

# ICO MATTERS

FALL 2018 - VII ISSUE 2



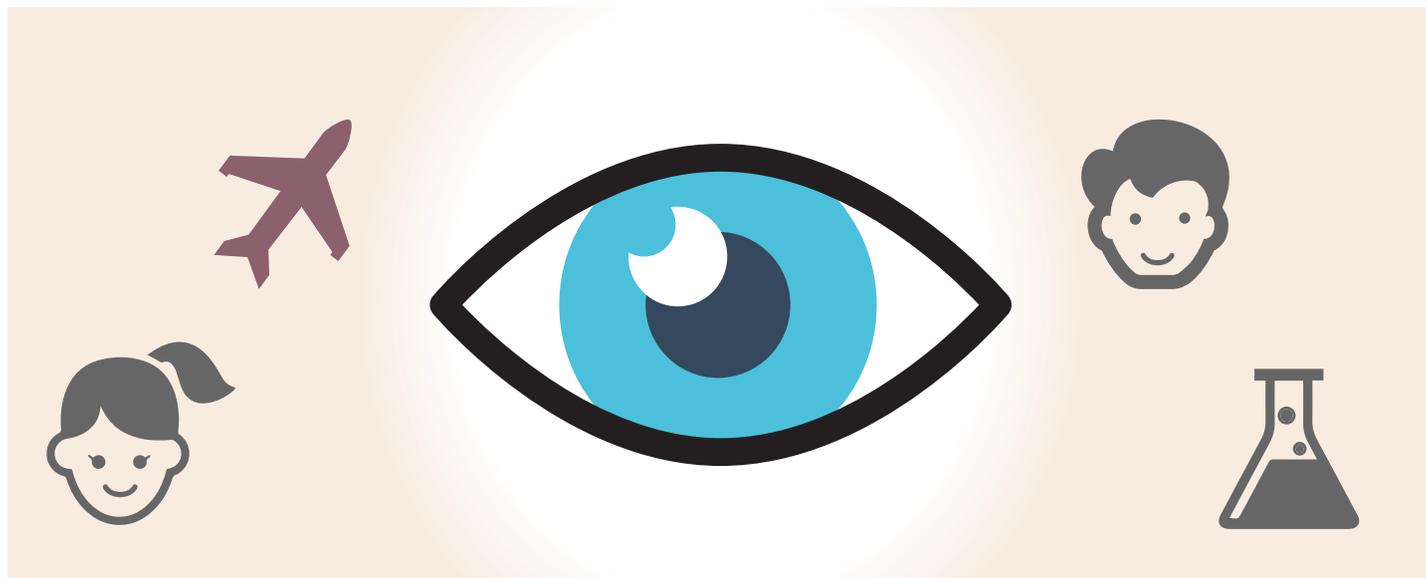
## International Practices



ICO's New President  
Homecoming Carnival  
Concierge Care

# ILLINOIS COLLEGE OF OPTOMETRY

## ENTERING CLASS OF 2022



### ADMISSIONS

**153**  
Enrolled

Applicants  
**970**  
Interviewed  
**357**

### PERSONAL STATISTICS

**74%** Female

**27%** Male  
Mean Age **24**  
**5%** Married

### TESTING

**3.34**  
Mean GPA

Mean  
OAT  
**314**

Cumulative GPA Distribution	≥3.70	12%
	3.50 - 3.69	20%
	3.20 - 3.49	41%
	3.00 - 3.19	14%
	≤2.99	13%

### ETHNICITY

Caucasian	50%
Asian American	39%
Multiracial	7%
African American	2%
Hispanic	1%
Pacific Islander	1%



### FOREIGN COUNTRIES REPRESENTED

Canada - **32**; Mexico - 1; Poland - 1

### UNDERGRADUATE MAJORS

**69%** Biological Sciences   **8%** Chemistry   **8%** Health Sciences   **5%** Psychology   **5%** Other



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## Features

### 08 Meet the President

ICO's sixth president, Dr. Mark Colip, is a familiar face on-campus. Though new to the role, he has worked at ICO for over 25 years. This in-depth interview explores his life, career, and plans for our institution.

### 18 Internationally Speaking

Canada, Barbados, Japan... these are just a few of the international locations where our alumni practice optometry. Learn about licensure, CE, and the patient base in these countries.

### 26 Homecoming 2018

Even though our alumni have spread all over the world, the ICO family comes home to Chicago once a year. This annual party captures the flavors and iconic locations of our favorite city!

# ICO MATTERS

FALL 2018 • V17 ISSUE 2

*ICO Matters* is the alumni magazine of the Illinois College of Optometry. It is published two times per year.

Contact *ICO Matters* at [communications@ico.edu](mailto:communications@ico.edu)

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#### EDITORIAL

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**Dean of Student Affairs**  
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**Senior Director of Alumni Development**  
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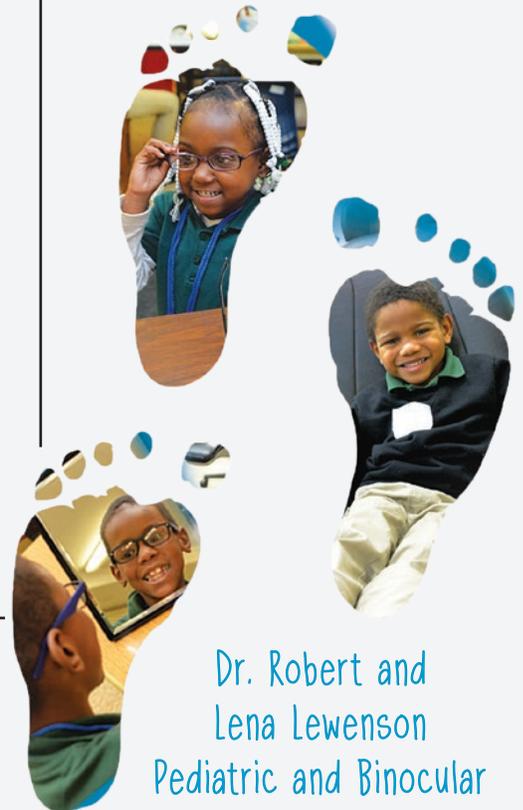
# ROBERT LEWENSON, OD '80 PEDIATRIC RENOVATIONS DONOR

A generous gift from **Robert Lewenson, OD '80**, and **Mrs. Lena Lewenson** has allowed ICO to begin a renovation project to relocate, modernize, and outfit our Pediatric and Binocular Vision Center. This service area provides care to more than 5,500 infants, children, and adults with binocular vision disorders and primary or advanced care needs each year.

We have set a goal of raising an additional \$1 million dollars toward the total renovation cost and ask that you help us reach our goal by making a tax-deductible gift at <https://my.ico.edu/make-a-gift>. Upgrades to the Center will enhance doctor/student diagnostic procedures and examination techniques. We will continue to uniquely pinpoint the exact nature of vision-related problems and further improve treatment outcomes for some of Chicago's most vulnerable populations.



For additional information or to learn about naming opportunities that are available starting at \$25,000 payable over multiple years, please contact the **Development Office** at **312.949.7071** or **development@ico.edu**.



Dr. Robert and  
Lena Lewenson  
Pediatric and Binocular  
Vision Center

# Talking Heads

Erik Mothersbaugh, OD '12

This season, we're talking to ICO alumni who have recently received accolades in the profession. **As your career changes and advances, what is one thing you learned at ICO that you still use every day?**

## ERIK MOTHERSBAUGH, OD '12

*Dean of Student Affairs, ICO*

"One really important skill I developed at ICO was the ability to communicate differently depending on my audience. When I first started interacting with patients late in my first year, it was a challenge for me to connect because I wasn't being very mindful of my word choice, tone, or mannerisms. I sought guidance from a faculty member on how to improve. That helped me develop my own style and philosophy as a clinician.

Over time, I became able to consider my audience before speaking and adjust appropriately. Was I taking a case history from a patient? Presenting findings to an attending? Brainstorming ideas with a classmate? Giving a tour to a prospective student? The right approach can vary greatly depending on the situation. To be honest, it has even paid dividends in my personal life."



## MOLLY WALKER, OD '09

*Young Optometrist of the Year, Iowa Optometric Association*

"Something I learned at ICO that I continue to use every day is talking my patients through their exams and making sure they understand. This is something we learned how to do during the first year. Our practical required that we explain aloud each test we were doing and why we were doing it. I remember thinking how silly I probably sounded. Nonetheless, because I knew ultimately that is what we would have to do for National Boards, I continued to do it.

Now, nearly 10 years after passing those National Boards, I find myself continuing this skill. My patients sincerely appreciate knowing what I'm doing and why each step is an important part of their exam. I have found that children, especially, respond extremely well to this. So much of their apprehension is the fear of the unknown. So, when I tell my young patients, 'The next thing we are going to do is a special test to make sure your eyes work together as a team,' they are much more relaxed, confident. This skill that I learned my first year at ICO continues to help me achieve a better exam experience for both my patients and for me, their optometrist."

## MAMIE CHAN, OD '00

*Optometrist of the Year, New Mexico Optometric Association*

"Ummm... everything? First, having so many preceptors allowed me to experience different approaches for performing techniques and problem solving- for instance, being of such short stature. I learned different options of BIO viewing, slit lamp exam, contact lens insertions, etc., and I've picked the best of all those options. I honestly am thankful daily that I've learned techniques that make me feel ergonomically comfortable with my size.

Also, we inextricably relied on each other as students. Some of the closest friends I have are from ICO, and I still bounce ideas off them all the time. Whether it's a weird zebra case, a practice management approach, or a silly meme that only we would understand, we're there for each other.

I feel fortunate that ICO allowed me to see such a diverse ethnic, socioeconomic, and ocular disease population. I feel prepared for anything that might walk through my door. ...but truly, the main lesson I learned from ICO is that we never stop learning."

Molly Walker, OD '09



Scott Greder, OD '99

Mamie Chan, OD '00

## SCOTT GREDER, OD '99

*President, Nebraska Optometric Association*

"If I had to pick one thing that I learned at ICO, it would probably be the importance of the dilated fundus examination. I feel that it was an extremely high priority of the faculty at ICO to produce optometrists that were adept at diagnosing and managing ocular disease. I use the skills I learned at ICO every day to evaluate why someone may not be seeing 20/20. Of course, without dilation, it is much more difficult to see cataracts and evaluate the vitreous, macula, optic nerve, and the peripheral retina. I am grateful my ICO education drilled into my head that an eye examination with dilation was the standard of care for our patients. This emphasis has allowed me to practice full scope optometry in a medically-focused practice."

