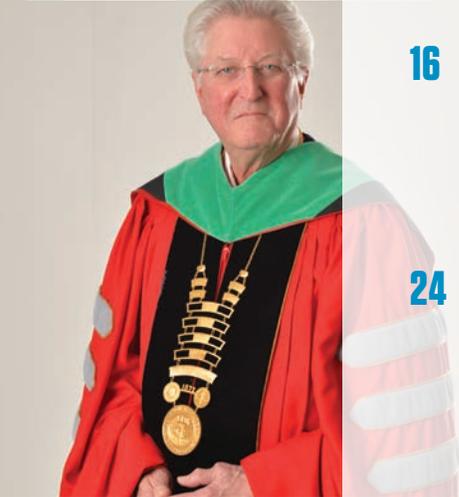
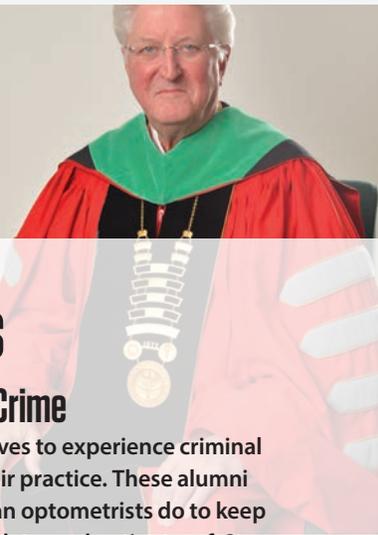
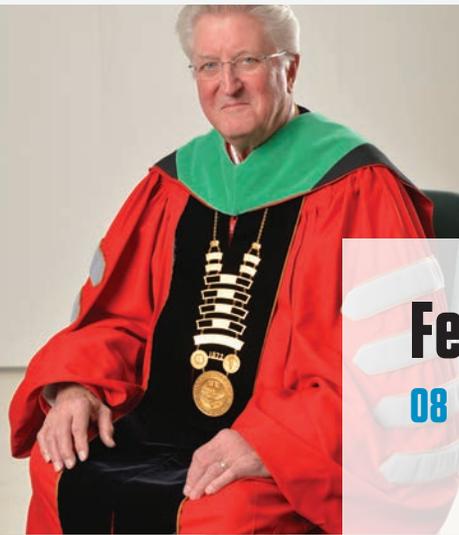
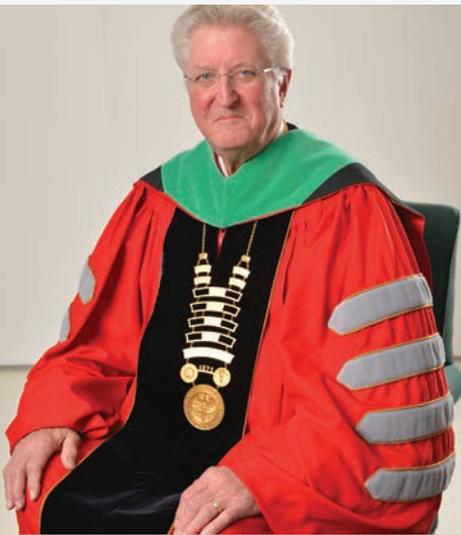


ICCO MATTERS

SPRING 2018 • V17 ISSUE 1

**Thank You,
Dr. Augsburger**

+
Annual Report
An Eye on Crime
Recruitment Rock Stars



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No one deserves to experience criminal activity in their practice. These alumni have. What can optometrists do to keep their money, data, and patients safe?

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ICO's fifth president is retiring. Dr. Arol Augsburger's storied career and legacy are captured in this in-depth interview. Plus: An update on the ICO Presidential Search.

24 Recruitment Rock Stars
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ICO MATTERS

SPRING 2018 • V17 ISSUE 1

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

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IBC Datebook

BC Last Look

REGISTER ONLINE TODAY!
MY.ICO.EDU/HOMECOMING-2018

ICO HOMECOMING

September 7-8, 2018

All Alumni and Families are Invited!



Reunion Classes: 1948, 1953, 1958, 1963, 1968, 1973, 1978, 1983, 1988, 1993, 1998, 2003, 2008, and 2013

HOMECOMING 2018 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2018

5:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Shuttle to/from host hotel and campus

6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Taste of ICO Blind Spot Carnival**

- including food stations, photo booth,
carnival games, karaoke
ICO Courtyard

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2018

11:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Shuttle to/from host hotel and campus
Campus Tours

11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

50 Year Club Luncheon

- recognizing 50+ years of service in the profession
ICO Library (by invitation only)

1:00 – 2:00 p.m.

**The Future of Optometry: Private Equity, Mergers,
and Beyond**

- one hour CE, COPE approved, non-tested
ICO Lecture Center

2:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Student/Alumni Networking Reception

- including refreshments, exhibit booths, and raffle
prizes
ICO Gym

5:30 – 6:30 p.m.

Leadership Circle and Alumni Awards Reception

- recognizing achievements, service, and support
InterContinental Mag Mile

6:30 – 10:00 p.m.

Class Reunion Party**

- featuring food, beverages and loads of fun
Michael Jordan's Restaurant – Center Court
InterContinental Mag Mile

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2018

Sleep in, explore the city, or take some Online CE

*Register for a Homecoming event marked with ** and
receive a discount coupon for one online CE course.*

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Contact Connie Scavuzzo,
Senior Director of Alumni Development,
at 312-949-7080 or alumni@ico.edu.

CONTACT YOUR CLASSMATES

Register for exclusive access to
ICO's online alumni directory at my.ico.edu.

HOTEL INFORMATION

A limited number of rooms are available at our host hotel,
the InterContinental Mag Mile, 505 N. Michigan Ave.

Hotel Reservation Link: <https://goo.gl/bBn365>

Or call the InterContinental Mag Mile at 800-628-2112.
Identify yourself with the "ICO Homecoming 2018"
group or specify group code "VZ1" for our discounted
rate of \$179.00 per night.

Talking Heads



Arol Augsburger, OD

AROL AUGSBURGER, OD

“Doctor, is it true that wearing glasses will make my eyes grow weaker?” All of us who practice optometry have heard some version of this recurring myth. Optometrists are eye care professionals who serve the public. Historically, we maximize patients’ vision performance by prescribing lenses that increase the quality of life. Properly prescribed lenses only add to a patient’s visual effectiveness; in no way do they ‘make the eyes grow weaker.’ Yet, the myth persists! It is incumbent on all optometrists to continually educate our patients- and the public- about the phenomenal benefits of sharp, comfortable vision. Healthy eyes and bodies help all of us be successful in our increasingly technological world.

Patients often come to their optometrists with misinformation. ICO alumni have been confronted about astronomy, astrology, crystals, alternative medicine, and more. It is important for doctors to be educated and informed in the face of “alternative facts.” **What are some myths about eyes, vision, and optometry you’ve encountered during your career?**

NAGHMEH THOMPSON, OD '12

“Since graduating, I have encountered a few ocular related myths. I can’t help but smile when I have the odd patient who eagerly insists that they should be prescribed marijuana because it can treat glaucoma. One of the more common myths is that sunglasses do not need to be worn if it isn’t as bright outside as it is in the summer. Therefore, sunglasses become a distant memory for many during three out of the four seasons of the year. I try to stress the importance of UV protection to patients, especially my younger school-aged patients and their parents. It is certainly important to take this opportunity to educate our patients and manage expectations so that we can work together in caring for their eyes.”



Naghmeh Thompson, OD '12

LES ALSTERLUND, OD '99

“There is a myth out there that 20/20 eyesight is perfect vision. The conversation with parents goes something like this: ‘We had Johnny’s eyes checked and were told he has 20/20 vision! ...But we still can’t understand why Johnny can’t keep his place, skips words, covers one eye when reading, and complains of headaches and fatigue.’

All we need to do is take the time to listen. Ask, ‘What kind of vision problem is your child struggling with?’ The tests are not complicated and do not take long to perform. Look at their eyes when you do pursuits and saccade testing. Did they move their head? Did they lose fixation? Do an NPC- more than once. Do a cover test. Do a visual efficiency evaluation. If you don’t do this, *then refer to a developmental optometrist who does, rather than spreading the myth.* You might just change the direction of that kid’s life, and that is pretty cool.”



Les Alsterlund, OD '99

»»» Editor's Note



Lauren Faits, Editor

Welcome to the first *ICO Matters* of 2018. By the time you're reading this, many of the new year's resolutions we made in January have fallen by the wayside. Only one of mine is still going strong. Each week, I write down something good that happened to me and store the note in a jar. It feels great! Even though it's spring, consider making a positive change to your life. There's no need to wait for a new year.

ICO Matters has undergone a change for 2018, too. Starting now, *ICO* will be publishing two issues per year instead of three. The features inside will remain as high-quality as ever. To supplement, we will offer an additional *ICO Alumnus* digital newsletter each year.

This Spring 2018 issue includes:

- A celebration of Dr. Arol Augsburger's retirement, plus an update on *ICO's* Presidential Search.
- Eye-opening stories of crime in optometry, and how to prevent incidents in your practice.
- Job-seeking tips from a healthcare recruitment insider.
- A Close Up on how *ICO* is working to expand the profession of optometry.
- ...and more!

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

Now Playing: Day in the Life 2

For years, *ICO's Day in the Life* videos had been the College's most popular online content. While the perspectives captured in this reality TV-style series still hold true, the students featured have long since graduated. So, the *ICO* Communications team rebooted the series with some new faces.

Chelsea Laden, '21, and **Jeff Villena, '21**, volunteered to take cameras with them as they started optometry school. Their footage includes first-year milestones such as Move-In Day, *ICOlympics*, classes, exams, and clinic. *Day in the Life 2* hit the Internet on December 19.

