

# MCO Focal Points Spring 2015

Michigan College

of Optometry

### star faculty couples are expecting their first child in September! Drs. Brian and Paula McDowell and Drs. Joshua and Amy (Dinardo) Lotoczky will both be welneed to be preparing our students for so that they can be prepared for this new environment. I was in Lansing a few Committee on Health Policy as they were considering a bill

coming a baby this fall. We are pleased to see our MCO family grow once, er twice, again. (Photo credits to Dr. Paula McDowell and Dr. Adeline Bauer)

MCO Family Growing Soon

MCO is delighted to announce that two of our super-

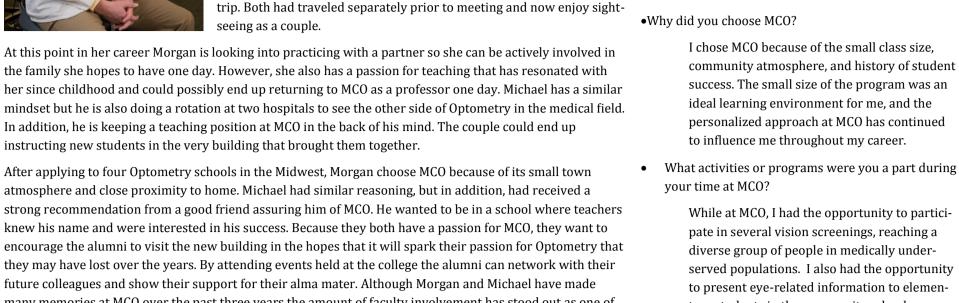






•When did you graduate from MCO?

2003



## tary students in the community schools. What is your favorite thing about MCO? I liked the personalized approach the faculty took towards education. I had outstanding mentorship from a number of the faculty members that continues to influence the things I do

the rest of your career? My goal is to develop new techniques that will help clinicians detect eye disease at earlier stages. With advanced imaging, we can visualize and quantify changes that cannot yet be detected clinically. I believe the clinical manifestations we see are only the tip of the iceberg. Imaging techniques I am most interested

in include high-resolution, adaptive optics im-

aging and polarization sensitive imaging. Cur-

rently, imaging systems that are built for these

purposes are primarily laboratory based and

often require considerable technical expertise

to maintain them. I would like to work to-

wards translating the basic science behind

these systems into clinical utility, so we can

more effectively manage patients with sight-

threatening disease and more effectively moni-

tor the results of their treatments. I would also

like to work towards implementing more integrated, multi-disciplinary approaches to pa-

tient care that includes optometry as a critical

nodal point in the health care delivery system.

Do you have a message for our alumni or our stu-

I believe optometry is well positioned to im-

primary eye care and delivering those core

forced at every stage in my relatively short

pact patient care by promoting the benefits of

services. MCO first instilled the importance of that in me and that message has been rein-

career. As a profession, I think optometry has

to remain vigilant, informed, and able to advo-

dents?

cate for the work that we do and for the patients we care for. What are some fond memories you have of MCO? O I have countless fond memories of my time I would like to share, because I think it has meant to me. When I was a student, I carried a small notebook with me in my asking who Walt was. I wasn't sure, the

thoughtfulness of those few minutes is something that will stick with me for the rest of my life. Until then, I was unaware that anyone even noticed the notebook, but it showed me that the faculty at MCO were paying attention to us as individuals and taking a genuine interest in our development, tracking how we learned, and using that that to maximize our experience to make us better clinicians. What do you think is in the future for the field of Optometry? As the healthcare landscape changes, I think optometry is positioned to be an important entry point into the health care coordination and delivery system. In the context of a multidisciplinary setting, optometry and ophthalmology have historically worked in a comanagement capacity. In the future, I believe optometry's impact will broaden, with vision

care increasingly integrated into multi-

disciplinary health care settings. I fully expect to someday see optometry practices adjoined

by more non-traditional co-managing disci-

threatening disease. Congratulations Dr. VanNasdale! MCO Good News -Dr. Durkee, Marie Humphrev and Dr. Hinklev were featured on the FSU television show called, "It's Academic." The show highlighted MCO community service programs including SINE and SVOSH among others. The link is http://vimeo.com/110191504 -Dr. Vandana Rajaram's abstract "Visual Performance of Scleral Lenses in comparison to Soft Contact Lenses and Spectacle Lenses in Young Adults" was accepted to be presented as a Scientific Paper at the AAO. Co-authors on this abstract are: Dr. Stephanie Ramdass, Craig Norman, Lindsay LaBelle and Nicole Sparks, (4th year students). -Drs. Bruce Morgan and Amy Dinardo participated in the

-Drs Josh Lotoczky and Chad Rosen were selected for the

second consecutive year to share their knowledge about

-Dr. Chad Rosen presented a poster titled "Power Analy-

sis of Gas Permeable Multifocal Contact Lenses" at AAO

2014. Additional author is Craig Norman, Vision Re-

-Dr. Jim Miller gave a presentation titled *The Flipped* 

Classroom to members of the Association of Schools and

Colleges of Optometry Clinical Optometric Methods and

Procedures Special Interest Group attending the AAO

-Dr. Jim Miller and Dr. Christina Hicks co-presented a

scientific poster titled "Inquence of Doctor Attire on the Doctor-Patient Relationship" at AAO 6458. Dr. Tom Hub-

-Posters and presentations at the AAO meeting also

"Corneal Reshaping - Improving Patient Out-

Norman, Vision Research Institute.

comes". MCO Presenters: Dr. Bruce Morgan, Craig

"When "Dandy" Isn't Dandy: Panoptic Complica-

scleral lenses at AAO 2014.

bard was a poster co-author.

included:

McClennan

Rosen, Dr. Josh Lotoczky

search Institute.

tact Lens Wearers" Presenter: Dr. Amy Dinardo, Additional Authors: Trevor Fosso, (3rd year student) "Contact Lens Compliance Rates Amongst First Versus Fourth Year Optometry Students" Presenter: Dr. Amy Dinardo, Additional Authors: Dr.