## »»» Editor's Note



**Lauren Faits, Editor**

This issue of *ICO Matters* went into the mail on October 31- Halloween, my favorite holiday.

I love the flavors of the season- pumpkin, apple, and especially candy corn (a controversial choice.) What I love most of all, though, is the costumes. Halloween lets us dress up as our wildest dreams.

ICO's alumni are special because every single graduate has already achieved the same dream: to be an optometrist. ...but now, you can't dress up as a doctor on Halloween! So, what do you dream of being in addition to an OD? A cowboy? A scuba diver? A vampire unicorn paratrooper?

Though Halloween has passed, remember that you can still pursue any passion or goal. Your ability to dream did not stop when you made one dream come true. ...OK, maybe you can't be a vampire unicorn paratrooper, but I won't stop you from trying!

The Fall 2018 issue includes dream jobs, dream homes, and much to aspire to:

- An interview with ICO's new president, Dr. Mark Colip.
- The fascinating lifestyles of ICO alumni practicing internationally.
- A new mode of practice, "concierge care," created by an ICO alumnus.
- Fond memories from Homecoming 2018
- ...and much more!

If you have any questions, comments, or story ideas for your friends at *ICO Matters*, please e-mail [communications@ico.edu](mailto:communications@ico.edu).

## Convention Season Roundup



Since the last issue of *ICO Matters*, 2018's optometric convention season has come and gone. ICO was well-represented at industry events across the country, including:

### College of Optometrists in Vision Development (COVD)

The 2018 COVD International Meeting took place on American soil in Bellevue, Washington. More than 900 attended with many different countries represented. During the meeting, **Dr. Christine Allison** was installed as President of COVD. **Dominick Maino, OD '78** emceed the Awards Luncheon, took official photos, and presented a poster on convergence spasm. Pediatric Residents **Drs. Alaina Bandstra** and **Laura Thompson** also presented posters.

### National Optometric Association (NOA)

NOA celebrated a milestone in 2018- its 50th annual convention. Participants gathered in San Antonio, Texas. **Nicole Akpunku, OD '18**, attended the conference with eight additional ICO alumni. ICO-NOSA was recognized as Chapter of the Year, 2017-18. At the NOSA Scholarship Award Banquet, ICO students and alumni took home more than \$11,000 in awards and grants.

### American Optometric Association (AOA)

The AOA's 2018 convention was in Denver, Colorado. As one of the profession's largest events, Optometry's Meeting included a large showing of ICO events and accolades. President Emeritus **Dr. Arol Augsburger** carried the Illinois Flag into the House of Delegates. **Steven McCarty, '19**, took second place in the Essilor Optometry Student Bowl. The AOA's Contact Lens and Cornea Section selected **Dr. Renee Reeder** to receive its 2018 Achievement Award. **Jessica Capri, '19**, and **Mariana Ferraz, '19**, won Best Poster and Third Place Overall for the Walmart Project Foresight Scholarship. Finally, **Lori Grover, OD '90, PhD**, was elected to the AOA Board of Trustees.

### Illinois Optometric Association (IOA)

Peoria was the chosen city for the IOA's yearly conference. ICO alumni always play a major role at this home state event. Over the weekend of September 20-23, 2018, **Robert Blumthal, OD '81**, was named Optometrist of the Year. **Robert Brenart, OD '76**, became Keyperson of the Year. The Friend of Optometry Award was renamed to honor **Floyd Mizener, OD '48**, and **Christine Allison, OD**, was given a Past President Award.

# Summer Admissions Efforts

Though we just welcomed the Class of 2022, work in the ICO Admissions Department is never done. This summer, on- and off-campus events were booming. Our team was particularly busy just as OptomCAS opened with activities like these:

- On **June 2**, our annual Admissions Open House welcomed 115 prospective students and guests.
- The week of **June 11**, we hosted 11 undergraduate students for our annual Focus on Your Future Summer Program. At the FoYF farewell party, several prospective students called ICO a “family.” They commented on how warm, helpful, and genuinely invested our students, faculty, and staff had been.
- For the Optometry Virtual Fair held on **June 12**, staff, faculty and students chatted with 115 prospective students from the United States, Canada, India, and Trinidad and Tobago.
- On **June 15**, we hosted a visit for high school students in a health careers exploration camp.
- Lastly, our neighbors at the Illinois Institute of Technology sent over students from their summer biology program on **July 28**. Each year, high schoolers visit ICO to learn about optometry as a career. This group of over 20 students received a campus tour, then worked with vectograms, optical illusions, slit lamps, and more.

Together, we are bringing incredible new faces to ICO and the profession. Here’s to the Class of 2023 and beyond!



## Special Olympics Celebrates 50th Anniversary

Fifty years ago, the first Special Olympics flame was lit in Soldier Field. These inaugural games in Chicago were the start of a worldwide movement. Today, Special Olympics has expanded to 170 countries. Five million athletes with intellectual disabilities participate in related sports, activities, and services.

Special Olympics International held their 50th Anniversary Celebration in Chicago during the week of **July 17, 2018**. Events took place all over the city and suburbs, including an international soccer tournament, Inclusion Festival, and Healthy Athletes screenings. The Illinois College of Optometry sent faculty, residents, staff, and students to volunteer for the Lions Clubs International Opening Eyes program. Energy was high as ICO cared for athletes from over 15 countries. Over two days, our team performed eye assessments and distributed new glasses and sunglasses. Lenses were cut on-location in real time.

Another part of the 50th Anniversary Celebration was the dedication of the Eternal Flame. **Dr. Sandra Block, MEd, FAAO, FCOVD**, participated in the historic ceremony near Soldier Field. This flame will be the starting point for all future Special Olympics torches. This assures that Chicago, birthplace of the Special Olympics sports competition, will always have a role in the games.

The 50th Anniversary Celebration concluded on **Saturday, July 21**, with an incredible concert. The headliner was Chicago favorite Chance the Rapper. He was joined by Usher, Smokey Robinson, Jason Mraz, and other popular artists. ICO was honored to serve such an important cause and looks forward to Special Olympics events in the future.



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# Welcome, Class of 2022!

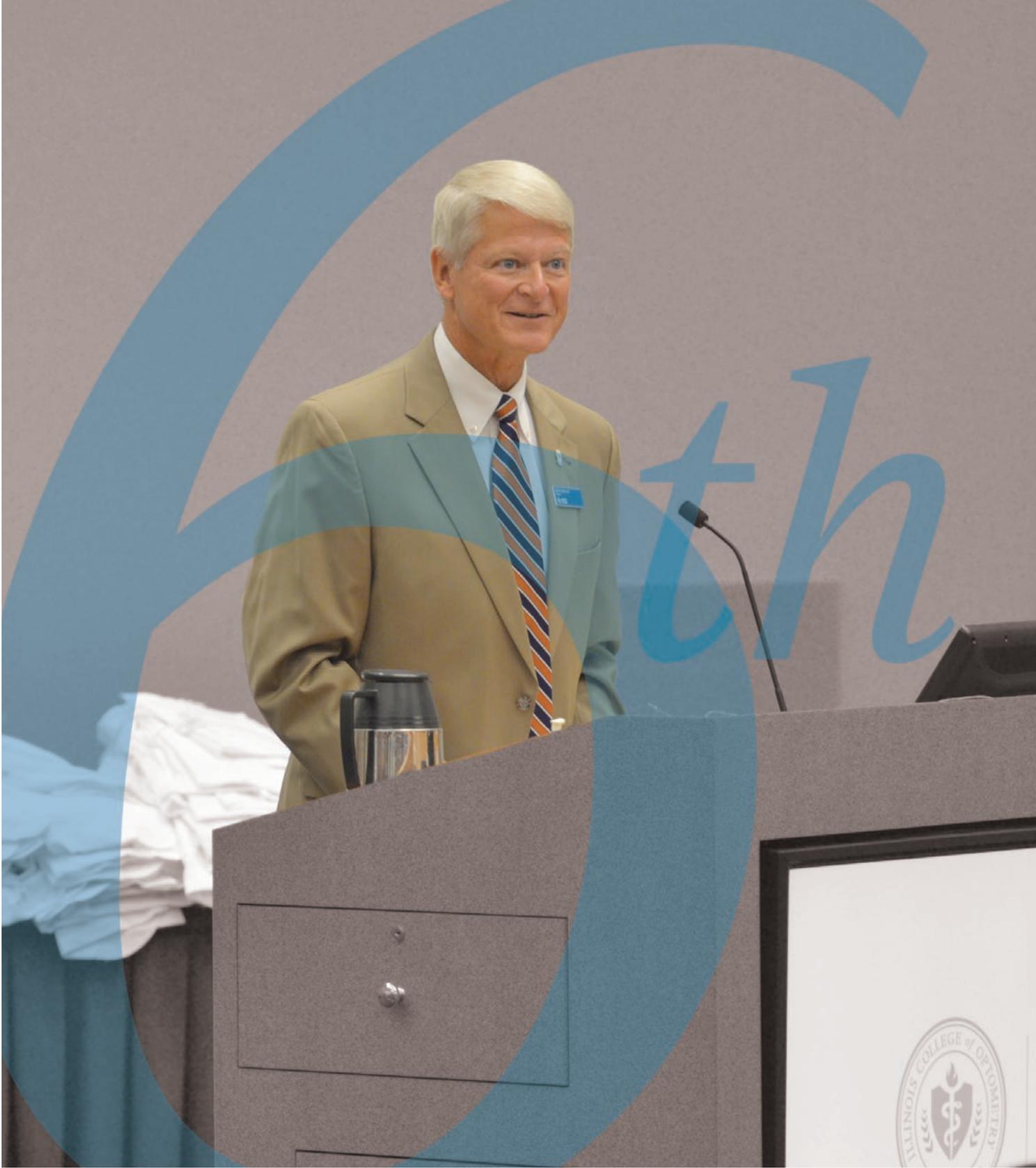
On **August 8, 2018**, a new crop of aspiring ODs arrived for Move-In Day at ICO. The Class of 2022 is made up of 161 new and returning students. To date, they have participated in some of ICO's favorite traditions. Orientation went smoothly, thanks to the many staff members and students who are always generous with their time. The ICOLympics were heated, but the Class of 2020 took home the ultimate gold.

The White Coat Ceremony featured many "firsts." **Mark Colip, OD '92**, spoke for the first time as ICO president. **Erik Mothersbaugh, OD '12**, joined him for the first time as Dean of Student Affairs. We also premiered a live video feed on social media, allowing loved ones far and wide to witness the event in real time. "Like" ICO on Facebook to see livestreaming of future events!

