

# ICO MATTERS

SUMMER 2017 • V16 ISSUE 2

## Creative Vision

Alumni express themselves!



Commencement 2017

Private Practice Consultants

Looking Beyond Limitations

# COMING TO CHICAGO FOR ACADEMY?

Don't miss these events!

## HOMECOMING 2017 October 13 - 14

Register Today!

<https://my.ico.edu/homecoming-2017>

This is a milestone year for the following reunion classes: 2012, 2007, 2002, 1997, 1992, 1987, 1982, 1977, 1972, 1967, 1962, and 1957.

## HOTEL INFORMATION

A limited number of rooms are available until Sept. 22 at our host hotel, Embassy Suites Chicago Downtown.

For complete hotel information, visit [ICO.edu](http://ICO.edu).

## SCHEDULE

### FRIDAY, OCTOBER 13

Shuttles provided between host hotel and campus

5:00 - 9:00 p.m.	Campus Tours
6:00 - 7:00 p.m.	Leadership Circle/Alumni Awards Reception
7:00 - 9:30 p.m.	Class Reunion Party

### SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14

8:45 - 11:00 a.m.	Lakefront Segway Tour
11:00 am - 2:30 p.m.	Shuttle to/from host hotel and campus Campus Tours
12:00 - 1:30 p.m.	50 Year Club Luncheon
2:30 - 4:00 p.m.	Architectural Riverboat Tour

## "CELEBRATING OPTOMETRY IN ILLINOIS" OPEN HOUSE October 13

All are welcome!

No advanced registration necessary.

Partnering with the Illinois Optometric Association and the Illinois Chapter of the Academy, we will showcase the campus and the wonderful successes of these two organizations.

## SCHEDULE

### FRIDAY, OCTOBER 13

Shuttles provided from McCormick Place to ICO

5:30 p.m.	Shuttles begin from McCormick Convention Center to ICO
6:00 - 9:00 p.m.	Taste of ICO Food Stations and Bar Campus Tours Research Displays IOA Historical Timeline IL-Academy Presentation/Meet & Greet Externship Preceptor Meet & Greet Wine Tasting Dessert Reception Exhibitors

## QUESTIONS?

Please call: 312-949-7080

## SPECIAL ONLINE CE DISCOUNT

Register for the Class Reunion Party & receive a coupon for one online CE course. Offer available Oct. - Dec. 2017.



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# ICO MATTERS

SUMMER 2017 • V16 ISSUE 2

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# PETER S. NELSON, OD '67

## CHARITABLE GIFT ANNUITY DONOR



**Dr. Nelson and his wife, Elizabeth, live in Island Lake, Illinois. They have been together for 30 years.** Dr. Nelson has two stepchildren (Ben and Becky) and two grandchildren (Andrew and Eddie). He retired from optometry about four years ago. The couple enjoys in-line skating, paddle boarding, kayaking, art, and travel.

Over his storied career, Dr. Nelson spent time in several modes of practice—corporate, private, and as a military optometrist in Thailand during the Vietnam conflict. Many alumni remember Dr. Nelson as their professor. He taught at ICO for 30 years.

Dr. Nelson continues to be impressed with ICO, particularly with today's Board of Trustees. He feels the group shows "real dedication to superior education and clinical care." In thanks to his alma mater, he and his wife decided to give back to ICO through the **charitable gift annuity program**. He says, "I do feel it is a small payback for what optometry and ICO have done for me. I have a wonderful life, really, and a very interesting career."

Now, Dr. Nelson challenges his colleagues to join him in giving. "Next to meeting my wife, the best thing that ever happened to me was optometry and ICO." **Conrad Stoll, OD '67, Steve Kasinof, OD '67, Joe Viviano, OD '67,** and Dr. Nelson are encouraging the Class of 1967 to attend Homecoming to celebrate 50 years as ICO alumni. Says Dr. Nelson, "It doesn't take long for us to slip back into the friendliness that we found when we were originally all together. The idea that we could all get together 50 years later is pretty special."

Dr. Nelson and Elizabeth's generous donation puts them in the prestigious Visionaries Club. The CGA provides them with a monthly income and significant income tax benefits. "It's a win-win, really, for us and the college."

"I do feel it is a small payback for what optometry and ICO have done for me. I have a wonderful life, really, and a very interesting career."



For more information on **charitable gift annuities**, as well as other gift options, e-mail [development@ico.edu](mailto:development@ico.edu) or call **312-949-7071**.

# Talking Heads

To become doctors, ICO students must all learn the same techniques and pass the same NBEO exams. Health care requires efficiency and precision, so creativity often takes a back seat. **How do you inject your own individuality, personality, and sense of humor into your practice?**

## **AROL AUGSBURGER, OD**

*Celebrating 15 Years as President of ICO:*

I cared for patients for over thirty years at OSU and UAB before coming to ICO as President. I was also in charge of up to 10 courses each year, so there wasn't much extra time for creativity- with the exception of raising our three sons during those years! That certainly required individual approaches, and it helped to have a good sense of humor.

Now, the three sons are grown and I enjoy playing golf with several of the eleven grandchildren. My game has gotten better over the last twenty years and it is always a pleasure to do something fun and fascinating to complement my leadership role at ICO.



Arol Augsburgger, OD

## **BARRY SIEGEL, OD '69**

When I graduated from ICO, I knew that if I were going to practice and be successful, I had to feel comfortable every day. My people skills and sense of humor could help me achieve that goal. I decided to enjoy myself, and have my patients do the same - without compromising my professionalism and skills as an OD.

My goal is to have every patient have a smile by the time they leave. Telling jokes is not my forté, but using some creativity in reacting to a patient's individual personality has worked well. As an example, I had a patient who told me he would be attending Harvard University in the fall. I said, "Congratulations," then asked him if that's the best he could do. He had a good chuckle.

I believe that is what has made my practice grow for me over the last 48 years. You can use all the new technology, but if you cannot relate to a patient, it makes for a long haul.



Barry Siegel, OD '69

## **SEPIDEH OMIDGHAEMI, OD '15**

Being an artist has given me the opportunity to explore creativity, use my imagination in unlimited directions, and communicate universally. Being a scientist has taught me discipline and structure. Having the opportunity to employ these two fields together has made me much more dynamic, and helped me succeed in becoming an optometrist.

There is a perception that art and science are different fields of study. I believe otherwise- that art inspires discoveries in science, and science offers the building blocks of art. I encourage future optometry students to keep their passions, hobbies, and goals aligned. Form a uniform that makes you feel individualistic. For me, it was art.

One of my favorite quotes is by Albert Einstein: "After a certain high level of technical skill is achieved, science and art tend to coalesce in aesthetics, plasticity, and form." The greatest scientists are artists.



Sepideh Omidghaemi, OD '15

## Editor's Note



Lauren Faits, Editor

I was writing goodbye letters to a few members of the Class of 2017, and started getting teary-eyed. This year marked my third Commencement at ICO. I thought I'd start "getting used to" the ceremonies, but instead, have gotten more emotional. ICO's faculty and staff bond with each and every student. Each graduating OD is a unique and irreplaceable presence in our institution.

This issue of *ICO Matters* highlights the unique individuality of each alumnus:

- Talented alumni explore painting, carving, and other fine arts.
- Consultants personalize their services to improve each OD's business.
- A determined optometrist overcomes a life-changing accident and buys a practice.
- Two sisters merge their therapy offices to better rehabilitate patients.
- ...and, of course, we share plenty of pictures and stories from Commencement.

Congratulations, Class of 2017! Welcome to the world's largest (and best) network of optometric alumni.

With admiration,  
Lauren Faits

## Eyeball

For many ICO alumni, one of the most magical nights in memory is the Eyeball. The Student Association hosts this annual formal. The elegant evening includes awards, food, music, and dancing. Eyeball's location is always teased for several days before a big reveal. This year's event took place at the historic Museum of Science and Industry. MSI is full of trains, planes, interactive exhibits, and simulated weather phenomena. Thank you to **Jay Patel, '18**, for taking photos of this Chicago icon.