Robert Buckingham, Dr. Stephanie Jones, Dr. Hailey

"eyePad Project: Implementation of iPad Tech-

Clinical Education Settings" Presenter: Dr. Sara

"Analysis of Ocular Measurements and Scleral

Lens Fitting Techniques" Presenters: Dr. Chad

"Solving the Presbyopia Puzzle: 5 Tips for Multi-

"Tiny Eyes, Large Lenses, & Enormous Rewards:

A Case Report" Presenter: Dr. Adeline Bauer, Ad-

ditional Authors: Dr. Adrian Hulbert, Dr. Josh

"Post Cataract Surgery Filamentary Keratitis"

Lotoczky, Dr. Stephanie Ramdass

Craig Norman, Vision Research Institute

focal Lens Success" Presenters: Dr. Amy Dinardo,

nology in Optometric Classroom, Laboratory, and

issue of Contact Lens Spectrum. The article was titled -Dr. Amy Dinardo, regional Vice-Chair of the American Academy of Optometry Admissions Committee, inducted 14 new Fellows into the American Academy of Optome--Four of the MCO faculty members were recipients of an FSU Timme Travel Grant. Sara Bush, Sarah Hinkley, Josh Lotoczky and Chad Rosen were chosen out of 22 selected recipients for the grant. -The MOSA (Michigan Optometric Student Association) officially announced the MOA 2014-15 educator of the year as Dr. Brian McDowell. Congratulations Dr. McDowell on this prestigious award! The student body is very appreciative and grateful for all the hard work and dedi-

cation that you put forth on a daily basis. This honor is

-Dr. Mark Swan was reappointed to the Kent County Health Department, Community Health Advisory Com-

-MCO Student Fellows who successfully completed the requirements for Student Fellowship from the American

Academy of Optometry include: Evan Andrews, Shannon Crane, Emily Emerson, Trevor Fosso, Marie Humphrey,

-The FSU Michigan College of Optometry's local chapter

an Eye Care Mission trip with Village Evangelical Free

Church in Dyer, IN, the Casa de Esperanza (House of Hope), and a local church in San Carlos, Mexico. After

of the Fellowship of Christian Optometrists co-sponsored

years of collaborative efforts with Casa de Esperanza, our

first Optometry team of 21 people traveled from January 1-8, 2015 and hosted a five day vision clinic. Dr. Dave

Jamie Kuzniar, Leanna Pender. Congratulations!

truly deserved!

College of Optometry. Here is the link: <a href="http://">http://</a> www.sunyopt.edu/pdfs/alumni/ Focal Point Winter 14.pdf -Dr. Sarah Hinkley, due to outstanding leadership activities, service to the profession, and contributions to the Michigan Optometric Association, has been selected for the MOA "Keyperson of the Year" -Dr. Brian McDowell was announced as the MOA 2014-15

-Samantha Fordyce, fourth year student at MCO, was

-The Vision Research Institute works closely with vari-

year. In collaboration with VRI a website was created

that serves as an educational hub for today's eyecare

provider with information pertaining to the topic of myo-

pia control, an area of clinical care that continues to re-

-MCO hosted the annual Vision Rehab Grand Rounds

Workshop on Monday, March 30. Dr. Sarah Hinkley was

ous industry leaders to carry out objectives for the

aired Wednesday, April 8 on children and tablet use. http://www.9and10news.com/story/28741046/special -report-screen-time-and-sight? <u>auto-</u> Start=true&topVideoCatNo=default&clipId=11366501#. VSRs7JbIPuc.facebook -Dr. Dan Wrubel and Michigan College of Optometry

hosted the Michigan Volunteer Optometric Services to Humanity (VOSH) annual Spring meeting on Saturday, April 18th. There was a review of the 2015 volunteer mission trips and the numbers of eyeglasses, exams, and referrals for Medical Eye Care. The trips were to Dominica, Peru Trip I, Mexico, and Peru Trip II. Favorite special patient stories were also shared by each trip group.

-Dr. Sarah Hinkley will receive the Excellence in Course

Assessment Award at the Employee Service Awards pro-

-MCO resident Dr. Cynthia Brown and Dr. Sarah Hinkley presented on persistent primitive reflexes and their rela-

tionship to visual perception at the College of Optome-

trists in Vision Development (COVD) conference on Sat-

-During the Annual College of Optometrist in Vision De-

-Dr Alison Jenerou presented a poster titled "Binocular

Vision's Play in Baseball" with co author Adeline Bauer at

her fellowship with the organization.

velopment meeting this April, Dr. Alison Jenerou attained

The annual MCO Summer CE will be held on Wednesday, June 10 and Thursday, June 11 at the Holiday Inn Conference Center in Big Rapids. Dr. Walling has assembled a great line up of speakers! Registration is online only and the link can be found here: <a href="http://www.ferris.edu/">http://www.ferris.edu/</a>

HTMLS/administration/academicaffairs/

cial events on the registration page.

region!

summerceconference.htm

extendedinternational/cps/conferences/optometry/

Special features at the CE include the presentation of MCO's Alumnus of the Year award, the MCO reception

