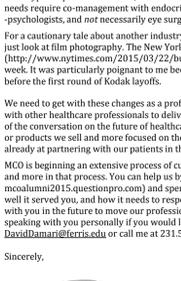


MCO Focal Points

Spring 2015



Thoughts from the Dean



All of healthcare is changing. My conversations with the deans of Ferris's Colleges of Pharmacy and Health Professions are consistently about the changes we believe we are used to practicing alone or in partnership with other eye care providers. We are preparing for this new environment. I was in Lansing a few weeks ago and witnessed testimony before the Senate Committee on Health Policy as they were considering a bill for expansion of the scope of Advanced Practice Registered Nurses. Dr. Roger Seelye and I watched in amazement as the hearing made it painful (for medicine) to see that organized medicine's relationship with the state government has changed.

Our patients 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 with other eye care providers. It is an opportunity because we are used to practicing alone or in partnership with other eye care providers. 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-psychologists, and not necessarily eye surgeons.

For a cautionary tale about another industry that did not see a beautiful piece and short video about Kodak (http://www.nytimes.com/2015/03/22/business/kodak-clinging-to-a-future-beyond-film.html?_r=1) last weekend and articulated why it was because it had in practice in Rochester and sold it just a few months before its first round of Kodak layoffs.

We need to get with these changes as a profession before the whole person is in the margins. We need to partner 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 professionals already at Ferris State University with our patients in their care.

MCO is beginning an extensive process of curriculum review and revision. We will address these concerns and more in that process. You can help us by going to our [questionnaire](http://www.mcoonline.com/questionnaire) (<http://www.mcoonline.com/questionnaire>) and spending 15 to 20 minutes thinking about your training here, how 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 the future. Just e-mail me at DavidDamari@ferris.edu or call me at 231.591.4706.

Sincerely,

David Damari, MD, FAAO, FCOVD

Love Is in the Air: For Some Students Past and Present MCO



Morgan Schuiteman and Michael DeWit
Michael DeWit and Morgan Schuiteman first met as first year students, while sitting in a few seats apart in one of their classes. Each had come to MCO from other campuses; Michael graduated from Calvin 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 involving in a private practice with multi-visit patients on the latest SVOSH trip. Both had traveled separately prior to meeting and now enjoy sight-seeing as a couple.

At this point in her career Morgan is looking into practicing with a partner so she can be actively involved in the family she hopes to have one day. However, she also has a passion for teaching that has resonated with her since childhood and could possibly end up returning to MCO as a professor one day. Michael has a similar mindset but he is also doing a rotation at two hospitals to see the other side of Optometry in the medical field. In addition, he is keeping a teaching position at MCO in the back of his mind. The couple could end up instructing new students in the very building that brought them together.

After applying to four Optometry schools in the Midwest, Morgan chose 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 know 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 the passion for Optometry that 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 had 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 Shake and Braid during exam week to support during the many events and activities throughout the year, Michael and Morgan have enjoyed the amazing community that has been created by the MCO staff.

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 while in the field 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 their schooling and into their careers.

Gabrielle Smiley and Michael Seabruck

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 Seabruck, 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.

Depending on where the deities decide to settle down, Gabe would like to be in either a solo or partnered private practice. She is looking into a specialty in contact lenses or disease. Michael would like to be involved in a private practice with multi-visit patients. A residency would most likely choose one focused on disease and looking into hospital privileges.

Since Wisconsin does not have an Optometry school, one of the main reasons Michael and Gabe chose MCO was its close proximity to their hometowns. 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 during a squirrel fight in the power line. The facility was shut down for two days, giving everyone a much appreciated relaxation period. The group was barbecuing 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 great 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 lighten the day of others before the focuses on his own day. The pair both agree that one of their favorite attributes of MCO is the ability to watch the new graduates get into the workforce of healthcare. And, as always, I look forward to this unique experience offers students the chance to watch newly graduated Optometrists find their niche in both the faculty and the tight knit MCO community.

Morgan Baker and Luis Balders

Every good graduate student knows the couple that studies together... stays together. This is especially true of Luis Balders and Morgan Baker. Both second year students still in school and share their friendship studying every day together for many hours since their very first week of class. Luis spent most of his undergraduate program at Wayne State but is originally from West Bloomfield whereas Morgan, from west Michigan, graduated from Grand Valley State University.

