I’m pleased to report significant progress has been made in meeting a number of key objectives in SCO’s strategic plan. The plan was implemented this time last year, and over the course of our first year, the SCO community has enthusiastically responded to our call to service, volunteering in a number of different areas over the past several months.

We’ve also made progress in enhancing components of our educational program for our students, the primary stakeholder in our mission and everything we do. We held our first Capstone program for the Class of 2010, offering our soon-to-be graduates strategically selected courses to help them transition into post-graduation.

Perhaps more important than the specific actions that have been taken, the campus has adopted the philosophy and attitude of our Mission Statement and Strategic Plan as a compass that directs our efforts. One of the hallmarks of our mission is to lead the profession; in fact, leading the profession means that we won’t settle for second best. We intend to be counted among the very best in all that we do.

Working toward those goals of excellence, we’re looking at the requirements of a 21st century campus with an emphasis on planning for long-term needs of the future. At its spring meeting, SCO’s Board of Trustees affirmatively challenged the administration to develop a comprehensive blueprint for the future of our campus. We are currently working through the complexities of constructing this plan to be presented at this fall’s meetings of the Board and our Alumni Council.

It’s no secret that a number of our sister institutions, some private and some affiliated with public university systems, are either finishing or building state-of-the-art facilities designed to meet the needs of 21st century professional students. While it would be easy to compare our campus today to what “life was like when we were students,” it would be short-sighted to discount the significant advances that have necessitated this approach.

We’re pleased by the prospect of exploring all the dynamic options that are available for this forward-looking endeavor. Our students from the millennial generation (most of them born in the mid- to late 1980s!) learn by showing, not just telling. For example, we use technology (video clips, simulations, etc.) to demonstrate procedures that previous generations only heard about or saw pictures of in a textbook. Our students come to us from undergraduate schools where it was a common practice to sit in a wired classroom so they could take notes on their laptops and interact directly with the instructor.

In SCO’s 78-year history, the college has utilized three primary campus structures: 22 years in the infamous old “red brick” building, 16 years in the Colonial-style campus that followed in the 1950s, and the 11-story “tower” that we’ve occupied since 1970. Candidly, our second-floor “east” and “west” classrooms are bursting at the seams. One of our board members even noticed the mountain of lab coats and brief cases full of optometric equipment outside the classroom door. Those items are there because the classrooms simply don’t offer enough space to bring in all those necessary possessions.

In teaching the scope of future optometric practice, it is essential to review our physical campus beyond just the classroom. Having the room for laser equipment or providing state-of-the-art labs will become a necessity that we should all celebrate, especially for those of us who have worked so hard to advance our profession.

Our efforts will outline a long-term vision of our needs, one that ties in directly to our mission and our strategic plan mandate that we lead, rather than follow, in educating the best possible healthcare providers.

It’s an exciting time at SCO. As you’ll read in this issue, our students are engaged and motivated. A significant number of students are collaborating with faculty on research as part of our Summer Research Program, yet another goal outlined in our Strategic Plan.

Rest assured that today’s optometry students “get it.” For example, the Class of 2011 scored a 99% passage rate on Part 1 of the National Board examination. I am so proud of them. They are more engaged than ever, and as our primary stakeholders in all that we strive to do, they also send their appreciation and gratitude for your role in making Southern College of Optometry a leader in optometric education.
RESEARCH FOCUS

SCE’S 2010 SUMMER RESEARCH PROGRAM
PARTICIPANTS, THEIR MENTORS, AND THEIR
RESEARCH AREAS ARE:

Nora Cothran, ‘13
Marc Taub, OD, MS
Pediatrics

Janine Henry, ’13
Jennifer Henry, ‘13
Dan Fuller, OD
Charles Connor, MA, PhD, OD
Contact Lens Care Compliance

David Hite, ‘13
John Mark Jackson, OD ’99
Aberrations and Sclera Lenses

Erin Kindy, ’13
Patricia Cisarik, OD, PhD
Stereopsis

Lauren Krawcyzk, ’13
W.C. Maples, OD ’68, MS
Vision Therapy

Brittany Radke, ’13
Pinakin Gunvant, PhD, OD ’10
Glaucoma

Kristen Spears, ’13
Bill Edmondson, OD, MAT
Ocular Pharmacology
Eight second-year students have spent part of their summer participating in SCO's second annual Summer Research Program. When the program started in 2009, five students participated; this year, the number grew by three.

“SCO’s Summer Research Program gives second-year students the opportunity to perform research under the direct supervision of a faculty mentor or mentors,” said Charles G. Connor, PhD, OD, SCO’s Director of Research.

The program is promoted to students in advance of the summer semester. Those students who get accepted into the program are paired with faculty to work on a variety of specific research topics.

Lauren Krawcyzk’s project is studying disparity in data from results obtained on a phoropter and those obtained from free space cards as she studies differences in the eye’s convergence and divergence.

“I had done research, working with a development biologist at LSU,” she said. After hearing Dr. Connor talk to her class about the program, she filled out an application, along with a description of why she wanted to participate. All the necessary documentation and applications for each project were then approved by SCO’s Institutional Review Board (IRB) Committee, chaired by Patricia Cisarik, OD, PhD.

Krawcyzk’s work has included developing data sheets, guideline forms for study subjects, contacting prospective patients to participate, and then compiling information after her clinical observations.

A number of fellow students have participated in her study, first-years in particular, along with spouses and friends. “It’s kind of neat because our friends who participate get to come and see SCO,” Krawcyzk said.

She’s found the work very interesting. Because fixation disparity tests theoretically should yield similar results by testing the same underlying mechanism, finding and explaining mismatched data is part of the research challenge that she and Dr. Maples are exploring.

Krawcyzk tests each subject twice and hopes to wrap up her interviews and testing by the early fall, with a goal of finishing the work by the end of the year.

Classmate Erin Kindy is working on two studies with Dr. Cisarik. The first is a comparison to see if referral rates for school vision screenings are increased with the addition of vergence and accommodative facility tests.

“Basically, we’re looking to see if we can catch students who have binocularity problems that would interfere with their schoolwork,” Kindy explained.

Her second project is to see if a correlation exists between esophoria at near and self-perceived ability at resolving Magic Eye® pictures.

Meanwhile, in her work with Dr. Edmondson, Kristen Spears is exploring a comfort comparison among several different over-the-counter drops containing ketotifen fumarate. These newer formulations of anti-allergy medications are commonly used for relief of seasonal allergic conjunctivitis. The study is assessing the relationship between the comfort of the drop and patient compliance.

Several of Dr. Edmondson’s colleagues at Northeastern State University Oklahoma College of Optometry (NSUOCO) are doing a similar study, Spears noted.

“We will be combining our findings with NSUOCO’s,” Spears said. “I’m excited to see the results of the study and see how our data compares to the data collected at NSUOCO.”

Through her participation, Spears also hopes to learn more about the logistics of getting a research experiment approved by the IRB and how the final data will be compiled and organized.

The research program has even allowed Jennifer and Janine Henry, twin sisters, the opportunity to collaborate together on their project. The Henrys are performing phone surveys to investigate compliance rates among contact lens wearers in daily, bi-weekly, and monthly wearing modalities.

“Opposing views exist in the recent literature,” said Dr. Dan Fuller, their research mentor. “The study seeks to explore these views within the context of a single large clinic population.”

Regardless of their various research topics, each student is expected to submit his or her findings to a national meeting, such as the American Academy of Optometry or the American Optometric Association, and to assist faculty in presenting their research in published papers, CE lectures, or academic posters.

For Lauren Krawcyzk, the experience has already proven interesting enough to make her think about how she could participate in research in her post-graduation practice.

Until then, she can also foresee an additional benefit to her participation. “Working in the summer research program has made me more interested in the research side of optometry and could be useful if I choose to pursue residency opportunities,” she noted.

Enhanced clinical research strengthens SCO’s clinical excellence by increasing faculty – and student – expertise, noted Dr. Connor, head of SCO’s research program.

“Pursuing clinical research excellence contributes to the college’s overall mission to provide the highest quality and most current instruction of basic and clinical science,” he said. “This in turn contributes to our mission of educating the best possible healthcare providers while promoting lifelong learning, so it’s really a win-win for all involved.”

Students Active Participants in Summer Research Program

| 1st row (L-R) | Erin Kindy, Janine Henry, Jennifer Henry
| 2nd row (L-R) | David Hite, Nora Cothran, Kristen Spears, Lauren Krawcyzk; Not pictured Brittany Radke |
Optometry Meets in Orlando
AOA 2010

SCO’s receptions for alumni and friends seem to grow with each passing year. A capacity crowd attended this year’s AOA event, drawing alumni, students, faculty and friends of the college at the Gaylord Resort. AOA’s new President, Joe Ellis, OD ’86, spoke to the group the night before he officially became president. Also recognized were James Sandefur, OD ’65, recipient of the AOA’s Distinguished Service Award, David Shannon, OD ’86, the new chair of the Association of Optometrists (AOP) in the UK, and Jeff Anastasio, OD ’01, InfantSEE’s Provider of the Year. SCO had a table at a night of karaoke to benefit Optometry’s Charity, headed by Martha Rosemore Greenberg, OD ’74. President Richard W. Phillips, OD ’78, FAAO, performed in the entertainment line-up.