Wednesday evening with food and prizes and the Desserts, Dilations and Donations for the Future event

providing attendees the chance to have their dilated ex-

amination by our students and faculty for a small dona-

tion to student scholarships. Look for registration to spe-

We look forward to partnering with the MOA on the Great Lakes Eye Conference in future years to combine two

great conferences into the powerhouse conference of the

Alumnus Donates Bike Rack

## today. The faculty members were always willing to meet with me to help think through ideas that, in turn, nurtured a curiosity for ways to advance patient care. What activities do you enjoy outside of MCO? While at MCO, I played tennis, tried to learn to golf (unsuccessfully), and spent a lot of time with a small group of classmates. Now, outside of my work responsibilities, I spend a lot of time with my family exploring Columbus and occasionally play tennis in a local league. What do you look forward to accomplishing during

at MCO, but there is one specific story that embodies what MCO stands for and what it clinic coat. I made notes of things I didn't know, but needed to learn or look up, and the things I learned daily from the faculty members that mentored me. When I was a fourth year student, off-campus on clinical rotations, my wife went to the MCO clinic for an eye exam. That night she called me, only person that I could think of at the time was Dr. Walt Betts. When I mentioned his name, she replied that must have been who it was. I thought it was odd that she addressed him as Walt. It turns

out that Dr. Betts, who was not the attend-

ing doctor for my wife's exam, recognized

the last name on the patient appointment

list for the day. During a break in the ex-

am, while my wife's pupils were dilating,

Dr. Betts stopped in the exam room and

when I said something that made it into that notebook Dean carries around." I

think about that often. Dr. Betts didn't

schedule for that kind gesture, but the

need to take the time out of his busy

introduced himself. He wanted her to pass

along a message. "Tell Dean that Walt says hi. I always felt like it was a good day

plines like dentistry, pharmacy, podiatry, endocrinology, and primary care to collectively manage patients with complex health conditions. As primary care providers, that will mean that we need to think outside of the box and come up with novel solutions to some very challenging health care problems. I think we have the potential to do that. Tell us a little more about the research grant you received. The award I received is the American Academy Career Development Award. This award is a two-year grant, potentially renewable up to 4 years, and represents an investment in my future by both the Academy and The Ohio State University College of Optometry. Funding by the Academy is matched dollar for dollar by the OSU College of Optometry with the intent of helping me become more competitive for future federal funding for my research. This funding will be instrumental in allowing me to further develop the lab I am building at OSU, focused on advanced imaging of the eye with an emphasis on early detection of sight-

tions of Dandy-Walker Syndrome in a Pediatric Patient" Presenter: Dr. Paula McDowell, Additional authors: Dr. RaeAnn Nordwall, Angela Conley, (4th Year Student) "Personality Traits of Successful Multifocal Con-

Presenter: Dr. Cynthia Brown -Dr. Amy Dinardo and third year Optometry student Trevor Fosso published an article in the November 2014 "Multifocal Contact Lens Success: Fact or Fiction?".

Storer (MCO 1999) led the mission and was assisted by Dr. Tony Wecker (MCO 1995). Jamie Kuzniar (Third Year Optometry), Brittany Hoolsema (Second Year Optometry), Katie Cargill (FSU Pre-Optometry), and Colin Kuzniar (FSU Engineering) were key student contributors along with Greg, Ann and Philip Videtich of Big Rapids. Twelve other people predominantly from Dyer, IN completed the team which provided spiritual and eye care for

545 patients in San Carlos. The mission was very successful and a return trip is already being considered

-Dr. David Damari, Dean of MCO, was honored as the

2014 Alumnus of the Year award at his alma mater, SUNY

since the needs are so great.

"Optometric Educator of the Year".

named "Student of the Year".

interviewed by the Pioneer and also had TV 9 & 10 arrive for an interview. The news link: <a href="http://">http://</a> www.9and10news.com/story/28652976/ferris-stateuniversity-optometry-students-provide-vision-care-atworkshop#.VRns3Gs VPU.facebook -In April, Chad Rosen, OD, FAAO lectured in Toledo, OH and Columbus, OH at the Ohio Association of Opticians conferences. The lecture topics were: Contact Lens Care Systems, Introduction to Scleral Contact Lenses, and Hot Topics in Contact Lenses.

-Chad Rosen, OD, FAAO lectured at the MCPHS University

School of Optometry in Worcester, MA as part of the Soft

Toric and Presbyopic Lens Education (STAPLE) Program.

-Dr. Sarah Hinkley presented to a class in the Architec-

ture and Sustainability program on April 7 about how

-TV 9 and 10 News featured St. Mary School, Dr. Sarah

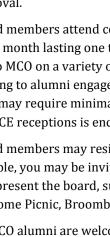
Hinkley and the University Eye Center in this piece that

design should consider visual impairment factors.

Mark Your Calendar for June

MCO would like to thank Dr. Sean Connolly and his wife Tracey for their donation of a eyeglasses bike rack in front of MCO and the University Eye Center. The rack has been utilized by students, faculty, staff and patients. The

Nominate Yourself for the MCO Alumni Association Board



act with MCO students, faculty and administrators, including Dean Damari, on a regular basis. Nominations will be submitted to the board and Dean for review and Board members attend conference calls every or every other month lasting one to two hours. They provide input to MCO on a variety of topics and issues, primarily relating to alumni engagement. In addition, small projects may require minimal volunteer time. Attendance at MCO CE receptions is encouraged but not required.

are able, you may be invited to attend student functions

Board members may reside outside of Michigan. If you

the Annual COVD meeting in Las Vegas. -Stephanie Ramdass OD, MS presented the partial results of a large-scale retrospective clinical study regarding corneal reshaping and myopia control at the annual meeting of the American Academy of Orthokeratology & Myopia Control in Houston, Texas.

gram on April 30, 2015.

urday April 18th.



