working with the NFOS and making this year's event very successful. There were over 250 people in attendance with schools from New York, Connecticut, Tennessee, Florida, and Massachusetts competing. The competition started out slow but the pace picked and the crowd was really into the event. In the end, it was Zack Daniels from Roane State Community College who took home the trophy and the \$500.00 check to the winner. This was Rebecca Morton's first year as program director so what does she do for an encore next year? No pressure of course! I would also like to offer a special thanks to Ms. Rebecca Soto, Goodwin College for once again being our NFOS student liaison for the students. In addition, our NFOS faculty that attended did a great job as ambassadors to the NFOS/HOYA College Bowl and assisting our colleagues in our hands on workshops. Great Job everyone!!

This is an exciting time for the NFOS. Some of our goals for the future will be to increase school membership nationally and eventually offer a professional development weekend for those new faculty, program directors and state society members who wish to start a school in their state and learn about the world of academia and program development.

In closing, I am extending an invitation to all to participate and hopefully attend our future meetings. I hope everyone enjoys the rest of their school semester and you enjoy your upcoming summer break. If anyone has any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at information@nfos.org.

I hope to see everyone at Vision Expo West this fall in Las Vegas.

Best,

Bob

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF OPTICIANRY SCHOOLS

NFOS Meeting at OAA Leadership Conference

On Thursday, February 14 the NFOS had their spring meeting at the Peabody Hotel in Memphis, TN. Here are some pictures from the meeting.

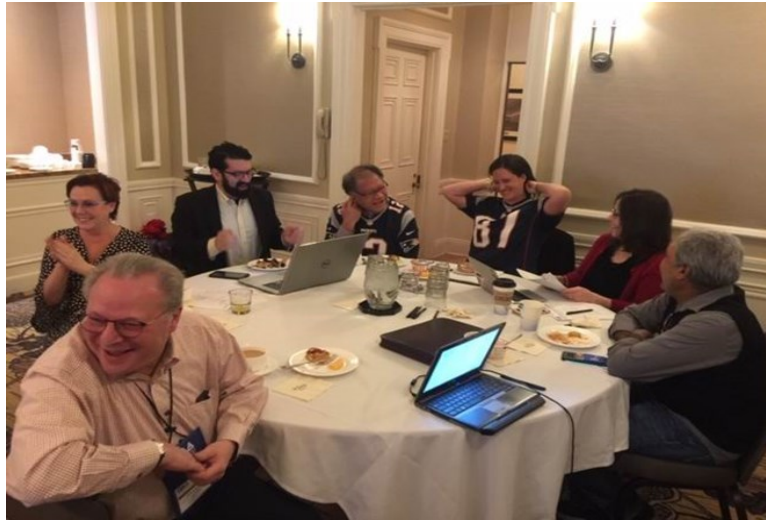


From right to left, George Bourque, BFIT Bill Underwood, Hillsborough, Roane State, Hannah McDaniel, Roane State, Deborah DeLoach, Ogeechee, Steve Lehrer, OANY, Laurie Pierce, Hillsborough,, Aarlan Aceto, Middlesex Community College, Blair Wong, BFIT, Kathryn Plante, BFIT, Maryann Santos, Goodwin College, Peter Pineandi, City Tech.



Leah Exline, J. Sargeant Reynolds, Doug Pelky, J. Sargeant Reynolds, Mary Seguiti, Secretary, NFOS, Joseph Sollecito, Treasurer, Bob Russo, President, NFOS

NFOS Meeting at OAA Leadership Conference



Bob Russo ...My New England friends letting me know that the Patriots were the Super Bowl Champs. Right to Left Steven Lehrer, OANY, Laurie Pierce, Hillsborough, Aarlan Aceto, Middlesex Peter Pineandi, City Tech.



Like a good sport, I can't believe I took a picture with Blair and Kathryn wearing their New England Patriot jerseys. I'll wait for baseball season, Go Yanks!!!!



**NFOS College Bowl Sponsored Returns to Vision Expo East
Student Opticianry Event Revived by Hoya Sponsorship**

LEWISVILLE, TEXAS, (March 25, 2019) Ophthalmic lens technology leader, HOYA Vision Care, was proud to sponsor the NFOS/HOYA College Bowl at OptiCon at Vision Expo East. The event was attended by more than 300 people.