Faculty Presentations at the AOA

William Edmondson, MAT, OD; Kristen Spears, ’13
How Good are Alcohol Swabs? Comparison of Different Disinfecting Methods for the Goldmann Tonometer

Jennifer L. Jones, OD ’06; John Sharpe, OD ’83; Michael Baldinger, ’11
Cone-Rod Dystrophy vs. Inverse Retinitis Pigmentosa

Jennifer L. Jones, OD ’06; Michael Baldinger, ’11
Neurosensory Detachment in Hypertensive Choroidopathy

So-Yeon Sharon Lee, OD
Doc, can you remove this gunk from my eye?

Maryke N. Neiberg, OD; Jonathan Reddell, ’11; Erin Swichkow, ’11
Longstanding Chronic Bilateral Uveitis in Patient with Zoster Sine Herpete

James M. Newman, MS, OD ’73; Matthew Zemanovich, ’11
Idiopathic Choroidal Neovascularization: A Diagnosis of Exclusion

Sylvia E. Sparrow, OD ’98; Nataly M. Fahim, OD, 2009-2010 Resident
Acute Retinal Necrosis: An Uncommon Ocular Complication of the Herpes Virus
Visual Recovery Secondary to a Cilioretinal Artery in Central Retinal Artery Occlusion

Daniel A. Taylor, OD ’06, MS
Single-day Cadaver Laboratory Pilot Project: Summary of Educational Effects and Student Reactions
Nearly a quarter of a century after their graduation, two members of SCO’s Class of 1986 are leading optometry in America and the United Kingdom.

Joe Ellis, OD ’86, was installed as the American Optometric Association’s (AOA) new president at Optometry’s Meeting in June. Earlier this year, David Shannon, OD ’86, became the new chairman of the Association of Optometrists (AOP) in the UK.

The two classmates both enjoyed seeing each other at SCO’s Alumni Reception at the AOA meeting in Orlando. President Richard W. Phillips, OD ’78, recognized both for their leadership to optometry.

In his remarks to those in attendance at SCO’s reception and during his installation speech the following day, Dr. Ellis noted that optometry must be unified to face challenges and opportunities brought about by healthcare reform.

“It will be up to optometry to step up to cover the primary eye care needs of this nation,” Dr. Ellis said. “It will be imperative that optometrists from every state be allowed to practice to the fullest scope of their training.”

Dr. Ellis outlined improving patient access laws at the state level as a priority to meet an increased demand for vision and eye health services resulting from health care reform.

In the UK, too, the AOP, led by Dr. Shannon, faces some of the same issues – representing optometry’s role in health care and encouraging ODs to increase their participation in organized optometry for a unified front.

“Four years in Memphis wasn’t just about optometry,” Dr. Shannon said. “It was also about appreciating the value of service. My time at the Student Government Association started my journey in organized optometry.”

Both 1986 graduates cite their pride in their alma mater as an acknowledgement of how SCO helped prepare them for their leadership roles.

During his remarks to alumni, Dr. Ellis noted that he was proud when he recently heard someone refer to his alma mater as a leader among optometry schools.

Even in England, Dr. Shannon extols the virtues of SCO in his career. “I am proud of SCO and my fellow alumni,” he said. “In 2011, it will be 25 years since graduation, so I plan to bring some British optometrists to Homecoming to witness first hand SCO, that Southern Hospitality, and BBQ.”

Congratulations to Dr. Ellis and Dr. Shannon for their leadership and service to the profession.
Sco adopted a theme encouraging alumni to “Rediscover and Reconnect” with the college in 2010. It’s easier than you might think. Check out these 20 easy tips for things you can do to “Rediscover and Reconnect!”

1. Share your news by emailing alumni@sco.edu.
2. Check out any number of Sco’s blogs for news and information about alumni, students, and more. http://connect.sco.edu
3. Follow Sco on Facebook @ www.facebook.com/southerncollegeofoptometry
4. Plan to visit campus for Homecoming. If it’s your reunion year, even better!
5. Wear your Sco shirt, hat, or even an Sco tie, with pride!
6. Support your alma mater with an annual gift. www.sco.edu/giving
7. Mentor an aspiring prospective optometry student.
8. Talk up Sco and the quality of Sco-educated ODs.
9. Nominate one of your fellow alumni for an award or honor.
10. Remember to include Sco in your estate planning.
11. Reconnect with classmates via Sco’s Alumni Directory at www.sco.edu/alumni
12. Talk to an Sco student or graduate about practice partnership opportunities.
13. Send us a photo of your baby, grandchild, or even your pet to share.
14. Plan on attending an Sco event at SEco, AOA, Academy or your state or regional meeting.
15. Display your Sco diploma in your office for others to see.
16. Take an online CE course. www.sco.edu/ce/online
17. Check out Sco’s photos at www.flickr.com/photos/scoedu/
18. Mention Sco in news you share with your undergraduate school.
19. Volunteer to help others. It reflects well on our profession, and Sco.
20. Share this Visions magazine with someone interested in optometry.

We welcome your ideas and input! Email Carla O’Brian, Director of Alumni Programs, at cobrian@sco.edu or alumni@sco.edu.
You’re invited to SCO’s 2010 Homecoming and Fall CE Weekend, September 30–October 3

Make plans to attend SCO’s annual Homecoming and Fall CE Weekend, to be held Sept. 30-Oct. 3. By popular demand, the college is pleased to add five-year reunions to this fall’s schedule. In addition to the ever popular 50-, 40-, 30-, 20-, and 10-year reunions, the classes of ’55, ’65, ’75, ’85, ’95 and ’05 are invited back to celebrate as well!

In addition to class reunions, the homecoming BBQ, alumni luncheons and reunion dinners, you’ll find several new activities and events in this year’s program. The weekend begins with a special Kick-Off Party at The Peabody Memphis.

Special activities include several tours and half-day excursions to the Memphis Zoo and Graceland, among others, as well as a new event, a bus trip to Harrah’s Casino in Tunica on Friday.

Be sure to register as soon as possible to lock in your SCO rate at The Peabody and to reserve your spot for a great line-up of nearly 20 hours of top-quality CE.
MORMON FIRST RECIPIENT OF YOUNG ALUMNI AWARD

Paul D. Mormon, OD ’01, is the first recipient of the college’s newest alumni honor, the SCO Young Alumni Award. The award is presented to alumni who have graduated within the last 10 years and are committed to service, leadership, and support of the college’s mission.

Prior to graduating Summa Cum Laude from SCO in 2001, Dr. Mormon received his bachelor’s degree in biology from the University of Tennessee in Knoxville in 1997.

Following his graduation, he joined Eyecare East, PLLC in 2001 as a full-time partner. After spending several years as a part-time SCO faculty member, Dr. Mormon returned to full-time private practice after achieving the rank of Associate Professor and earning three “Clinic Faculty of the Year” awards voted by students.

A member of SCO’s Alumni Council, he has served the past year as President of the Tennessee Optometric Association. Dr. Mormon is also a member of the American Optometric Association and the West Tennessee Optometric Society.

Also an SCO externship preceptor, Dr. Mormon is a clinical investigator for several contact lens companies and formed a consulting group to assist new graduates become successful in practice. Dr. Mormon’s father, Darwin “Bud” Mormon, Professor Emeritus, served 34 years on SCO’s faculty, and practices with his son.

Dr. Mormon’s service to SCO also includes volunteering as a member of SCO’s 75th Anniversary Committee to observe that milestone. He also led his class effort to endow a class scholarship bestowed by 2001 graduates.

Dr. Mormon and his wife, Kelli, are the parents of three daughters.

MAPLES TO RECEIVE 2010 LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

W.C. Maples, OD ’68, Professor, is this year’s recipient of SCO’s Lifetime Achievement Award, the highest honor bestowed by the college upon alumni.

After his graduation from SCO, Dr. Maples practiced in south Mississippi for 12 years, specializing in children’s vision and vision therapy. In 1979 he earned a master’s degree in Community Health Education from the University of Southern Mississippi.

Dr. Maples has served in all the offices of the College of Optometrists in Vision Development (COVD) and now serves as Chair of the International Examination and Certification Board of COVD. He was awarded the A. M. Skeffington Award for his contributions to the behavioral literature in 2000. He was awarded the G. N. Getman Award in 2006 for excellence in developmental vision and inter-professional relations.

Dr. Maples is a Fellow of the AAO and is a board-certified Fellow in developmental vision and vision therapy by both the COVD and the Australasian College of Behavioural Optometrists. Dr. Maples has been active for more than 40 years in the AOA and has served on numerous AOA committees. He has also been active in the Optometric Extension Program Foundation.

Dr. Maples also holds the title of professor emeritus from Northeastern State University Oklahoma College of Optometry (NSUOCO). He retired from NSUOCO in 2006. He taught vision therapy there for 25 years and was chief of the vision therapy clinic for 17 years. At SCO, he practices in The Eye Center, teaches two seminar courses and is active in clinical research.