Each episode ends with the opportunity to opt in to an e-newsletter. Aspiring ODs who sign up will receive tips and tricks about the application process, as well as further info about optometry school and Chicago. These will be valuable resources for any future OD. Please share *Day in the Life* with colleagues and prospective students in your circle.

All 7 episodes of *Day in the Life* can be enjoyed on YouTube or our website: ico.edu/a-day-in-the-life-2



 **YouTube**
ico.edu/a-day-in-the-life-2

Giving Tuesday Launches Pediatrics Renovation



#GIVINGTUESDAY

Thank You for
\$29,000 Raised!

On November 28, the ICO family once again came together for Giving Tuesday. This national day of generosity encourages people to turn their Thanksgiving gratitude into action through charitable donation. ICO used the occasion to announce a major renovation initiative. This year, the IEI's Pediatrics and Binocular Vision Center will undergo massive updates. The project will keep us offering top tier care to Chicago's youngest patients.

In honor of ICO's 145th anniversary, donors were challenged to give \$145 to the project. Giving Tuesday 2017 became ICO's most successful ever. We raised over \$29,000- a fantastic start for the renovation project. Thank you to all who donated.

For donation information and concept sketches of the Pediatrics and Binocular Vision renovations, check out the "Vault" section on page 32.

Meet the New Student Organizations

Two new student organizations recently debuted at ICO. Both clubs offer specific knowledge to help future doctors succeed after optometry school.

PERSONAL FINANCE CLUB

The PFC, advised by **Bryant Anderson**, Senior Director of Student Services, offers students practical financial knowledge that they can immediately use. All ICO students are automatically members. There are no annual dues, and no previous financial knowledge is necessary. Discussion topics include banking, credit, taxes, retirement, investment, and more. The PFC's website offers links to many digital resources. The organization hopes to empower students from their time at ICO long into their optometric careers.

OCULAR NUTRITION SOCIETY

The ONS is ICO's newest student organization. Though still in its early phases, the club aims to be an informational resource for its members on nutritional education as it relates to vision and eye health. **Dr. Rebecca Zoltoski** is the club's faculty advisor.



In Focus

OSD Congress Sets Record, Gives Back

On January 28, the Illinois College of Optometry held its Inaugural Ocular Surface Disease Congress. The goal of the program was to bring together passionate doctors, a distinguished panel of experts, and industry sponsors for an interactive meeting. A record number of participants attended this CE event.

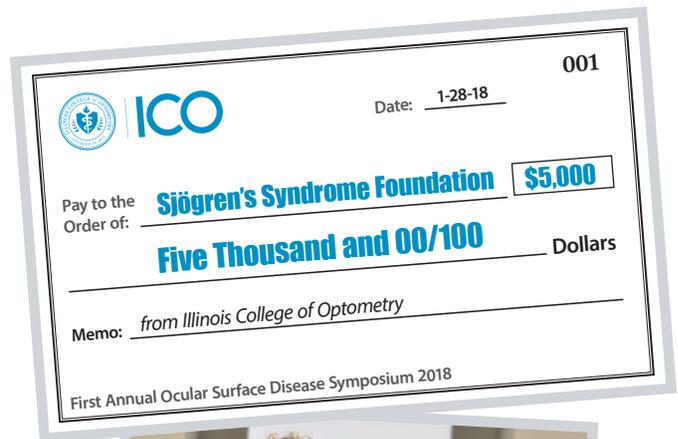
The Congress focused entirely on one topic- ocular surface disease. Stimulating speakers offered novel approaches to diagnosis and treatment. Presenters included Laura Periman, MD, Scott Schachter, OD, Leslie O'Dell, OD, **Casey Hogan, OD '97**, Barry Eiden, OD, **Jennifer Harthan, OD '06**, **Louise Sclafani, OD '89**, John Conto, OD, and Parag Majmudar, MD. Unique to this program, a philanthropic component was included. ICO donated \$5,000 to the Sjögren's Syndrome Foundation (SSF).

Thank you to our generous sponsors:

Gold - Allergan

Silver - Johnson and Johnson, Tear Science, Oculus, Metro Optics, Art Optical, CooperVision, Alcon

Bronze - Optovue, Blanchard, Biotissue, SynergEyes, Lumenis, ZeaVision



OSD presenters Jennifer Harthan, OD '06, and Casey Hogan, OD '97

Third Year Students Serve the World

Third year students in ICO-SVOSH (Student Volunteer Optometric Services to Humanity) balance studying for boards with service trips. In September, **Brianna Burns, Courtney Dudley, Heidi Fenske, Melissa Ford, Ali Mainayar, Synthia Perez, Mallory Scrimger, and LeAnn Strzelecki** teamed up with iCARE to serve residents in Montego Bay, Jamaica. It was the first time ICO-SVOSH worked with iCARE; given the trip's success, they plan on collaborating again in the future. In total, the Jamaica mission provided 1,590 vision exams, 38 cataract surgeries, and many pairs of glasses. Over 130 sets of prescription lenses were ground on-site.

During the fall quarter break, **Tracy Matchinski, OD '95**,

took seven ICO students to Mexico City. **Simran Brar, Priscilla Chang, Abigail Gonsalves, Katie Kwan, Colin Lee, Kate Thomas, and Katherine Tai** worked with VOSH International, VOSH Illinois, and National Autonomous University of Mexico. The team saw 1,550 patients in 4 days, and patients left with an assortment of used prescription glasses, reading glasses, and sunglasses.

Finally, **Julie Bhalla, Deepon Kar, Agnes Krol and Ravinder Randhawa** teamed up with VOSH-Santa Cruz to provide eye care in Casmiero Castillo, Mexico during Thanksgiving break. The team saw 2,809 patients with a wide range of advanced ocular diseases such as toxoplasmosis, choroidal neovascularization, vitritis and nystagmus. The trips were all very successful and offered many resources to the communities served.



Melissa Ford, a third year, with a patient from Montego Bay, Jamaica

Research Update

The Illinois College of Optometry currently has 74 ongoing research projects. Of these, 53 were initiated by faculty and 21 by students. Our research covers a wide range of topics including myopia, contact lenses, orthokeratology, glaucoma, amblyopia, binocular vision, low vision, traumatic brain injury, and dry eye. Such studies keep our institution at the forefront of optometric advancement and add value to your ICO-branded degree!

Here are some current research highlights happening on-campus. All were funded by personal donations or the NIH.

- **Study of Adult Strabismus 1**
Describes the clinical characteristics, treatments, and one-year outcomes of adults with convergence insufficiency, divergence insufficiency, or small angle hypertropia.
- **Amblyopia Treatment Study 20**
Compares the efficacy of spectacle correction alone with spectacle correction that accompanies binocular gameplay for treatment of amblyopia in children 4 to <13 years old.
- **Intermittent Exotropia Study 5**
Explores the effectiveness of overminus for the treatment of IXT among patients 3 to <11 years old.
- **Low-Dose Atropine for Treatment of Myopia (MTS1)**
Compares the efficacy of daily low-dose atropine (0.01%) for slowing myopia progression over a two-year treatment period in children aged 5 to <13 years with myopia -1.00 to -6.00D.
- **Efficacy of Intermittent Occlusion Therapy Glasses for Amblyopia**
Evaluates the effectiveness of a new lazy eye treatment, Amblyz™ glasses.
- **Effectiveness of Orthokeratology in Decreasing Myopic Progression in a Young Adult Population Enrolled in a Professional Optometric Curriculum**
Determines the effectiveness of specialty rigid lenses (orthokeratology) in preventing myopia progression in optometry students.



See more of ICO's research at
www.ico.edu/academic/research/

Thank You from Career Development

ICO's 21st Annual Practice Opportunities Symposium was held on Friday, April 13, 2018. We would like to thank all the alumni, exhibitors, faculty, and staff who made this event a wonderful experience for our students!

This year saw the event's largest turnout EVER. First through third year students were all required to attend. NEW panels included "Introduction to Practice Management" for first years and "Choosing Externship Rotations" for second years. This was also the first time we used an app instead of a printed program.

We'll see you in 2019! If you would like to share your experiences with students at the Practice Opportunities Symposium or other events, please contact danderson@ico.edu.



CRIMES

AGAINST

OPTOMETRY

BY SHEILA QUIRKE

Crime is a fact of life, whether you're an OD or a DO, a PhD or an MD. However, not all doctors run retail operations in addition to providing clinical care to their patients. This unique combination of skills and services that optometrists must balance can make them more vulnerable to certain types of crime.

Robert Steinmetz, OD '03, knows this all too well. In 2005, he opened up a jewel of a space in Chicago's emerging South Loop neighborhood. SoLo Eye Care was a cold start boutique practice housed in a well-known landmark building. The space was first home to the Ford Motor Company outside of Detroit on Chicago's Michigan Avenue, which came to be known as "Motor Row."

The young Dr. Steinmetz took enormous pride in crafting a retail environment that honored the unique aspects of the structure's existing architecture and neighborhood. He hoped to provide his patients with a high-end shopping experience matched with excellent customer service and well-trained medical eye care. What could possibly go wrong?



“Other security’ included renting the overnight services of a couple of trained watch dogs (not very retail-friendly, as it turns out).”

Within weeks of opening the practice, SoLo Eye Care was hit by two smash-and-grab thefts within a 24-hour period. Both occurred in broad daylight in a well-populated area during the morning rush hour, which also happened to be the change of shift for local police officers. Both were captured on camera.

Because the practice was housed in a landmark building, and he wanted to maintain the integrity of the architecture, Dr. Steinmetz had initially left his large plate glass storefront windows uncovered in off hours. It seems the contents of his practice, though, including plasma televisions and high-end frames, were too tempting for local thieves.

During the weeks it took to install retractable shutters (which prevented the practice from winning an architectural award because they altered the facade of the building), Dr. Steinmetz got creative in his attempts to protect his inventory from further theft. “We had no money then,” says Dr. Steinmetz. “I was sleeping on the couch with a baseball bat for a few nights until we could get other security in place.”