Michigan College of Optometry Alumni Association The MCO Alumni Association Board is seeking new members. This opportunity provides the chance to inter-

Ferris State University

## All of healthcare is changing. My conversations with the deans of Ferris's Colleges of Pharmacy and Health Profes-

sions are consistently about the changes we believe we

weeks ago and witnessed testimony before the Senate

- for expansion of the scope of Advanced Practice Registered Nurses. Dr. Roger Seelye and I watched in amazement as the hearing made it painfully (for medicine) apparent that organized medicine's relationship with the state government has changed. Healthcare is moving toward a model where all the professions cooperate to improve outcomes for our patients. This is often called the patient-centered approach. This approach to healthcare is both an opportunity for our profession and a threat. It is a threat because we are used to practicing alone or in partnership practices with other eye care specialists, whether a group of optometrists or optometrists and eye surgeons. It is very difficult to develop a patient-centered team approach in these types of practices because, with the conditions we see most frequently, our patients long-term health needs require co-management with endocrinologists, occupational therapists, geneticists, internists, or neuro For a cautionary tale about another industry that did not see an urgent need to adapt to a new environment, just look at film photography. The New York Times just did a beautiful piece and short video about Kodak
- week. It was particularly poignant to me because I had my practice in Rochester and sold it just a few months before the first round of Kodak layoffs. We need to get with these changes as a profession or be left in the margins. We need to look for partnerships with other healthcare professionals to deliver better "whole person" care to our patients. We need to be part of the conversation on the future of healthcare delivery. We need to be less focused on the procedures we do or products we sell and more focused on the services we offer and how we are one of the best professions already at partnering with our patients in their care. MCO is beginning an extensive process of curriculum review and revision. We will address these concerns mcoalumni2015.questionpro.com) and spending 15 to 20 minutes thinking about your training here, how

(http://www.nytimes.com/2015/03/22/business/at-kodak-clinging-to-a-future-beyond-film.html?\_r=0) last

- and more in that process. You can help us by going to our alumni survey (http:// well it served you, and how it needs to respond to future trends. We want to produce graduates that will work with you in the future to move our profession to the forefront of healthcare. And, as always, I look forward to speaking with you personally if you would like to talk to me about your views of our future. Just e-mail me at
- DavidDamari@ferris.edu or call me at 231.591.4706. Sincerely, David Damari, OD, FAAO, FCOVD
- Love Is in the Air: For Some Students Past and Present MCO Provides More Than an Optometric Degree Morgan Schuiteman and Michael DeWit Michael DeWit and Morgan Schuiteman first met as first year students, while sitting only a few seats apart in one of their classes. Each had come to MCO from other campuses; Michael graduated from Calvin

the family she hopes to have one day. However, she also has a passion for teaching that has resonated with

In addition, he is keeping a teaching position at MCO in the back of his mind. The couple could end up

Thoughts from the Dean

-psychologists, and *not* necessarily eye surgeons.

## After applying to four Optometry schools in the Midwest, Morgan choose MCO because of its small town atmosphere and close proximity to home. Michael had similar reasoning, but in addition, had received a strong recommendation from a good friend assuring him of MCO. He wanted to be in a school where teachers knew his name and were interested in his success. Because they both have a passion for MCO, they want to encourage the alumni to visit the new building in the hopes that it will spark their passion for Optometry that

instructing new students in the very building that brought them together.

Depending on where she decides to settle down, Gabe would like to

be in either a solo or partnered private practice. She is looking into a

specialty in either contact lenses or disease. Michael would like to be

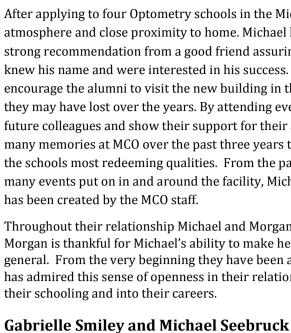
involved in a private practice with multiple doctors. If he was picking

a residency today he would most likely choose one focused on disease

Since Wisconsin does not have an Optometry school, one of the main

reasons Michael and Gabe chose MCO was its close proximity to their

niche in both the faculty and the tight knit MCO community.



and look into hospital privileges.

## they may have lost over the years. By attending events held at the college the alumni can network with their future colleagues and show their support for their alma mater. Although Morgan and Michael have made many memories at MCO over the past three years the amount of faculty involvement has stood out as one of the schools most redeeming qualities. From the pancake breakfast during exam week to support during the

College and Morgan from Saginaw Valley State University. By the beginning of their second year the couple had officially started dating. Besides the obvious common interest in Optometry, each of them are family oriented and dedicated to volunteering. Morgan and Michael

combined their passion for community service and travel by

accompanying Dr. Wrubel and his team to Dominica on the latest SVOSH

many events put on in and around the facility, Michael and Morgan have noticed the amazing community that Throughout their relationship Michael and Morgan have found each other's strengths and weaknesses. Morgan is thankful for Michael's ability to make her laugh when she is stressed out with school or life in general. From the very beginning they have been able to be their true selves with one another and Michael has admired this sense of openness in their relationship. Both qualities will help them through the rest of If love can be found anywhere it is in Buffalo Wild Wings during the middle of a Packers game. This is how second years Gabrielle Smiley and Michael Seebruck, both from Wisconsin, began spending their free time together. Besides their shared interest in football, they also enjoy the same book series and playing volleyball. They live a very active life and settle down after a long day of eyeballs and studying to some of Gabe's home cooked Asian cuisine.

home towns. The small class size was also appealing compared to the other schools that Michael had applied to. Each had their interview here and as soon as they knew they were accepted, canceled their other interviews. One of the couple's favorite memories of MCO was when the power went out after a squirrel got into the power box. The facility was shut down for two days, giving everyone a much appreciated relaxation period. The group was barbequing on a back porch when they heard the news that the school would be closed the next day as well. All three years of students, along with some of the faculty came together and had a "snow day" even though the weather was gorgeous at the time. It was the perfect way to start off their first semester at Ferris One of the key qualities that Michael sees in Gabe is her caring personality and the attentive way she looks out for those around her. This is complemented, according to Gabe, by Michael's thoughtfulness. He is always

trying to brighten the day of others before he focuses on his own day. The pair both agree that one of their

favorite attributes of MCO is the ability to watch a whole new generation of professors start their careers

here. This unique experience offers students the chance to watch newly graduated Optometrists find their