"Working with the NFOS has been a terrific opportunity for Hoya to connect with the schools of opticianry and students," said Grady Lenski, Chief Marketing Office for HOYA Vision Care, North America. He continued, "We are looking forward to a long-term relationship and an even bigger event next year."

OptiCon @ Vision Expo East is the new home to the NFOS/HOYA College Bowl. The event was held on Saturday, March 23 with a pre-game reception in the EyeMax Theater at the Javits Center. Every attendee at the completion of the NFOS College Bowl received 1 ABO or NCLE credit.

The NFOS/HOYA College Bowl, is a competition modeled on "Jeopardy" that features questions in anatomy and physiology of the eye, ophthalmic dispensing, ophthalmic fabrication, contact lenses and optics.

The stakes were high! In addition to school bragging rights and the NFOS trophy being displayed for a year at the winning college, the winner takes home a \$500.00 first place prize. Students from eight schools participated in the event. This year's winner was Zachary McDaniel from Roane State Community College.

Congrats to Roane State 2019 College Bowl Winner Zachary McDaniel



Photo: From Left to Right NFOS President Bob Russo, College Bowl Winner, Zachary McDaniel, Program Director at Roane State Community College, Rebecca Morton, Cheri Guy, Manager of Professional Services for Hoya Vision Care.



NFOS/HOYA College Bowl at Vision Expo East 2019

After a twelve year absence, the NFOS/HOYA College Bowl returned to Vision Expo East. With the generous support from HOYA, this year's College Bowl was both exciting and entertaining for both student participants, NFOS faculty, current NFOS students, industry organizations and many eye care professionals. I would like to offer a special thanks to Cheri Guy and Bob Alexander from HOYA for making this year's event very successful.

There were over 250 people in attendance with schools from New York, Connecticut, Tennessee, Florida, and Massachusetts competing. The competition started out slow but the pace picked and the crowd was really into the event. In the end, it was Zack Daniels from Roane State Community College who took home the trophy and the \$500.00 check to the winner. Other students who competed were, Kenny Grooms, Hillsborough Community College, FL, Audra Poach, Middlesex Community College, CT, Joey Trentacoste, Miami-Dade College, FL, Lawrence Diebold, SUNY Erie, NY, Caitlyn Gibault, City Tech, NY, Carolyn Aloia, Goodwin College, CT and Evan Wong, BFIT, MA.



Zack McDaniel, Roane State Community College is presented with the NFOS College Bowl trophy by Ms. Cheri Guy, HOYA



From left to right, Rebecca Morton, Program Director, Roane State, Bob Russo, President of NFOS, Zack McDaniel and Cheri Guy, HOYA

A special thanks to Cheri Guy and Hoya and Bob Alexander for going above and beyond for this great event.

Congratulations to all of our NFOS Student Contestants



College Bowl contestants (from left to right) Joey Trentacoste, Miami-Dade College, FL, Zack McDaniel, Roane State Community College, TN, Lawrence Diebold, SUNY Erie, NY, Audra Poach, Middlesex Community College, CT, Kenny Grooms, Hillsborough Community College, FL, Caitlyn Gibault, City Tech, NY, Carolyn Aloia, Goodwin College, CT and Evan Wong, BFIT, MA.





NFOS Faculty at Vision Expo East, 2019



NFOS faculty at the OptiCon Hub (left to right) Doug Pelky, J. Sargeant Reynolds College, Aarlan Aceto, Middlesex Community College, Rebecca Morton, Roane State Community College, Bob Russo, President, NFOS, City Tech, Liliana Mejia-Rodriguez, Miami-Dade College, Roy Ferguson, Vice President, NFOS and Lanard Atkins, Georgia Piedmont Technical College.



Liliana Mejia-Rodriguez and Rebecca Morton taking some time out for some fun at Vision Expo East.



Attention Program Directors and Faculty – Below is a link to proposed changes to the COA *ESSENTIALS OF AN ACCREDITED EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM FOR OPTICIANRY 2017.*

Proposed Changes to COA Essentials

The work you did making recommendations on the *Essentials* during your meeting at State Leadership was reviewed by our Document Review Committee and the proposed changes were discussed and voted on at the COA meeting at VEE, March 24, 2019. Please send any comments you have to me by August 15, 2019. The finalized version will be voted on at our next meeting at VEW, September 2019.