That “other security” included renting the overnight services of a couple of trained watch dogs (not very retail-friendly, as it turns out), and engaging the services of Gilbert. This 6’4” 400-pound security guard enjoyed eating a late-night snack of rotisserie chicken at the front desk, but was significantly cheaper (and cleaner) than the two watch dogs.

While two back-to-back heists are extreme and not at all common to the vast majority of OD practices, theft, in a variety of forms, is fairly regular. **Eric Baas, OD ’06**, thinks it is simply, “the cost of doing business. Let’s not make it a bigger problem than it really is. Shoplifting occurs in stores from Wal-Mart to Barney’s and no one is immune to it, but it should never be an obstacle to starting a business.”

Dr. Baas regularly consults his iCare Advisors, LLC clients on crime prevention. “Criminals want it to be simple, and if it’s not simple, they’re not going to do it.” As with any business, there are cost-effective means that can help protect OD practices from retail theft. Technology has improved surveillance cameras significantly within the last decade, making them cheaper, more reliable, and straightforward to install, with digital images that are easier to store and access.

Another strategy is using good old-fashioned common sense, which dictates that ODs be aware of age-old schemes that occur during normal business hours. These include criminals who work in teams- either in pairs with one individual distracting staff while the other stashes frames in pockets, or in small groups that enter together to cause a quick period of mayhem before leaving with as much product as they can carry.

During off hours, **Casey Hogan, OD ’97**, owner of Advanced Eye Care Professionals, has utilized improvements in technology to her advantage. She has installed motion sensor cameras



“Theft is often a ‘silent crime,’ meaning if you’re not paying attention to your inventory, you won’t even know it is missing.”



“Cameras should only be utilized in retail or employee-only areas, and never in patient evaluation areas, which would be a breach of HIPAA laws.”

outside and inside her busy practice to both deter and document crime. “Everything is able to be accessed remotely these days. I can use my phone or iPad to immediately see what is happening at my practice when I am away, or get an alert in the middle of the night.” This is helpful in assessing whether or not local law enforcement needs to be contacted.

Another strategy that Dr. Hogan has employed to good effect is a nightly and methodical inventory check. Theft, she says, is often a “silent crime,” meaning if you’re not paying attention to your inventory, you won’t even know it is missing. Each day at close of business, staff remove and account for the product, keeping it safely stored and locked away, making it inaccessible to those looking for an easy score of frames they can later sell on eBay.

It is important for ODs to note, though, that theft is not always an outside job. Both employee-on-employee crime and employee grift are situations which must be addressed. Just ask **James Cutler, UMSL ’97**, a regular employer of ICO alumni. He once had a contact lens technician who profited off a scheme that involved hand-delivering contact lenses to patients’ homes. She offered a significant discount “authorized by Dr. Cutler,” she would say, if they agreed to pay in cash.

The scheme was not uncovered until one of those patients came into the office with a question related to the contacts he had paid cash for—cash that, it turns out, had gone directly into the

pocket of the employee. The transaction had never been logged with the practice’s software system, bypassing the notice and attention of other employees.

Utilizing the same security systems that prevent theft from outsiders is an important tool in preventing theft from within the practice. Employees must know and understand that the surveillance systems used in OD offices are there both to protect them and to ensure their honest transactions with patients and with one another.

Dr. Steinmetz has found the use of cameras in public spaces is key to protecting the safety of both his employees and his inventory. “Employees know they are being watched and why. With unemployment costs on the rise, the use of cameras can save you money on unemployment claims by recording evidence that a terminated employee deserved to be fired.” He is also quick to point out that the cameras should only be utilized in retail or employee-only areas, and never in patient evaluation areas, which would be a breach of HIPAA laws.

While ODs may be unique in the medical field for needing to operate in both clinical and retail spheres simultaneously, they can rely on one another to unite and prevent crime. In Dr. Baas’s experience, “All optometrists come together on theft. Information is shared, email blasts are sent with still photos of perpetrators, we work to both prevent and discourage crime. It’s empowering what we can do just on our own.”

Close Up: Vincent Brandys, OD '90



Most families avoid political discussion around the dinner table. ICO's Senior Director of Government and External Affairs, **Vincent Brandys, OD '90**, had a different kind of upbringing. Growing up on the south side of Chicago, he was engaged in politics from a young age.

"My dad was a small businessman," explains Dr. Brandys. "He ran for State Rep. I'd walk the precinct with my father, handing out campaign literature in my neighborhood. I follow in his footsteps." Having run for office himself, Dr. Brandys sees political engagement as a way to be "part of the solution."

Interview by: Lauren Faits

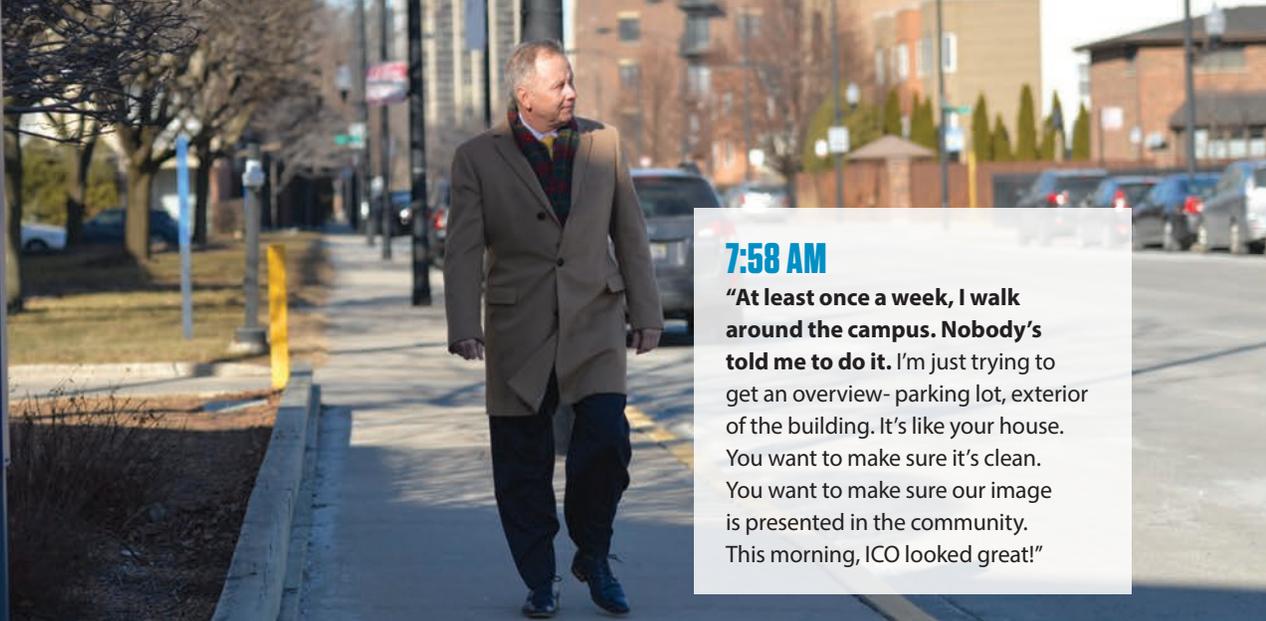
Photos by: Brian Holloway, Ryan Miller, and Leigh Ann Vanausdoll

Dr. Brandys was originally recruited to help ICO connect with its alumni. What he saw as a 2-year commitment became a lifelong career. Inevitably, his passion for politics took over. With encouragement from Drs. Augsburger and Messner, Dr. Brandys transitioned from alumni relations to full-time lobbyist.

One of Dr. Brandys's favorite quotes is by Otto von Bismarck: "There are two things in life you never want to be seen made- sausage and laws." ...but someone has to do that work! Here is a Close Up look at Dr. Brandys's unique job, and how he is working to expand the scope of optometric practice in Illinois.

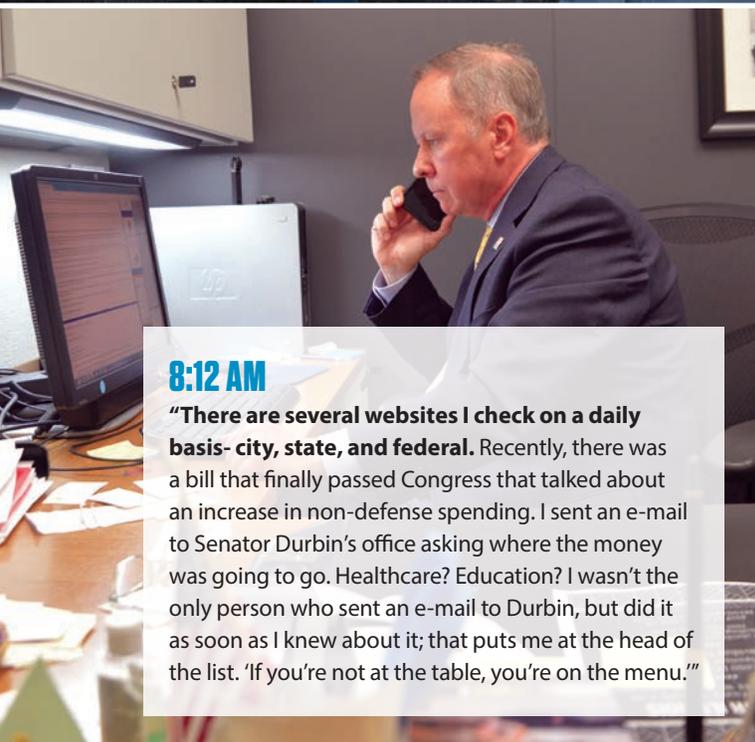


ILLINOIS
COLLEGE OF
OPTOMETRY
10 S. INDIANA AVE.



7:58 AM

“At least once a week, I walk around the campus. Nobody’s told me to do it. I’m just trying to get an overview- parking lot, exterior of the building. It’s like your house. You want to make sure it’s clean. You want to make sure our image is presented in the community. This morning, ICO looked great!”