State University.

and Morgan see them as a wealth of knowledge and enjoy learning from them in a formal setting along with

Morgan Baker and Luis Balderas

Every good graduate student knows the couple that studies

Morgan Baker, both second year students who started their

together... stays together. This is especially true of Luis Balderas and

friendship studying every day together for many hours since their very first week of class. Luis spent most of his undergraduate

whereas Morgan, from west Michigan, graduated from Grand Valley

Both Morgan and Luis have similar personalities, which allows them

to nearly finish each other's thoughts. During their free time they

enjoy cooking together. Morgan would like to start working in a

practice with an Ophthalmologist when she graduates to gain more

experience, and then eventually as a change of scenery, move into a

more private practice. Luis has similar aspirations as he feels the combined practice allows Optometrists to see more interesting cases

program at Wayne State but is originally from West Bloomfield

and see a variety of patients. Also at this point, he is hesitant to deal with the business aspect of the field that can come with working on your own. When asked what they would say to MCO alumni, Morgan encouraged the alumni that have ventured off into the different sectors of the field to connect with students still in school and share their experiences and memories of MCO. Luis expressed the students' uncertainty about the ease at which the alumni were able to mingle into different modes of practice; whether it be buying an existing private practice, joining a specialized office, or starting out cold. It would help give the students a personalized perspective and help them sort through the different options. As is common, the couple chose MCO for its convenient location near family and friends, however, they also touched on the fact that the in-state tuition costs were significantly better than colleges in the surrounding states. Now that they are here, the professors stand out as one of the best traits MCO has to offer. The faculty make them feel very comfortable even when they make a mistake or do not understand something. Both Luis

casual discussion.

surprised him with an hour long tropical getaway! The group dressed for a day on the beach with Hawaiian themed shirts and made sure there were plenty of beach balls. The only thing missing was the sand! When Ellie first came to MCO she swore up and down that she would never date an optometrist, anyone in this small program, or a guy who was younger then herself; ironically, Michael is all of those things! They joke that MCO is a breeding ground for relationships not just because all of the classes are constantly spending time together, but also because of the transition between undergraduate mindset into one more focused on the future. The students at MCO begin to look for something more serious and long term when they walk through the doors and the environment they are released into is the perfect place for life time relationships to

MCO Says Goodbye to Dr. Randy Vance When this semester ends in May, so too will the esteemed career of Dr. J. Randall (Randy) Vance at MCO as he enters retirement. In tribute to Dr. Vance and the impact he has had on the careers and lives of our students and alumni, we highlight his career here. Thank you Dr. Vance for your commitment to MCO. You will be missed greatly but will always be a part of the MCO family!

and to be surrounded by bright people on the same career path. She is thankful for the lifetime friends she

as a financial advisor that came to one of their local society meetings and gave some good practical advice

about how investing in one's marriage is more important than investing in various insurance policies.

Although that does not sound very romantic, Kim finds this tidbit of information to be a good "business" fact

to remember, especially for MCO's current couples. They would like to encourage the alumni and students to always put the patient's needs first by delivering a pleasant "visit experience", and success will follow. Also,

After 30 years together the Molters are a prime example of the bond that is created here at MCO. Kim

admires her husband's intelligence and a business expertise along with his consideration of others. He loves

adventure and still makes her laugh after all this time! Bob mirrors this by appreciating his wife's openness to

his jokes in addition to her enduring beauty and ability to be socially engaging. The couple believes MCO has a

habit of producing long lasting relationships because both people can understand each other's workday life.

The equality of intelligence, potential earning power and shared experience in school could also be factors.

Hopefully each couple that is established at MCO can follow the example of this power couple in both an

continuing to promote optometry as a great career to young patients is high on Kim's recommendation list.

acquired during her time in the College of Optometry. One of the incidences that has stuck out in her memory 
Dry Eye Clinic Advisory Board at AAO 2014.

During his time at The Ohio State University College of Optometry, Dr. Vance received a U.S. Armed Forces Health

Professions Scholarship and, following his graduation in

States Army. While serving in the Army, Dr. Vance

1977, spent two years practicing Optometry in the United

participated in the optometry externship program of the

OD colleagues worked with approximately 45 fourth-year

students who rotated through their clinic at the U.S. Army

interest in trying out a role in optometric education. After

fulfilling his military obligation, he could continue in the

Hospital, Fort Campbell, KY, and this experience sparked an

Army or be honorably discharged. It was at this juncture that

alma mater. He favored MCO because it was the newest at the

he began looking for a faculty position at various colleges of optometry including the Illinois College of Optometry and his

Indiana University School of Optometry, where he and his two

their lives that helped shape who they are and how they contribute to their communities. The new building is certainly a standout among the many great memories Dr. Vance accumulated during his teaching career. He was able to be in on the early planning stages, working with the architects and fellow staff and faculty members to shape the structure into the ideal facility for learning and interaction. The design process led to a special display area on the third floor of the facility that is lined with the graduating class composite photos. Dr. Vance enjoys walking by these and seeing the names and faces of the more than 1100 students who have graduated from MCO during his time here. Both the college and profession of Optometry have changed since Dr. Vance graduated in 1977. The scope of responsibility has expanded greatly and therefore the curriculum has been enhanced as well. The addition of computers and learning technologies has changed the way he has taught by being able to add online

supplements and activities to his course content, and for increased interaction and communication with

students. In the previous building there were not enough wall outlets in his office to accommodate those changes in technology! Power strips were plugged into other power strips in order to have enough outlets

for all of the electronics that were added. Likewise, the rapid increase in technology involved in patient care

has brought about tremendous change in not only what optometrists can do for their patients, but also how

well they can do it. Finally, the evolving nature of the health care system into more of a team-based,

interdisciplinary approach to patient care is an exciting development Dr. Vance is seeing. In just one current

example, MCO students work with both the nursing and pharmacy programs to examine diabetic patients to

coordinate all aspects of their care so that the patient has an overall better quality of care. This approach to

care will demand that all health care practitioners contribute to the maximum extent of their capabilities,