Dr. Maples has served as editor of the Journal of Behavioral Optometry. He has written more than 70 articles and is pursuing research in the areas of visual epidemiology, refractive errors, oculomotor dysfunction, strabismus, learning disabilities and brain injury. He has lectured in the United States, Australia, New Zealand, Central and South America, Asia and Europe.

CE Courses

SCO’s CE program is administered by Patricia Estes-Walker, OD. This year’s Fall CE courses and speakers include:

- Practice Transitions – 20 Mistakes to Avoid When You Buy, Sell, or Take in a Partner – Jerry Hayes, OD ’73
- Diabetes: Treatment and Management; Nutritional Options and Therapeutic Advancements in the Fight Against ARMD – Steven Ferruci, OD
- Grand Rounds: Ocular Disease for the Primary Care Optometrist – Janna Zbozien Smith, OD ’00
- Oral Medications and the Eye; I Love My IOL! – Jill Autry, OD
- Lasers for the Anterior Segment; Skin Diseases and the Eye – Tammy Than, OD ’95
- Rational Prescribing Practices and Prescription Writing – Scott Ensor, OD ’01
- Retinal Clinic: When to Dilate, When to Refer – Mohammed Rafieetary, OD

Full course descriptions and speaker bios may found on the SCO website. Attendees who register for all 10 courses will receive a $50 discount.

SCO is proud to support The Partnership Foundation for Optometric Education by contributing $1 per registrant for each credit hour of CE provided. To learn more, visit www.opted.org.

In support of this educational weekend, the college extends special thanks to Alcon.
2010 Commencement

Southern College of Optometry awarded doctor of optometry degrees to 119 students this year when commencement was held Friday, April 30 in Memphis.

Rear Admiral Michael H. Mittelman, USN, delivered the commencement address. The first OD to earn the rank of rear admiral while on active duty, Admiral Mittelman also received the Doctor of Ocular science degree during the ceremony.

Receiving the honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degrees were Robert A. Williams, Executive Director for the Optometric Extension Program Foundation, and Sue Gardner, Executive Director of the North Carolina State Optometric Society. James Burke, OD ’77, was named Professor Emeritus.

Valedictorian was Brandon Weyand, OD ’10, while Thomas Chwe, OD ’10, was salutatorian.

Academic Award Sponsors and 2010 Recipients

**ALCON CASE STUDY SCHOLARSHIP AWARD**
Danielle P. Vance, OD

**BAUSCH & LOMB ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP**
Thomas Chwe, OD

**BAYS FAMILY SERVICE AWARD**
Kinsey R. Rives, OD

**DRS. FRED AND CHARLENE BURNETT STUDENT RESEARCH AWARD**
Lauren G. Goldsmith, OD

**COVd EXCELLENCE IN VISION THERAPY AWARD**
Felicia A. Jackson, OD

**DESIGNS FOR VISION, INC. THE WILLIAM FEINBLOOM LOW VISION AWARD**
James W. Bearden, III, OD

**EAGLE VISION SUPER EAGLE PRACTICE BUILDER’S KT**
Meredith Cameron Cole, OD

**ESCHENBACH OPTIK LOW VISION AWARD**
Chase L. Vervack, OD

**ESSILOR CRIZAL AWARD OF EXCELLENCE**
Ross B. Lumpkin, OD

**ESSILOR LABS OF AMERICA/SOUTHERN OPTICAL**
Jonathan P. Goodwin, OD

**FCO SPIRIT AWARD**
Nicholas R. Reid, OD

**GP LENS INSTITUTE’S CONTACT LENS CLINICAL EXCELLENCE AWARD**
Jessica H. Ellis, OD

**DR. BERNARD L. KAHN MEMORIAL ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP**
Kathryn M. Falk, OD

**LS&S GROUP LOW VISION AWARD**
Jessica R. Goldman, OD

**MARCHON EYEWEAR PRACTICE MANAGEMENT AWARD**
Darren W. Reed, OD

**NBEO PART II AWARD**
Benjamin C. Herring, OD

**NOIR LOW VISION AWARD**
Thuy-Diem N. Ngo, OD

**OCULAR INSTRUMENTS, INC., AWARD OF EXCELLENCE**
Branden L. Weyand, OD

**ODYSSEYMEDICALPARTNERSINOPTOMETRYAWARD**
Ryan P. Coyle, OD
Brent D. Collins, OD

**OOH LA LA DE PARIS AWARD**
Gene W. Wong, OD

**DR. DAVID P. SLOAN MEMORIAL AWARD**
Amanda S. Nadolski, OD

**SCO OUTSTANDING CLINICIAN AWARDS**
James W. Bearden, III, OD
Michelle A. Brennan, OD
Katie L. Carlo, OD
Thomas Chwe, OD
Kelly L. Collins, OD
Meghan A. Elkins, OD
Jamie Byron Johnson, OD
Elizabeth M. Kilgore, OD
Ross B. Lumpkin, OD
Gene W. Wong, OD

**SOUTHERN COUNCIL OF OPTOMETRISTS CLINICAL EXCELLENCE AWARD**
Michelle A. Brennan, OD

**SOUTHWEST CONTACT LENS SOCIETY**
John W. Hayley, OD

**STEREO OPTICAL CO., INC.**
Meredith A. Jarvis, OD

**VISTAKON AWARD OF EXCELLENCE IN CONTACT LENS PATIENT CARE**
Katie L. Carlo, OD

**X-CEL CONTACTS OUTSTANDING GP FITTING AWARD**
Kendria L. Cartledge, OD
Following Commencement, Brent Collins, OD ’10, and Rob Carlson, OD ’10, were commissioned into the military by Rear Admiral Mittelman.

Valedictorian Brandon Weyand, OD ’10, Salutatorian Tom Chwe, OD ’10

Legacy graduates and their parents included:
Front: Phil Gray, OD ’78 and daughter Emily Gray
Second row: John Hayley and (grandfather) Charles Hayley, OD ’40, Hal Herring, OD ’78 and Ben Herring
Third row: Taylor Prchal and parents, Jerry Prchal, OD ’79 and Sue Prchal, OD ’79, Watts Davis, OD ’77 and Evan Davis
Back row: Mark Smith, Thomas Smith, OD ’76
Introducing SCO’s Graduating Class of 2011

Below each student is listed his/her home state along with their preferred practice location(s).
Students who are looking for practice opportunities are encouraged to register for our online service at www.sco.edu/placement. Alumni, too, are encouraged to post their information online at this same site. Students may choose to be contacted if they are interested in alumni-posted practice opportunities. The college encourages all alumni to utilize this service and network with our fourth-year students as they finalize their post-graduation plans.
Faculty and Staff Walk the Talk in Support of SCO

The 2010-2011 Campaign for SCO ended on June 30, and faculty and staff demonstrated that last year’s record-setting results were a sign of things to come! While last year’s numbers in participation and money given in support of funds at SCO were remarkable, a repeat was needed to demonstrate that faculty and staff zeal was not a one-time event.

The challenge was set to repeat or at least match last year’s record. Collectively, SCO’s faculty and staff demonstrated that they lead the profession in optometric education. This year’s internal fundraising campaign resulted in 92% of the faculty and staff stepping up to the challenge, raising more than $64,067.

Their generosity supports various funds focused on patient care, student and faculty education, and paying down debt on The Eye Center. While last year’s results were very impressive, the combined effort of faculty and staff makes a strong statement to SCO’s alumni, friends and supporters.

If our faculty and staff feel this strongly about supporting SCO, what do they know that you don’t? Don’t miss out. There is no better time to join this winning attitude and get in on the action. Reminisce, rediscover, and reconnect with all the good news that happens at SCO. The faculty and staff get it, and you can, too.

Planned Giving: It is Never Too Early to Start

Planning ahead is always challenging, but when it comes to writing wills and estate planning, we seem to hesitate, procrastinate or look the other way. Writing a will or estate planning ensures your wishes are fulfilled for the people and interests in your life.

An alarming number of Americans never prepare a will or plan, leaving the government in charge of distributing their estate. That very seldom results in anyone’s desired outcome. Regardless of your age, it is never too early to begin preparing your will or planning how you want your estate distributed.

In preparing, it is important to evaluate your priorities, personal objectives and how you wish to leave a lasting impact on those who are important to you and those who have influenced your life. Many alumni have chosen SCO as a beneficiary within their wills, estate distributions or insurance policies, with specific instructions as to how their gift is to be directed.

In all situations, these gifts represent the trust each person has in SCO to fulfill their instructions, but also an understanding of the role their gift has in securing the future of SCO and the profession of optometry. Those who make these provisions become a part of the Legacy Society and share the common vision and desire to preserve the legacy of the college and assure SCO’s continued success for years to come.

Please contact the Office of Institutional Advancement (800) 238-0180, ext. 4 to discuss various options available to those who wish to include SCO as a beneficiary in a will or as a part of estate planning.
Class of 2010 Leaves Impressive Gift at Graduation

Each year, members of a graduating class establish a class scholarship by making gifts or pledges with the goal of fully funding their scholarship by the time they reunite for their 10-year reunion.