8:12 AM

“There are several websites I check on a daily basis- city, state, and federal. Recently, there was a bill that finally passed Congress that talked about an increase in non-defense spending. I sent an e-mail to Senator Durbin’s office asking where the money was going to go. Healthcare? Education? I wasn’t the only person who sent an e-mail to Durbin, but did it as soon as I knew about it; that puts me at the head of the list. ‘If you’re not at the table, you’re on the menu.’”



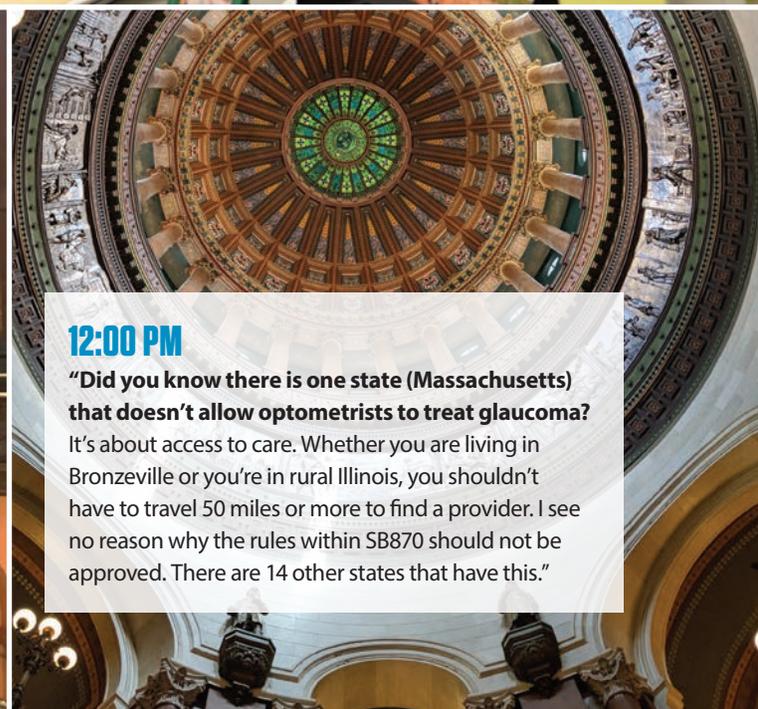
8:18 AM

“I keep my wedding photos on my desk. The sign on my wall is about being a grandfather, which I recently became for the first time. My bobbleheads are three retired White Sox players and Ozzie the Cougar. I was the team optometrist for the Kane County Cougars for 3 years while I had my private practice. The last one is a Green Bay Packers player. I’m not a ‘Cheesehead,’ but I am a Packer Backer.”



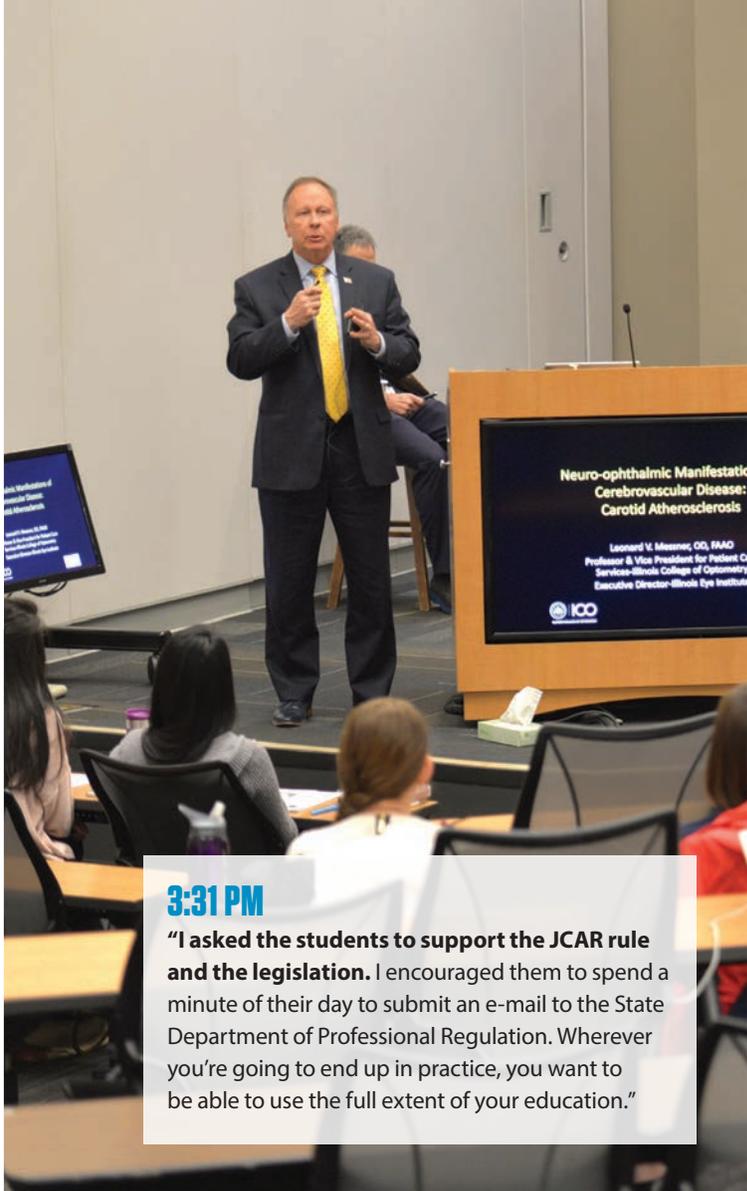
11:48 AM

“Springfield was about a 3-hour drive. We went there specifically to meet State Rep. Tom Demmer. This is the ‘third rail’ where all of the lobbyists hang out. It’s easier to reach your member by standing there. That day, I was working on the injectables and minor procedures bill, SB870. This is a law, but now the JCAR- Joint Committee on Administrative Rule- decides if the rules outlined in the legislation should be approved or not.”



12:00 PM

“Did you know there is one state (Massachusetts) that doesn’t allow optometrists to treat glaucoma? It’s about access to care. Whether you are living in Bronzeville or you’re in rural Illinois, you shouldn’t have to travel 50 miles or more to find a provider. I see no reason why the rules within SB870 should not be approved. There are 14 other states that have this.”



3:31 PM
 "I asked the students to support the JCAR rule and the legislation. I encouraged them to spend a minute of their day to submit an e-mail to the State Department of Professional Regulation. Wherever you're going to end up in practice, you want to be able to use the full extent of your education."



6:20 PM
 "I went straight to Chinatown to a fundraiser for Anne Shaw, candidate for State Representative. I make sure we know all of our representatives and senators. We're taking personal time and personal money to support candidates who support optometry. Once they get to office, they are educated on the issues. One of the phrases I live by- 'There's nothing worse than a legislator casting an uneducated vote.'"



7:11 PM
 "When you look at a legislator to support, you look at all sorts of issues- abortion, immigration... I would ask all optometrists to become 'optocrats.' Optocrats are doctors of optometry or affiliated family and friends who, when considering who to support or vote for in an election, look first and foremost at optometry and access to care."



Defend What You Create:

The Legacy of ICO's Fifth President, Dr. Arol Augsburger

BY LAUREN FAITS

This year's Commencement speaker will be the Illinois College of Optometry's fifth president, Dr. Arol Augsburger. This honor does not often go to an internal personality, but 2018 is a year of change. For one, Commencement will take place in a fresh location- The Chicago Symphony Center. This change will be followed up shortly by another. Dr. Arol Augsburger is retiring, and the search for his predecessor is well underway.

Dr. Arol Augsburger's story did not begin in Illinois. He was born in rural Ohio. The oldest of three boys, Dr. Augsburger was raised just outside of Lima. The brothers enjoyed "a lot of outdoor stuff." Backyard sports took place in Dr. Augsburger's country neighborhood almost every day. He says his "main three" pursuits were football, basketball, and baseball, because of their inspiring coaches and focus on teamwork.

It was Dr. Augsburger's love of sports that first got him thinking about optometry. His eyesight forced him to wear athletic glasses, which were uncomfortable under his football helmet and sometimes fogged on the basketball court. "I had enough talent that the athletic department said, 'You know, we ought to help this guy's family get some contact lenses,'" says Dr. Augsburger. Shortly after this revelation, he met his first connection to the Illinois College of Optometry: **Dean Cortad, OD '49.**

Dr. Cortad fitted Dr. Augsburger with contact lenses- a real innovation in the early 1960s. "They were very large lenses by today's comparison," Dr. Augsburger remembers. "They didn't let any oxygen get through... it is amazing that you could wear them at all!" Even so, the lenses improved his athletic performance.

Dr. Cortad kept journals and books in his office all about optometry. The young Dr. Augsburger got to learn more about the profession with each visit. He was hooked. He loved sports, theatre, his high school sweetheart Stephanie, and optometry.

Earlham College in Richmond, Indiana, took notice of Dr. Augsburger's academic achievements and sports prowess. He left for Earlham with the intention of playing football and basketball. Unfortunately, his mother became very ill. "She had a type of chronic leukemia," says Dr. Augsburger. He played basketball for a short while, but soon felt he could not justify the time away. He was already juggling roles in college theatre productions like *The Fantasticks* with a long-distance romantic relationship. This combination of commitments drove him to complete his education closer to home.