We especially appreciate the alumni who visited campus to participate in the White Coat Ceremony. The following new students were coated by ICO graduates:

**Syed Jaffery**, coated by sister **Syeda Fatima, OD '16**  
**Maxime Morier-Roy**, coated by cousin **Marco Kosowski, OD '17**  
**Connor Robbs**, coated by mother **Laura Giancola, OD '90**





*“The Right President at the*



## Right Time™

# An interview with ICO's Sixth President, Mark Colip, OD '92

By Lauren Faits

On June 14, 2018, the Illinois College of Optometry concluded its Presidential Search. Having met with outstanding candidates from across the United States, the Board of Trustees announced their unanimous choice: that ICO's sixth president would be **Mark Colip, OD '92**. He officially took office on August 6, 2018.

Dr. Colip is new to the presidency, but not the institution. ICO is his alma mater, and prior to this new title, Dr. Colip was ICO's Vice President for Student, Alumni, and College Development. In fact, he has worked on-campus for over 25 years, seeing the College through growth, change, and three previous presidents.

Lauren Faits, Editor-in-Chief of *ICO Matters*, spoke to Dr. Colip during the first week of his presidency. They candidly discussed family, how Dr. Colip found optometry, and his hopes and aspirations for the school he loves.

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**LF:** "Dr. Colip, you grew up in a farming community and earned a degree in zoology. Some people might find that surprising. Tell me about life before optometry."

**MC:** "My dad was from a farming family. He grew up milking dairy cows at 6 in the morning and 6 at night, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. When I got my driver's license, I would get up at 5 in the morning, drive a truck into Indianapolis, pick up 5 tons of feed, and drive it back to my dad's store. Then, after school, I helped throughout the evening. My mom and dad were the hardest workers that I ever met."

**LF:** "Does that mean your zoology degree was farm-related?"

**MC:** "Not at all. When I was in 6th grade, I read a book in the library. It had the Hippocratic Oath in the cover. It just spoke to me. So, from the time I was in 6th grade, my objective was to become a doctor. I applied for a job as an orderly at the local county hospital when I was 15. I took an EMT course when I was 17. I worked in the emergency room, got accepted to DePauw University, and got a scholarship to go there. DePauw University didn't have a biology major at the time- it was zoology.

I did a one-month internship with a couple of family practice doctors in my hometown. They allowed me full access. I went to the hospital rounds, all that... but there was just frustration on their faces every day. I knew at the end of that month that I didn't want to be a medical doctor. I was devastated."

**LF:** “I understand. You’d been certain for so long. Where did optometry come in?”

**MC:** “I wanted to get examined for contact lenses. I was 20 years old, and I visited **Daryl Hodges, OD ’77**, in Greencastle, Indiana. I thought, ‘This is doctor stuff!’ I shadowed him and I fell in love with optometry. He talked about studying in Chicago in this place called Illinois College of Optometry. In my mind, I thought, ‘I don’t know if I want to do that, that’s in scary Chicago...’ He felt so passionately about optometry and ICO, he took the day off from his practice and drove me to Chicago to make sure I came here and interviewed.”

*“I was 20 years old, and I visited Daryl Hodges, OD ’77, in Greencastle, Indiana. I thought, ‘This is doctor stuff!’ I shadowed him and I fell in love with optometry.”*



**LF:** “When you applied to optometry school, were you married?”

**MC:** “When I graduated from DePauw University (May 1985), I was offered a job to go back to Methodist Hospital and teach paramedics and emergency medicine. This was going to be a summer job, before I started at ICO.”

Shortly after I started teaching though, I had a health issue arise. Reluctantly, I had to call ICO and give up my seat. What had started out as a summer job before starting at ICO, turned into three years while I worked through my health issue. It was the right thing to do at the

time. Interestingly enough, it was during this ‘delay in my plans’ that I met my wife, working at the hospital. She was a brand-new nurse. I fell in love with her at first sight. February 7, 1986, I proposed to her... We got married June 7, 1986. So what started out as a delay in my plans, turned out to put me exactly where I needed to be.”

**LF:** “That same year??”

**MC:** “I knew what I wanted. We actually came to Chicago for Labor Day weekend for the Jazz Fest. We were standing in line at Uno’s Pizza, and I told her, ‘You’re going to marry me someday.’ She just laughed.”

We both stayed and worked at Methodist Hospital for 3 years. My health improved. I studied and retook the OAT, but wondered, ‘What school is going to accept me?’ By the grace of God, ICO accepted me again.”

**LF:** “You were so busy as a young man. Were you a super-involved optometry student?”

**MC:** “No. I was going to be an 80-hour-a-week student; nothing but studying for me. I was mostly scared of failing, but at the same time, I was loving what was happening in class. It was everything I’d hoped and dreamed since 6th grade.”

**LF:** “It’s comforting to know that even you got scared sometimes. If you had a really tough day at ICO, what did you do to unwind?”

**MC:** “I played with my dogs. I took them for walks, would play ball with them almost every evening. Jan and I, frankly, would sit on the couch, hold hands, and watch TV. That was a big evening for us... You have to push back from the stress and the studying. Nobody can do this 24/7.”

**LF:** “When you graduated, did you immediately pursue academia?”

**MC:** “No. We’d actually decided by January of my 4th year that we were going to go to Michigan and I was going to buy into a practice there. Right about graduation time, the deal broke apart.”

**LF:** “How awful! So you had to salvage something pretty quickly?”

**MC:** “I worked for [Dr. John Gardner] most of my second year, and even into third year. His dad was an ICO alum. When the deal fell apart... I started working with [Dr. Gardner] right away.”

**LF:** “...but something brought you back to ICO.”

**MC:** “It wasn’t long after. That Fall, ICO’s president [Dr. Banwell] called. He said, ‘I’d like you to come back... We’ve had some admissions problems.’ I said, ‘Wow, I’m sorry to hear that, but I’m not your guy.’ Early December, another call came. He was very persistent. By that time, 25% of that first year class had failed out. That was devastating to the budget and to the people.”

Here’s how it is. Without ICO, I’m probably a farmer, struggling to survive. ICO flipped that switch for me. I am forever indebted about that. So, I started April 1. We’d had a baby on February 28, moved into a new house in Downers Grove, and I started a new job!”

**LF:** “You have had over 25 memorable years at ICO before this presidency. What are you most proud of so far?”

**MC:** “When I came back to ICO, we had about a decade and a half of alumni who were really angry at the school. I finally came to the conclusion, after struggling with this for months, if not years: I can’t apologize enough. All I can do is talk about how ICO is a different place now, and what our plans are going forward. I made it my mission just tell our story to every individual that I could.”

**LF:** “It’s very mindful, encouraging people to see what’s happening now, but you’re also not trying to make excuses for the past.”

**MC:** “No, there’s no excusing some of the things that happened in those days. At the same time, there were a lot of good people here. Enter Dr. Charlie Mullen. He came in and basically said, ‘The best disinfectant is sunshine... There’s nothing we’re not



Dr. Mark Colip and family.

Dr. Mark Colip at new student orientation 2018.



Dr. Mark Colip and Dr. Arol Augsburger 2018.



Presidential Search Committee.

going to let people outside look at.' It was hard, but... I learned more from working with Dr. Charlie Mullen about college administration, about doing the right thing, about strategic planning, than anybody in my life.

Look at what has been accomplished in the past 20 years. People who have seen the contrast, I've heard them say, 'You know, amazingly enough, ICO has always kind of found the right president for the right time. I think that's just so true.'

LF: "So, you got to watch and learn from several ICO presidents. How did you, Dr. Colip, decide to apply for the role?"

MC: "When Dr. Augsburger called us all to his office and said, 'I'm retiring,' I was dumbfounded. The search launched. A good candidate probably should have jumped and applied immediately. I didn't... all through December, all through January, early February. When I would think about the hardest parts of the job, I would get very anxious. When I would have thoughts of the positives, I would get kind of excited, but then the negatives would come in.



*"I met my **wife** then, working at the hospital. She was a brand-new nurse. I fell in love with her at first sight. February 7, I proposed to her... We got married June 7."*



I told Jan, 'I'm going to go to the lake house.' I committed myself to, for a weekend, not thinking about Boyd Banwell, not thinking about Charlie Mullen, not thinking about Arol Augsburg, as much as I respect all of them, but thinking about Mark Colip. I forced myself to divorce from history and habit. Sunday night, I drove back home... started writing my letter."

LF: "What was it like during the interview process at ICO?"

MC: "Some people generously sat and coached me. I appreciated that. I had great confidence in the search committee. The hardest thing was knowing that there were other ICO alumni who I love dearly that were in the process; I just felt like I wasn't supposed to communicate with them or congratulate them."

LF: "How did you find out that you were chosen?"

MC: "That was amazing. The Board had a second interview with the two [final] candidates. Forty-five minutes to an hour later, I got a call from Maggie at the President's Office. She said, 'The Committee has some more questions for you.' I thought, 'Oh, this probably isn't good. They saved the zingers for now.'

They asked me to sit at the head of the table. Dr. Karen Eng, the Chairman of the Board, said, 'We asked you back because we have one more question for you: Would you be our next president?'"

You're always taught to say, 'Oh, I need 24 hours, I need to talk to my wife and family.' I'd had all those talks. I just responded, 'I would be delighted.' Every person in that room gave me a hug. I still get emotional thinking of that moment."

LF: "In a previous edition of *ICO Matters*, you spoke about the applicant pool and ICO's acceptance standards. Now that you're in the driver's seat, do you have anything you want to add?"

MC: "The selection of the students that come to ICO and the current applicant pool- ASCO is officially calling it a crisis, now- it's our #1 issue, no question about it."

LF: "Speaking of, the amount of scholarships given out this year was a bit larger. Can you tell me why you think that's important, and maybe how the decision was made?"

MC: "After last year, and taking a smaller class, we really sat down and took a look at the data. We said, 'Everything indicates that next year's pool will be less than this year's. So, we can do things exactly the same, and expect to get even fewer numbers in our class, or we can pull the levers and do what we can. The one thing I knew we could do more of was scholarship. I worked closely with Dr. Augsburg and the rest of the PAC group, and ultimately came up with a recommendation that we wanted to make increases to scholarship offerings to try and get the best candidates.'"

*"I've watched [Dr. Mothersbaugh] from the time he was in undergraduate school at Augustana. ... He's doing a marvelous job already."*



LF: "When it comes to fundraising for decisions like this, I've heard you use the term 'friend-raising.'"

MC: "When I started doing fundraising more formally at ICO, the people that were training me were Trish DeMaat and Connie Scavuzzo. The thing that Connie really pushed with me was that you have to 'friend raise' before you can fund raise. It's absolutely right. People aren't going to give you money to support your mission

unless they are your friends, or believe deeply in what you do. I fully expect to spend 30, if not 40, percent of my time in that area."