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## Quiz Bowls Test Optometric Knowledge

Some students, after a long and draining study session, may feel like zombies. Perhaps that's why this year's **AOSA Quiz Bowl** was themed as a zombie outbreak! On March 31, the optometric undead walked ICO's campus, racing to answer clinical questions in front of an audience. The competition was hard-fought. Our winner this year was **Taylor Harris, '18**. He went on to compete at the Optometry Student Bowl at Optometry's Meeting in Washington, DC.

Alumni may also remember ICO's **Pre-Optometry Quiz Bowl**. On April 1, we hosted the largest contest yet. Invitations were expanded beyond the usual pre-optometry clubs to include individual prospective students, as well. We welcomed nearly 75 aspiring ODs to our campus. Games such as Clinical Challenge, Academic Challenge, and "Who Wants to be an Optometrist?" were energetic and fun.



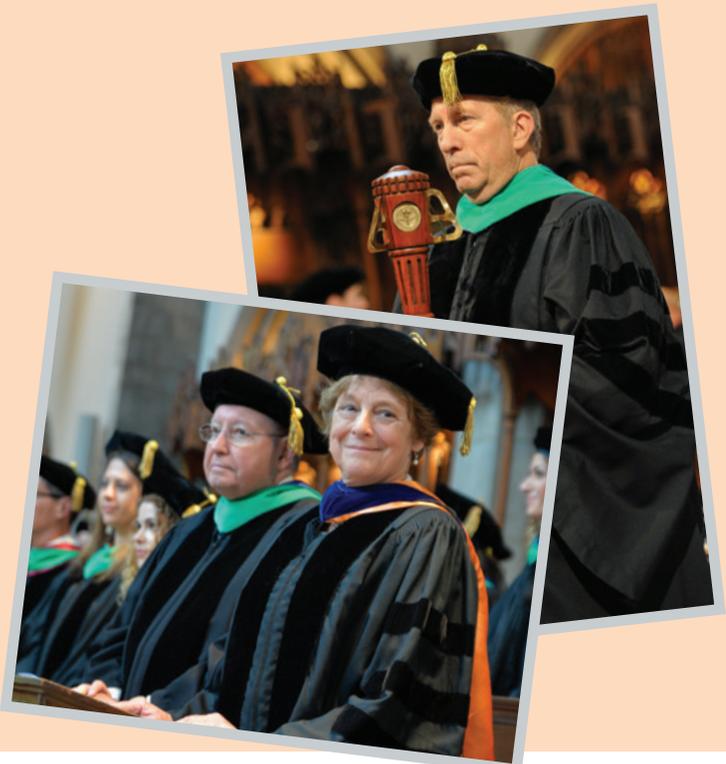
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## Faculty Members Stepping Back

Three of ICO's longstanding faculty members are taking a step back. Each is retiring from their full-time role, then returning to teach in a part-time capacity. Please join us in congratulating the following professors:

**Dr. Brian Caden**  
**Dr. Susan Kelly**  
**Dr. Gary Gunderson**

Drs. Caden and Kelly have already begun their new roles at ICO. Dr. Gunderson's part-time start date is August 14. Congratulations to these professors for starting new chapters in their careers! We will continue to follow their journeys in academia.



## Practice Opportunities Symposium Celebrates 20th Year

The Practice Opportunities Symposium celebrated its 20th year on April 7. This annual event provides fantastic opportunities for students and alumni to network. This year's Symposium was our biggest ever. As part of ICO's growing practice management curriculum, first year attendance was mandatory.

An "Introduction to Practice" panel was assembled just for the new class. It featured **Tafadzwa Makoni-Savanhu, OD '11**, **Michael Russell, OD '15**, and **Peter A. Russo, OD '87, FAAO**. Students learned just how far optometry could take them. Dr. Russo shared that he had been an optometrist for prison inmates- a mode of practice many attendees had never heard of. Dr. Makoni-Savanhu encouraged the class to be forward-thinking. "Don't get caught up in the grades," she advised. "Think about the ten-year stuff, when grades won't matter."

Wisdom was passed along at many other panels, as well. The practice management panel focused on business, reminding students, "You're paying every single bill, whether you're in the office or not." Alumni also spoke on Residency, VA care, practicing in Canada, and much more.

Thank you to all of the alumni who have attended Symposiums past and present. For more from Practice Opportunities Symposium, check out photos on ICO's Flickr page, podcasts on our SoundCloud channel, and hashtag #20YearsofPOS on social media.



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## Jack and Jill of America Visits ICO

Jack and Jill of America, Inc. is an organization of mothers with children ages 2-19 dedicated to nurturing future African-American leaders. Jack and Jill pursues this mission through cultural, educational, legislative, and health-focused philanthropy. The Teen Club of the Windy City Chapter came to the Illinois College of Optometry to learn about ocular health. To better appreciate the gift of sight, they started the day with a low vision simulation using canes

and blindfolds. Then, ICO students took them to the EyePod to learn about eye exams. Activities included testing color vision, determining acuities, refraction, and looking at each other's retinas with slit lamps. Finally, the Eyewear Center taught the teens how to interpret prescriptions and how various ophthalmic lenses are used to help patients. The day concluded with a pizza dinner and prizes given out to students who could repeat what they'd learned.



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## Public Trustee Elected to ICO Board

At their May 19 meeting, the ICO Board of Trustees elected a new Public Trustee. **Osvaldo I. Lopez, MD**, is the Chief of Ophthalmology at the Advocate Illinois Masonic Medical Center. He recently played a key role bringing corneal cross-linking to the Illinois Eye Institute, and is a strong

advocate for optometry. "I believe that innovation in medicine is positive only if it translates into better care for our patients," he says. Dr. Lopez is a well-known leader in the Hispanic community, involved in multiple civic and philanthropic efforts. He will serve a 3-year term.

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## Students Serving Chicago

Our students and alumni have a reputation for giving back. Keeping up with this tradition of generosity, the ICO family has participated in multiple initiatives this season:

- **National Volunteer Week:** ICO students hand-decorated placemats for senior citizens. A total of 83 unique mats were donated to Symphony Nursing Home.
- **Blessings in a Backpack:** Rotary One members assembled in the ICO gym to help local children in need. Volunteers filled over 1,000 backpacks with food, supplies, and inspirational notes for children in Chicago.
- **The Stigma Tree:** To help spread mental health awareness, the Private Practice Club created a "Stigma Tree" in the ICO lobby. Students encouraged each other to remember mental health, and to reach out and help each other in difficult times.



Do you have a charitable initiative you'd like *ICO Matters* to share? Write [communications@ico.edu](mailto:communications@ico.edu) with your story.

174<sup>th</sup>  
Commencement

# Matters



AT ICO, TRADITION MATTERS. On May 20, 2017, we celebrated the 174th Commencement. This important ceremony has been set in the University of Chicago's Rockefeller Chapel for 40 years. Most parts of Commencement stay the same- the choir, the bagpipes, the ice sculpture across the street. Only occasionally does something change. This year, for example, a massive burst of rain drove the graduates to line up indoors and save their class photo for after the ceremony.

Early in the morning, while faculty was still eating breakfast, **Chuatong Thao, OD '17**, was alone outside. He was gathering his thoughts before crowds arrived. "Going through the same things at the same time, everyone understands each other at a deeper level," he said about his classmates. As for faculty, Dr. Thao particularly complimented **Dr. Elizabeth Wyles**. "The amount of effort that she puts into her students to make sure every one of them is doing their best is amazing." Dr. Thao is best known by his classmates as a poet. He has read original poetry on-stage

at several MCA Night talent shows. When asked for some final words for the Class of 2017, he said this: "Remember the good times. Continue to be great. Don't forget where you came from."

Once the rain started, students and their loved ones huddled in the Rockefeller Chapel foyer. **Stephanie Corbin, OD '17**, **Emily Hutchins, OD '17**, and **Amanda Thurmes, OD '17**, spent some time together before lining up. "I'm actually really looking forward to the bagpipes," one of them laughed. "Is that weird?"

# of Tradition

BY LAUREN FAITS



The three women said they would miss living in Chicago, “doing fun things with your friends whenever you want.” Though the trio was excited and nervous, they felt confident in their class becoming doctors. Said Dr. Hutchins to her fellow grads, “Just go out there and give your full hearts to what you are doing.”