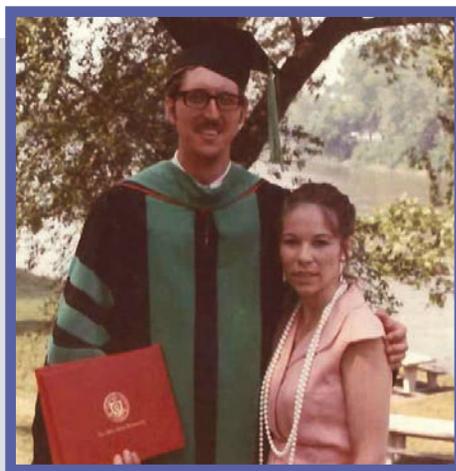
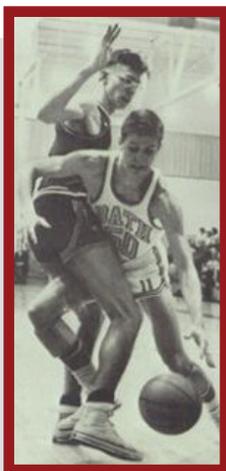


"There's a great feeling that comes from teaching and seeing the lights come on when someone 'gets it.'"

As Dr. Augsburger recalls, he had to declare a major the moment he enrolled at a branch campus of The Ohio State University. He had liked his optometrists in his youth, so he visited the college of optometry "kind of by default." From this moment, Dr. Augsburger was dedicated to becoming an OD.

While still in college, Dr. Augsburger contributed to optometric research. He ironically ended up focusing on contact lens advancements that would have directly benefitted him as a young athlete. Says Dr. Augsburger, "My mentor at Ohio State was a fellow by the name of Richard Hill. He ran research that looked at corneal physiology- the way the cornea 'breathes,' particularly after you put a contact lens on the eye. My job was to measure the amount of oxygen the cornea soaked up." Through his research, Dr. Augsburger played a major role in bringing softer contact lens materials to the market.

Dr. Augsburger married Stephanie, and throughout his life, made every decision in partnership with her. He believes "she's always right." For example, when Stephanie was pregnant with their first child, Dr. Augsburger opted out of launching a



“Nothing that happens is done just because the president wants it to happen. You really need to get good people, then get them intricately involved in creating. They will defend what they help create.”

private practice. Instead, he chose a “short-term” faculty role at Ohio State for the health insurance. “I found out I really liked it,” he laughs. “By the second year, I was running the entire clinical program at The Ohio State University!” Clearly, Stephanie knew best.

Along the way, there were surely many opportunities for Dr. Augsburger to leave academia. Instead, he made it his passion. “There’s a great feeling that comes from teaching and seeing the lights come on when someone ‘gets it,’” he says. As Ohio State invested more into medical optometry, Dr. Augsburger involved himself wherever he could- curriculum, athletics, outreach, fundraising, and legislation. Participating in his first campus campaign, “I Believe in Ohio State,” raised \$450 million. “That’s peanuts by today’s standards,” he says, “but back in 1983, that was a huge deal!”

Dr. Augsburger remained on The Ohio State’s faculty for 23 years. In this span, he turned down opportunities at the Michigan College of Optometry and the New England College of Optometry.

He made many fond memories at Ohio State, including his time curating a Celebrity Eyewear Collection and meeting President Gerald Ford. When asked what finally inspired a transition, he replies, “Opportunity. Times change.” He became a Dean at The University of Alabama at Birmingham in 1992.

The title of Dean is a challenging one. “You are now expected to be both the academic leader and the administrative leader of the program,” Dr. Augsburger explains. Even so, he succeeded. He took the smallest college on UAB’s campus, and in seven years, made it the second largest. He calls this period “really a lot of fun, a lot of happenstance, and a lot of serendipity.”

UAB eventually named Dr. Augsburger its Provost. “That’s probably, I think, the hardest job in all of academia,” he says. “All of the Deans of all the schools report to you. The President thinks you’re doing all the things they want, and all those Deans think that you’re doing everything for them... I loved it, but it’s really challenging.”

ICO finally entered the picture in 2002. UAB’s president was stepping down, and Dr. Augsburger saw it as “a great time” for transition. He accepted the role of ICO’s president, relishing the opportunity to “build on the long, rich traditions that we have and take it even to higher levels.”

Though he came to ICO already an experienced leader, Dr. Augsburger’s time as president has taught him much about shaping an institution. “Nothing that happens is done just because the president wants it to happen,” he says. “You really need to get good people, then get them intricately involved in creating. They will defend what they help create.”



UAB Painting by Mark Carder



This method was seen in the construction of the Alfred and Sarah Rosenbloom Center on Vision and Aging. “We certainly couldn’t have done it without the Rosenblooms and their major gift,” he explains, but “Al Rosenbloom’s Dream” needed dozens of people’s time and energy across 10 years to be fully realized. Dr. Augsburger is deeply proud of this achievement.

Another pride point for Dr. Augsburger is his role in ICO fundraising. He explains that, when he first arrived, “there was a very meager fundraising program.” He cites a “major breakdown of some leadership” that “made all the newspapers.” As a result of this period in ICO’s history, “there were a lot of folks who didn’t even know about us, but did know about this controversy.” Dr. Augsburger felt that alumni were “sour” on the idea of giving back- at least for a while.

“Fundraising isn’t just going to find rich people and asking for money,” says Dr. Augsburger. “It’s building relationships, and you really have to do it from the ground floor and it takes a long time.” His strategy was to get people invested in the creation of new elements of ICO. Under his watch, \$40 million was put into ICO’s “physical facilities.” The ICO Library, Residential Complex, and numerous other areas of the College have all been updated. Dr. Augsburger’s final push is for the renovation of the Pediatric and Binocular Vision Center. By encouraging fundraising for these specific projects, this president feels he has gotten alumni again participating in “the goodness of the College.”

Dr. Augsburger notes other financial successes, as well. He helped earn the first Robert Wood Johnson grant ever given to an optometry program. This resulted in \$1 million for the

Vision of Hope program, which offers eye care to populations in need. ICO’s investable assets have more than doubled, from about \$22 million to \$51 million.

While success isn’t always quantifiable, Dr. Augsburger has felt ICO’s reputation rise. The College gathers feedback every year from incoming students, outgoing graduates, alumni... even people who applied but did not choose ICO. “We have had more applicants to our program, and we are committed to accepting the best,” he says. So, when those students graduate, they become doctors who love and remember their alma mater. These days, at alumni events, Dr. Augsburger no longer hears complaints about a long-passed period in ICO’s history. Instead, he is approached by alumni who are “pleased with what the program has done.” These anecdotes are not on paper, but Dr. Augsburger says he can feel them in his heart.

In addition to a positive reputation in-house, Dr. Augsburger is leaving ICO with equally solid footing in the neighborhood. “It is important that we not just be located in the south side of Chicago, but that we be a part of the community.” The neighborhood’s Community Advisory Board meets at ICO three times per year. Dr. Augsburger himself is part of the Near South Planning Board and the Jackson Park Hospital Board. His participation in the Rotary Club has brought high school students to ICO for career training for many years. He also encourages his team to volunteer for causes important and unique to them. He can proudly list the many organizations his faculty and staff engage with- Second Sense, Special Olympics, VOSH, the ACOE, and many more.



As someone so involved in the community, Dr. Augsburger has met many famous faces. He has introduced himself to every U.S. President since Jimmy Carter, with the exception of Ronald Reagan. He worked with Barack Obama in Chicago, but perhaps his funniest presidential encounter was with Bill Clinton.

Thanks to his height, suit, and silver hair, people often mistook Dr. Augsburger for President Clinton. At a political fundraiser in Chicago, he was able to tell it to the man himself. A good sport, Clinton responded, "I hope when they got you confused with me, they didn't slug you!"

The honors and achievements bestowed upon Dr. Augsburger have been many. Among his over 15 major awards, Dr. Augsburger has been named Optometrist of the Year at the state level in Illinois, Ohio, and Alabama. He was also named Optometrist of the Year by the AOA, and was recently inducted into the National Optometry Hall of Fame. This honor is particularly special to him as he was personally involved in the Hall of Fame's founding. Of course, Dr. Augsburger cannot choose a favorite award. "They're all meaningful... because they're recognition from peers."

There is one thing that ICO students recognize Dr. Augsburger for above all else: his bowties. These iconic accessories have been a part of his wardrobe for years. The trend can be traced back to Ohio State, where Dr. Augsburger had a mentor named E. Gordon Gee. Says Dr. Augsburger, Gee could "meet a group of people... and 15 minutes later... call out somebody he just met and tell some story about them. He's such a bigger-than-life person!" This charismatic character always wore a bowtie. Dr. Augsburger decided that he could, too, could pull off the look. Today, he has a bowtie for every outfit and occasion.

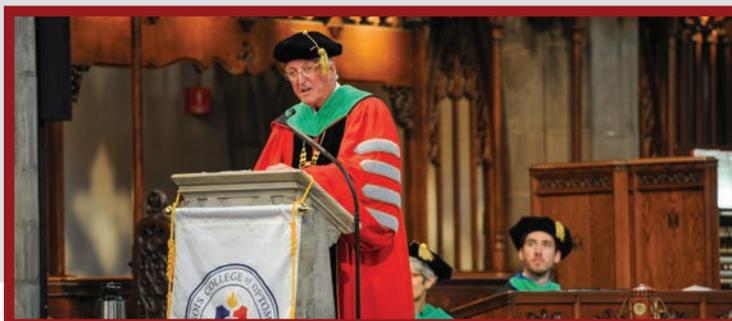


"It is important that we not just be located in the south side of Chicago, but that we be part of the community."

(For the record: In his official presidential portrait, currently being painted by artist Dominic Vignola, Dr. Augsburger will not be wearing a bowtie.)

It is always hard to say goodbye. Thankfully, Dr. Augsburger is leaving ICO in capable hands. He feels a president's duty is to recruit "very fine vice presidents, and give them the authority and the responsibility to go out and do their jobs." He knows our "very good core of faculty" will continue its work educating best-prepared optometrists, expanding the profession, and changing the world.

"I'm sure the new president will have the kind of integrity that you'd expect for a major program like this," says Dr. Augsburger. He particularly hopes the incoming leader will enjoy working with "all kinds of people." Finally, Dr. Augsburger challenges his successor with the following: "Continue the important outreach of the institution into communities- the local community here, the professional communities, and the communities where we work and live."