LF: "Your first major staff choice was Erik Mothersbaugh, OD '12, FAAO, Dean of Student Affairs. Why was he the right fit?"

MC: "I've watched [Dr. Mothersbaugh] from the time he was in undergraduate school at Augustana. I was delighted when he decided to come to ICO. When he picked ICO to do his residency, during that time he told me that he had aspirations of going into teaching, perhaps even administration... He's doing a marvelous job already."

LF: "What are some of the things you see his role taking on, particularly in the realm of student success?"

MC: "Lots has changed in 10 years' time. Clearly, we have the applicant pool issue that we're wrestling with, but also student concerns with regard to anxiety, depression... it's an area where I feel I probably wasn't doing as good a job as I could have. [Dr. Mothersbaugh] brings some insight, some energy. He's going to be able to tackle that issue."

With regard to the Student Success Task Force, that's something that I appointed last Spring to help us really take a hard look at student success issues within the institution. Beth Karmis is chair... other faculty and staff are helping out. They're meeting ultimately to make recommendations to serve students even better."

LF: "What else is on your Presidential To-Do List?"

MC: "The president's cabinet- I had my first meeting with them. The number one thing that I asked them was, when you're making decisions, put ICO first. Our students and our alumni and donors and patients- put them first. We'll always make the right decisions if we do that."

LF: "There is a lot of change in optometry. We have disruptive tech like Opternative and Warby Parker, but also conglomerates

**“The president’s cabinet - I had my first meeting with them. The number one thing that I asked them was, when you’re making decisions, put ICO first.”**



buying up private practices. How do you see the climate of the profession affecting ICO and your presidency?”

**MC:** “In my first week, I had a company in that really is at the forefront of some of that technology. I wanted to hear what they’re doing, what’s driving them and motivating them. I think our role as an educational institution with regard to those things is not to decide whether it’s good or it’s bad; it’s to be involved in researching it and kicking the tires and helping our students and alumni to understand how it works and how they can use it best to serve their patients- if it has a role at all. Maybe it doesn’t have a role, and in that case, we’ll do our best to shed some light, as well.”

**LF:** “We just drafted an institutional 5-year Strategic Plan. Is there anything you’d like to share with our alumni about it?”

**MC:** “I will have the Strategic Plan on my desk every day. Right now, it has 6 key overarching goals, ideas, and concepts, addressing each major area within the institution. We’ll start building it out even more. One of the things is ‘Determine the optimal class size at ICO.’ There are lots of steps that we have to go through to ultimately come up with an answer for that...”

You know, the other thing that I fully realize is that any plan that’s done at any one point in time- honestly, it’s good for that point in time. Then, every day thereafter, life changes and the world changes... as far as I’m concerned, the strategic plan is alive.”

**LF:** “How do you see your relationships at ICO changing or evolving?”

**MC:** “That’s something that I struggled with throughout the whole process. I really have not wanted my relationships to change. I realize that I may have more appointments and I may be off-campus more, but I want people to stop in. Honestly, in my previous position for 25 years, it was how I learned a lot of stuff that was going on in the institution.”

**LF:** “Is there any general message you might want to send the alumni reading *ICO Matters* to show them that the institution is still moving in a great direction?”

**MC:** “I guess all I would say is, give me an opportunity to prove myself and I promise to put ICO first in all of my decision-making. I think everything else falls into place after that. I promise to work my hardest to make sure ICO stays at the forefront of optometric education. This program has a 146-year history, and I’m not going to let that falter on my watch.”

**LF:** “I couldn’t help but notice an alumnus on Facebook who remembered an old quote of yours: ‘I love this school, I love this school, I love this school.’ Why do you think students come to ICO in 2018?”

**MC:** “I hope, first and foremost, they want to be awesome clinical doctors... but I think there’s a lot of different reasons today. I think young people today are attracted by the city, our class size, our facilities. I think they’re attracted by the cutting edge use of technology in the clinic. Our faculty have awesome reputations. Boiling it down to some very simple things, I think their Interview Day experience. We hear back from many of them, ‘Everybody was so nice and helpful and wanted me to succeed.’ I think ICO is a very personal place.”

**LF:** “What is most exciting about this job?”

**MC:** “I think the opportunity to do the right thing and impact some change and improvement, based on what we do collectively. There are lots of people within the organization that have more impact than the president ever could. I’m very happy with the complement of the work force that we have, and the students that we have here. We just all have to keep doing the best that we can to energize each other and actuate each other to reach that potential. That’s my job.”



# Close Up: Anna Koeck, OD '14

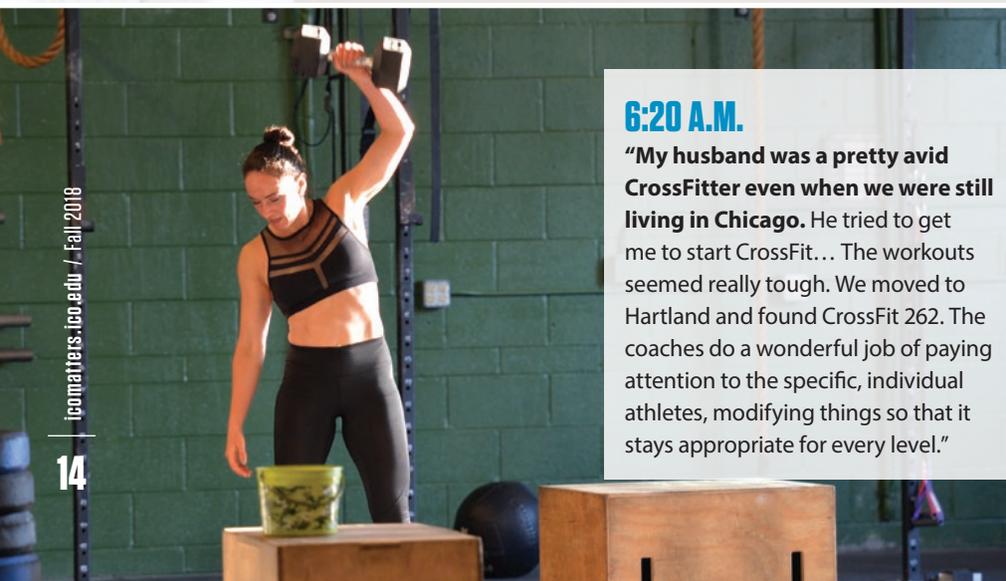
**B**orn in Minsk, Belarus, **Anna Koeck, OD '14**, moved to the United States at age 10. She always knew she wanted her own business, made evident by her undergraduate studies of Marketing, Finance, and Economics at the University of Wisconsin. When she left a medical software company to pursue optometry, people were shocked. However, Dr. Koeck's business background served her well. She opened her own practice and created a new way of seeing patients: "Theia Concierge Care™."

Dr. Koeck's patients have the option of paying a flat rate for a year of eye and health care services. "It's simple and straightforward," she says. "You know what you're paying." The annual fee covers everything that pertains to time with the doctor- medical visits, contact lens evaluations, even emergency calls to Dr. Koeck's personal cell phone.

We followed Dr. Koeck for a day, starting at her family's lake country home in Hartland, Wisconsin, to see what Theia Concierge Care™ was all about.

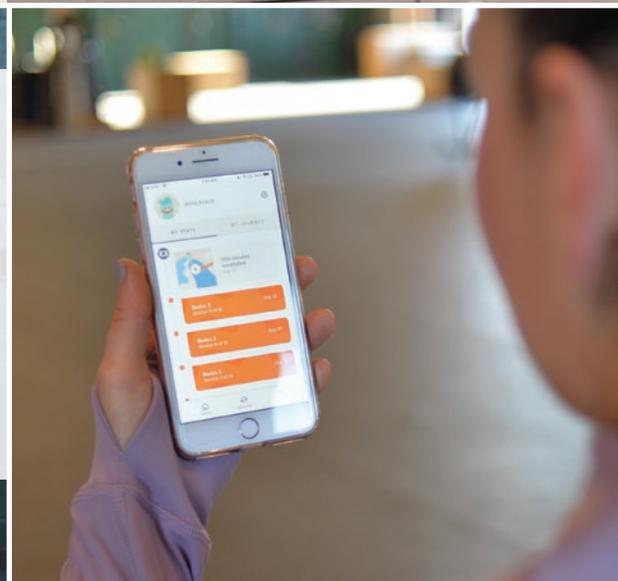


*Interview by: Lauren Faits  
Photos by: Brian Holloway*



## 6:20 A.M.

**"My husband was a pretty avid CrossFitter even when we were still living in Chicago.** He tried to get me to start CrossFit... The workouts seemed really tough. We moved to Hartland and found CrossFit 262. The coaches do a wonderful job of paying attention to the specific, individual athletes, modifying things so that it stays appropriate for every level."





### 7:35 A.M.

**"I do meditation with an app called Headspace. I read a book called *The Power of Habit*; it discussed some of the science behind how we function. We are on some version of autopilot much more than we think. Meditation helps to break through that and make conscious decisions, while living more fully in the moment. Whatever happens during the day, I took the time; I thought about things that are important to me."**



### 9:30 A.M.

**"We reached out to the local fire department, police department, and library to say 'Thank You' to the people who do most for the community. We provided free eye exams and contact lens evaluations. Patrick Walker is one of the firefighters here. He came in for one of the free exams, became a patient... and it turned into a friendship."**



**9:54 A.M.**

**"Theia Vision Care is a boutique, and with me wanting to keep it comfy and fun, we always have treats.** Charlie's Caramels is a local company. With your glasses or sunglasses purchase, along with a large bottle of cleaner and cleaning cloths, you receive a box of caramels."



**11:23 A.M.**

**"This is our intern. She is a senior at Arrowhead High School.** Serena had been volunteering at the library, and they mentioned this opportunity to her, knowing her interests lie in science, engineering, and medicine. She was very interested in knowing how those can integrate with business."