Commencement began with the traditional procession. As the students entered, **Beth Karmis**, Senior Director of Student Development, looked on. This was her 23rd Commencement. “This group of students really touched me,” she said. “They were natural leaders. They looked out for each other. I’m going to miss this class.” Chief Marshal **Dr. Gary Gunderson** led faculty to the front of the chapel. Long ago, he played a special part in starting ICO Commencement traditions. Dr. Gunderson’s family was the first to rent out Ida Noyes Hall for the post-ceremony reception. This year, on behalf of the faculty, he presented each graduate with a 2017 Kennedy half dollar to remember the special day.

The 2017 Commencement Speaker was **Richard Lui**. Mr. Lui is a celebrated journalist and anchor for MSNBC and NBC News. He has 30 years of experience in network television, technology, and business. ICO awarded him an Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters before his address.

Mr. Lui’s speech was entertaining, taking friendly jabs at post-grad life, such as the pressure to get married and settle down. A caregiver for his own father, Mr. Lui emphasized the importance of caregiving in the modern world. He cited good-hearted ICO alumni he knew of, including the founders of the Answers for Emmett charity. He encouraged the Class of 2017 to be just as strong and kind as those who had come before them.

ICO president **Dr. Arol Augsburger** highlighted the significance of graduating from our program. “Your ICO education means that you are best prepared to practice optometry with



“Like family,  
we will always  
welcome you  
back”

*Dr. Mark Colip*

confidence; that you are backed by the largest network of alumni, faculty, and staff anywhere; and, that you have a solid foundation from which you will decide how to build your future.”

All told, the degree of Doctor of Optometry was conferred upon 155 students. This group had three Valedictorians and earned \$200,000 in scholarships and awards. 26% of the class is moving on to Residency. The rest will spread across optometry’s many modes of practice, in locations across our nation and world. As we send them off, we hope they will continue to associate with ICO and its alumni. Our institution is a family, and as **Dr. Mark Colip** said to the graduates, “Like family, we will always welcome you back.”

*ICO’s 174th Commencement was our last in Rockefeller Chapel. We are delighted to begin a new chapter with new traditions in 2018. To see the location of next year’s event, visit the online version of ICO Matters. A reveal video is included at the end of this story.*





# COMMENCEMENT 2017 SCHEDULED ARRIVAL TIME: NOW!

BY RINA SHETH, OD '17



With a blink of an eye, Commencement is upon us. I will be honest with you. We've hoped for its quick delivery, crossed days off our calendars, and have learned all too well what we can accomplish in 12-week periods. Now that the big day is here, though, I am sorry that it is. Graduating means leaving friends who have inspired me and faculty mentors that have become friends.

For many in the class of 2017, we view the end of optometry school as the last step in our schooling. It is light at the end of the tunnel, the wheels touching the ground after a long flight, and the stamp of approval that we've made it. However, as time goes by, it is easy to forget how we got to the optometry school finish line. That is, enduring over 150 exams and practicals, hundreds of hours of studying, many nights of celebrating in our beloved Chicago, 3 rigorous board examinations (or 5 if you're Canadian), and 4 externship rotations. While we all found different struggles and areas of excellence, we all made it to this moment.

What we sometimes forget is that graduation is not just for the graduate. It is for the families that have poured their love, endless support, and resources into us. It is for our friends and significant others who have had to put up with our incessant remarks of, "Sorry, I can't make it. I have too much studying to do," for the last four years. It is for all of the people in our lives who did not give up on us or forget about us when we couldn't be physically or emotionally

present. It is for the people we called in utter panic and distress when an exam or practical did not go our way (Sorry, Dad and Miheer!) It is for our faculty who have watched us grow from timid first years into confident and methodical optometrists. Graduation signifies that we all have made it- **together.**

So much of my identity has been the Illinois College of Optometry, and while I'm excited for the next chapter of residency in Cleveland, Ohio, I can't help but think how this institution has been my home. It is where I have rejoiced, cried, made many mistakes, but most importantly, where I've grown. I can honestly say that a different Rina Sheth is exiting these doors than the one who walked in. I have only my friends, family, and ICO to thank for that because I am grateful for the time and effort that has been spent on me.

To my fellow graduates, I would like to offer some sentiments that I've come across while going through this last year of externships. Firstly, never stop the active pursuit of being better than you were yesterday, and not as good as you'll be tomorrow. Secondly, now we will be without an institution that, every day for the last four years, has encouraged our ideas and growth. Don't forget to stop and think about the kind of people (and optometrists) you are. Keep pushing yourself, always. Finally, and most importantly, congratulations! This is a milestone we have finally reached! I do believe that for all of us, the best is yet to come. **We are the Class of 2017!**



# Close Up:

## Thomas Rene, OD '98

No obstacle can keep a good doctor down. When **Thomas Rene, OD '98**, experienced a serious car accident, he says he was “gone for a little while.” In his case, “a little while” meant a six-week induced coma, six weeks of rehab in Fargo, North Dakota, and six months of additional rehab in Minneapolis, Minnesota. In almost every sense of the word, he had to start over.

“I missed a lot of time with my kids,” says Dr. Rene. He learned to live in a wheelchair, but didn’t let the change in mobility slow his life down. Dr. Rene picked up his children every day from school. He worked 1-2 days a week at a clinic in Jamestown, but wanted to own a practice again.

Dr. Rene was helping out a practice in Fargo, which he recently purchased and renamed Eye2Eye Vision. He became owner on April 11, 2017. It’s a small practice, employing just 4 people. “My staff stuck with me and were a big part of the transition,” says Dr. Rene.

The future is looking bright, with a new partner joining the practice this summer. Dr. Rene is golfing, grilling, and spending time with family, just like always. Here is a Close Up look at his life in Fargo:



*Interview by Lauren Faits  
Photos by Britta Trygstad*



### 9:15 AM

**“The first thing I do, it’s kind of funny.** We have flavored coffee. I’ll say, ‘How is everyone?’ and somebody- usually Dyan or Ellyn- will answer, ‘Oh, it’s vanilla hazelnut today!’ Everyone meets, has a cup of coffee, and we talk out the day.”



**9:37 AM**

**"Emily is our optician and tech.** She always calls me 'Boss,' and I always give her a hard time. 'Do you ever not smile?' She's really bubbly, fun, good with patients... they love working with her."



**10:20 AM**

**"We have an optomap.** It takes a picture of the back of the eye- the retina, and the optic nerve. With every one of my patients, I give an anatomy lesson, per se, just to give them an idea of what I'm looking at."