SCO’s Class of 2010 achieved an unprecedented outcome when 62 members gave $4,525 to establish their scholarship. Those gifts represent a remarkable 51% participation rate and the highest amount ever pledged by an SCO graduating class.

“The Class of 2010 demonstrated their leadership and understanding of the role they play in securing SCO’s future,” said Carla O’Brian, Director of Alumni Programs.

“Our alumni hold the keys to keeping SCO great, and the Class of 2010 is following in their footsteps, assuring that SCO will continue leading the profession in optometric education and excellence.”

Graduation day brought together alumni on a visit to the room they named in The Eye Center.

L-R: Taylor Prchal, OD ’10, his parents, Sue and Jerry Prchal, OD ’79, and his aunt and uncle, Jo Ann Payne, OD ’89, and Greg Payne, OD ’90

We make a living by what we get, we make a life by what we give.

—Winston Churchill
Ramona Clifton, OD ’46, recently received the Kentucky Optometry Association’s Distinguished Service Award.

Jack Runninger, OD ’47, recently co-authored a new book entitled, Fixing Stupid – Two Curmudgeons’ Pet Peeves. Dr. Runninger wrote the second part of the book using humor and describing things that irk senior citizens. He describes it as a textbook on building good patient relations with seniors. Autographed copies may be had by mailing a check for $12.95 (includes mailing costs) to Jack Runninger, 2663 N. Broad Ext., Rome, GA 30161.

If you would also like a copy of Dr. Runninger’s earlier book, You’ll Do Great If You Communicate, your gift of $14.95 (includes postage) will benefit SCO scholarships. Please send your check or money order to SCO, c/o Institutional Advancement, 1245 Madison Ave., Memphis, TN 38104.

Glen Bryant, OD ’49, and Erwin Lax, OD ’53 were this year’s recipients of Lifetime of Excellence Awards from the Arkansas Optometric Association.

Col. (Ret.) John T. Leddy, OD ’56, recently lost his wife, Virginia Hyer Leddy, on July 13, 2010. During her husband’s military career, Mrs. Leddy served as a national officer for the Woman’s Auxiliary to the AOA. She and Col. Leddy were among SCO’s earliest donors when SCO began establishing scholarships in the late 1980s. In addition to her husband, her survivors include four children and seven grandchildren.

T. Joel Byars, OD ’63, was recently appointed to a three-year term on the AOA Foundation Board.

Bill Webb, OD ’63, received the Kentucky Optometric Association’s Award of Merit at the KOA’s spring meeting.

James Sandefur, OD ’65, was named the recipient of the AOA’s Distinguished Service Award at Optometry’s Meeting in Orlando.

Walt West, OD ’75, has published a new book, When Your Success Is On The Line, available online through Amazon.com.

Terry L. Williams, OD ’76, was blessed with his first grandchild on Christmas morning, 2009. His oldest daughter, Anne, who was born at the beginning of Dr. Williams’ senior year at SCO, gave birth to Carson Douglas. As Dr. Williams says, “What an awesome Christmas present!”

Ron Bannister, OD ’77, SECO President, recently traveled to Scotland to accept the Association of Optometrists’ Award on behalf of SECO International. The AOP’s award recognized SECO as an institution that has made a significant impact on the advancement of optometry within the United Kingdom. SECO and the AOP formed a working relationship in 1997 with a joint venture partnership agreement.

John Boozman, OD ’77, won the GOP U.S. Senate primary in Arkansas. A U.S. Congressman since 2001, he will now face U.S. Senator Blanche Lincoln in November’s mid-term elections. Additional information may be found at www.boozmanforarkansas.com.

Joe Chaney, OD ’79, recently received the Arkansas Optometric Association’s Special Service Award.

Dwayne Sizemore, OD ’81, was named the Kentucky Optometry Association’s OD of the Year at its spring meeting.

William Brent Walker, OD ’81, was recognized by Cambridge Who’s Who for excellence in optometry. He was named Cambridge’s Professional of the Year in Optometry in 2009.

Raul Arencibia, OD ’88, and Jeff Northcutt, OD ’88, owners of Ooh la-la de Paris, recently returned to Memphis to host a runway and trunk show featuring their company’s distinctive, French-inspired eyewear.

Their visit marked the first time they had visited Memphis since their graduation. The business partners were profiled a few years ago in an issue of Visions. After designing and selling frames to a number of Hollywood clients in several California-based practice locations, they began marketing their unique designs on the national scale.

More than 100 people attended their special “invitation only” show at The Eye Center at SCO in May. A portion of the proceeds benefited charity, raising several thousand dollars in the process.

The event marked a great way to share their company’s success with new customers, patients of The Eye Center, and at their alma mater. Visit their website at www.oohlaladeparis.com to learn more about their business, or visit SCO’s online photo galleries to see more photos from the event.
Michael Fregger, OD ’82, is currently serving as President of the Florida Optometric Association, while Stephen Kepley, OD ’83, serves as the FOA’s Secretary-Treasurer.

Bryant Ashley, Jr., OD ’84, recently received the Myron Shofner Award from the Arkansas Optometric Association.

Lisa Rossmeyer Wade, OD ’84, celebrated the grand opening of her new Harley-Davidson motorcycle dealership location in Southaven, Mississippi. She also recently received the Gold Bar & Shield Circle of Excellence Award, presented by the company to the top 25 dealerships in the U.S. Visit southernthunderhd.com to learn more.

John R. Gallaher, OD ’93, was recently named the movie critic for the Wilson Post, the newspaper in Lebanon, Tennessee, a Nashville suburb. Dr. Gallaher, who was a noted tennis player in his undergraduate years, will write his reviews in a column called “At the Movies with Doc.”

Philip Marler, OD ’94, is currently serving as President of the Mississippi Optometric Association.

Christine Pastilong, OD ’95, was recently recognized with the Magnolia High School’s Alumni Life Achievement Award in West Virginia. Dr. Pastilong owns Bossier Family Eye Care in Louisiana.

Kurt Steele, OD ’95, recently received TLC’s Vision Source “Excellence in Eye Care – Refractive” award.

Michelle Presson, OD ’96, and Alan Presson, OD ’95, were among the attendees at SCO’s Spring Continuing Education weekend in Memphis.

Reggie Dampier, OD ’97, is the Mississippi Optometric Association’s President-Elect, while Bradley Thompson, OD ’99, is Vice President.

Shane Ford, OD ’00, was recently installed as the new president of the Arkansas Optometric Association.

Jeff Anastasio, OD ’01, was named the recipient of the Dr. W. David Sullins, Jr. InfantSEE® Award at the AOA meeting in Orlando.

Angie Sherlin Bell, OD ’01, and her husband, Jeremy Bell, announce the birth of their second daughter, Emily, born on Nov. 3, 2009.

Graduated and Gave Birth on the Same Day!

Erica Musgrove, OD ’10, will have a story to tell her new daughter someday. Expecting her first child a few days before SCO’s 2010 commencement, Dr. Musgrove actually went into labor and delivered her baby at 3:34 pm on the Friday afternoon of her graduation ceremony!

Ella Ann Musgrove weighed 8 pounds and was 21 inches long. “The timing was actually perfect, because our parents and brothers and sisters were all in town from Kansas for graduation,” said Dr. Musgrove.

Dr. Musgrove and her husband, Clint, were surprised with more visitors later that night when several members of the Class of 2010 came to visit her in the hospital and meet Ella.

It is believed that Dr. Musgrove was the first SCO graduate to ever give birth on commencement day. The event was so unusual that it was even covered in Women in Optometry magazine.

Some day Ella will be able to tell her friends that she was born the day her mommy became an optometrist!

Keith Menard, OD ’03, recently opened his own practice, Menard Eye Center, in Louisiana

Scott Snowberger, OD ’03, and Nathan Garcia, OD ’03, plan to open their second practice location this fall in the Austin, Texas area.
American Dream Comes True

For one member of the Class of 2010, graduation embodied the American dream. Hon Chung, OD ’10, is one of seven of his parents’ children to enter healthcare. Two more siblings are in health-related studies, while two more are school teachers and information technologists.

Dr. Chung’s parents owned a rice milling company in South Vietnam. After the country fell to North Vietnam in 1975, most businesses were confiscated by the communists.

In 1979, the future Dr. Chung and his twin brother, Anh, were 19 months old when their parents decided to flee Vietnam with their large family. Along the way, the family’s boat was terrorized by pirates and set adrift without food or water.

After a week at sea, the Chung family was rescued by World Vision’s Operation Seasweep, the first mercy ship to come to the aid of Vietnamese boat people, as the refugees were being called. Sponsored by a family, the Chung family ended up in Ft. Smith, Arkansas.

Dr. Chung attended Harvard before coming to SCO. His twin brother is also an optometrist. Instead of focusing on the sacrifices they made for their children, Dr. Chung’s parents point to his graduation as the latest chapter of the better life the family has found in the United States, literally, the American Dream come true.