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 private practice with multi-visit patients. Luis would like to be involved in a private practice with multi-visit patients. A residency would most likely choose one focused on disease and looking into hospital privileges.

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Ellie Rose and Michael Ruthven

Michael 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 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

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 enjoyed 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 groceries and still makes her laugh after all this time. Both mirrors their appreciation for MCO, they are a different from each other in many ways, including work within ophthalmology, and commercial leases, but the time they have spent together has been private practice. In addition to their avid career-building the Mollers also enjoy being active in their children's lives through Girl Scout leadership, teaching Sunday School, and attending their child's school events. Traveling, boating and gardening also take up much of their free time.

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 even shared Co-Teacher champion with one of his classmates and even became a teacher with a professor and two during his time here. Kim found it stimulating to learn and to be surrounded by people on the same career path. She is thankful for the lifetime friends she has acquired through her time in the College of Optometry, and a quality that they both treasure is 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, continuing to promote optometry as a great career to young patients is high on Kim's recommendation list.

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MCO Family Growing Soon

MCO is delighted to announce that two of our superstar faculty couples are expecting their first child in September. Dr. Bruce Morgan and Dr. Cynthia Miller (Joshua and Amy (Dinardo) Lotocky) will both be welcoming a baby this fall. We are pleased to see our MCO family grow once, or twice, again. (Photo credits to Dr. Paula McDowell and the AAO for the AAO).



When did you graduate from MCO?
2003
Why did you choose MCO?
I chose MCO because of the small class size, community atmosphere, and history of student success. The small size of the program was the ideal learning environment for me, and the personalized approach at MCO has continued to influence me throughout my career.

MCO Alumnus Receives Research Grant

We are very proud to recognize Dr. Dean VanNasdale, an MCO alumnus and current assistant professor at The Ohio State University's College of Optometry, for his prestigious grant to further his research and the field of Optometry as a whole! He was kind enough to answer a few questions for us so we can update other MCO alumni on Dr. VanNasdale's life and career.

While at MCO, I had the opportunity to participate in several vision screenings, reaching a diverse group of people in medically underserved populations. I also had the opportunity to present eye-related information to elementary 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 today. The faculty members were always willing to meet with me to help think through ideas as well as in turn, nurtured a curiosity for ways to advance the profession.

What activities do you enjoy outside of MCO?
While at MCO, I played tennis, tried to learn golf (unsuccessfully), and spent a lot of time watching a small group of people in the community atmosphere, and history of student success. The small size of the program was the ideal learning environment for me, and the personalized approach at MCO has continued to influence me throughout my career.

Do you have a message for our alumni or our students?
I believe optometry is well positioned to impact patient care by promoting the benefits of primary eye care and delivering those care services. MCO first instilled the importance of that in me and that message has been reinforced at every stage in my relatively short career. As a profession, I think optometry has to remain vigilant, informed, and able to advocate for the work that we do and for the patients we care for.

What do you look forward to accomplishing during 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 excited to include high-resolution, adaptive optics imaging and polarization sensitive imaging. Currently, 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 develop systems into clinical utility, so we can more effectively manage patients with sight-threatening disease and more effectively monitor the results of their treatments. I would also like to work towards implementing more integrated, multi-disciplinary approaches to patient care that includes optometry as a critical nodal point in the health care delivery system.

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What are some fond memories you have of MCO?
I have countless fond memories of my time at MCO, but there is one specific story that I would like to share. It was during my time at MCO that I met my future wife, Cynthia. We were both students at MCO and she was a member of the Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society. I carried a small notebook with me in my clinic coat. I made notes of things I did, but needed to learn or look up, and I was very busy. I was also a member of the Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society. I carried a small notebook with me in my clinic coat. I made notes of things I did, but needed to learn or look up, and I was very busy. I was also a member of the Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society.

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What do you think is in the future for the field of Optometry?
As the healthcare landscape changes, I think optometry is positioned daily from the faculty members that continues to influence the things I do today. The faculty members were always willing to meet with me to help think through ideas as well as in turn, nurtured a curiosity for ways to advance the profession.

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