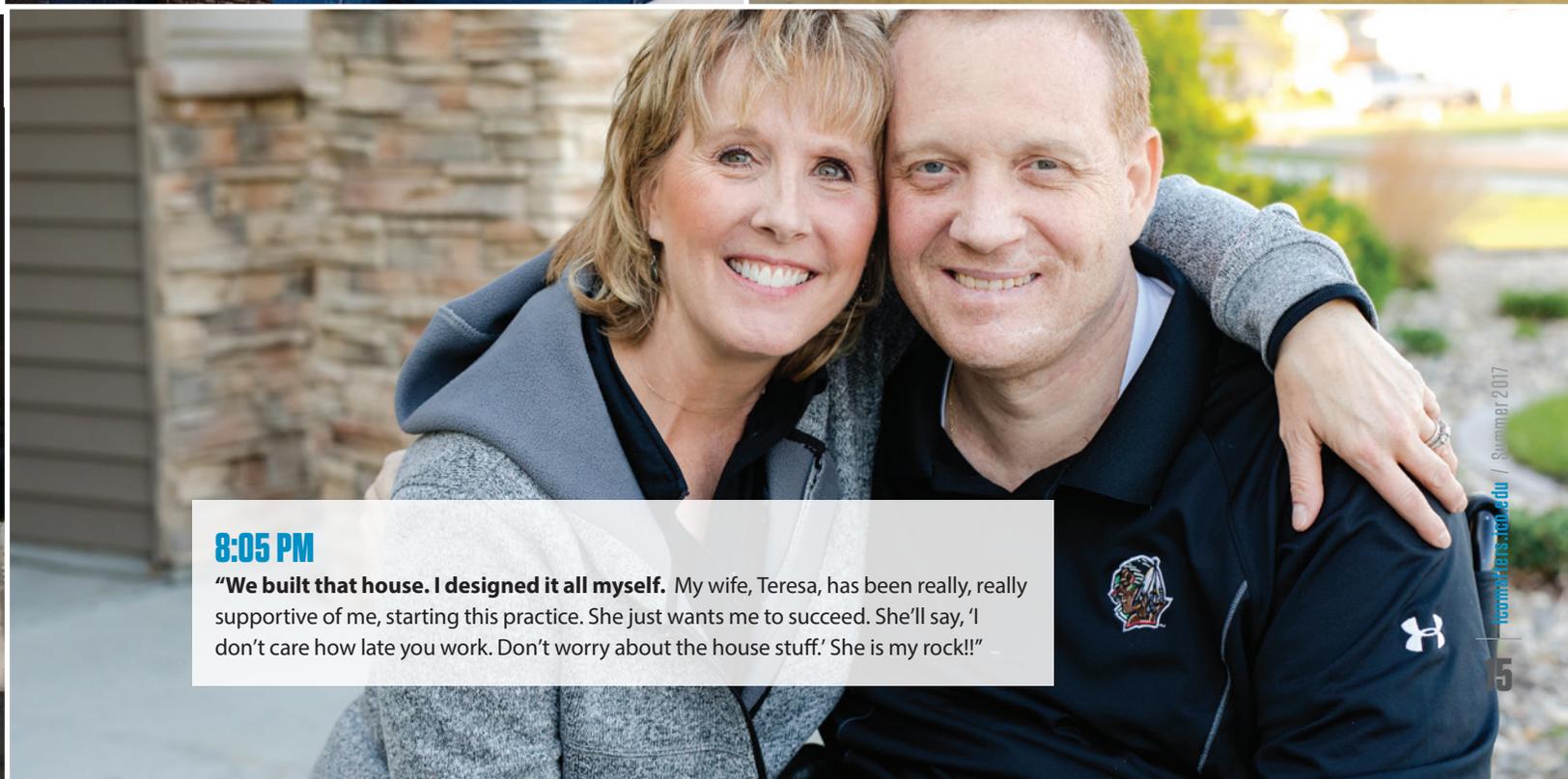


**7:00 PM**

**"That's my business partner and his wife.** His father was the one I worked for in Jamestown. His wife is an optometrist, also. She has a really good job. They have a little girl. They liked what they had, so they decided they were going to stay in Fargo."

**7:31 PM**

**"I use a golf cart I can stand up on.** My golf clubs stand up on the side. I get strapped in with knee support and chest support, and then I stand up and swing the club using my arms only. I've used it to shovel in the winter. I've used a push mower on it. My wife's still trying to figure out how I can wash the windows."



**8:05 PM**

**"We built that house. I designed it all myself.** My wife, Teresa, has been really, really supportive of me, starting this practice. She just wants me to succeed. She'll say, 'I don't care how late you work. Don't worry about the house stuff.' She is my rock!!"

# CREATIVE VISION: LIFE LESSONS LEARNED THROUGH ART

BY LAUREN FAITS

The profession of optometry, while fulfilling and rewarding, isn't always creative. Healthcare is a science. Optometrists each learn the same technical skills, which they universally apply to a single part of the human body. With such technical, meticulous careers, optometrists must often go outside of their day jobs to express themselves. The creation of art is one way doctors can share their thoughts and feelings with the world.

Meet four of ICO's many artistic alumni. Each uses a different medium to relax, entertain, and delight. While optometry school teaches vital skills, these individuals also learned life lessons from their own creations.



*Olberding: House Wren*



*Olberding: Jesus*

**NICHOLAS OLBERDING, OD '13**  
**Practice: Advanced Eyecare Assoc.**  
**Manchester, Iowa**  
**Art: Woodcarving**

Hiking, biking, fishing, archery, the great outdoors... these are a few of **Nicholas Olberding, OD '13's** favorite things. So, when he broke an ankle in 2015, he needed a new hobby to challenge himself during recovery. Dr. Olberding never enjoyed leisurely activities like watching television or reading for extended periods. Instead, he turned to a favorite passion of his father- woodcarving.

Since his dad already had the tools and knowledge, it was convenient for Dr. Olberding to give it a try. He'd consult his father whenever he had questions. "I did a couple of pieces, thought they turned out nice, and I enjoyed the time doing it," he says. "I thought I'd keep going." Today, Dr. Olberding is back on his feet, practicing optometry, enjoying the outdoors, getting married in July... and still carving.

While woodcarving isn't a mainstream hobby, Dr. Olberding finds it easy and affordable to get into. All you need is "an idea of what you want to carve." For large pieces of wood, he begins with a band saw. Then, for smaller details, he uses a variety of rotary and burning tools. The finished wood is usually painted or stained.

Though the options are nearly endless, Dr. Olberding insists that anyone can carve with "a block of wood and a hand chisel or knife."

Dr. Olberding can't accurately say how long a finished product takes. Carving is a great medium for multitasking. He often carves while watching a baseball game or relaxing outside. Many of Dr. Olberding's pieces portray wildlife, especially birds. These creations are a testament to his love of conservation and nature. He also creates Christmas Santas, and recently finished a piece inspired by Brazil's Christ the Redeemer statue. Dr. Olberding's favorite piece is still the house wren, his first-ever carving.

While there aren't any carvings in his office (yet,) Dr. Olberding feels that woodcarving and optometry work well together. Both require patience and a detail-oriented personality. "Sometimes, our careers get repetitive," he says. "It's nice to have that outlet where you can think about our world in a more abstract or creative manner." He aspires to connect woodcarving and optometry. "I would like to have a piece someday that demonstrates the human eye in a unique and magnificent way. I'm just waiting for that idea to come to me."

**The Lesson: Challenge yourself to improve every day, no matter the obstacle.**



Banna: El

### CHRISTOPHER BANNA, OD '14

Practice: Professional Eye Care Center

Niles, Illinois

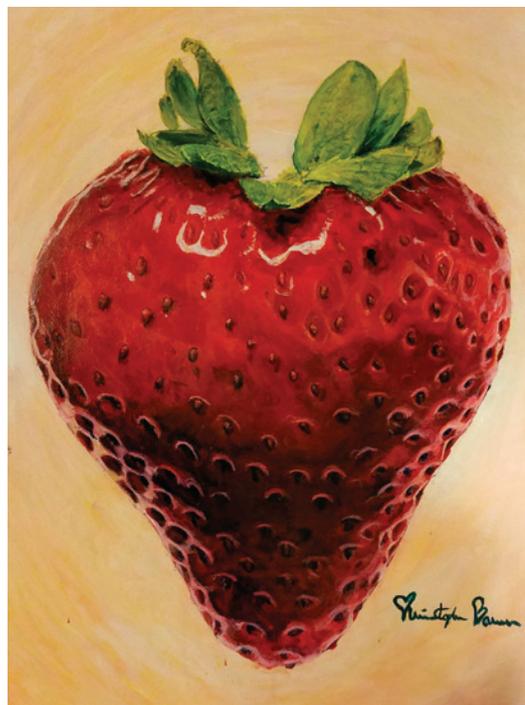
Art: Painting

“We’re all capable of some art at any age,” says **Christopher Banna, OD '14**. “I started with sketching little cartoons when I was young, but I never stopped.” Dr. Banna remembers drawing *Tom and Jerry*, the *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles*, and other favorites. “I got a lot of encouragement from my parents just to keep going.” He remembers visiting the Art Institute with his dad. This familial support helped turn Dr. Banna’s childhood love of sketching into a passion for charcoals, watercolors, acrylics, and oils.

“I’m mostly self-taught,” Dr. Banna explains. He tried a few art classes, but, “art is difficult to set on a regimen.” For him, the desire to paint doesn’t arrive on any kind of schedule. “What strikes up inspiration,” Dr. Banna says, “is if I see something with a lot of detail in it- if it has a lot of highlights and values. Then, I get to thinking, ‘How can I put it on a canvas?’”