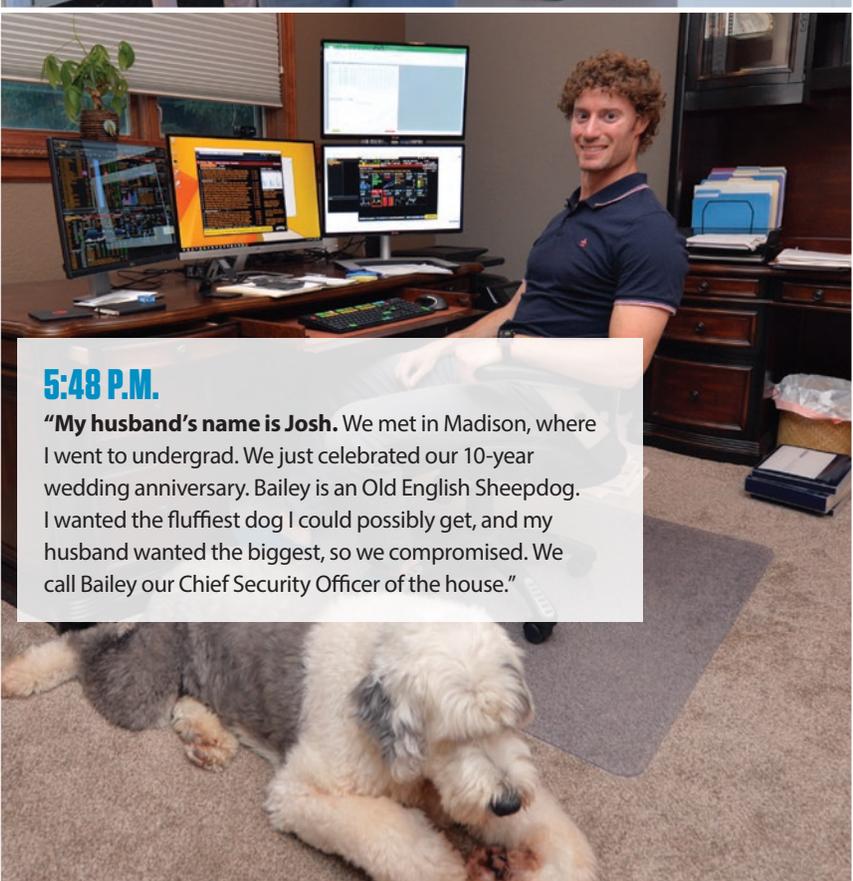
**1:40 P.M.**

**"I constantly see many people walking their dogs.** Our dog is a member of our family, and we take care of every family member. I started offering free furry baby treats. We've been putting a dog water bowl out every day this summer because it's hot and humid."



**2:25 P.M.**

**"Especially with back to school time, we do see many children.** I always want to make everything as fun as possible. We have a whole bin of toys and books for children. There is a Minion movie they can watch. To check the eye pressure, I'll say, 'It will beep and it will flutter by your eyelashes just like a little butterfly!'"



**5:48 P.M.**

**"My husband's name is Josh.** We met in Madison, where I went to undergrad. We just celebrated our 10-year wedding anniversary. Bailey is an Old English Sheepdog. I wanted the fluffiest dog I could possibly get, and my husband wanted the biggest, so we compromised. We call Bailey our Chief Security Officer of the house."

**6:00 P.M.**

**"Our street is terrific, there are only 6 houses.** The other side is all green. Josh works out of his home office most of the week. He runs a company in Highland Park, and therefore, sometimes travels to Chicago. We have space for his office, future family, the dog... We're working on picking out the things we want for our home gym."



**6:40 P.M.**

**"Maks is obsessed with cars and trucks and ambulances.** He has a truck he actually drives that has different speeds, it can go in reverse, he can back it out of the driveway himself and drive up and down. The mailboxes are at the end of the street, and we'll take the dog for a walk so he can get the mail."



**7:01 P.M.**

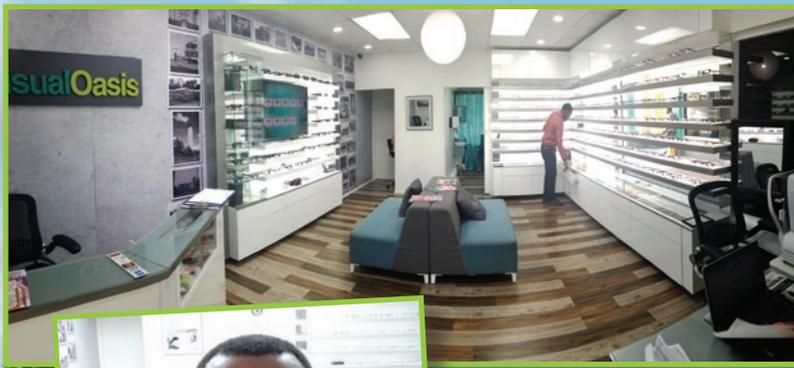
**"Both fitness and nutrition are things I continue to learn about and incorporate into my life and practice.** There's a nutrition component to macular degeneration, for example. Personally, I have been working with an outstanding nutrition company called Stronger U. I track my macronutrients. I'll cut vegetables, measure them, and then I come home and dump them into a pan and I'll have a stir fry. I'll put chicken in a pressure cooker and I'll have soup for a whole week. This approach allows me to incorporate overall wellness and provide my patients something special. Theia Vision Care is about wellness through eyes and vision, incorporating lifestyle, nutrition, fitness, community and family."



# INTERNATIONALLY SPEAKING

BY LAUREN FAITS

International students make up 16% of the Illinois College of Optometry's student body. While at ICO, they receive a world-class education, but what happens next? Health care systems, cultures, and the scope of optometric practice vary around the globe. To learn more about international optometry, we spoke to three diverse alumni. Each chose to practice outside of the United States for a different reason. We are privileged to share their valuable lessons from abroad:



## Barbados

Cliff Gittens, OD '14

Born and raised in Barbados, **Cliff Gittens, OD '14**, “spent most of [his] time swimming.” He came to the United States for college, hoping to swim for St. Peter’s University in New Jersey. However, “it was not to be due to an NCAA eligibility rule.” He found optometry, and due to strong family ties, was enthusiastic about bringing the skillset home to Barbados.

To practice in his home country, Dr. Gittens did not have to take any additional exams. “We don’t have board exams,” he says, “but we do have a paramedical board who will sort through your qualifications to determine eligibility.” Dr. Gittens tries to complete between 9 and 12 hours of continuing education per year, but this is his personal preference- not a requirement.

Dr. Gittens owns and operates Visual Oasis, Inc., a primary care private practice with two locations. While his patient base is somewhat typical- mostly adults aged 30-50, plus some children- the Caribbean setting has its unique challenges. “We see lots of dry eyes and sun-related issues like pinguecula and pterygium,” says Dr. Gittens. Pterygium is also known as “surfer’s eye.”

Though Dr. Gittens sees his share of cataracts, glaucoma, diabetes, and keratoconus, he sometimes feels limited in his ability to help. “Optometry in Barbados is dominated by

U.K. optoms,” he explains. “The legislation language is such that we have extremely limited treatment options other than lubricants. Hopefully, we can change that soon.” He is one of only two U.S.-trained optometrists in Barbados. “ICO has a very robust curriculum that ties in just about everything you could expect to come face-to-face with,” he says. With all of his training, Dr. Gittens sometimes feels “stuck” referring out complicated cases that he technically has the knowledge to treat.

As an international student, Dr. Gittens could not apply for any U.S. financial aid while at ICO. As of September 2018, one Barbadian dollar equals about 50 cents in the United States. This can make traveling to and studying in the U.S. difficult. Eye exams in Barbados cost one flat rate, and do not “go up based on diagnosis.” Still, Dr. Gittens says optometrists earn “a decent living” in Barbados.

Dr. Gittens works seven days a week. He says his wife is “extremely happy for bank holidays,” during which they spend time together “on the beach” or visiting “local hangouts and bars.” Compared to the “icy tundra” of Chicago, Barbados is his “paradise.” He enjoys the Caribbean lifestyle, happily calling himself “Bajan to the bone! The people are just a bit warmer, a little calmer... more laid back, a little more casual.” Dr. Gittens laughs, “Let’s not get into island time, mon!”



## Japan

Matt Weinheimer, OD '14

Unlike his classmate Dr. Gittens, **Matt Weinheimer, OD '14**, grew up in the United States. His opportunity to practice internationally came thanks to the United States Navy. "I was part of the health professions scholarship program," he explains. "I was technically a reserve officer while I was at ICO." A month after his graduation, Dr. Weinheimer and his wife moved to the U.S. Naval Hospital on Camp Foster in Okinawa, Japan. They stayed for three years in a Vietnam War-era townhome, with Dr. Weinheimer as an active duty Lieutenant.

Japanese optometrists perform little more than refractions. Students from the Kikuchi College of Optometry occasionally visited Dr. Weinheimer in Okinawa, and were surprised by all he could do. While overseas, Dr. Weinheimer still adhered to U.S. medical law. He was thus able to practice the full scope of his education. This freedom was important in the Navy, as Dr. Weinheimer's clinic saw "a lot of traumas." Amongst the active duty patients, there were "contusions, corneal abrasions, retinal detachments..." Dr. Gittens also cared for families and veterans. Unfortunately, the closest specialists were in Hawaii. Serious cases, from pediatric surgery to cataracts, were put on an 8-hour flight.

In some ways, Okinawa was not all that different from Hawaii. "It had its own culture from mainland Japan," says

Dr. Weinheimer, "very much island life. People moved a little bit slower." He was especially taken with the kindness of the Okinawan citizens, given its military history. In 1945, "the U.S. military and the Japanese military came to a head" in The Battle of Okinawa. "Unfortunately, there are still a lot of wounds left to heal," says Dr. Weinheimer. "For how gracious the Okinawans are, it's really a testament to how they forgive." Of course, Dr. Weinheimer experienced some of the more famous areas of Japan, as well. "Tokyo and Kyoto were amazing," he says. "We went during cherry blossom season. It's amazing how they keep those historic sites preserved so well." He got scuba certified, traveled to Indonesia, and participated in a military exercise in Australia. "We met a great group of friends and had a great experience."

While in the military, Dr. Weinheimer's access to new products and technology was limited. "Vendors were not allowed to come in due to ethics issues," he explains. Today, he works in a 6-doctor private practice in Zionsville, Indiana. "It's a whole different ballgame." In the U.S., Dr. Weinheimer gets to recommend more tools and materials to his patients than ever before. Thankfully, he feels prepared. He took on "tough cases" at ICO, practiced full-scope optometry in Japan, and used his personal time to "stay up on breaking news in the industry" before coming home. "It has been good so far."



## Canada

Daniel Do, OD '02



While Canada might not be the most exotic country on this list, it is the home of many ICO alumni. No one knows the differences between the United States and Canada better than **Daniel Do, OD '02**. He owns Kingsway Eye Care, a family-oriented private practice, in Toronto, Ontario.