Throughout his career, Dr. Vance has seen hundreds of students grow and transition into the field of Optometry. He wishes for the continuing and future faculty, as well as former, current and future students,

After many years of dedicated service to MCO, Administrative Assistant to the Associate Dean, Colleen Olson,

is retiring in May. Colleen has worked closely with MCO students and faculty over the years, specializing in

administrative duties within the admission process. MCO will miss her smile and her wonderful, sarcastic

In retirement, Colleen is looking forward to exploring her hobbies and spending time with her new grand-

son. Although we will miss her, we wish her a wonderful retirement and hopes she stops by to say hello of-

O'Brien who has become the Chief Editor.

Congratulations to alumna Dr. Megan Coady who is the new "World

Wise" editorial writer for New OD magazine and alumna Dr. Kristin

and Dr. Vance agrees that this offers great opportunity for the optometric profession.

as much satisfaction in their career paths as he has enjoyed over the past 38 years in his.

MCO Says Goodbye to Colleen Olson

*New OD* Editor is MCO Alumna

Thank you for everything Dr. Vance!

sense of humor!

If you have questions about ways you can contribute or any other quandaries, contact MCO's Senior Advancement Officer Brett Scott at brettscott@ferris.edu, 231-591-2852 or Dean Damari at daviddamari@ferris.edu or 231-591-3706. We cannot build our scholarship funding without your support. Thank you for your consideration on behalf of our current and future students. The Eyeball Took MCO to the Derby Thanks to the dedication of many student volunteers, the annual Eyeball 2014 was a

> "racing" success. Second

year class rep-

Gabrielle Smi-

ley and Joshua Halm led the

event organization with lots

of assistance from other MCO

students and staff. Held at

the Holiday Inn, the Eyeball

is a formal dinner dance with

a different theme each year.

Students enjoy the chance to

dress up and have fun with colleagues, administrators,

staff and faculty. The com-

White Coat Ceremonies Highlight Student Achievements

resentatives

Are You Receiving MCO Electronic Communications? If you are not receiving emails from MCO, please take a moment and update your address with us by emailing Sarah Hinkley at sarahhinkley@ferris.edu. We understand that emails change frequently and the majority of our communications arrive via email. Please let us know your address so that you may continue to receive this newsletter and other MCO communications. Stay Up to Date Using Social Media We love to stay in touch with our alumni and friends using social media. Be sure to like our Facebook page, sign up for our Twitter feed and retweet us and connect with our MCO group on LinkedIn. We share position opportunities, MCO news, alumni news, current events related to optometry and healthcare and hot topics. We welcome you to message our page with news so we can share it with your MCO family.

A Note of Gratitude the creation of many of the newsletter articles and its overall composition. Donor Story: Dr. Robert Carter (Courtesy of FSU Advancement and Marketing)

and The Place for their sponsorships. Our appreciation goes out to Elyse Wieszczecinski, a FSU Pre-Optometry student who was instrumental in

Whether he's teaching students and seeing patients in the Michigan College of Optometry's University Eye Center or cheering on the Bulldogs at hockey and basketball games, Dr. Robert Carter is passionate about Ferris State University. A founding faculty member of Ferris' optometry college, Carter's love of his students, passion for his profession and his belief that the MCO provides the best clinically based education dowed scholarship for future optometrists.

and patient care motivated him to establish an en-The Dr. Robert L. Carter Endowed Scholarship aims to help MCO's recruitment efforts by providing scholarships to students working toward a Doctor of Optometry degree. The scholarship will be awarded annually to full-time, first-year MCO students based on academic success, citizenship and financial need. "I don't want only the richest people to get a chance. I think if a young person is willing to give it a try and is smart enough, then let's make it possible," Carter said. "Ferris has been very good to me, and I felt it was the right thing to give something back." Carter's tenure with Ferris began in 1975, when he was recruited as one of the three faculty members to start the optometry college. He earned his Doctor of Optometry degree from Indiana University in 1970 then spent three years in the U.S. Air Force and two years on the clinical faculty at his alma mater before

joining Ferris. Bob was a leader in developing the college, educating optometry students, serving the university and progressing the development of the optometric profession in Michigan," said Dr. Michael Keating, a professor emeritus of MCO. "He was undaunted in the face of difficulties and served in a number of difficult leadership positions that others shied away from." The college's formal opening was not without difficulties. Michigan Gov. William Milliken authorized its creation in 1974, however, he vetoed the funding for it the following year. Ensuring the college's survival required a massive lobbying effort by then-Ferris President Robert Ewigleben, the Ferris Board of Control, the Michigan Optometric Association and the MCO faculty and staff. "President Ewigleben was a visionary," Carter said. "His effort led, not only to the creation of MCO, but also the first-of-its-kind Professional Golf Management program, Katke Golf Course, the NCAA Division I hockey program, the ice arena and the Audiovisual Center (now known as the Interdisciplinary Resource Center)."