The ICO Presidential Search

A Search Committee was appointed by Dr. Karen Eng, Board of Trustees Chair, to recommend suitable candidates for appointment as ICO's next president. This committee is comprised of individuals committed to continuing the advancement of the Illinois College of Optometry. The members bring a diversity of expertise and experience to their massively important task. The committee boasts five board members, two faculty members, five alumni, one staff member, and one student (the President of the Student Association.)



Among the essential duties of the Search Committee are:

- Actively participating in the process of recruiting nominations and applications from diverse backgrounds.
- Ensuring that candidates receive accurate and thorough information about the Illinois College of Optometry at each stage of the process from a wide range of perspectives and viewpoints.
- Assuring compliance with all applicable College policies and procedures, in particular policies related to equal opportunity and cultural diversity.
- Selecting and interviewing semifinalists.
- Checking the references of semifinalists.
- Attending campus interviews for finalists.
- Gathering feedback from the College community regarding candidates.
- Communicating with the ICO Chairman about the status and progress of the search.
- Maintaining utmost confidentiality at all times.

The committee was given a reading assignment of two relevant books recommended by the Association of Governing Boards (AGB):

A Complete Guide to Presidential Search for Universities and Colleges
Presidential Search – An Overview of Board Members

On December 1, 2017, the position was published to the ICO website, Chronicle of Higher Education, AOA Job Board, and ASCO Job Board. The posting was also sent to all the Presidents and Deans of the optometric schools.

The Board of Trustees determined not to use an Executive Search firm because we have in-house experience and expertise, having independently conducted the two previous searches with stellar results. The Committee has been meeting, gathering applications, reaching out to those potential applicants whose names have been brought forward, and scheduling interviews. The Committee feels confident that it will be able to recommend the most qualified candidates for ICO's next President to the Executive Committee of the Board.

To see real-time updates on the ICO Presidential Search, visit:
<http://www.ico.edu/presidentialsearch>

Trending



October 23

#Halloween is great. #optometry is great. An ID holder that mixes Halloween AND optometry?? Best ever! (From clippiecreations on etsy.)



October 23 –

(via the Albuquerque Journal)

Tony Chan, OD '59, was the first Asian-American optometrist licensed in New Mexico.



December 10

Did anyone else go to Chicago's 17th annual One of a Kind Holiday Show at the Mart this weekend? The craft show featured more than 600 artisans from across the country selling everything from jewelry and fine art to gourmet foods and unique fashion. This quirky raincoat by Chicago designer @shoptakara caught my eye for obvious reasons!



October 31

ICO faculty and staff know how to haunt! The annual employee Halloween party was today. While costumes aren't required, they are definitely encouraged. Check out some of our favorites.



October 31

ICO's own **Jessica Capri, '19**, spoke on the Defocus Media podcast about attending optometry conferences as a student. Listen to her share budgeting tips, including how to get travel grants.



November 9

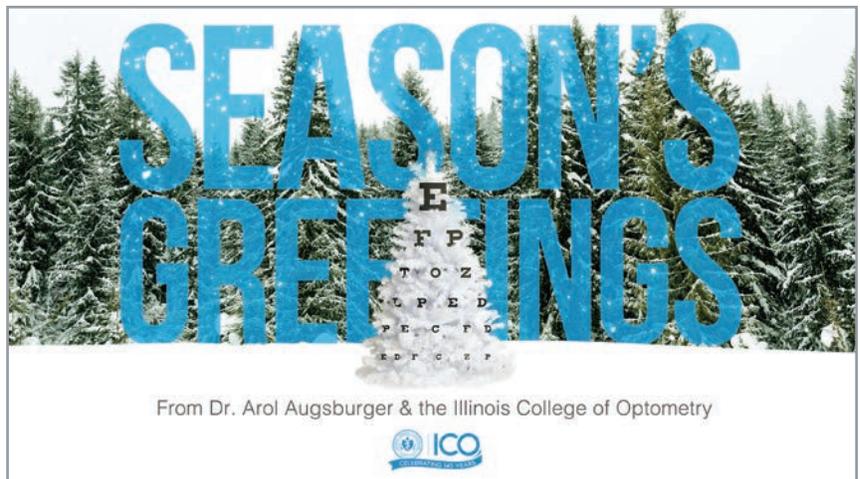
Jessica Martin had not gotten an eye exam in seven years. She visited **Daman Toor Gupta, OD '10**, to get her glasses repaired. This was no regular eye exam. Dr. Gupta discovered a bleeding optic nerve and sent the patient to the ER. Misdiagnosed "stress headaches" were actually caused by swelling of the brain.

Thanks to training from ICO, Dr. Gupta could diagnose what other doctors could not.



December 25

From the decorated shop windows on the Magnificent Mile to the ice skating ribbon in Maggie Daley Park, things are merry and bright in Chicago. Happy holidays from ICO.





Jan 1 – (via @JonHymes)

Great choice by @ChicagoTribune as a #PhotoOfTheYear – American Hero @ SenDuckworth at @AOAConnect on Capitol Hill rally. Inspiring for thousands of doctors and students, especially proud of @IOA2020 @ICO_Optometry @TheAOSA @optstudents delegations.



January 11

New year, new dreams for the future! *Business Insider* has once again named optometry as one of the 25 best-paying jobs in America. If your 2018 resolution was to choose optometry school, we hope you also choose ICO.



January 19

Congratulations to SVOSH-ICO for being named Chapter of the Month by VOSH/International.



January 30

ICO's home city defeated London, New York, and Melbourne as Time Out's best place to have fun and enjoy life.



Jan 30

Matthew Pietruszka, OD '17, is a REAL #SuperBowl star! This ICO alumnus just helped Jake Elliott of the @Eagles deliver free eye exams to students.



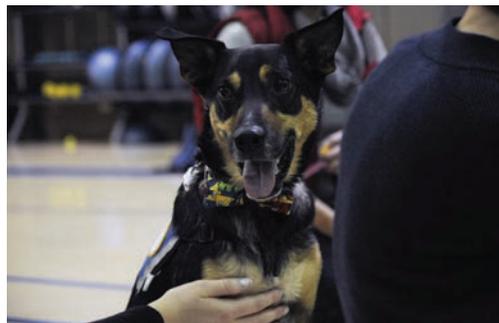
February 1

Congratulations to **Dr. Renee Reeder**, the first-ever contact lens educator to be named Practitioner of the Year by the Gas Permeable Lens Institute (GPLI). The ICO family is so proud to have her as Associate Professor and Ocular Disease Curriculum Coordinator.



February 5

SVOSH's latest fundraiser was a "dog-gone" good time. For a small donation, ICO students could relieve stress by meeting trained dogs from the Canine Therapy Corps.





Land the Job

What hiring managers look for
and how to look great for them.

BY HEATHER SWINK

HOW CAN YOU LAND YOUR DREAM JOB? WHAT WILL MAKE YOU DESIRABLE TO EMPLOYERS, AND HOW CAN YOU MAKE SURE IT'LL BE THE RIGHT FIT? THE FOLLOWING ARE TOP TIPS FROM AN EXPERIENCED RECRUITER AND AN ICO ALUMNUS WHO GRADUATED WITH NO LESS THAN FIVE JOB OFFERS.



Jill Maher, MA, COE, of Maher Medical Practice Consulting, consults with eye care providers on all matters of business, including physician recruitment.

Who Hiring Managers Want

“It all depends on the needs of the practice. Most look for candidates with a broad range of medical management along with comprehensive exams and contact lenses. Regardless of practice type or needs, optometrists who are approachable, compassionate toward patients, reliable, and willing to go above and beyond patients’ expectations are most desirable.”

How to Make Connections and Be Seen

“Professional associations, such as the American Optometric Association, or state association websites are great places to post your resume and find opportunities. If you plan to stay in the area, your alma mater’s website is the best place to start; they may have more local opportunities. Also, create a LinkedIn profile and make connections there.”

Why to Start Today

“Anyone you come across—a professor, colleague, mentor, employer—may have, or know of, an opportunity where you

might be a great fit. Begin an official search about six to 12 months before you finish school or residency. It takes a good 90 days to get fully credentialed with insurance and hospitals, so it is best to receive and accept an offer at a minimum of three months before joining a practice.”

What to Ask Your Potential Employer

“Learn as much about the practice as possible and make sure you understand the practice’s expectations before accepting an offer and signing the contract. Ask the following:

- How many patients do you expect me to see on an annual, monthly, daily, even hourly basis?
- How much support staff will I have (e.g., technician, scribe)?
- Will I have on-call duty?
- Which offices will I be working at each day of the week?”

When to Pause

“Do not negotiate salary/bonus during the initial phone interviews. Wait until you have met with the practice and received an actual offer.”

Find Your Passion

“This comes with experience. For example, in second year, I thought low vision seemed ‘So cool!’ By fourth year, I found it very exhausting. I loved working in pediatrics.”

Erika Poikey, OD '17, is an ICO alumnus who had received five job offers by the time she graduated. She tells us how others can achieve similar success.



Set Goals and Parameters

“Make sure you and your employer want the same things and will work well together.

Questions to ask:

- What kind of patient population will I typically see?
- Would I be the only optometrist at the location?
- Am I required to bring diagnostic equipment and drops, or do they provide them?
- How much do I need to know about options for frames and glasses?
- What are the hours and my expected schedule? If the schedule isn't full, do I need to be there and what will I be doing?
- How much pre-testing do they do and how much control do I have over that and my schedule? Do I start out with half-hour exams? 15-minute exams?”

Be Prepared

“Before I went on an interview, I would look up my interviewer on Google and Facebook to learn what they're interested in and what we have in common. For example, I found out one hiring manager also is a coach and still plays sports in many adult leagues. When we talked, I focused on how I'm a great team player and learned to work well with others from my history in playing sports throughout my life. He totally ate that up; he loved that we had things in common and was very excited to meet me for a face-to-face interview. Also, having questions to ask at the end of the interview to show interest is important.”