Emily Sprague, OD ’04, recently returned from a month-long Navy humanitarian mission to Liberia. She reported long lines formed for vision care each morning. “After being there, it made me acutely aware of how lucky I was to live in the U.S., and how fortunate we are to have all the things we take for granted every day.”

Kevin Mueller, OD ’05, has joined the clinical staff at Austin and Treacy, PA in Duluth, Minnesota.

Allison Underwood Price, OD ’05, and Danny Price, OD ’05, have announced the birth of their first child, a daughter, Anderson, born Monday, August 2.

Randall Glass, OD ’06, and his wife, Kim, welcomed a son, James Thomas Glass, on October 8, 2009.

James Hertzog, OD ’06, and Charity Grieco Hertzog, OD ’06, on the birth of their second son, Jonah Aaron, born April 29.

Kim Raharja, OD ’06, recently lectured in Texas as part of a series called Optometry Program for Fourth-Year Students. The series was hosted by Alcon for invited optometry students.

Daniel Taylor, OD ’06, SCO Instructor, married Micah Allen on August 6 in Malden, Missouri.


Haylie Mullinks, OD ’07, SCO Instructor, and her husband, Nick, welcomed the birth of their first child, Lucy Caroline. She was born July 15 and weighed 7 lbs., 14 ozs.

Cortney Waycaster, OD ’07, and her husband, Adam, recently welcomed a son, Adam, Jr., on March 4, 2010. Dr. Clemans is practicing in northeast Ohio.


Miranda Maynard, OD ’08, and her husband, John, welcomed their second child, a daughter, Georgia Kate on July 20, 2010.

Stephen Wetick, OD ’08, was a lecturer at SCO’s 2010 Spring Continuing Education weekend.

Lauren Parrish Williams, OD ’08, and her husband, Matt, welcomed a baby girl, Eliza Grace, on July 19th.

Leah Gray, OD ’09, 2009-10 SCO resident, took the top prize at the National Optometric Association’s annual meeting for her academic poster, When a headache is not just a headache – the importance of visual field imaging and other diagnostic procedures in headache management.

American Dream Comes True
Alumni Honors

Over the past year, several SCO alumni were named their states’ ODs of the Year, including:
- Annette Webb, OD ’95 (AR)
- William Earl Malone, OD ’69 (MS)
- Brad Altman, OD ’94 (TN)
- James Campbell, OD ’78 (WV)

Young ODs of the Year include:
- Meg Brya, OD ’03 (GA)
- Jeffrey Kempf, OD ’01 (IL)
- Gerald Gerdes, OD ’02 (LA)
- Megan Sumrall, OD ’06 (MS)
- Duane Thompson, OD ’99 (MO)
- Rebecca Williamson, OD ’03 (OH)
- Jeremy Diamond, OD ’07 (TN)
- Martin Carpenter, OD ’03 (VA)

At the Optometric Association of Louisiana annual convention in June, a number of SCO alumni were elected to leadership positions or honored. Among those honored were:
- Chris Wroten, OD ’02 (President)
- Jeff Anastasio, OD ’01 (President-elect)
- Dave Mitchell, OD ’04 (President of the Gulf Optometric Society)
- Keith Menard, OD ’03 (President of the Southwest Optometric Society)
- Garrett Thibodeaux, OD ’06 (President of the Acadian Optometric Society)
- Gerald Gerdes, OD ’02 (President of the Central Optometric Society)

1940
- Sidney M. Dorf, OD
  Norfolk, VA

1947
- Glenn S. Burk, OD
  Lubbock, TX

1948
- Guy Clayton, OD
  Amarillo, TX
- Charles Turner, OD
  Ponca City, OK

1949
- Aubrey T. Allen, OD
  Alexander City, AL
- Dante A. Antonucci, OD
  Mansfield Township, NJ
- Joseph R. Applegate, Jr., OD
  Bowie, TX
- Walston A. Lynn, Jr., OD
  Rock Hill, SC

1950
- Bolivar A. Sims, OD
  Greenwood, MS

1951
- Harold S. Doubleday, OD
  Plantation, FL
- Herman Messina, Jr., OD
  Slidell, LA

1954
- Edward N. Tescher, OD
  Hollywood, FL

1957
- Allen B. Womble, OD
  Brunswick, GA

1958
- Herbert C. Denham, OD
  Murray, KY

1963
- John K. Arnold, OD
  Valley Center, KS
- Chestin Boudreaux, OD
  Erath, LA

1964
- Joe Butler, OD
  Idabel, OK

1969
- Robert L. Corbett, OD
  Merritt Island, FL

1988
- Gary W. Owens, OD
  Lafayette, LA

Joe Willis Clay, OD ’50, died April 29, 2010 in Sherman, Texas. Following his graduation, he joined his father as a third generation optometrist in the country’s longest continuing family eye care practice. Active for 56 years before his retirement four years ago, Dr. Clay served as a member of the Board of Directors of the Oklahoma Association of Optometric Physicians and was a 60-year member of the AOA. He was a civic leader in the local board of health, Lions Club, March of Dimes, Chamber of Commerce and other organizations. Survivors include a number of SCO alumni, including his son, Greg Clay, OD ’77.

John W. Streff, OD, former SCO faculty member, died May 6, 2010. A World War II veteran, he was a director of vision research at the Gesell Institute of Child Development when he joined the SCO faculty in 1974. He served five years on faculty, and was well known for his research, especially in what is now known as Streff Syndrome. Survivors include his wife, five sons, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

Ashley Schuelke, OD ’09, 2009-10 SCO resident, and Jonathan Reddell, ‘11, pictured, were wed in Memphis on May 1.

Sean Skierczynski, OD ’09, and his wife, Mary, welcomed a daughter, Lucy McGuire Skierczynski. Lucy was born during her dad’s SCO residency in Memphis.

Christina Vranich, OD ’09, recently celebrated the grand opening of her new practice in Eads, Tennessee. Visit her website for Fayette Family Vision Care at visionsource-fayettefamilyvision.com.

Felicia Jackson, OD ’10, was recently commissioned into the U.S. Air Force as a Captain. Dr. Jackson took her oath and joined the ranks of the Air Force in June. Dr. Jackson will start active duty on October 18. She will be stationed at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, Texas for three years.

Elizabeth Kilgore, OD ’10, wed Thomas Johnson on June 5 in Hampton, Arkansas.
SCO Launches Inaugural Laser Symposium

A total of 240 SCO student clinicians recently experienced the chance to operate ophthalmic lasers in two back-to-back, hands-on workshops. The Memphis Laser Workshop, part of the OPT 320 curriculum, kicked off the concentrated program.

In addition to SCO’s new Zeiss Argon and YAG lasers, TLC supplied a VISX excimer laser and laser technicians for the workshops. American Surgical Suppliers loaned a second YAG and an SLT laser for use.

Two of the country’s leading optometric laser technicians were on hand. Dawn Holstead, OD, TLC Vice President, and Michelle Welch, OD, Associate Dean at Northeastern State University Oklahoma College of Optometry, headed up the one-on-one laboratory instruction.

They were joined by TLC’s Dr. Bill Tullo and several SCO faculty with laser experience, including Jared Powelson, OD ’96, Assistant Professor, Bill Edmondson, MAT, OD, Professor, William Kress, OD, Instructor, Anna Schlesselman, OD, Instructor, and Patricia Estes-Walker, OD, Assistant Professor.

Drs. Powelson and Edmondson, who teach Ophthalmic Lasers and Peri-Operative Management, organized the event for third-year students. The workshop is expected to become an annual event as part of the curriculum.

“As part of our mission to lead the profession, SCO is pleased to provide our students with hands-on access to leading technology,” said Lewis Reich, OD, PhD, Professor and Vice President for Academic Affairs.

Members of the graduating Class of 2010 were offered a defining career moment as they utilized resources useful in transitioning from optometry student to optometrist.

SCO’s inaugural Capstone Program featured a week-long program that included information on new pharmaceutical treatments, technology, grand rounds sessions, a laser lab, refractive surgery update, recent graduate testimonials, information on InfantSEE, building OD/MD relationships, billing and coding, organized optometry, financial information, and customer service training.

Joe Ellis, OD ’86, spoke about the importance of organized optometry in his capacity as AOA’s new president, while Karla Zadnik, OD, represented the American Academy of Optometry. Paul Mormon, OD ’01, spoke about the importance of regional and state associations in the profession.

Social activities were included in the schedule, including a dinner at the new Teton Trek area of the Memphis Zoo and a farewell luncheon. Bill Kress, OD, Instructor, and Patricia Estes-Walker, OD, Assistant Professor, helped organize the program, which was supported in part by the Alcon Partners in Education program.

Planning is already underway for Capstone 2011, an exciting opportunity to prepare seniors for their post-graduation success.
SVOSH and FCO Mission Trip Reports

The week following graduation, dozens of SCO students left for mission trips abroad. SVOSH groups went to Mexico, Peru, Colombia, Jamaica, Belarus, and Belize. One group in Mexico alone saw more than 1,100 patients, with an even greater number of glasses dispensed.