big city and soon returned to Big Rapids. In 1998, he took a sabbatical to work in the optometry department at the University of Auckland in New Zealand, an experience he described as "a year-long adventure." Carter's classroom and clinic assignments varied greatly during his 40 years teaching at Ferris, but his greatest joy has been working with students and patients in the optometry clinic, he said. For Carter, the MCO has a unique camaraderie, which goes all the way back to its "rocky start" and reigns more than 40 years later. "The faculty and students consider themselves part of a unique world," Carter said. "In fact, MCO is casually known as 'Planet O' to its faculty and staff." The metaphor was created by Ken Gallagher, one of the first dispensing opticians hired by the MCO. "The first location of the optometry school was far from the rest of campus, so I used to say that I was going to 'Planet O' where all of the 'Optometroids' hang out," Gallagher said. Those kind of inside jokes fuel the professional camaraderie within MCO that Carter cherishes. He retired in December 2011, but continues to work as an adjunct clinical faculty member at MCO's University Eye Center. He serves as vice presi-

"Dr. Carter's generous gift of an endowed scholarship is very important in not only helping the academically successful student control their debt, but it also allows MCO to successfully recruit and enroll students who may be offered large scholarships by other competing optometric educational institutions," said Dr. John Pole, chairman of MCO's Admissions Committee. In addition to his work at Ferris, Carter served on the Board of Trustees of the Michigan Optometric Association from 1982 until 1990 and was the president in 1989. He was MOA's legislative committee chair from 1990 until 1995 and also has served on many state and national association committees. He was instrumental in the passage of legislation that allows optometrists in Michigan to prescribe medication for a host of eye diseases, including glaucoma. "We are very grateful to Dr. Bob Carter for his generous gift to benefit future students at Ferris State University's Michigan College of Optometry," said Dr. David A. Damari, MCO dean. "Dr. Carter has spent nearly the entirety of his career giving of his skills and talent, and this gift is just another aspect of his enormous legacy at MCO. We have all benefited from his generosity."

1st Year Class of 2018 White Coat Ceremony class. Sadly, this will be Dr. Vance's last White Coat Ceremony as he retires in May. Dr. Vance was truly touched by the gesture of the students. We welcome second year students into clinical care of

munity atmosphere of MCO stands out during the event.

ber the Eyeball from your time at MCO.

With a Kentucky Derby theme for 2014, attendees were encouraged to

wear a derby-style hat to the Eyeball. It was amazing to see the creativity

of our students in hats ranging from massive flower arrangements to, yes,

a horse head! We hope you enjoy the photos as alumni who may remem-

We Need Your Input to Move MCO Forward As Dean Damari mentioned in his column, we are asking for your input on our program outcomes and your

overall thoughts on the preparation you received at MCO as we engage in a curriculum review and strategic planning. Your opinions are critical and will be considered thoughtfully as we work to continually enhance our program, preparing graduates for real world optometry practice in today's world. You can access the survey here: <u>alumni survey</u>

Thank you in advance for your input!

https://www.facebook.com/FSU.MCO

**Broomball Tournament 2014** 

https://twitter.com/FSUMCO

During his teaching career, Carter left Ferris in 1979 for a one-year leave of absence spent at the Department of Ophthalmology at Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit. He didn't care for the hustle and bustle of the dent of the university's Emeriti Association, and he also recently co-authored a book with Dr. J. James Sala-

MCO.

We had a great time at the annual MCO broomball tournament. The Third Years came out victorious in the round robin style tournament at the FSU ice hockey rink. Even the faculty/ staff/administration had a team! Special thanks to Harbor Optical, Hoya

din on MCO's history called, A Vision Realized. Carter and his wife, Jane, have two adult sons, both Ferris alumni, and four grandchildren. For more information about the Dr. Robert Carter Scholarship Endowment or to make a contribution, contact The Ferris Foundation at (231) 591-2365 or by email.

One thing their class has done well has been the ability to pull together themed parties such as their class Thanksgiving (or "Classgiving"), where even faculty have joined the fun. During their first year at MCO they would be studying so much in the building that one of the custodians, Carmen, would bring in treats for the students to encourage them through their studying. Just another example of the community that thrives within the building. When finals week comes and everyone is nearing their breaking point Morgan says she appreciates Luis's calm demeanor and ability to keep her relaxed. Morgan's ability to understand and perhaps know what Luis is thinking has made their relationship easy going for the past year. They have a theory as to why there are so many lifetime loves that come out of MCO. On one hand, it's likely that as the students are proceeding through the program their whole world revolves around eyes and it's difficult for other people to relate to their nerdy eye conversations if they're not actually experiencing it. Or as Morgan proposed, each student is very unique from class to class, but somehow through the interview processes the Admissions council selected compatible personalities that inadvertently increased the chance of relationships forming. That theory just may be something the alumni need to weigh in on! **Ellie Rose and Michael Ruthven** Michael Ruthven and Ellie Rose first met when Michael attended his orientation at MCO. Ellie was a second year, leading the new student orientation and welcomed him to his very first day. They became fast friends, however they did not start dating until about a year later. He is originally from Grand Rapids and spent his college years at Ferris State. Ellie is from Novi, MI and completed her undergraduate program at the University of Michigan. Both Ellie and Michael are U of M fans, which makes a perfect excuse for frequent visits to Ann Arbor. In reflecting on their time spent in Ann Arbor when they were each in college, there is a good chance that they crossed paths on the campus prior to meeting here at MCO. They also enjoy cooking together, making anything from various pasta dishes to hand crafted sandwiches and everything in between. Michael and Ellie always have the most fun together whether they are grocery shopping for tonight's dinner, or studying for a big exam. It is a quality that they each value in the other person and something that is of great importance in a relationship. Michael is leaning towards a more medical based practice when he graduates. Ellie has a similar idea and would like to be in an OD/MD setting with the possibility of integrating into a hospital system. When she was looking into optometry schools, Ellie chose MCO because of its location in state and also the new building. She is currently a fourth year and her class will be the first one to spend all four years in the new facility. Michael had set his sights on MCO from the beginning and spending his undergraduate years on campus just reinforced his decision. The couple will leave with many happy memories. For example, during Michael's second year, his class threw a surprise Hawaiian getaway for optics professor, Dr. Keating. They picked up a few essentials for a luau and Since the couple has been at the school for three to four years they each would like to thank the alumni for their continued financial and moral support. The small school atmosphere gives a solid sense of comradery between the current and future alumni that is not as prominent in other Optometry schools. They also encourage the alumni to visit the new building if they have not already in order to keep the relationship between themselves and their future colleagues open. **Alumni Couple: The Molters** Drs. Kim Molter and Bob Molter graduated with the classes of 1988 and 1985 from the Michigan College of Optometry. They meet at an Optometry party through the school and were married following graduation. Throughout the years Bob and Kim have been in almost all forms of both practice, together and

separately,

within

avid career-building the Molters also enjoy being active in

their children's lives through Girl Scout leadership, teaching

Sunday school, and attending their children's school events.