Use Digital Tools

“Connect with ODs on Facebook and LinkedIn, follow @medicaltalks on Instagram, and search for employment opportunities on the ICO website. Join an employment agency like the Eye Group, which is free to job candidates.”

Invest More Time

“I spent my break weeks interviewing. In fact, one week I had a different interview every day in different towns. It really built up my confidence on selling myself.”

Appear Inviting

“Look friendly, have a great smile, give a strong handshake, and be enthusiastic. All of that goes a long way.”

Dr. Poikey on how she ultimately chose her path:

“When I got multiple job offers, I compared them and then looked into how to weed them out. I even considered the age of the building and whether I could re-paint or re-decorate.

The company I chose has state-of-the-art equipment, other doctors in the company who are willing to provide advice, and my office is in an up-and-coming location. The company focuses on teamwork and addressing problems in a positive manner. We have weekly office meetings to make sure the opticians and doctor are on the same page. All doctors meet monthly to discuss questions and updates with equipment and the EMR system.

The owner of the company is happy to have a young doctor and hopes to attract a young crowd. He actually visits his stores and has purchased glasses for people who can't afford them; he really cares about patient experience. I only have exams every half hour and have a very flexible schedule. The company also provided a sign-on bonus to cover moving expenses.”

Heather Swink, CAE, M.A., is a freelance writer, editor and content adviser. Follow @HeatherSwink, connect on LinkedIn, or email her at heatherswink95@gmail.com.



Essentials: Molly O'Shaughnessy Johnson, OD '13, FAAO

While the profession of optometry boasts many modes of practice, some are perceived as more glamorous than others. One area that definitely deserves more attention is the US Department of Veterans' Affairs. This government agency provides near-comprehensive medical care to eligible people who served in the military. ICO's Practice Opportunities Symposium brings VA optometrists to campus each year to celebrate this important work.

Following her graduation, **Molly O'Shaughnessy Johnson, OD '13, FAAO**, completed an Ocular Disease and Low Vision Residency at the Jesse Brown and Hines VA Medical Centers in Chicago. Having grown up in Jacksonville, Florida, Dr. Johnson now cares for American heroes closer to home. She practices at the VA Medical Center in Miami.

Dr. Johnson's job responsibilities are wide. Her duties at the Miami VAMC include primary care optometry, student externship coordination, and resident oversight. It takes a special personality to do things "The VA way." Here are Dr. Johnson's Essentials for VA practice:



SHARING THE SYMPHONY

"My husband works at the symphony on South Beach. One of my favorite events is when they broadcast the concerts on their 7000-square foot outdoor wall for the whole family to enjoy. Factor in a picnic, bottle of wine, and an ocean breeze... who could ask for more?"



THE THREE BEARS

"I still talk almost daily with my co-residents, despite us living across the country from one another. We discuss interesting cases, stressful patient encounters, and exciting life events."



IT'S THE VA WAY

"All processes seem to take twice as long as expected, and have three times as many steps as seem necessary. Luckily, we save a lot of time not having to deal with the worries and restrictions of insurance."

A NATIONWIDE NETWORK

"No matter how short of a walk I'm taking through the halls of the VA, I'm never been greeted by less than 5 people. Thanks to our sense of community, I have the ability to instantly message any employee in any VA across the country. I can even ask questions to my best friend, a pharmacist in South Carolina."

CHART STALKING

"We are able to take continuity of care to the next level at the VA thanks to having access to all the patients' records, labs, radiology images etc. This has allowed systemic connections to ocular disease that might otherwise have been missed. I even check medication compliance by seeing how frequently they request refills from the pharmacy."



CAFECITO

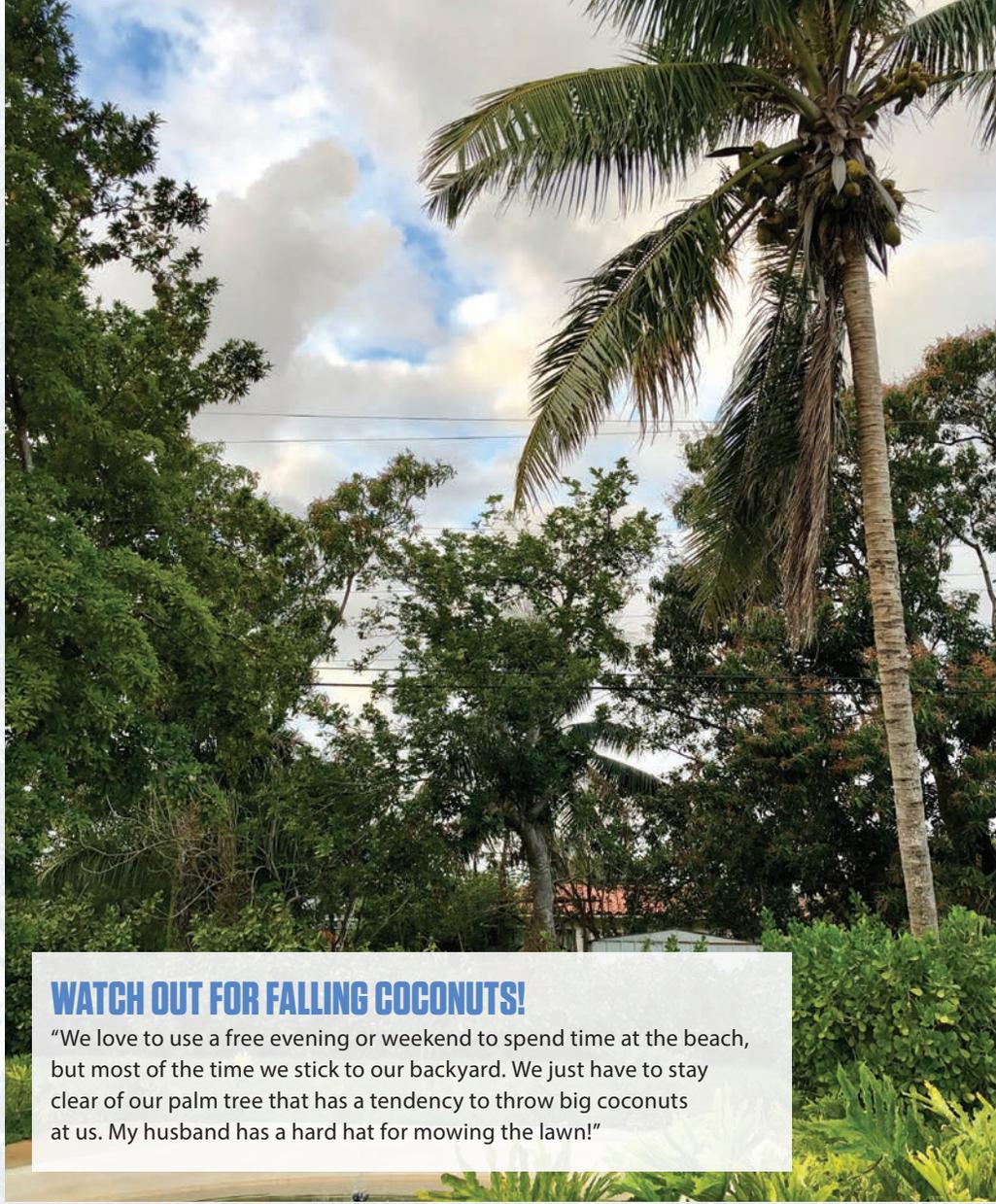
"If you've been wondering if the hype about Cuban coffee is true, yes. Yes, it is. It's love at first sip."

SECOND HAND AND I'LL ROCK THAT

"An unexpected perk of snow birds: there is great thrifting to be done in South Florida! Most of our furniture has come from thrift shops."

(JON) SNOW DAYS

"Miami is notorious for traffic (due to bad drivers aplenty), but I keep calm by listening to audiobooks. I'm currently enjoying *Game of Thrones*."



WATCH OUT FOR FALLING COCONUTS!

"We love to use a free evening or weekend to spend time at the beach, but most of the time we stick to our backyard. We just have to stay clear of our palm tree that has a tendency to throw big coconuts at us. My husband has a hard hat for mowing the lawn!"

DON'T CRY, BABY

"My most listened to song of all time is *Cry Baby* by CeeLo Green. I know that sounds like a strange choice, but ever since my son was one week old, he will stop crying every time it is played. Every. Time. Without fail. Fourteen months later, and well... I trust you get the point."



THE "DIABETES DRAWER"

"In addition to the Munchies mix that can be perpetually found in my desk, we have a communal drawer stocked with chocolate in the optometry office."



Class Notes

1940's

1949

Richard Rucoba (NICO) was an honoree during the 13th Annual Hispanic Heritage Celebration in Thornton Township (Ill.) He was recognized for his service to his country and community. Dr. Rucoba also participated in the National Senior Olympics, bringing home three gold medals and one silver in track and racquetball. In his 21 years competing, he has earned over 200 medals.

1950's

1956

Gilda Preskill was honored by the Cuban Medical Delegation of Chicago for her more than 50 years of service as a medical professional.

1960's

1964

John Whitener wrote a book, *Don't Ask and I Will Tell: Finding Myself in Vietnam*. Available on Amazon, the book is an intimate and candid memoir, detailing his diary entries while serving in Vietnam.

1970's

1973

Andrew Buzzelli has been selected to serve as the chair of ASCO's Diversity and Cultural Competency Committee.

1974

Mark Palmer was appointed to the Cornhusker Public Power District Board of Directors in Columbus, Neb.

1975

Raymond Goga is proud to announce that his son, Ryan, was named Paraoptometric of the Year by the Wisconsin Optometric Association.

1980's

1982

Thomas Bobst was elected to the Board of Directors of the Association of Regulatory Boards of Optometry.