There are only two optometry schools in all of Canada, one exclusively French-speaking. As a result, some Canadian students study in the United States, return home, and find saturated cities and steep competition. “You can’t just come back [to Canada] and say ‘Give me a job,’” says Dr. Do. “It doesn’t work that way.” Dr. Do has seen many Canadian practices hiring part-time doctors, “a day here, a day there,” hoping to offer them more hours down the road. To increase the chances of getting hired in Canada full-time and finding the right fit, Dr. Do recommends researching Canadian practices and networking while still in school.

Another factor that can prevent Canadian students from returning home after graduation is student debt. Says Dr. Do, “You can’t go back to Canada and start a practice and expect to pay off a U.S. debt with Canadian funds. You have to really plan it out.” Dr. Do practiced in Buffalo, New York, before eventually cold starting Kingsway Eye Care in Toronto. He says establishing his business was “very challenging, emotionally and financially,” and required intense financial planning. It was also “the best decision [he] ever made.”

Dr. Do feels that ICO gave him the strongest possible education in terms of disease pathology. He found that the Canadian Boards focused on other clinical areas, making his U.S. experience unique. According to Dr. Do, Canadian referral centers and specialty centers are more ophthalmology-heavy than in the United States. Even though Canadian optometrists can “prescribe and manage glaucoma in all the provinces,” Canadian ODs are often tempted to refer complex patient cases out, despite possessing the required training. Thankfully, Dr. Do also sees emerging opportunity in Canada, with a “growing niche of vision therapy” and healthcare professionals referring to his office for its management.



Another major difference between the U.S. and Canada is the Canadian health care system. “In Ontario, we have The Ontario Health Insurance Plan (OHIP),” says Dr. Do.

In his province, patients under 19 or over 65 are eligible for an eye exam once a year. For individuals between 20 and 64 years of age, OHIP will cover only certain conditions, such as “diabetes, glaucoma, or cataracts.” Patients end up confused and frustrated over what is covered by the government and what services (retinal OCT imaging, for example,) must be paid out-of-pocket or by private insurance. “It gets sensitive for everyone.”

Similar to the United States, the challenges in Canada do not end with insurance. Canada has disruptive technologies just like those found stateside. The Canadian equivalent to MyEyeDoctor is called FYIDoctors. Another disruptor is Clearly Contacts, an online distributor that established brick and mortar stores in Canada just as Warby Parker did in the U.S. Lastly, online refraction apps such as Opternative may not have as large a reach in Canada, but they still exist, and are expected to grow in popularity.

To combat change in the profession, Dr. Do has joined groups such as the Canadian Optometry Group (COG List), which discusses “a host of clinical and management issues” in the country. To keep his practice competitive, Dr. Do has “rooted himself in” his community through speaking engagements and diversified services. He plays a key role in his practice’s online marketing, and at his Grand Opening event, brought in hockey players from the Toronto Maple Leafs. (Dr. Do was fortunate enough to serve as the optometrist for the team for over 12 years!)

Dr. Do fought hard to return to Toronto for family reasons. These days, when he isn’t practicing optometry, he enjoys competitive tennis. He recently welcomed a daughter into the world, and tries to spend as much time with his wife and family as possible. Though international students face many hurdles in establishing themselves, Dr. Do feels success can be achieved. “Wherever you settle, they’re going to need a doctor... It is just important to map out how you will achieve your success, rather than expect the road to be paved for you.”

# Trending



**March 13**

It is #AmeriCorpsWeek! We thank our all-star trio of members, Amy James, Ashley Wehrheim, and Tim Corwin, for their dedication to the IEI at Princeton. @AmeriCorps #ServeIL



**March 21**

By combining average base salary with growth in job postings, Indeed has placed OPTOMETRIST in its Top 10 Best Jobs of 2018! The future is looking bright. Of course, there's no better place to learn the profession than ICO.



**March 28**

Having accomplished upset victory after upset victory, our city's own @LoyolaChicago is headed for the #FinalFour! One member of their pep band is bound for ICO. #OnwardLU



**April 9**

ICO's Got Talent! From Bollywood to breakdancing, the acts at this year's MCA Night were FIRE.



**March 17**

Happy St. Patrick's Day! Here's hoping some St. Patty's Day luck carries over to next week when all the Third Years are taking boards #ICOJackie #ICOTThirdYear



**March 27**

The 2018 ICO EyeBall was held at Navy Pier. Congratulations to the ICO Student Association on a fantastic event, and to the following students for winning Colleague of the Year:

**1st Year: Salvador Gonzalez**

**2nd Year: Michelle Kleman**

**3rd Year: Konstantina Kalas**

**4th Year: Ekjot Brar**



**April 11**

Craving something sweet? @bombobar makes delicious bombilinis, which are Italian donuts. They come in multiple flavors - vanilla bean custard, s'mores, salted caramel, raspberry, & nutella 😊 #ICOJackie #ICOTThirdYear





**April 13**

"If you're just doing refraction, refraction, refraction, what are your patients really learning about their eyes? You have to teach them." -#POS2018 Corporate/ Group Practice Panel



**April 27**

"If you stand for nothing, what will you fall for?" Who else is in D.C. on this beautiful spring weekend for AOA on Capitol Hill?! 🌸 Our next few days are packed with lectures, workshops, and advocacy on behalf of the field of optometry, so I'm soaking up some sun and American history before everything kicks off tonight! #ICONora#AOAontheHill18 #optometrystudent #optometricschool



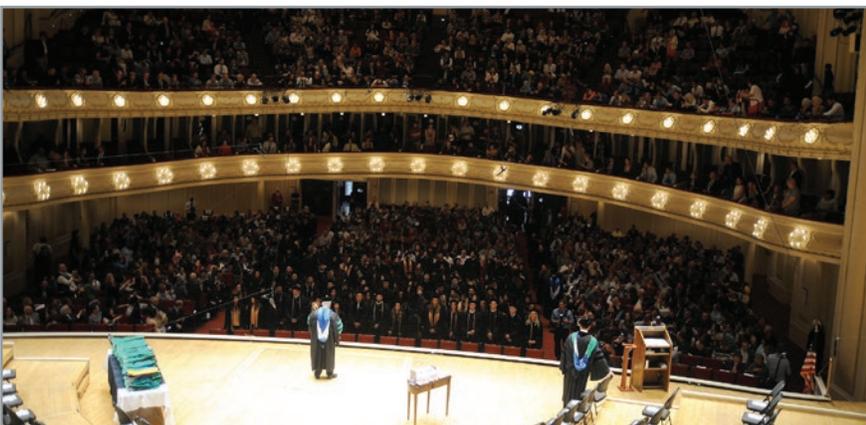
**May 9**

The week before finals at ICO included some special labs. The Class of 2019 got to work with model eyes to perform anterior segment laser procedure simulations such as YAG capsulotomy, selective laser trabeculoplasty (SLT), and laser peripheral iridotomy (LPI). While these procedures cannot currently be performed by optometrists in Illinois, ICO prepares students for the expanded scope of practice in the states like Oklahoma, Kentucky, and Louisiana.



**May 19**

Our first-ever livestreamed video: Illinois College of Optometry Commencement 2018 at the Symphony Center. Today, we welcome the #ICOClassof2018 into the profession. Congratulations, new doctors!



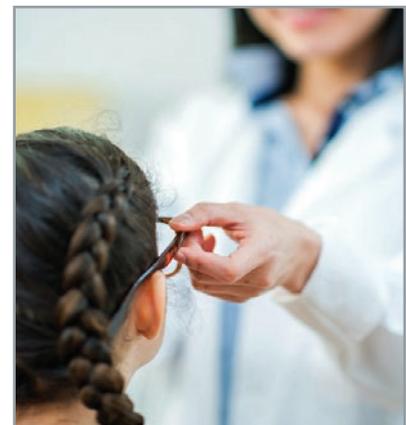
**May 17**

Today's Capstone recognizes over \$200,000 in scholarships and awards for the #ICOClassof2018.



**May 21**

Wow! An interview with ICO's own **Dr. Sandra Block** has made it to NPR. In it, she navigates Medicare, vision plans, and the coverage and education required to get more people seeing clearly.



# Trending



June 22

ICO President **Dr. Arol Augsburger** carried the Illinois flag into the House of Delegates at Optometry's Meeting. Here he is with Illinois Optometric Association President **Dr. Mark Skowron**, IOA President-Elect **Dr. Eric Botts**, and of course, ICO President-Designate **Dr. Mark Colip**.



July 19

Our long history means that multiple generations of ICO alumni can be entrusted with a practice's legacy. Bush Family Eye Care started with a '79 grad and carries on through the classes of '08 and '12.



July 26

Today we are helping Illinois State Treasurer, Mike Frerichs, see more clearly. "Stand tall" with the #ILTreasurer and schedule your own eye exam today! @MikeforIllinois



July 27

We love the @illinoistech Summer Biology Program! Yesterday, these high schoolers learned about #optometry as a career through an ICO campus tour and clinical demos. We hope there are some future doctors in this photo:



August 25

Did you know? ICO's first White Coat ceremony was in the year 2000. #ICOWhiteCoat



August 9

Our new 1st-years might be mid-orientation, but the rest of us are still on break & trying to clear our heads before fall quarter! I see eyes everywhere though... 🌲🌿 #ICONora #optometrystudent #hikecolorado #aspens #treehugger #mydogiscuterthanyours



August 14

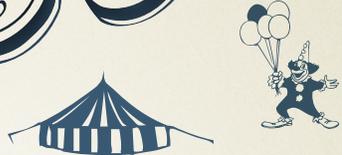
Thanks to Annie Van Dan for this adorable photo! **Danny Nguyen Van Dan, OD '13, Michael Tran, OD '12**, and other alumni recently visited ICO. They wanted to introduce some future optometrists to their alma mater.



# ICO HOMECOMING

SEPTEMBER 7-8, 2018

# LIFE IS A CIRCUS



ICO's annual Homecoming is a great time for alumni to reunite with colleagues, friends, and mentors. It also gives our students a chance to network with movers and shakers in the profession. This year's Homecoming was especially whimsical. The theme "CARNIVAL" brought games, prizes, and hidden talents such as juggling and henna to the ICO big top. Additional events were held on Chicago's iconic Magnificent Mile in a glamorous hotel and at Michael Jordan's Restaurant. Despite the Friday rain, Homecoming was fun for all. Check out these photos of the ICO family coming together and "clowning around!"