Traveling, boating and gardening also take up much of their

When it came to picking a graduate program Bob only

applied to MCO because he already knew it was the perfect

place for him and, for Kim, it was the in-state tuition that

was the largest factor. As they both blended into the MCO

community Bob became Co-Euchre champion with one of

his classmates and even shared a beer with a professor or

two during his time here. Kim found it stimulating to learn

enjoyable career and a fulfilling relationship!

free time.

including work

ophthalmology,

and commercial

leases, but the primary mode been private practice.

In addition to their

familiarity to the newly founded school. Since joining the faculty in 1979, Dr. Vance has taught in numerous courses and clinics at MCO but his overall favorite, and longest tenure has been in the clinical procedures courses. He has supervised in the primary care, contact lens and low vision services and taught visual fields and ocular anatomy courses. Also, he has conducted a web seminar via the internet for fourth year students while they were participating in externships. This wide range of course load has led to semesters where he has taught all four class years at once! Situations like this allow him to see the maturity and growth of each student from start to finish. The one-on-one time and his ability to know each student by name has sustained Dr. Vance through his 36 years at MCO and continues to be one of his favorite aspects of the college. Outside of the school Dr. Vance enjoys being "on, in or near the water" at his lake cottage on Bear Lake and plans to spend as much time as the season allows there during his retirement. He has been tossing around the idea of taking a few history classes taught by some of the many other professors he has met here at Ferris. When asked about a message to the current and former students of MCO, Dr. Vance stressed his hope that even though there were many challenges, our students regard their time here as a very special time in

time, allowing for better opportunities for both the faculty and the program itself to grow and develop while

also maintaining a small enough atmosphere to know the students and his fellow colleagues. In addition, some of his previous professors had also decided to make the journey to Big Rapids, adding a sense of

MCO Students Need Your Support Did you know that MCO often loses top applicants in the admissions process to other optometry programs for the sole reason that scholarships or tuition discounting are offered to lure them away? YOU have the power to help us change this by supporting MCO student scholarships. Whether you contribute to an endowment, scholarship fund or create your own scholarship, funds are directed at recruiting and rewarding the highest quality applicants. A scholarship you create allows you to decide, within certain parameters, how you would like the money awarded. Click here to donate: https:// ebill.ferris.edu/C20079\_ustores/web/product\_detail.jsp?PRODUCTID=2281&SINGLESTORE=true

2nd Year Class of 2017 White Coat Ceremony Two White Coat Ceremonies were held this winter honoring our first and second year students at critical phases in their academic clinical careers. The first year students were presented with their white clinical coats by board members of the Michigan Optometric Association at an intimate ceremony held at MCO. The presentation represents entry into clinical coursework and the profession of optometry. Special thanks to the MOA for sponsorship of the coats. The Second Year White Coat Ceremony was held at the Holiday Inn. This large, serious yet celebratory event congratulations second year students who have passed all of the necessary coursework and clinical proficiencies to begin examining patients at the University Eye Center beginning spring semester 2015. Dr. Paul Hodge, alumnus and president of the MOA, presented the keynote address. Class representatives Gabrielle Smiley and Joshua Halm delivered a class address, along with remarks from our dean, Dr. David Damari. All of the MCO deans and many faculty were present along with the students' family and friends to celebrate this special milestone. Each student was called to the stage one by one to receive his or her white coat. In a special, surprise presentation Dr. Randy Vance was presented with his own white coat signed by each member of the

https://www.linkedin.com/groups?displaySettings=&gid=2422268

approval.

the sale conclusion.

Dr. Connolly graduated from MCO in 1997. His son, Clay, is a second year student at MCO. We asked Dr. Connolly to answer some questions about himself and his donation. His answers are provided here: Practice type and name: insight Eye Care; Private Practice location: 21780 21 Mile Road, Macomb, MI 48044 **Practice specialties:** Full scope optometry Why did you donate the bike rack? "I wanted to give back to MCO and thought it would be a nice addition to your new building" What gave you the idea? "I have a spectacle bike rack in front of my office." MCO thanks you, Dr. Sean and Mrs. Tracey Connolly, for your generous contribution to our program. It will benefit students, faculty, administrators and staff for many years to come!

**MCO** Apparel Sales Moving Beginning this fall, MCO will host an online logoed apparel sale for alumni and friends. The interactive site will display a logoed image of each item, as well as available sizes and colors. Payments will be processed using a secure credit card processing vendor and orders will be shipped directly to your home at

Online Soon

Watch your email and social media for more information this fall!

FERRIS STATE University

to represent the board, such as the Eyeball, Optic Cup, Welcome Picnic, Broomball Tournament, etc. All MCO alumni are welcome to apply. To submit a nomination for yourself or others, simply email Sarah at sarahhinkley@ferris.edu. Should you have questions about the commitment, please contact Dr. Sarah Hinkley at 231 -591-2185 or sarahhinkley@ferris.edu or Dr. David Damari at 231-591-4706 or DavidDamari@ferris.edu.

red, metal design make the rack a statement piece that speaks to the unique optometry training occurring at