Dr. Banna enjoys still life- fruits, flowers, urban architecture- and a little bit of portraiture. “Portraits are kind of harder,” he jokes. “The person will know if it’s not looking right.” Dr. Banna gives away most of his work to friends and family. His parents love their bright, fresh-looking strawberry painting. His favorite piece, a painting of the Chicago “L” train, was a wedding gift for a friend.

Each painting can take a month or longer to complete. Finding the time to be both a doctor and a painter can be difficult. Thankfully, his co-workers support the hobby, including fellow ICO grad **Pamela Lowe, OD '88**. Says Dr. Banna, “It’s a struggle, but it is a good stress reliever and a way to express yourself.” For him, the discipline it takes to balance art and optometry is worthwhile.



Banna: Strawberry

**ROBIN RINEARSON, OD '77**  
**Practice: Nova Vision Center**  
**Bailey's Crossroads, Virginia**  
**Art: Fused glass**

Whenever her first husband was home from the military, **Robin Rinearson, OD '77**, helped him create stained glass. She was fascinated by his talent. "He was magnificent at it," she says. Dr. Rinearson would help with the metalwork and soldering, but says, "I really was awful at it."

Wanting to get better, she took some classes with a friend. As it turned out, the art of glass bead making was fit for an optometrist. The hand movements of polishing and modifying hard contact lenses were so like creating beads that Dr. Rinearson excelled immediately. "I made earrings. I made necklaces. I made pens... any kind of thing that you could stick a bead on, I made it!" she says.

Dr. Rinearson began merging her hobbies. Home remodeling collided with glasswork when she was making a backsplash for behind her stove. "I didn't want a piece of metal and I didn't want basic tile," she explains. She found two-inch, square, fused glass squares at Home Depot Expo, and was "jazzed about it." For the price, though, Dr. Rinearson wondered if she could make her own. Her friend agreed to host a tile-making party, and again, Dr. Rinearson was baffled. "None of my stuff came out."

She eventually learned that different-colored glasses had to be fused in a specific order. Additionally, says Dr. Rinearson, "When you're working with hot glass, all the glass has to have the same COE (coefficient of expansion.) If you put glass together that doesn't have the same COE," it will break.

Dr. Rinearson became so passionate that she bought her own kiln. Her home now features glass tiles in the kitchen and bathroom, plus decorative knobs and fixtures. She makes wind chimes, jewelry, sconces, sun catchers, dishes, and more.



*Rinearson: Dog Plate*



*Rinearson: Wind Chime*

"A firing cycle to fuse pieces of glass takes anywhere from 14 to 20 hours," she says. This does not include any "cold working" that must be done, such as smoothing edges or adding embellishments. Dr. Rinearson practices optometry 40-50 hours a week alongside **William "Dodge" Perry, OD '08**. So, she slowly collects projects over time for when she can finally fire up the kiln.

In addition to time, working with fused glass can cost significant money. Black, white, and clear glass is affordable, but Dr. Rinearson calls purples and reds "astronomically expensive." She remembers a time when she broke a 65-dollar piece of glass meant to be a table inlay. "I didn't want to do anything for a month because I was just so annoyed with myself." Thankfully, even broken pieces can be incorporated into fun designs. "I think symmetry and things that match are overrated," she laughs.

Dr. Rinearson is "not so inclined to sell" her work. Instead, she donates to fundraisers, including ICO Homecoming. Her confession: The first time she was asked to create wind chimes for ICO in "the school's colors," she did not know what those colors were. At least they aren't purple and red!

**The Lesson: The first try isn't always pretty. Never give up!**



Donlea: *Summit Lake*

*Summit Lake*, Dr. Donlea's first book, came out last year. It sold overseas in 10 different countries. The success of *Summit Lake* turned a 2-book deal from New York Publishers into a 4-book contract. His second book, *The Girl Who Was Taken*, was written in 8 months and is now on shelves. Both are suspense novels- Dr. Donlea's favorite genre. They are set in "quaint, sort of small towns," reminiscent of places he visited in Canada as a child.

While Dr. Donlea's novels were inspired by specific authors and places, he knows his work will strike each reader differently. "Books are alive, in a sense," he says. "A book means something different for each reader... and for the author who is producing it. If that's not the definition of art, I'm not sure what is."

Dr. Donlea's career as an author sees him touring, teaching, and waking up early each morning to write. His schedule must also include time for optometry and family. "I love optometry and I love my private practice. I am a husband and a father. My family is more important to me than anything else," he says. How does he balance it all? "No sleep. Give up sleep. Who needs it?" He will at least get a break soon. Dr. Donlea and his wife are celebrating 20 years of marriage with "a nice vacation."

### CHARLIE DONLEA, OD '99

**Practice:** Premier Eye Care & Surgery  
Barrington and Buffalo Grove, Illinois  
**Art:** Suspense Novels

Sometimes, the talent of one person inspires creation in another. When **Charlie Donlea, OD '99**, read John Grisham's *The Firm*, he was hooked. "It is still so good in my mind," says Dr. Donlea. "It's such a good suspense novel that I thought, at some point in my life, I am going to write a book." Dr. Donlea read *The Firm* in college. His first story idea came in 1999. Still, it took many years for success to hit.

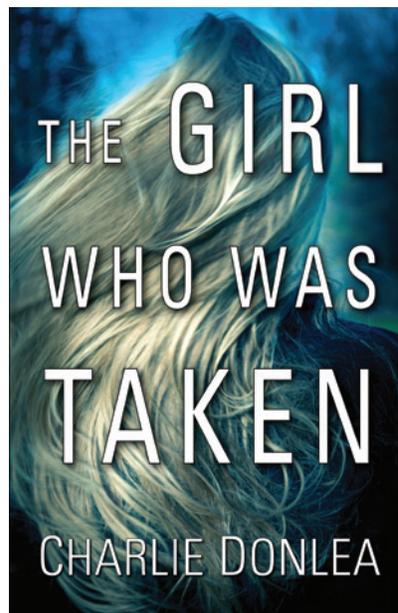
Dr. Donlea began the writing process in earnest after graduating from ICO. However, with no deadlines and nobody pressuring him, he took his time. "I tended to procrastinate the story a lot and only write when I was inspired," he explains. "It is a recipe for why people tend to take three or four years to write their first book."

His first manuscript was rejected. In fact, says Dr. Donlea, "I wrote three failed manuscripts over the course of a decade." When his agent told him to scrap his third manuscript and start over, Dr. Donlea almost quit entirely. "I was really disappointed with the fact that I just couldn't break into the industry." When he stopped writing, that's when Dr. Donlea realized "the purpose of [his] life." He wasn't sad about the rejection. "It was that I stopped chasing my dream... the process of doing. It was what I loved."

**The Lesson:** If you miss it when it's gone, it's worth doing.

To see more of Dr. Donlea's work, visit [www.charliedonlea.com](http://www.charliedonlea.com).

Are you an artist? Share your work with ICO by e-mailing [communications@ico.edu](mailto:communications@ico.edu). Your work could appear in the online version of *ICO Matters*!



Donlea: *The Girl Who Was Taken*



# EARN **CE CREDIT** WHEN IT'S MOST CONVENIENT FOR **YOU:**



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ICO now offers high quality CE online. In cooperation with the WCEA (World Continuing Education Alliance), we have created a digital CE library available to optometrists in the United States and around the world.

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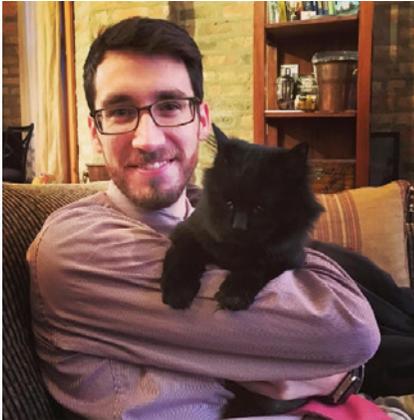


# Trending



February 2

Hey, I'm Erik, #MadeatICO from 2008-2012, residency class of 2013, and now an Assistant Professor. And this is Luna. I've got control of the ICO instagram handle all day today to show you what a day in my life as an ICO Faculty member is like!