Thank you – Debra White (director@coaccreditation.com)

Commission on Opticianry Accreditation

P.O. Box 592

Canton, NY 13617



Goodwin College News



Goodwin College VEE

Goodwin College Vision Care Technology had 85% representation at Vision Expo East to support our Hoya Vision sponsored NFOS College Bowl contestant. The students had an amazing time at the event, taking classes, and perusing the showroom floor.

CLUB

Vision Care Technology is in the beginning stages of starting a student club. More to follow in our next newsletter.



SUNY Erie Community College



At the New York State Society of Opticians annual convention at Turning Stone Casino in Verona, NY. Saturday night banquet, our esteemed colleague, Janet Acara, SUNY Erie College, received the Contact Lens Specialist Award from NYSSO. This honor is awarded to a NYSSO member who exemplifies excellence as a contact lens fitter. What was so moving, is that Janet dedicated this award to her late father, who passed away recently. Her father was a driving force behind Janet's getting involved with her profession and becoming an excellent educator. Congrats to Janet for an honor well deserved.

In Memory of Thomas Acara

It is with our deepest sympathy and compassion that we inform you of the passing of Thomas J. Acara, father to Janet Acara and beloved professor at Erie Community College. Born in Buffalo, NY in 1932, Mr. Acara passed away March 27 after a courageous battle with cancer.

Thomas Acara was an accomplished optician and a pioneer in the contact lens field. He was a well-respected professor at Erie Community College, a founding member of the Contact Lens Society of New York State and a member of the Contact Lens Society of America (CLSA). He is responsible for introducing the soft lens and was regarded as a contact lens specialist known for treating the most complex of vision problems until his retirement at age 83. The NYSSO Board of Directors, along with the Optical community, sincerely extend our most heartfelt sympathy to Janet and her entire family.



This photo was taken at our school wide picnic on April 30th. Students – Michelle Skevin and Kevin Martinez – are at the booth promoting the profession as well as our optical clinic.



RVCC students receiving scholarships from the Opticians Association of NJ (OANJ). The award presented is the OANJ/Norman Snedeker memorial scholarship. Each student received \$500.00 on May 5th.



Hillsborough Community College

Congratulations Dr. Bill Underwood!

On Friday, May 17, 2019 HCC and POF threw Dr. Bill Underwood a surprise retirement party at POF's West Coast Better Vision Conference in Safety Harbor, FL. There were more than 150 present, including Dignitaries from the ABO/NCLE, NAO, OAA and more. Incredibly, he was totally surprised! He could even be heard saying 'Oh Crap!' as he entered the large banquet room, as everyone cheered and sang 'For He's a Jolly Good Fellow'. Highlights included a slide-show with OLD pictures, DJ, Photo-Booth and a large cardboard Bill!

Thanks to the contributions from ABO/NCLE, NAO, OAA, Hoya, Essilor, Shamir and Younger, we were able to fund the celebration at no charge to our students, faculty and alumni

A Good Time Was Had By All!





A fun send off fit for a King





Bill will be missed by Faculty Friends and Students



And finally...



SUNY Erie Community College Alumni Lawrence Diebold, '19 and Mike Gzik '73 pictured at Vision Expo East in NY.

Words of thanks from the Editor

Dear Colleagues,

It has been my pleasure to have served as your NFOS newsletter editor. To all things there is a season and the time has come to pass the editor torch. I appreciate all who have contributed school news over the years. The activities at your schools are amazing. Best wishes to my successor. Thank you for a great experience and the wonderful opportunity to work with all of you!

Sincerely,

John Godert



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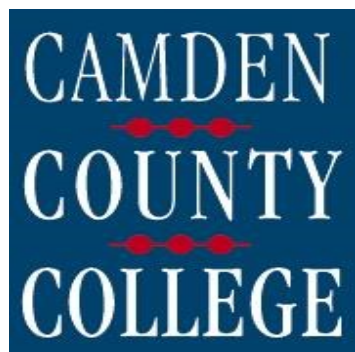
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