1989

Louise Sclafani received the Impresa Award from the Joint Civic Committee of Italian Americans. This award recognizes the achievements of Italian-American women who are accomplished in their fields.

1990's

1996

Lisa Slaby was named Optometrist of the Year by the Wisconsin Optometric Association.

1998

Thomas Rene opened Eye2Eye Vision, a private practice in Fargo, N.D. He specializes in dry eye management and postoperative eye care.

2000's

2005

Nicholas Vincelli and his wife Amy welcomed a baby girl, Evelyn Lillian, on Feb. 8.

2007

Angelina Panovic-Popovic welcomed a baby girl, Adriana Zora-Anja, on July 18, 2017.

2008

Nana Owusu and **Renée Phipps** welcomed baby boy, Harrison Maxwell, on Sept. 14, 2017. Dad and son enjoyed watching their first season of Raiders' games together!

2010's

2010

Daman Toor Gupta wrote and was featured in two articles in the Nov./ Dec. issue of *HealthyLivingMadeSimple.com*. The two articles detail a walk-in visit that turned into a lifesaving trip to the emergency room- one from Dr. Gupta's perspective and one from the patient's perspective.

2011

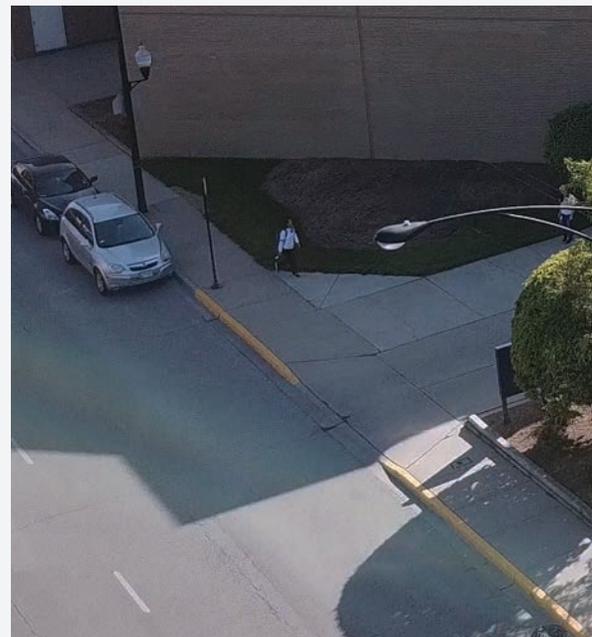
Emily Walters joined Ophthalmology LTD in Sioux Falls, S.D.

2013

Katherine Lenz received the Young Alumni Award from Elmhurst College, her undergraduate alma mater. The award recognizes her work treating underserved patients and her exemplary contributions to society.

2014

Mark Buboltz and **Susie Hemann, OD '15**, were united in marriage on May 27, 2017, at Four Daughters Vineyard & Winery in Spring Valley, Minn.



2015

Briana Bohn joined Lifetime Vision Source in Jamestown, N.D.

Ashley Finch was elected as the 2017 Young OD of the Year by the Wisconsin Optometric Association.

Ashley Tholen joined Grand Rapids Ophthalmology (GRO). GRO is the largest fully-integrated eye care medical group in West Michigan with 12 locations.

2016

Jesus Martinez was named the 2017 recipient of the Bert C. and Lydia M. Corwin Contact Lens Residency Award by The American Academy of Optometry Foundation.

FRIENDS AND FAMILY

Renee Reeder, associate professor at ICO, was named Practitioner of the Year by the Gas Permeable Lens Institute. She is the first contact lens educator to receive this award.

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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

OR

CONTACT:

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



Drone Photography by: Konstantina Kalas, '19

In Memoriam

1940's

1948

Melvin Bernard (NICO), Dubuque, Iowa., Nov. 1, 2017. He served in the U.S. Army in the 2208 Trucking Company and the 1585 Trucking Battalion in the European Theater during WWII. In 1949, he opened a practice in Makquoketa. After practicing for 45 years, he semi-retired and sold his practice to **David Sybesma, OD '92**. He was an FCOVD and FAAO, a member of the AOA and IOA, and completed nine VOSH trips to Mexico.

Edward M. Jacobson (NICO), Rice Lake, Wis., Feb. 19, 2017. He served in the U.S. Marine Corps in the Pacific Theater during WWII. He participated in the Bougainvillea campaign in the British Solomon Islands and was stationed in Guadalcanal and Guam. He opened a practice in Rice Lake in 1949 and was well-known as a leader in numerous community, church, and professional organizations.

1949

Alexander M. "Buddy" Culbreth, Jr. (NICO), Valdosta, Ga., June 10, 2017. He served in the U.S. Air Force as a staff optometry officer before returning to Georgia to begin his optometry career. He practiced optometry for 64 years. As a young man, he was inducted into the Valdosta High School Sports Hall of Fame and went on to play semi-professional baseball.

Russell G. Young (NICO), Lake Worth, Fla., July 3, 2017. He served in the U.S. Navy as an aviation electronic technician for fire and flight control equipment, instructing pilots in the use of bomb sight and other secret devices. He opened a private practice in Lake Worth in 1950 and retired in 1993. After retirement, he volunteered his services by going on medical trips to Honduras.

1950's

1950

James W.R. Watkins (NICO), Dry Ridge, Ky., Nov. 13, 2017. He was a U.S. Navy veteran. While in practice, he was a pioneer in vision therapy and child development.

1951

LeeRoy Joseph Savoie (CCO), Lake Charles, La., Dec. 24. He served in the U.S. Army Air Corps as a Bombardier in the Pacific Theater, eventually becoming a Commander. He practiced optometry in Lake Charles from 1951-2010 and was an active community leader throughout his life.

1953

Channing R. Smith (NICO), St. Paul, Minn., Oct. 26, 2016. He served in the U.S. Army from 1953-1955, stationed in the Eye, Ear, Nose, and Throat Clinic in the hospital in Fort Lenard Wood, Mo. After retiring from his practice in Hutcheson, he enjoyed performing fill-in work in many area practices. His community involvement earned him the prestigious Melvin Jones Fellow award from the Lions Club.

1959

Clare S. Janis, Palm Harbor, Fla., Oct. 25, 2017.

1960's

1961

George C. Sheldon, Bella Vista, Ark., Oct. 29, 2017. He practiced in Fairfield, Iowa, for 32 years before retiring to Bella Vista. He was an accomplished musician, playing the trumpet and cornet and singing in bands, plays, and musicals throughout his life.

1965

Merrill D. Bowman, Oakmont, Pa., Oct. 14, 2017. He was a leader in the field of behavioral optometry and had a private practice for over 40 years.

1980's

1980

Herbert F. Vieweger, Stafford, Va., May 31, 2016.

YOU can be the voice of ICO in your hometown,
high school, or undergrad alma mater.



**This year, the Illinois College of Optometry
Admissions Team is visiting:**

- Lewis University in Illinois
- Purdue University in Indiana
- Louisiana State University
- Ferris State University in Michigan
- University of Cincinnati in Ohio
- University of North Carolina Charlotte
- NAAHP National Meeting in Washington, D.C.
- Florida State University
- University of Texas Arlington
- . . . and many more!

To participate in a recruitment event in your state,
contact admissions@ico.edu.

IT'S RECRUITMENT SEASON!

Vault

Last Giving Tuesday, ICO announced a major initiative: the renovation of the IEI's Pediatrics and Binocular Vision Center. This endeavor will allow us to continue our mission of top-tier vision care for Chicago's youngest patients. While ambitious, this is far from ICO's first structural project. Our storied campus has seen the construction of whole buildings and clinical service areas as well as upgrades to important venues such as the Library and Lecture Center. We've opened the Vault to find images of some of ICO's most historic builds:



Lecture Center (2011)



Library (2014)



EyePod (2008)



Alfred and Sarah Rosenbloom Center (2015)



Pediatrics (FALL 2018) *Artist Rendering*

To contribute to the Pediatrics and Binocular Vision Center renovations, please visit ICO.edu/giving.

Datebook

COMMENCEMENT
MAY 19

MAY

May 5-12

Final Exams

May 17

Capstone Program
ICO Campus

May 19

ICO Commencement
The Chicago Symphony Center

May 21

First Day of Summer Quarter

May 26-28

Memorial Day Holiday
Campus/Clinic Closed

AUGUST

August 7

NBEO Part 1 Exam
2nd Administration

August 9-12

Class of 2022 Orientation

August 13

First Day of Fall Quarter

August 18

ICOLympics

August 25

Parents' Orientation
White Coat Ceremony
ICO Campus

SEPTEMBER

September 1-3

Labor Day Holiday
Campus/Clinic Closed

September 7-8

ICO's Homecoming

September 21-23

Illinois Optometric Association
Convention
ICO Exhibit Booth
Peoria, Illinois

JUNE

June 2

Admissions Open House
ICO Campus

June 11-15

Focus on Your Future Summer
Program
ICO Campus

June 22

AOA - Optometry's Meeting
Alumni & Friends Reception
Denver, Colorado

June 29

Retirement Reception for
Dr. Augsburg

JULY

July 4

Independence Day Holiday
Campus/Clinic Closed

July 10-15

NOA Annual Convention
San Antonio, Texas

July 28-August 4

Final Exams

OCTOBER

October 20-27

Final Exams

October 28-29

Continuing Education Program
12 Hours, Tested
ICO Campus

NOVEMBER

November 9

AAO - Academy
Alumni & Friends Reception
San Antonio, Texas

November 12

First Day of Winter Quarter

November 22-25

Thanksgiving Holiday
Campus/Clinic Closed



ICO

Illinois College of Optometry

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Last Look



Every year, the ICO campus celebrates Valentine's Day with an optometric twist. Students design themed cards for people who LOVE optometry, the human eye, and of course, the College! This year's Valentines were created by **Konstantina Kalas, '19**. They were shared across social media on February 14, and are available year-round on Pinterest.