February 21

The latest edition of @USNews ranks #optometry one of the best careers of 2017!



February 28

Ever heard of a paczki? Chicago is home to a large Polish population, who celebrate Fat Tuesday with paczkis. There are plenty of bakeries in Chicago serving them up.



February 7

There's no better place to live, learn, and practice #optometry than Sweet Home #Chicago. ICO students: This week, share your favorite things about the city- food, scenery, even an ICO professor or classmate- using hashtag #EyeLoveChicago.



February 24

Hats off to #MadeatICO alum, **Jessica Albers, OD '12!** She was recently awarded the Wyoming Young Optometrist of the Year award for her work with the Wyoming Children's Vision Collaborative, Head Start, and a medical mission to Kenya, Africa. Proud of you!



February 28

Thank you for visiting us, @SMSchoolChi. Good luck on those pig eye dissections, eighth graders! #optometry



March 1

Is the unseasonably warm winter in Chicago driving your allergies crazy? Our own **Dr. Lindsay Sicks** shared with Optometry Times how allergies can lead to or even confuse- more complex diagnoses. Thanks, Dr. Sicks!



**March 2**

The 20/20/20 rule is a great way to protect your eyes from the effects of blue light in the workplace.  
@AOAConnect



**March 31**

Our Business of Optometry class just wrapped up its first lecture exclusively about #socialmedia. Thanks, @NateBW! #practicemanagement



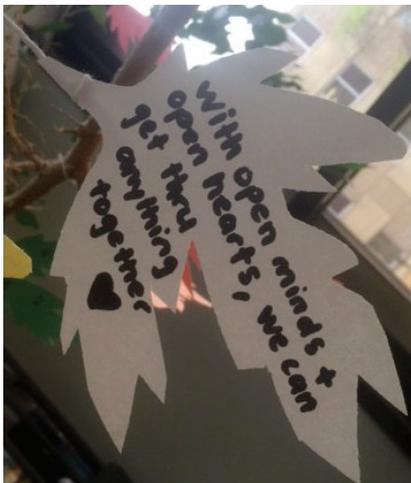
**May 1** - (RT from @ARVOInfo)

May is #HealthyVisionMonth. @NatEyeInstitute provides 5 steps to maintain eye health.



**May 10**

The challenges of finals week inspired the ICO Private Practice Club to talk about mental health. Check out their "Stigma Tree" and important stats from **Jessica Capri, '19**.



**March 27**

Bow-WOW! Our students were so excited to meet Rocko, Hank, Fannie, and their human friends from the Canine Therapy Corps. These specially-trained dogs made everyone at ICO feel happy and relaxed. Thank you, SVOSH and CTC!



**April 4**

Richard J. Madonna, OD, MA, is a SUNY Optometry professor, CE professional, and glaucoma specialist. His glaucoma expertise has been cited in Glaucoma Today, Optometry Times, Review of Optometry, and more. You can hear from him as well as ICO's own experts at our April 23 CE course. Fulfill licensure hours by learning from the best!



**April 7**

"Insurance should never dictate the medical decisions you are making."  
-**Michael Russel, OD '15**  
#20YearsofPOS



**May 16**

Surrounded by ICO love, our Board Chairman @drkareneng received the @rotaryone Chicago Woman of the Year Award today - Congrats!!





# CONSULTANTS IN OPTOMETRY HELP PRACTICE OWNERS ADJUST TO A CHANGING INDUSTRY

BY SHEILA QUIRKE

“It is not the strongest of the species that survives, but rather, that which is most adaptable to change.” This quote has often been falsely attributed to Charles Darwin, but it was first used by Louisiana State University business professor Leon C. Megginson in 1963 when he attempted to apply the theory of evolution to successful businesses. Professor Megginson worked to identify best practices amongst businesses that thrive, just as consultants work to do in the field of optometry. In a healthcare landscape that is changing rapidly, engaging a business consultant can help independent practice owners adapt to stay competitive and profitable.

Consulting specific to optometry has grown significantly since its early days. Therapeutic pharmaceutical agent (TPA) legislation, big box retailers, and e-commerce were not factors that practitioners had to accommodate a generation ago. Today’s optometrists must be confident in both their medical and business acumen to succeed.

Just as the industry is changing, business consulting is changing, too. There are generalist consultants, those who specialize in billing and documentation, even some who are specific to coaching new graduates through their cold starts. Regardless of where you are in your career, a consultant can be the key to help get your practice where you want it to be.

**Richard S. Kattouf, OD '72**, owner of Kattouf Consulting, considers himself a pioneer in consulting independent practice owners. “Colleagues saw that I was doing things differently and started asking for my help. I realized I had information to sell. People think knowledge is power, but it is the implementation of knowledge that is power,” he states. He encourages his clients to exercise their entrepreneurial muscles to improve both their profits and their professional satisfaction.

Dr. Kattouf works with clients to maximize their medical license. He feels passionately about helping optometrists



People think **knowledge**  
**is power**, but it is the  
**implementation of**  
**knowledge** that is power

Richard Kattouf, OD '72



There is a **purity**  
and **control** in  
**building** versus  
**buying** a practice.

Eric Bass, OD '06

feel confident in their medical training and expertise. With managed care and lowered reimbursement margins cutting into profits on the product side, optometrists can recover some of that lost revenue by prescribing directly, as state TPA laws allow for, and not referring out when a doctor can prescribe internally.

Dr. Kattouf also advises his clients that developing a specialty within the practice, be it Corneal Refractive Therapy (CRT) or developmental vision with children or low vision with older adults, is a win-win for practice owners. It engages them professionally, keeping the work interesting and increasing personal satisfaction, while also creating new avenues to profit growth.

Speaking of profits, **Ryan Ames, OD '07**, is certain that many independent practice owners are losing up to \$50K annually because of undercoding

and issues related to billing and documentation. Owner of ForeSight, LLC, an optometric documentation and coding consulting firm out of Wisconsin, Dr. Ames sees common documentation mistakes as the “low hanging fruit” for ODs in private practice. “Accurate coding is so easy to implement and the ROI is substantial,” he says. Being fearful of audits is a common mistake Dr. Ames sees in many of his clients. That fear contributes to independent practitioners leaving tens of thousands of dollars on the table annually. His advice to clients is to focus on small but precise tweaks the ODs can make in their documentation that will result in immediate revenue.

“When doctors take care of the needs of their patients, no more and no less, then carefully document what was done and accurately grade the chart as it stands, they will likely see a significant increase in revenue.”

Dr. Ames goes on to say, “Doctors are scientists, not business people. We learn medicine, not accounting. It only makes sense to ask people for help who know what they’re doing.” From his point of view, that is what makes business consulting useful to the average practice owner. Dr. Ames attended ICO before our new practice management curriculum was implemented. He went back to school (UW-Oshkosh '14) to earn his MBA and fill his perceived knowledge gaps.

His work with clients primarily consists of what he calls, “friendly chart audits.” This allows clients to do what they do best: focusing on providing ethical and competent patient care, while the consultant can provide the specific feedback they need to bill properly, allowing for full reimbursement of their services. ForeSight also offers fee analysis, based on Medicare’s national rates for reimbursement, and insurance

contract reviews. This enables ODs to evaluate which insurers would be most beneficial to engage.

One of the most well-known optometric business consulting firms is PRIMA Eye Group. Co-founded by **Neil Gailmard, OD '76** in 2011, and acquired by Independent Doctors of Optometric Care (IDOC) last year, Dr. Gailmard takes a generalist approach to consulting and is prepared to assist independent ODs at any stage of their practice.

Dr. Gailmard believes there are many challenges facing the industry today that could make independent practice owners more vulnerable if they do not keep up. "Changes are coming faster and they are potentially bigger, now. There is far more regulatory compliance required by vision and medical insurance plans and from the federal government. We are seeing a growing trend of people buying products of all kinds on the Internet." He feels that not all practice owners are making adjustments to accommodate those changes quickly enough. "I often say, 'Act as you mean to go.' Successful entrepreneurs take risks and make changes before they are needed."