FCO students, meanwhile, traveled to Nicaragua to share their faith and provide residents there with free eyecare. The team consisted of 16 student interns, a student’s spouse/nurse, an SCO resident, faculty member Rick Savoy, OD, and Felicia Jackson, OD ’10. The group worked with an organization to see 940 people and dispensed 470 pairs of glasses over three days.

Congratulations to all who volunteered and participated in the service of others in need of eye and vision care.

Students Visit Capitol Hill

This spring a group of SCO faculty and students traveled to Washington D.C. for the Congressional Advocacy Conference. Representing SCO were President Richard W. Phillips, OD ’78, Dennis Mathews, OD, Glen Steele, OD ’69 and a group of students.

IOL Roundtable Seminar Held

SCO recently hosted an Intraocular Lens (IOL) Roundtable Seminar for third-year students. The event brought industry professionals to interact with student clinicians about patient care and premium IOLs. The program included industry IOL specialists Marilyn Sollenberger of Knoxville for Bausch and Lomb, Mark Jones from Minneapolis for Abbott Medical Optics, Inc., and from Memphis, Susan Hardin and Trent Hitchcock from Alcon.

The roundtable was designed to provide an update on available ophthalmic peri-operative materials, such as IOLs, for co-managing patients referred for ophthalmic surgery, and laser procedures. “Because third-years are in clinical rotations and about to start their externships, the event was especially important preparation for today’s optometric practice that includes co-management,” said Bill Edmondson, MAT, OD, Professor, who teaches Ophthalmic Lasers and Peri-Operative Management with Jared Powelson, OD ’96, Assistant Professor.

“The emphasis of the roundtable is to provide student doctors experience working with industry professionals to help solve their patients’ problems,” Dr. Edmondson said.
Faculty Promotions

Daniel Smith, OD ‘94, has been named Interim Chief of Pediatric Primary Care. Dr. Smith joined the faculty in 2008. Prior to joining SCO, he was in private practice in Lawrence, Kansas, and served on the optometric staff of Children’s Mercy Hospital in Kansas City, where he completed a residency in Pediatric Optometry.

Patricia Estes-Walker, OD, has been named Interim Chief of Adult Primary Care. Prior to joining the faculty in 2009, she served as Associate Center Director of Vision America, a co-management referral center, and in practice at Southern Eye Associates in Memphis. She will continue serving as SCO’s Director of Continuing Education.

Daniel G. Fuller, OD, was promoted from Assistant Professor to Associate Professor, effective July 1.

So-Yeon Sharon Lee, OD, was promoted from Instructor to Assistant Professor, effective July 1.

Faculty Highlights

Kristin K. Anderson, OD, Associate Professor, Jason Duncan, OD ‘96, Assistant Professor, Lindsay Elkins OD ’07, Instructor, Michael Gerstner, OD ‘97, Associate Professor, Dennis Mathews, OD, Associate Professor, John Neal, OD ’07, Instructor, Maryke Neiberg, OD, Assistant Professor, and Daniel Taylor, OD ’08, MS, Instructor, were among the lecturers at SCO’s 2010 Spring CE weekend.

Patricia Cisarik, OD, PhD, Associate Professor, presented a poster at the Vision Sciences Society meeting in Naples, Florida in May. Her poster was called, “A Comparison of Self-Reported and Measured Autostereogram Skills with Clinical Indicators of Vergence Ability.”

David A. Damari, OD, Professor, was invited to speak as a representative of the College of Optometrists in Vision Development at the annual meeting of the Association of Regulatory Boards in Optometry (ARBO) on board certification. He presented the model of specialty board certification that COVD has pursued for almost 40 years, and the challenges involved with establishing good maintenance of certification programs.

David A. Damari, OD, Professor, and Marc Taub, OD, MS, Assistant Professor, recently lectured at the Tennessee Megadisability Conference in Nashville. Dr. Taub spoke on “Vision and Learning and Visual Examination of the Special Population, while Dr. Damari spoke on Standardized Testing: Beyond Extended Time.”

Jason Duncan, OD ’96, Assistant Professor; John Neal ‘07, Instructor; Patricia Estes-Walker, OD, Assistant Professor; Jared Powelson OD ‘96, Assistant Professor, and Scott Ensor, OD ’01, Assistant Professor, recently attended a laser certification course in Oklahoma.

Scott Ensor, OD ’01, Assistant Professor, recently attended and spoke at the Colombian Federation of Optometrists International Congress meeting held in May. Dr. Ensor lectured as part of a panel and also served as judge for the student poster competition.

Daniel G. Fuller, OD, Associate Professor, recently presented unpublished findings of the pilot study on the “Safety and Efficacy of FreshKote when used with Lotrafilcon-A Contact Lenses” in Denver, Colorado at the Vision Source Summit 2010 meeting. Dr. Fuller also presented a lecture to the NW Florida Optometric Association. He spoke on “Contact Lens Intolerance and a Novel Solution.”

Frank Gibson, OD ‘68, Professor, lectured on eye health at the Professional Network on Aging’s Senior Expo in Memphis. Also representing SCO were Marc Taub, OD, MS, Assistant Professor, Zakiya Nicks, OD, Instructor, Cynthia Heard, OD, Associate Professor, and Aaron Kerr, OD ’98, Associate Professor.

Pinakin Gunvant, PhD, OD ‘10, Assistant Professor, presented collaborative research at the 2010 SPIE Medical Imaging with colleagues from three other universities. Dr. Gunvant also was interviewed about the patent process related to research on the Let’s Talk Money program on Germantown Community Television.


Cynthia Heard, OD, Associate Professor, who chairs ASCO’s Optometry Diversity and Cultural Competence Committee, spoke about recruiting minorities into optometry at the National Optometric Association meeting in Chicago. She was invited by NOA Region II Trustee, Dr. Joyce Ramsue-Thompson. Region II includes the Midwest states and five optometry schools in those states. The event, sponsored by Bausch & Lomb, was attended by minority ODs from the Chicago area and Ohio.

Dr. Heard and Sharon Lee, OD, Assistant Professor, spoke at a Mid-South Foundation Fighting Blindness Chapter meeting at Hamilton Eye Institute in Memphis. Dr. Heard spoke about “Benefits of Wearing Contact Lenses and Colored Filters,” and Dr. Lee spoke about “Current State of Visual Requirements for Driving.”

W.C. Maples, OD ‘68, MS, Professor, visited Poland to help observe the 25th anniversary of optometry being established at the Karol Marcinkowski University of Medical Science’s Department of Optometry. At the International Congress of Behavioral Optometry meeting in April, he was honored with an international award for his efforts to promote optometry abroad.

Dr. Maples published an article in Optometry & Vision Development, Vol. 41/No. 2/2010. The article is entitled, “Frequency and Types of Pediatric Symptoms in a Clinical Population.”

Glen Steele, OD ’69, Professor, made an InfantSEE presentation to three student groups through The Vision Care Institute, gave a lecture for the Northwest Congress of Optometry on Retinoscopy in Portland, Oregon, and led a roundtable discussion and a workshop on InfantSEE at the Association of Maternal and Child
Health Programs in Washington D.C. He also appeared on the FOX affiliate’s morning TV program in Memphis to talk about vision issues in relation to Urban Child Institute funding.

Sharon Tabachnick, MSLS, PhD, Associate Professor, presented a poster, “Teaching an Evidence-Based Medicine Course,” at the recent Tennessee Library Association (TLA) meeting.

Marc B. Taub, OD, MS, Assistant Professor, was recently named Chair-Elect of Vision Quest. The organization is a community-wide coalition of agencies, organizations, and professionals serving the needs of persons of all ages who are blind or visually impaired. Dr. Taub successfully defended his master’s thesis entitled: “A Comparison of Three Clinical Tests of Accommodation to Hofstetter’s Norms to Guide Diagnosis and Treatment.” Dr. Taub was awarded the degree of Master of Science-Clinical Vision Research by Nova Southeastern University in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida on May 29.

ICBO 2010 Posters

Ragna Godtland, OD ’10
Streff Syndrome: A Case Report and Literature Review

Karen A. Kehbein, OD, 2009-10 SCO Resident
Down Syndrome and Vision Therapy: A Case Report

Karen A. Kehbein, OD, 2009-10 SCO Resident; Scott Steinman, OD, PhD, Professor; Brigitte Keener, ’11
VEP for the Primary Care Optometrist

Ashley Schuelke, OD ’09, 2009-10 SCO Resident
Cerebral Palsy: The Optometrist’s Role

Charles Shidlofsky, OD ’88, Felicia Jackson, OD ’10
The Use of Yoked Prism to Create a More Efficient Visual Process

Marc B. Taub, OD, MS, Assistant Professor; Cheryl Ervin, OD, Associate Professor
Southern College of Optometry Pediatric and Vision Therapy Residencies

Marc B. Taub, OD, MS, Assistant Professor
Normative Developmental Values of Randot Stereoacuity in Children and Young Adults

Robyn Russell, OD; Marc B. Taub, OD, MS, Assistant Professor; Janna Iyer, ’11
Socio-economic status does not correlate with the COVID-QOL

Steele Honored for Lifetime Achievement

Prevent Blindness Tennessee recently honored Glen Steele, OD ’69, Professor, for lifetime achievement. Dr. Steele received the 20/20 Lifetime of Service Award in “recognition of exemplary service in improving the quality and availability of eye care.”