## Taste of ICO



More photos are available online:  
[www.flickr.com/photos/icophotos/](http://www.flickr.com/photos/icophotos/)

# ICO HOMECOMING

SEPTEMBER 7-8, 2018

## Taste of Chicago Carnival



## 50 Year Club



## CE: The Future of Optometry



## Student/Alumni Networking



## Leadership Circle and Alumni Awards



## Class Reunion Party



## Thank you to our 2018 Homecoming sponsors

### • SILVER •



Jeff Smith, OD, MBA

### • BRONZE •



### • TABLE LEVEL •

ABB Optical  
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Robert Fait, OD  
Johnson & Johnson  
Vision Care

Ocular Instruments, Inc.  
Premier Ophthalmic Services  
Review of Optometry  
U.S. Vision  
Visionary Eye Partners  
Walmart/Sam's Club

# ICO ALUMNI AWARD RECIPIENTS

### Golden Gavel Award

Andrea McCann, OD '04, FAAO



### Alumnus of the Year Award

Irwin Azman, OD '77



### Young Alumnus of the Year Award

Molly Walker, OD '09



### Distinguished Friend Award

Ken G. Papineau



### Professional Achievement Award

Christopher P. Olson, OD '87, FAAO



### Excellence in Education Award

Dominick M. Maino, OD '78,  
MEd, FAAO, FCOVD-A



### Humanitarian Award

Tony Q. Chan, OD '59



### Lifetime Service Award

Arol Augsburger, OD



# Essentials: Jeff Smith, OD '83, MBA

The career of **Jeff Smith, OD '83, MBA**, has taken him to Dallas, San Diego, Cleveland, New York, San Antonio, even London. "All are great places," Dr. Smith says, but before 2018, he'd never received a job in his "favorite city."

Chicago is where Dr. Smith grew up, and of course, where he went to the Illinois College of Optometry. Over the course of his life, he also attended Drake University, the University of Illinois, and the University of Chicago, but ICO remains closest to Dr. Smith's heart. In 2017, he retired and decided to move back to his beloved home town.

In 2018, Dr. Smith received what he calls "the greatest opportunity of [his] professional life." He was offered the title of Interim President of ICO. Dr. Smith quickly decided, "Retirement can wait!" and took the position July 1 – August 5, 2018. Says Dr. Smith, "It was wonderful to help during this transitional time. When I was working on my Masters in Business, ICO helped find me a job that allowed me to simultaneously study and practice. Then, I became an ICO Board Member, and eventually Vice Chairman of the Board of Trustees. When I look back 30 years, ICO has always been there for me."

Here are the Essentials that kept Dr. Smith going as Interim President.

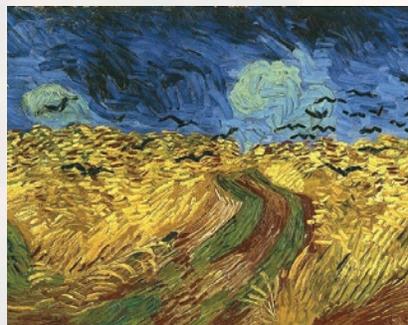
## SELF-PROCLAIMED FOODIE

"Chicago is a great food paradise. The city offers all types of dishes from Chicago-style hot dogs to haute cuisine in formal restaurants. Most unique to Chicago is the pizza! Although many cities like New York or Philadelphia have great pizzas, only Chicago has both great thin crust and stuffed pizzas."



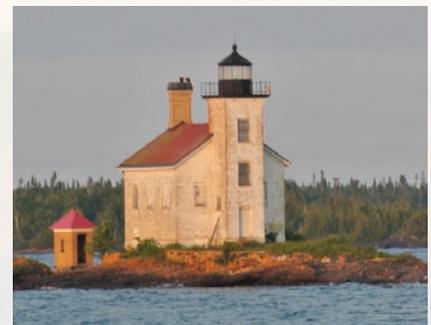
## THE ART OF OPTOMETRY

"I love art museums. Van Gogh had retinal issues. The best place to go to understand Van Gogh is Amsterdam. At the Van Gogh Museum, the art is arranged chronologically- from a young artist to the very end. You can see the visual, neurological stuff that was happening at the end."



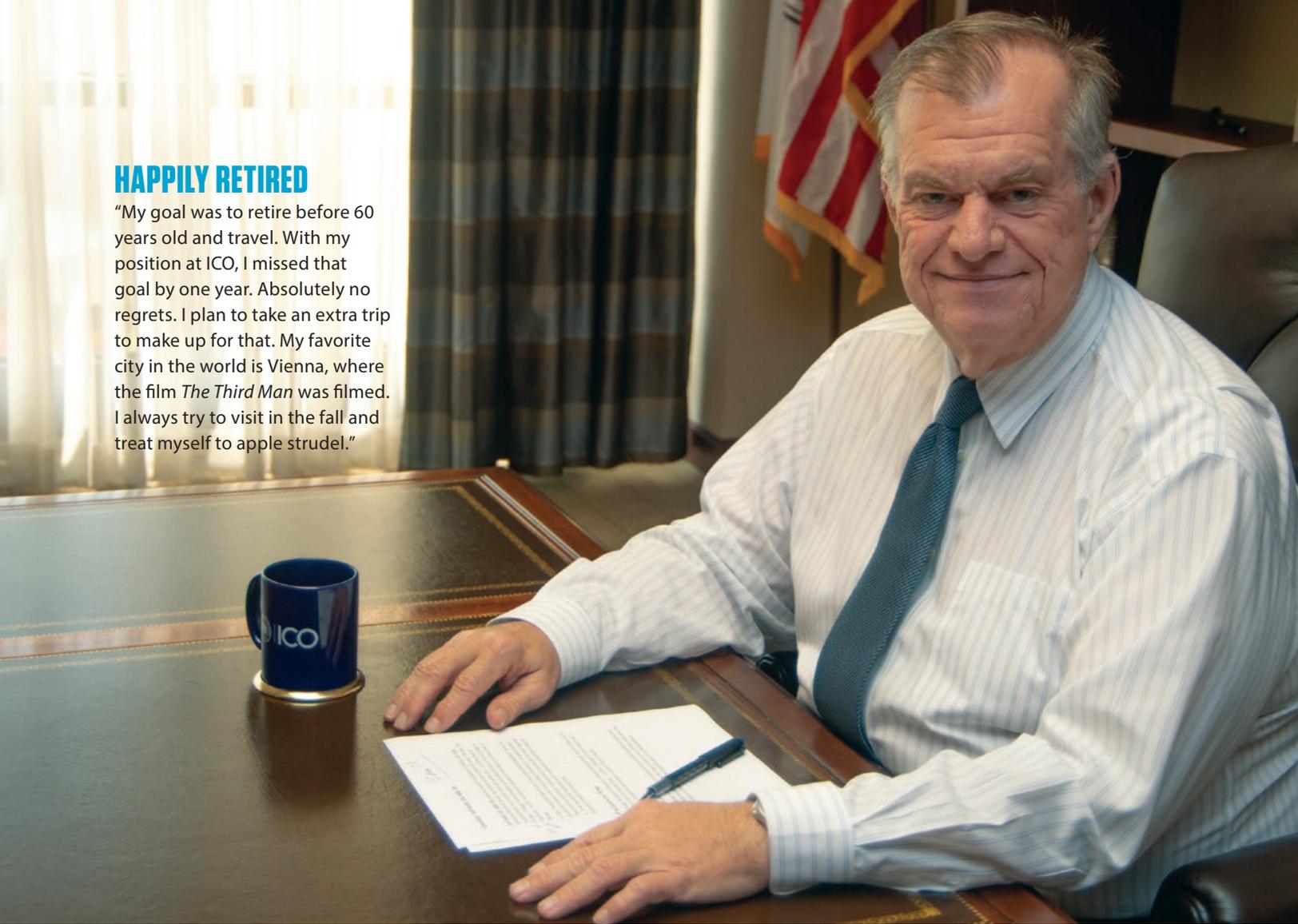
## GUIDING LIGHT

"Lighthouses are very historical, very functional, very interesting... but now, with satellites, they aren't used really at all. The Coast Guard sold them all. I now own Gull Rock Light Station off the upper peninsula of Michigan in Lake Superior. A foundation is restoring it."



## HAPPILY RETIRED

"My goal was to retire before 60 years old and travel. With my position at ICO, I missed that goal by one year. Absolutely no regrets. I plan to take an extra trip to make up for that. My favorite city in the world is Vienna, where the film *The Third Man* was filmed. I always try to visit in the fall and treat myself to apple strudel."



## TIE-LAND

"I'm not super into fashion. I like wearing white shirts, plain pants. I will splurge on one thing, though; the tie I'm wearing today is Thai silk by Jim Thompson!"



## SOUTH FOR THE WINTER

"Chicago has great architecture, cultural events, and food. There's just one thing about Chicago that I don't love... Winter. I spend those months in Texas or Florida."



## PERIOD PIECE

"I hate to admit it, but I get into all the trash on Netflix. The one I got super into was *Babylon Berlin*. All this political intrigue is going on, but then they go to a club and dance!"

EST. 1961

## PEARLE VISION

### THE PEARLE TULIP

"My mentor was **Stanley Pearle, OD '39**, who started Pearle Vision. He came to ICO after his time in World War II and did a lot of wonderful things. He was the night watchman at Allergan Hotel, then went to class during the day. Dr. Pearle brought labs and chain optometry together. Speaking of Amsterdam, the Dutch let Dr. Pearle design his very own breed of tulip as an award for being the #1 optical in the Netherlands. They colored the tulip based on his wife's favorite lipstick, and the Netherlands send Dr. Pearle 5,000 free bulbs of The Pearle Tulip per year."

# Class Notes

## 1940's

**1948**

**Jerome Agrest** (NICO) is retiring at the age of 90 after 60 years of optometric practice. He plans to expand his already busy volunteer schedule.

.....

## 1950's

**1951**

**John Howlette** (CCO) was honored posthumously by the Bon Secours Richmond Community Hospital in their new outdoor Legacy Wall, featuring murals of 21 African-American physicians who founded the hospital.

.....

## 1960's

**1961**

**Brent Nielsen** is retiring after 57 years of optometric practice.

.....

## 1970's

**1977**

**Irwin Azman** is the co-founder of Precision Keratoconus Network, which has recently launched as the first optometric referral network solely for optometrists to see more keratoconus patients. He is also the co-founder of the Keratoconus Institute of Maryland, dedicated to the eradication of keratoconus in children. He was honored as the National Keratoconus Foundation's Top Docs for 2018.

**James Kirchner** is assuming the role of President Emeritus of SynergEyes. He will continue to develop and foster relationships with the U.S. eyecare community, be involved in new product development, and advocate for SynergEyes contact lenses.

**1978**

**Doug Johnson** is celebrating 40 years of optometric practice at Family Eye Care Association along with his son, **Eric Johnson, OD '11**.