**Steve Vargo, OD '98**, also with PRIMA Eye Group, agrees with Dr. Gailmard. "Unfortunately, many practices do not have a strategy to address these changes." Dr. Vargo recommends his clients join an eye care alliance (IDOC is one such alliance), seek out information on industry trends, attend conferences, and avoid becoming isolated in their practice.

They have identified a pattern of practice owners spending the vast majority of their working hours (85% - 90%) seeing patients, but neglecting the business side of their practice. Says Dr. Vargo, "It has become increasingly difficult to be an 'all things for all people' profession. There are many things to consider when determining your brand. Whatever path you choose, you must differentiate yourself from the alternatives."

Another duo who has formed a business consultancy to help ODs better manage the changing nature of optometry is **Eric Baas, OD '06** and **Robert Steinmetz, OD '03**. Their firm, iCare Advisors, LLC strictly focuses on helping newer graduates open their first private practice. The profile of an optometry student has changed, evolving from a young man joining an established family business to a now-typically female,



Many independent practice owners are losing up to **\$50K annually** because of **undercoding** and issues related to **billing and documentation**.

**Ryan Ames, OD '07**

international, or non-traditional student. Drs. Baas and Steinmetz saw an opportunity to help these new graduates learn from some of their own initial mistakes. "There is a purity and control in building versus buying a practice," says Dr. Baas. "Instead of inheriting staffing issues or outdated technology, those who start cold get to define their entire process."

However, cold starting a practice comes with its own challenges. Dr. Steinmetz notes that the iCare Advisors client base includes many recent ICO graduates who are leaving the Midwest to set their stake in different regions of the country. At this stage of practice, the expertise that Drs. Baas and Steinmetz provide relies heavily on leveraging targeted data and a geospatial analysis. These tools predict everything from traffic patterns to the spending habits of local residents, all of whom should be considered potential patients.

In this changing era of practice, Dr. Steinmetz believes, "The recipe is the same, but the ingredients must change." This includes the flexibility to integrate family planning into a larger business plan. Four of five clients iCare Advisors recently worked with were young female ODs who also happened to be pregnant. "Private practice aligns best with family choices," says Dr. Steinmetz. "Once the practice matures, the owner has tremendous opportunity" to either lean in or out, depending on personal preference and family needs.

As the nature of the independent practice of optometry changes in response to market factors, business consultants believe they can help ODs navigate the unfamiliar aspects of the landscape. "Private practice is as strong as it has ever been," states Dr. Baas. "Retail chains and online providers have changed the way we practice, but not the level of success we are able to achieve. Optometry is a strong profession that has been able to continually adapt to healthcare changes and remain successful."

# Essentials: Christie Russell-Villnow, OD '04



**Christie Russell-Villnow, OD '04**, opened Russell EyeCare in 2009. She wanted to practice in a small town where people were close and celebrated each other's lives. She and her husband, Derek, feel right at home in St. Joseph, Minnesota. The community has supported them through opening their business, welcoming their child, and beyond.

Last year, Dr. Russell-Villnow opened a shared practice with her sister. Leslie Russell-Martin, MS, PhD, works in mental health. The pair began seeing commonalities between their patients, particularly those who had suffered traumatic brain injury. They work collaboratively to plan each patient's rehabilitation, including vision therapy.

Here are a few of the day-to-day Essentials Dr. Russell-Villnow needs to accomplish this unique work:

## FAMILY TIME

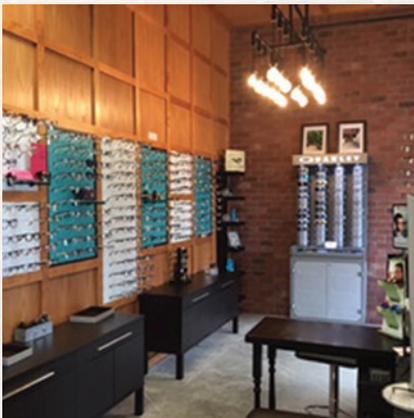
"Recently, our lifestyle (and my workaholic tendencies) changed. Derek and I welcomed a 3-year-old into our family. Joseph (a.k.a. JoJo) keeps us on our toes and reminds us that there is more to life than working at the clinic."

## READ TO SUCCEED

"As children, my sister and I were encouraged to read. As adults, we both read in our downtime. I hated the idea that a child would miss out on the imaginary world created by books. So, I took classes with COVD, OEP, Brenda Montecalvo, and read multiple vision rehabilitation books. I did this until I felt confident that I could help kids not just learn to read, but read to learn. I love the feeling that I get when one of our patients tells me that they are now reading above grade level when they were previously 3 levels below."

## UPGRADED WITH LOVE

"My husband, Derek, is ridiculously multi-talented. He makes eyeglasses, is a trained ophthalmic technician, a licensed electrician, and renovated my entire office. Our primary care clinic needed a little more style. I was looking for Downtown meets stuffy English library... Yep, wood and brick."



## FOR YOUR HONOR

"My favorite song is *Glory of Love* by Peter Cetera from *The Karate Kid*. I am a total romantic, and practice taekwondo. It is a double bonus song!"



## CAMPING OR GLAMPING?

"My husband and JoJo conspire to go camping as much as possible. I love RVing, not actually tent camping, so you can frequently find us somewhere in our camper. No, I will not sleep in a tent. Curse all you nature people! (Just kidding.)"

## "IS THAT A FAKE DOG?"

"We get that question a lot. My little Shih Tzu, Buddy, comes to work with me every day. He is a therapy certified dog that loves to sit on his pillow and watch everything in the office. He used to get up and greet patients, but is now semi-retired as he is 13 years old. We have many patients that call to make sure he will be in when they have an appointment."



## SISTERLY LOVE

"Child developmental psychology and developmental optometry go together like peanut butter and jelly. My sister and I work together to assess and address children who struggle in school. To us, we have the perfect collaboration. If you can dream it, you can do it."

## CULT CLASSIC

"I am a huge *Stargate* fan- the TV shows, not the movie. I am a nerd and have attended the *Stargate* convention that is near Chicago!"

# Class Notes

## 1950's

**1950**

**James Austin** (NICO) of Levittown, Penn., retired after 64 years of practice.

**1952**

**C. Clayton Powell** (CCO) was honored by the Georgia General Assembly with House Resolution 714 on the occasion of his 90th birthday for building a life of distinction and service in the arenas of scholarship, business, civil life, civil rights, and optometry.

## 1960's

**1964**

**Darrell Schlange** presented research at the 2017 COVD annual meeting.

## 1970's

**1978**

**Dominick Maino** presented research at the 2017 COVD annual meeting.

## 1980's

**1981**

**Sandra Block** presented research at the 2017 COVD annual meeting.

**1985**

**Michael Zost** spoke at the 80th Great Lakes Optometric Congress on the topic of Lenses & Prisms to Enhance VT Results.

**1987**

**Jay Petersma** was named Citizen of the Year by the Johnston Chamber of Commerce for his work as the Johnston Chamber of Commerce president in 2009, his continued participation in the community throughout his 25 years of residency in the city, and his time as the drumline instructor for the Johnston Marching Dragons for the past 13 years.

## 2000's

**2003**

**David Maze** spoke at the 80th Great Lakes Optometric Congress on Developing a Model of Vision.

**2009**

**Brandon Begotka** spoke at the 80th Great Lakes Optometric Congress on Vision Development on Infants, Improving Eye-Hand and Eye-Body Coordination, and Chairside Recommendations for Patients with Hemianopia.

## 2010's

**2012**

**Sarah Cho** married Army Captain David Yi on March 18 at the Highlands Ranch Mansion in Highlands Ranch, Colo.

**2013**

**Marsha Sorenson** achieved the ranking of COVD Fellow after completing a rigorous certification process.

**2014**

**Jessica Min** presented research at the 2017 COVD annual meeting.

**2015**

**Amanda Boudreau** joined Bedford Eye Care in Nova Scotia, Canada.

## Friends and Family

**Christine Allison**, ICO faculty member, was sworn in as COVD president at the 2017 COVD annual meeting.

**Arol Augsburg**, ICO President, received the James A. Boucher Award of Excellence at the National Academies of Practice Annual Meeting and Forum in Philadelphia on March 18.