Tennessee Optometric Association Executive Director Gary Odom presented the award to Dr. Steele as co-chair of the Celebration of Sight 2010 gala held annually in Nashville.

The award is a fitting tribute to a man who has devoted his entire professional career to optometric education and the betterment of young patients. Dr. Steele served 25 years as Chief of SCO’s Pediatric Service. He retired from the position on July 1, but it should be emphasized that he is not yet ready to retire from teaching on SCO’s faculty.

A past president of the College of Optometrists in Vision Development (COVD), he also is a past president of the Optometric Extension Program Foundation. He served as Chair of the AOA Pediatrics and Binocular Vision Committee for five years. He currently chairs the AOA’s InfantSEE Committee and lectures extensively throughout the US and abroad in the area of infant vision development and care.

“It’s a joy to teach students about the volume of knowledge that we’ve accumulated in the area of pediatric vision in the years since I was an optometry student,” Dr. Steele said. “When we look at how other professions judge an infant’s social and emotional milestones, it is almost all from observations of visual activity. Helping science-based students try to get a handle on the observation part of examination and care is the most difficult but the most rewarding when they do understand.”

Dr. Steele said that it’s a great feeling when former students call him a few years later asking about a concept, method or management approach for a child they have in their office. “You realize that they put all those things together then,” he said.

Among the accomplishments he’s most proud of from his time as a clinic chief, Dr. Steele is glad to have increased the concepts and awareness of the development aspects of vision. He’s also pleased to see a greater involvement in the profession that brought awareness of changes in optometry to the Pediatrics Department.

“I have been fortunate to work with really good people at SCO and in the organizations of which I have been a part. We work together for the betterment of the profession,” he said. “It is also rewarding when you look at the position statements approved by the AOA and know that you have had a part in shaping the profession.”
New Scholarship to Honor Dr. Maples

W.C. Maples, OD ’68, Professor, has been honored with the establishment of a student scholarship award in his honor. The Dr. W.C. Maples Award for Clinical Excellence in Vision Therapy and Rehabilitation was announced by Marc Taub, OD, MS, Assistant Professor.

“What he has given to optometry, specifically behavioral optometry, cannot be quantified,” said Dr. Taub. “He has personally participated in the optometric education of several thousand doctors of optometry, putting all of his effort into reaching each and every one.”

He noted that Dr. Maples is a former president of the College of Optometrists in Vision Development (COVD) and that he was recognized earlier this year with a Lifetime Achievement Award from the International Congress of Behavioral Optometry (ICBO).

“This award is great news,” said SCO President Richard W. Phillips, OD ’78. “He is a very worthy individual to be honored.”

Also joining Drs. Taub and Phillips for the announcement were two long-time colleagues and former classmates of Dr. Maples – Glen Steele, OD ’69, Professor and Al Fors, OD ’69, Professor – both of whom were similarly honored two years ago with the establishment of a student scholarship award in their honor.

Dr. Maples joined the SCO faculty five years ago after three decades of service on the faculty at the Northeastern State University College of Optometry in Oklahoma.

Recipients of the Dr. W.C. Maples Award will be students with a grade of honors in the Vision Therapy and Rehabilitation clinical course, an active member of COVD, and who write an essay on how clinical experience influences the way they will treat and include vision therapy in their future optometry practice.

Colleagues or former students of Dr. Maples may contribute to this new award by contacting the Office of Institutional Advancement at (901) 722-3216.
Tonyatta Hairston, OD ‘01

A native of Jackson, Mississippi, Dr. Hairston graduated with honors from SCO and served as Gold Key International Honor Society President. She has served as president of the Mississippi Chapter of the National Optometric Association and is a member of the AOA and the Mississippi Optometric Association. She launched her first private practice in Magee, Mississippi, opened a second practice two years later, and in April 2006, expanded into the Jackson market with EnVision Eye Care and Optical Boutique.

HOW HAS YOUR OPTOMETRIC EDUCATION PLAYED A ROLE IN YOUR LIFE TODAY?

I have desired to become an eye doctor since I was six years old. Little did I know SCO would help me make that dream a reality. My optometric education at SCO prepared me clinically to meet the needs of the patients I serve. Obtaining my Doctor of Optometry degree also helped me to become an entrepreneur and employ other optometrists and support staff. Without my education these dreams would not have been possible.

WHAT WAS YOUR GREATEST EDUCATIONAL CHALLENGE AND HOW DID YOU OVERCOME IT?

My greatest educational challenge was balancing a 20-22 hour course load per quarter. Coming from the semester system at Tougaloo College to SCO proved to be quite challenging. It seemed like time passed so quickly, and balancing each class took some adjusting. In order to overcome the challenge of such a demanding course load, the art of time management became extremely important to me.

WHAT IS THE VALUE OF YOUR OPTOMETRIC EDUCATION?

As much as I appreciate the honor, accolades, and financial rewards associated with practicing optometry, the true value of being an optometrist comes from being able to serve and help people with their eye care needs. In other words, my optometric education is priceless.

WHAT WOULD YOU SAY TO SOMEONE WHO’S UNDECIDED ABOUT PURSUING A CAREER IN OPTOMETRY?

If someone is unsure about whether or not to pursue a career in optometry, I would advise the following:

1) Meet optometrists in various modes of practice and shadow them.
2) Ask the optometrists questions about their mode of practice, likes and dislikes of practicing, and ask them for their perspective as to what they might do differently.

Also, I would encourage the prospective student to do the same with other potential career interests in hopes of determining what career choice would be best and most rewarding.

WHAT MADE YOU REALIZE THE IMPORTANCE OF EDUCATION IN YOUR LIFE?

The importance of education has been instilled in me as long as I can remember. My parents were certainly instrumental in encouraging me to read, listen, and apply what I had learned. Also, my teachers and professors exposed me to summer enrichment programs which furthered my education and exposed me to more career choices. Furthermore, I understood that without an education, I would be limited as to the type of career and quality of life.

WHAT KEEPS YOU KEEP GOING?

Each day that I am blessed to live, I realize it is a gift from God. I find strength in knowing that my faith, my family, and my friends are constants in my life.

Visit Dr. Hairston’s practice online at http://www.envisioneyecarems.net
Dumas to Lead Minority Recruitment Effort

Continuing the goal of enacting the college’s new Strategic Plan, SCO has begun a new recruitment initiative with Dr. Janette Dumas at the helm as Coordinator of Minority Student Recruitment.

“As part of the new Strategic Plan and the college’s desired emphasis on a greater outreach to prospective underrepresented minority students, Sunnie Ewing, Director of Student Recruitment, and I determined that creating the position of Coordinator of Minority Student Recruitment would benefit us in many ways,” said Joe Hauser, Vice President of Student Services.

“We feel having Dr. Dumas’ talents and admissions experience in this new role will provide the college a much greater exposure to qualified underrepresented minority students.”

Dr. Dumas, who says she is excited about the new position, feels patients will inevitably benefit from this new recruiting initiative and has already begun planning her approach.

“The need for more minority eye care professionals is evident because there is a disparity between the number of minority patients and the number of minority optometrists,” she said.

“Activities such as participating in recruitment trips, establishing contacts and, most importantly, building relationships will be instrumental in reaching our goal.”

Rotary Honors Dr. Phillips

SCO President Richard W. Phillips, OD ’78, FAAO, recently was honored by the Memphis Rotary Club as a Paul Harris Fellow and as the Memphis chapter’s Rotarian of the Year.

The Paul Harris Fellowship is the highest honor a Rotary Club can bestow on one of its members. The Memphis chapter awards the recognition for service to the club and the community.

“We felt Dr. Phillips deserved the recognition, as well as being named our Rotarian of the Year, because of his dedication to, and enthusiasm for, our international projects – a clean water project in Haiti and Stop Hunger Now Partnership,” said Taylor Hughes, Executive Director of the Memphis Rotary Club.

Over the past year, SCO has hosted a number of Stop Hunger Now food preparation projects for Haiti in conjunction with the Memphis Rotary Club.

Meet SCO’s New Residents

Five new on-campus residents were recently welcomed to SCO to spend the next year working and learning in The

In Memory of Emma Ivie

For the past two years, the SCO community rallied around the family of Jared Ivie, OD ’09. The summer before he began his senior year at SCO, he and his wife, Kerie, learned that their three-year-old daughter, Emma, had been diagnosed with neuroblastoma, a childhood cancer.

Emma bravely battled the disease over the past two years. In March, she was named St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital’s Patient of the Month as her dad neared the completion of his SCO residency.

When Emma asked if she could have her fifth birthday party at the SCO Activity Center, a site she connected with fun and games at her father’s alma mater, SCO responded in a major way to make Emma’s birthday a very happy one.