**Don Koeber** is retiring after 40 years of optometric practice in the office he took over from his father **William Koeber, OD '48**.

.....

## 1980's

**1987**

**Millicent "Millie" Knight** has been appointed Senior Vice President for the Essilor of America customer development group.

.....

## 1990's

**1995**

**Troy Raber** was specially selected to lead up the new Milford, Delaware office for Vision Quest Eye Care Center.

**1996**

**Jeff Calhoun** was named the President of the New York State Optometric Association.

**Stacy Hinkemeyer-Colatrella** has been elected to the Board of Directors of the Minnesota Optometric Association.

**Jonathan Micetich's** practice was honored by CooperVision as one of its 2018 Best Practices.

**1998**

**Bernard C. Tekiele, III** has been promoted to Chief Executive Officer at the Michigan Eye Institute and Michigan Eye Surgery Center in Flint, MI.

**1999**

**Scott Greder** is currently serving as the President of the Nebraska Optometric Association.

## 2000's

**2000**

**Mamie Chan** was named the Optometrist of the Year by the New Mexico Optometric Association.

**2005**

**Erika Melchiorre** was named the President of the Junior League of Summit, New Jersey.

**2006**

**Jason Blowe** and family welcomed baby Chloe Renee Blowe on April 30.

**Tim** and **Miranda Tsang** welcomed baby Audrey on July 18.

**2007**

**Katherine Hertzberg** was the recipient of the George Lazansky Distinguished Service Award from the Naperville (Ill.) Noon Lions Club.

**Karina Langle** has opened her own practice, Lunettes Family Eyecare and Optical Boutique, in the Mt. Greenwood neighborhood of Chicago.

**2009**

**Molly Walker** was named the Iowa Optometric Association's Young Optometrist of the Year. She is the owner of Oskaloosa Vision Center.

.....

## 2010's

**2010**

**Nysha Blender** and family welcomed baby Logan Kai Blender on April 20.

**Carmen Recksiedler** has celebrated the grand opening of Visual Eyes Optometry at their new location in downtown Winnipeg, Manitoba.

**2011**

**Steven Hass** has announced the 100-year anniversary celebration of Hass Vision Center in Owosso, Mich.

**Craig and Jackie Keller** welcomed twin girls Morgan Amy and Hailey Ann on May 2.

**Karen Lee** celebrated the grand opening of her practice, Eye Focus Optometry & Optical, in Burlington, Ontario.

### 2012

**Jeffrey Wilhite** was elected to the Board of Directors of the Optometric Association of Louisiana as Secretary-Treasurer.

### 2013

**Joshua Robinson** has been named as the Director of Vision Rehabilitation at Vanderbilt Eye Institute in Nashville, Tenn.

**Kassandra Wedeking** and family welcomed baby Jackson on April 16.

### 2014

**Abby Jakob** was named the recipient of the 2018 Young Professional of the Year Award by the Windsor Chamber of Commerce.

### 2015

**Logan Kiekhafer** recently joined the Eye Care Center at Mayo Clinic Health System in Eau Claire, Wis.

**Zac Holland** earned his Fellowship of the Scleral Lens Education Society. He is only the 137th person worldwide to be honored in this prestigious group.

### 2017

**Robert Baltierra, Jr.** has joined Grand Rapids Ophthalmology in Grand Rapids, Mich.

**Emily Hutchins** has joined the Family Vision Clinic in Savage, Minn., after completing a VA residency specializing in brain injury, low vision and primary care optometry.

**Rina Sheth** has joined Naper Grove Vision Care in Naperville, Ill., after completing her residency. She specializes in hard-to-fit contact lenses, emergency eye problems, and ocular disease.

### 2018

**Gregory Macagba** has joined Fishergentry Eye Care in Manteno, Ill.

**Shanna Miller** has joined Three Rivers Eye Care in Humboldt, Iowa.

*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*

## Got alumni news? Please share.

#### ONLINE:

[icomatters.ico.edu/submit-a-class-note](http://icomatters.ico.edu/submit-a-class-note)

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ICO's updated timeline ready for installation.

# In Memoriam

## 1940's

### 1947

**Lawrence A. Jullie** (NICO), Grand Haven, Mich., June 17. He served in the U.S. Army as a Staff Sergeant and was awarded numerous medals and ribbons including the Bronze Star. He practiced for 39 years before retiring in 1989.

**Harold Ripple** (NICO), Hiawatha, Kan., Oct. 10, 2017. He served in the Army Corps of Engineers building Army Air. He was a member of the Masonic Lodge for over 70 years.

**Robert D. Rueter** (MCO), Decatur, Ill., Oct. 22, 2017.

### 1949

**Frank "Uncle Frank" Fontana** (NICO), Des Peres, Mo., Oct. 3. He served in the U.S. Army and became a supply sergeant in a medical battalion during WWII. A pioneer in the field of contact lenses, Dr. Fontana was an accomplished author, researcher, consultant, and lecturer on the topic throughout his career of nearly seven decades. He served extensively as a volunteer for the AOA, co-founding the AOA's Contact Lens Section and serving on numerous committees. In 2012, he was inducted into the National Optometry Hall of Fame.

**Sidney N. Shapiro** (NICO), Glastonbury, Conn., April 5. He served in the U.S. Army as a radar operator and cook during WWII in the Philippines and New Guinea. He continued his service in the Army Reserves, retiring a Lieutenant Colonel with the 309th Field Hospital based in Chicopee, Mass.

**Howard Phillip Winton** (NICO), Melbourne, Fla., April 8. He served in the U.S. Navy during WWII. He was Life Emeritus Fellow of the AAO, Florida Optometrist of the Year, served as the FOA president, and became the 54th President of the AOA. He loved life and traveled around the world, literally, twice. His adventures included climbing the Pyramids, walking Machu Picchu, and visiting the Taj Mahal.

### Sarah Rosenbloom

Chicago, Ill., July 27. It is with great sadness that the Illinois College of Optometry mourns the loss of a dear friend, Sarah Rosenbloom, the wife of ICO's second president, Alfred Rosenbloom. Her kind spirit and generosity will be missed by the ICO family. The Alfred and Sarah Rosenbloom Center on Vision and Aging will continue its work in the memory of these beloved visionaries.



## 1950's

### 1950

**Charles Kulpaca** (NICO), Rapid City, S.D., July 4. He was a sniper in the U.S. Army and was deployed to France on VE Day as the war ended in Europe. He practiced for 40 years in his office in Rapid City before retiring.

### 1951

**Charles Robert Flynn** (CCO), Sarasota, Fla., May 24.

**Donald Tombaugh** (CCO), Mount Caramel, Ill., May 25. He served in the Navy Air Corp and was stationed onboard the USS Ommaney Bay when it sunk in the Philippines. He practiced optometry for 42 years.

### 1952

**Robert Davis Meek** (CCO), Hartland, Mich., July 4. He served as an officer and flight crew member in the U.S. Air Force during the Korean War and flew on more than 125 missions in Korea and Okinawa (Naha AFB). He also received numerous decorations and medals for his service during the war. He practiced optometry for 30 years in the Plymouth and Hartland areas.

### 1953

**Davis B. Thorne** (NICO), Hillsville, Va., Jan. 29. He practiced in Carroll County for 34 years.

### 1956

**Roger Hanson**, Winnebago, Minn., Aug. 4. He was a member of the Masonic Lodge for over 50 years.

## 1960's

### 1965

**John J. Kraus**, Buffalo, N.Y., May 11. He was a life member of the Buffalo Canoe Club.

### 1967

**Richard J. Gelbuda**, Ottawa, Ill., July 29. He practiced optometry for 53 years.

## 1970's

### 1971

**Stanley Gorman**, Los Angeles, Calif., Oct. 19, 2017. He practiced in the Los Angeles area his entire career.

### 1976

**Gregory Neilsen**, Mason City, Iowa, February 18. He was in the U.S. Army and served in Vietnam.

**Sure, you've heard of Facebook, but are you following the Illinois College of Optometry on ALL of these social media channels?**



**Facebook**

The classic social media site

<http://www.facebook.com/IllinoisCollegeofOptometry>



**YouTube**

Videos from the ICO Communications Team

<http://www.youtube.com/user/ICOoptometry>



**Twitter**

Bite-sized messages from ICO

[http://www.twitter.com/ICO\\_Optometry](http://www.twitter.com/ICO_Optometry)



**Instagram**

Student-generated photography

[http://www.instagram.com/ico\\_optometry](http://www.instagram.com/ico_optometry)



**LinkedIn**

Professional networking for ICO faculty, staff, students, and alumni

<https://www.linkedin.com/school/illinois-college-of-optometry>



**Blog**

Honest stories and insight written by students

<http://blog.ico.edu>



**Pinterest**

Inspirational ideas arranged on virtual "boards"

<http://www.pinterest.com/icoptometry>



**Flickr**

Professional photos from ICO events

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/icophotos>



**SoundCloud**

Audio podcasts from ICO experts

<http://www.soundcloud.com/icooptometry>



**Spotify**

Music playlists curated by ICO students

<http://play.spotify.com/user/illinoiscollegeofoptometry>

# Vault

Everyone at the Illinois College of Optometry is a family- students, faculty, staff... but let's not forget our families at home! ICO often welcomes children to campus. Our kids can be seen getting their eyes examined in the clinic, taking in the sunshine at ICOLympics, and of course, cheering joyfully at Commencement. The Vault contains many images of children supporting the ODs in their family. So, how many years until these little ones can take the OAT...??



# Datebook

**RESIDENT  
ROUNDS  
JAN - MARCH**

## NOVEMBER

**November 5**  
First Day of Winter Quarter

**November 7-10**  
AAO Meeting  
San Antonio, Texas

**November 22-25**  
Thanksgiving Break

## DECEMBER

**December 14**  
Resident Rounds

**December 24-January 5**  
Winter Break

## 2019

### JANUARY

**January 11**  
Resident Rounds

**January 21**  
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day  
College/Clinic Closed

**January 25**  
Resident Rounds

### FEBRUARY

**February 9-16**  
Final Exams

**February 17**  
Winter CE Program

**February 18-23**  
Break Week

**February 25**  
First Day of Spring Quarter

### MARCH

**March 1 & 13**  
Resident Rounds

**March 19-22**  
NBEO Part I Exam

**March 29**  
Resident Rounds





# ICO

## Illinois College of Optometry

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## Last Look



*At the end of their tenure, each ICO president is immortalized in an oil painting. ICO commissioned artist Dominic Vignola to commemorate Dr. Arol Augsburg. The finished portrait is approximately 30x40", and is permanently on display in the Office of the President. What an amazing likeness!*