**Karen Eng**, Chairman of ICO's Board of Trustees, was honored by the Rotary Club of Chicago as Woman of the Year.

**Patricia Salazar**, ICO faculty member, and her husband welcomed their son, Connor James Quigley, into the world on March 21.

*The following abbreviations denote predecessor names of the Illinois College of Optometry.*

CCO: Chicago College of Optometry  
MCO: Monroe College of Optometry  
NICO: Northern Illinois College of Optometry



# In Memoriam

## 1940's

### 1940

**Lee M. Wheless** (NICO), High Point, N.C., Dec. 6. He served in the U.S. Air Force as a pilot in WWII, enlisting immediately after Pearl Harbor, attaining the rank of Captain. He practiced optometry for 48 years.

### 1948

**Edgar Josephsen** (NICO), Stanwood, Wash., Jan. 28. He served in the U.S. Navy from 1943-45. He relocated to Germany and served as an optometrist at the Army Eye Clinic during the Gulf War.

## 1950's

### 1956

**William P. Mathews**, Hinton, W. Va., April 15, 2016. He was a community leader, serving on the Summers County Board of Education, the Elks, and the Chamber of Commerce. He was a devoted and active member of his church, a lover of painting, rose gardens, and music.

### 1958

**Malcolm Hirsch**, Atlanta, Ga., March 29. Served in the U.S. Navy and was known for his dry, sarcastic wit and his love for animals.

### 1959

**Edwin E. Tuhy**, SaddleBrooke, Ariz., Feb 27. He served in the U.S. Air Force during the Korean Conflict. During his 38 years in practice, he served in the North Dakota Optometric Association and the State Board of Optometry. He served 30 years in VOSH, providing care internationally and spearheading both the establishment of the North Dakota and Arizona VOSH chapters, earning him the honor of "Humanitarian of the Year" in 2008 from VOSH International.

## 1960's

### 1963

**Richard Earl Wiesner**, Sturgeon Bay, Wis., April 5. He practiced optometry for 43 years in the Door County community. He was an active member of his church, serving as the Sunday School teacher and superintendent and church council president. He was president of the Sturgeon Bay Lions Club, the Wisconsin Optometric Association and the Northeast Wisconsin Optometric Association.

## 1970's

### 1976

**David S. Black**, Two Rivers, Wis., March 9. Upon graduation, he joined the professional staff of Wesley Jessen, teaching practitioners the proper fitting of soft contact lenses. He then practiced optometry for 39 years in Two Rivers and Manitowac. He was a perpetual student, earning a ham radio license and pilot's license. He also became proficient at CAD drawing and CNC machining. He enjoyed building model steam and gas engines.

### 1978

**Larry P. Dawson**, Chicago, Ill., Nov. 12. He worked with Tropical Optical, Inc. for 34 years. He and his wife established and funded a chess team at a public middle school. They also established a science lab at a public high school in memory of his sister. He had many hobbies and talents, including cooking and baking cakes and pies.

**Gary Pedersen**, Grand Island, Neb., March 28. He was awarded the National Head Start Humanitarian Award in 1996 and was a National Humanitarian Award recipient and Nebraska Optometrist of the Year. He was a VOSH member for 19 years, former president of the Grand Island Lions Club, and was involved in the TeamMates Mentoring Program.

## Friends and Family

**Philip Irion**, Lansing, Mich., March 30. He was a former Adjunct Professor at ICO and helped design the Sports Vision program. He was named Optometrist of the Year in 2003 by the Michigan Optometric Association. He was involved in many sports organizations including serving as the chairman of Visual Performance and Safety Committee, U.S. Olympic Committee and consultant for the 1984 U.S. Olympic Hockey Team.

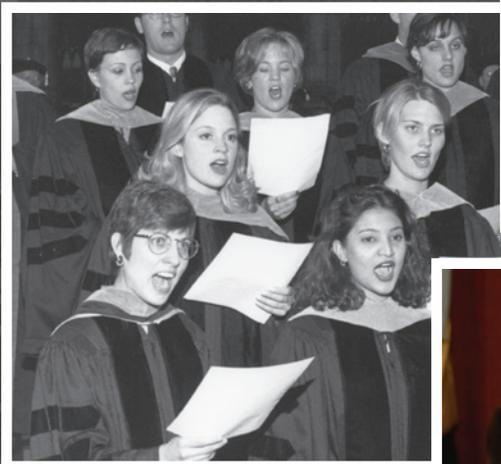
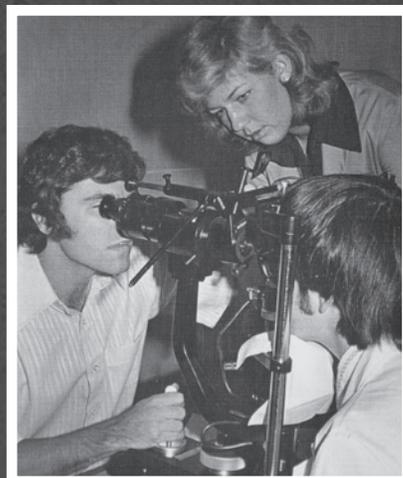
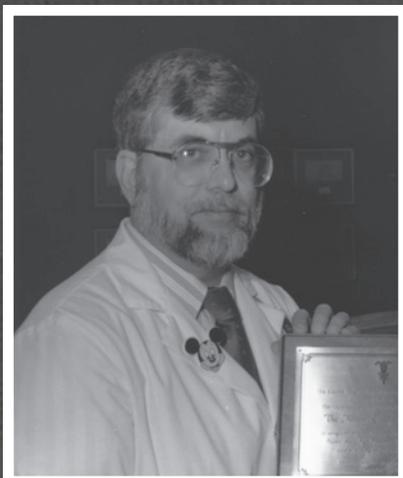
## Got alumni news? Please share.

### CONTACT:

Connie M. Scavuzzo, MA  
Senior Director of Alumni Development  
312-949-7080  
cscavuzzo@ico.edu • alumni@ico.edu

# Vault

Many members of ICO's faculty have served our institution for years. These educators guide class after class of best-prepared optometrists into the profession. Without them, ICO would not have its esteemed reputation. We dug into the Vault to find photos of some favorite professors in their early years.



# Datebook

**ICO**  
OLYMPICS  
August 19

## JUNE

**June 26-30**

Focus on Your Future Program  
ICO Campus

## JULY

**July 12-16**

NOA Annual Convention  
Portland, Oregon

**July 29-August 5**

Summer Quarter Final Exams

## AUGUST

**August 8**

NBEO Part 1 Exam

**August 10-13**

Class of 2021 Orientation

**August 14**

First Day of Fall Quarter

**August 19**

ICOLympics

**August 26**

Parents' Orientation,  
President's Welcome, and  
White Coat Ceremony  
ICO Campus

## SEPTEMBER

**September 14-17**

Illinois Optometric Association  
Convention  
Itasca, Illinois  
ICO Exhibit Booth

## OCTOBER

**October 13**

Celebrating Optometry in  
Illinois Open House  
ICO Campus

**October 13-14**

ICO Homecoming  
ICO Campus

**October 28-November 4**

Fall Quarter Final Exams

## NOVEMBER

**November 5-6**

Continuing Education  
Program  
12 Hours – Tested  
ICO Campus

**November 13**

First Day of Winter Quarter

**November 23-26**

Thanksgiving Break



# ICO

## Illinois College of Optometry

3241 S. Michigan Ave.  
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[icomatters.ico.edu](http://icomatters.ico.edu)

[www.ico.edu](http://www.ico.edu)

## Last Look



*MCA Night* is an annual student event hosted by ICO's Multicultural Association. The evening celebrates diversity with food, fun, and an energetic talent show. This year, the show's opening act was a five-student breakdancing team. Their gravity-defying tricks energized the crowd and set the tone for the rest of the night. Awe-inspiring!