Emma requested a Disney Cinderella princess party, so a group of SCO volunteers went to work transforming the Activity Center gym into a castle backdrop, complete with a throne for Princess Emma. Local businesses donated their service, including a horse-drawn Cinderella coach that took Emma and her family to her birthday party on Wednesday, April 7. Students, faculty and staff lined a parade route as Emma waved on her way to her birthday ball.

Waiting were dozens of invited children, friends and family of the Ivies. Royal trumpeters heralded Emma’s arrival on the red carpet leading to her throne. Guests enjoyed face and finger-painting, jewelry making, Princess cupcakes, a popcorn machine and fun and games.

Cinderella herself made an appearance and led the children in reading stories and dancing to music. The college was privileged to facilitate and host this special event for a member of the SCO family. After a brave, two-year fight, Emma Ivie passed away on June 27, 2010.
Eye Center. The residents include (L-R): Michael Dasinger, OD, Ragna Godtland, OD ’10, Angela Howell, OD ’90, Kelley Davis, OD, and Christina Newman, OD.

A number of other alumni from the Class of 2010 were accepted into SCO’s 2010-11 Residency Program, including Drs. Amanda Blakley, Michelle Brennan, Ben Cole, Meghan Elkins, Jonathan Goodwin, Marina Gurvich, Lauren Goldsmith, Matt Marshall, Erik Romsdahl, Seth Salley, Esla Subashi, and Landon Wallace.

Legislators Tour SCO

SCO recently hosted a legislative reception for Memphis area lawmakers. The event gave legislators the opportunity to meet SCO’s administration and faculty and to learn more about optometric education. Several alumni were on hand to talk about the profession of optometry.

Students Receive Scholarships

Jeremy Dell, ’11, is a 2010 recipient of scholarships administered by The AOA Foundation. Dell was selected for the $2,500 Dr. Seymour Galina Grant. “We are pleased that through these scholarships, The AOA Foundation can help students concentrate more on completing their optometric education than on their school debt,” said Martha Rosemore Greenberg, OD ’74, president of The AOA Foundation.

On a related note, Matt Willis, ’11, is this year’s recipient of the $5,000 Carl Zeiss Vision Fellowship. Congratulations to both of these outstanding students.

SCO Hosts Discover Optometry

SCO recently held Discover Optometry, an open house program offering tours and information sessions to prospective students, applicants, parents, and high school or college advisors. The event is hosted by Student Services every two years on campus.

Housing Fair Launches

The college recently hosted its first ever housing fair for incoming students. Representatives from various apartment complexes were on campus to offer information to students. SunTrust Bank was on hand to help students open checking accounts. A student panel talked about living in Memphis. Bus tours were also given to show different apartment communities and neighborhoods in Memphis.

SCO Hosts Polish Faculty

Two faculty members from an optometry school in Poland spent two summer months at SCO as they observed clinical curriculum.

A welcoming reception was held by faculty for Drs. Monika Feltzke and Katarzyna Perz. Both serve on the faculty of the Poznan University Medical Science Department of Optometry and Biology of Visual Systems.

Dr. Perz, who recently finished a residency in ophthalmology as well, said that she and Dr. Feltzke came to SCO to learn from the best optometry program in the world.

“"We want to learn more about American clinical practice, especially vision therapy, pediatric optometry, and low

Leader Dog Trainee Visits

Thea, a one-year-old Golden Retriever trainee in the Leader Dogs for the Blind program, recently visited the Memphis-SCO Lions Club. Trainer John Berkheiser, who has raised 20 puppies with his wife, Elaine, brought Thea so students could learn more about the Lions Leader Dog program.

Time May Be Right to Refinance

Rates remain historically low for variable rate student loans disbursed prior to July 1, 2006, while current rates for fixed rates after July 1, 2006 are still 6.8% for Stafford subsidized and unsubsidized.

Consolidation rates have dropped considerably, noted Cindy Garner, SCO’s Director of Financial Aid. Depending upon your loan status – in-school or repayment, rates are between 2 and 2.5%. Recent alumni who would like more information should contact SCO’s Office of Financial Aid.
vision,” she said. She noted that their optometry school has six faculty to teach 36 students, and that Polish optometry can benefit from observing American optometry.

Dr. W.C. Maples assisted in helping arrange their visit. He has been active in helping support Polish optometry for more than 25 years.

Nancy Harris Retires

If you attended SCO over the past 20 years, chances are that you first talked to Nancy Harris on the telephone or upon arriving on campus for your interview as a prospective student.

For 19 years, Nancy worked as part of the Student Services team. By most calculations, Nancy interacted with more than 2,000 students over those years, and thousands more with the entire applicant pool.

Several of those students – including alumni/faculty - joined dozens more of Nancy’s colleagues in honoring her upon her retirement at the end of June, including her co-workers in Student Services.

Nancy, seen here with her co-worker Velma Dickson, plans to travel some, see more of her grandson, volunteer at her church, and perhaps work in a part-time job after a few months of leisure. “I will miss all of my SCO family,” she said. “It has been a tremendous honor to have worked here for 19 years. It is a wonderful place to hang one’s hat for 19 years. Wishing everyone here the best life has to offer.”

In Other News…

— Mike Robertson, Director of Admissions and Enrollment Services, reports that 808 applications were received from prospective students for the Class of 2014. That’s the highest number of applicants since 1998, and a nine percent increase over last year.

— Daniel G. Fuller, OD, Associate Professor, reports that Focus Laboratories has loaned the Cornea and Contact Lens Service a Tear Lab unit valued at $7,500 for additional studies.

— A group of Tennessee students recently traveled to Nashville for Student Day on Capitol Hill. They were accompanied by Scott Ensor, OD ’01, Assistant Professor.

— Student interns, faculty and staff volunteered for vision screenings at the recent Special Olympics event in Nashville. Among the student volunteers were Amy Slama, Lacey Hedges, and Jessica Horsch, all members of the Class of 2012.

SCO Volunteers for RAM Clinic

A group of nearly 50 SCO student interns, faculty and staff traveled to East Tennessee over a weekend in May to participate at Lincoln Memorial University’s fifth annual Remote Area Medical Clinic. The event provided a variety of health care services to members of the public in need of basic health care, dental or vision care. SCO’s volunteers conducted vision screenings for more than 500 patients.
SCO Hosts Alumni/Child Forum

A group of more than 30 alumni, their children and other family members attended SCO’s first ever Alumni/Child Admissions Forum in July.

Hosted by Student Services, the event was designed to provide information about SCO’s admissions process for alumni with prospective students in their family.

Attendees heard about undergrad, GPA, and OAT requirements. Two Q&A panels featured a mix of students and faculty answering questions about what it’s like to attend SCO.

Among those who visited campus were AOA President Joe Ellis, OD ’86, and his daughter, Hannah, who is interested in following in her dad’s footsteps. Following the event, alumni and their guests attended a special reception.

“We really enjoyed attending this event,” Dr. Ellis said. “It reminds us all how optometry is a competitive program looking for the best students possible, and that’s good for our profession.”

The college hopes to host future similar events offering academic and clinical observation and campus tours. Alumni needing more information may contact acaforum@sco.edu or contact Joe Hauser or Sunnie Ewing at (901) 722-3228.

Redesigned Hayes Center Site Launches

The web presence for the Hayes Center for Practice Excellence was recently redesigned. The site was rebuilt to make it easier to find via links to SCO’s alumni and news blogs – and to share valuable resources with visitors.

The mission remains the same, as the site offers information to assist ODs in building a practice or evaluating practice opportunities in an interactive format. One new feature is a Q&A segment where readers can submit questions to be answered online.

As an additional resource, the site includes content, links to blogs and podcasts personally created by noted practice management expert and Hayes Center founder Jerry Hayes, OD ’73.

The Hayes Center will continue working to improve students’ and practitioners’ understanding and knowledge about the business side of optometry, said Kristin K. Anderson, OD, Vice President of Institutional Advancement and Director of the Hayes Center at SCO.

“I invite you to visit our new site often and send any suggestions or questions to be answered,” she said.

Visit http://hayescenter.connect.sco.edu to learn more.
Honorary Degree Nominations Encouraged

Southern College of Optometry is seeking submissions of names of distinguished optometrists and other individuals for consideration of honorary degrees to be awarded at Commencement 2011.

The college invites you to submit the name and accomplishments of individuals to be considered. There should be no anonymous submissions, even though your name will not be publicly disclosed.

Recipients must be of sufficient stature and character so as to honor the college. Specific criteria for an honorary degree at SCO include at least two of the following: distinguished record of scholarship, outstanding contribution to society through humanitarian efforts, public service or education; and outstanding contributions to the profession of optometry and/or optometric education.

Please send a letter of nomination, along with supporting details, i.e., publications, CVs, and biographies, to Academic Affairs (Honorary Degrees), c/o SCO, 1245 Madison Avenue, Memphis, TN, 38104. Nominations may also be emailed to Dr. Lewis Reich, Vice President for Academic Affairs, at degrees@sco.edu.

Nominations for honorary degrees must be submitted by Friday, October 29, 2010.