



STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK  
COLLEGE OF OPTOMETRY

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STATE OF THE COLLEGE

CREATING A LEGACY OF LEADERSHIP

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## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

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Dear Friends,

The State University of New York College of Optometry has been dedicated to educating optometrists and vision scientists, providing quality patient care to our community and advancing our understanding of vision science through research for more than four decades. Over these years we have educated thousands of health care providers and vision scientists, cared for countless individuals and blazed an important path with basic, translational and clinical research. As the only institution of its kind in New York State and the surrounding region we play a unique and vital role in our community.

We are proud of this important legacy. We are also fully aware that no successful institution can maintain its vitality without constantly evaluating and improving upon what it does, while vigorously and adeptly planning for the future. With this in mind, the SUNY College of Optometry recently began its 2013 - 2018 strategic plan. The tagline that we selected for this new plan, "Creating a Legacy of Leadership," helps to illuminate our mission. It's not enough for us to simply produce new practitioners or researchers, or to provide care for our neighbors. Our institutional goal is to develop and nurture future health care leaders and, as this report illustrates, we've been working hard to achieve this objective.

With health care reform now fully upon us, the burden of responsibility is squarely on our shoulders to adapt accordingly and to produce the practitioners, researchers and educators who will excel in the evolving landscape of the future. Over the past year, we've taken many steps toward this critical goal and I am proud to share these developments with you in this report.

Of course resting on one's laurels is never an appropriate course of action. While we should celebrate and be proud of the accomplishments we have made, we must also be mindful of our obligation to continue to look forward. I am grateful to all of the members of our dynamic and hard-working community who have helped us make this journey and I look forward to our continued efforts and successes in the years to come.

Sincerely,



David A. Heath, OD, EdM  
*President*



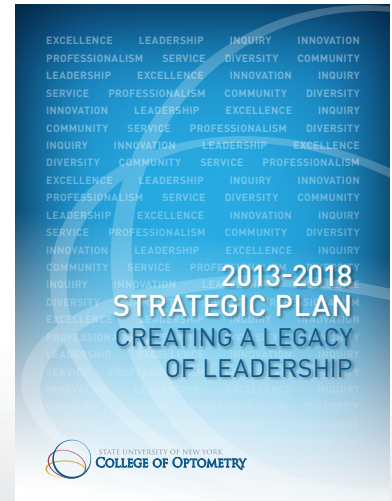
# Creating a Legacy of Leadership

THE SUNY College of Optometry is committed to the principles of strategic planning in the development of our organizational priorities and the allocation of our resources. In fact, the College's **Office of Institutional Research and Planning** was designed and created specifically to provide support to these important values through the collection and analysis of data.

In 2008, the College adopted its first official strategic plan. Known as *A Shared Vision*, the goal of this five-year plan was to help put the institution on the appropriate track toward providing the most innovative education and patient care possible, as well as to help advance vision science through significant and bold research efforts.

In spite of the challenging

economic environment in which it was implemented, *A Shared Vision* was an unmitigated success. Using it as a blueprint, the College community worked hard over the last five years to produce meaningful progress in reforming the curriculum, expanding vision care to our community and strengthening the institution's intellectual impact through research activities.





On July 1, 2013, the SUNY College of Optometry officially began its next strategic plan. With its tagline “Creating a Legacy of Leadership,” the plan is designed to reach a series of 11 ambitious goals over the next five years:

● **GOAL 1**

Deliver a customizable professional degree program that ensures active, integrated learning while preparing students for problem-oriented patient care

● **GOAL 2**

Deliver competency-based clinical training that is founded upon evidence-based practice and anticipates future practice trends

● **GOAL 3**

Enhance the College’s intellectual impact by developing new areas of research that are synergistic with the College’s existing research and clinical strengths and provide opportunities for collaborations and translational projects

● **GOAL 4**

Strengthen and expand programs that train clinician scientists

● **GOAL 5**

Make the University Eye Center (UEC) more accessible to the public

● **GOAL 6**

Increase UEC patient visits and develop new revenue streams while providing the highest quality patient care within the context of the Affordable Care Act of 2010

● **GOAL 7**

Strengthen workforce engagement

● **GOAL 8**

Create a vibrant sense of community that promotes student and alumni engagement, academic success and the development of personal and professional competencies

● **GOAL 9**

Enroll a highly qualified and diverse student body

● **GOAL 10**

Provide students, residents and alumni with the services to succeed in their careers

● **GOAL 11**

Assure the College’s programs and strategic goals are achieved through ongoing, responsible, effective long-term financial planning, resource allocation and infrastructure development

For more information about the strategic plan visit [www.sunyopt.edu/2013\\_strategic\\_plan/](http://www.sunyopt.edu/2013_strategic_plan/) or scan here



# EDUCATION

GIVEN THE CONSTANTLY EVOLVING LANDSCAPE of health care delivery in the United States, our goal is to offer those students and residents who pass through our doors the most innovative, customizable and up-to-date education that they can find. We continue to work hard to provide pre-clinical and clinical training that is evidence-based and that anticipates future practice trends.

The College has been on a path of rational enrollment growth for several years with the goal of expanding our OD program to 100 students per class by next year. Through our academic and residency programs we're looking to meet the future health care needs of New York State and our surrounding community.



## GOAL:

We will develop a diverse community of quality practitioners—the next generation of health care leaders—by providing the most progressive and adaptive education available.



## OD/MBA Certificate Program Launched

LAST SPRING the College entered into a unique agreement with SUNY Empire State College to jointly offer an **Advanced Graduate Certificate in Optometry Business Management**. The 18-credit, six-course certificate, which can largely be done through online courses, will be fully applicable to the MBA program offered through SUNY Empire State College's School for Graduate Studies. This program is currently the only one of its kind among

schools and colleges of optometry.

"It is clear that there is a growing demand from incoming students for a business education that will complement the clinical education that they receive here," President Heath said in a statement announcing the agreement. "The timeliness of such a program is even more fortuitous given the acceleration of health care reform and what that will mean in terms of the practical application of optometry."



President Heath with Empire State's Acting President Meg Benke (left) and SUNY Chancellor Nancy L. Zimpher.







## Center for Student Life and Learning Provides a Vastly Upgraded Campus Environment

AFTER MORE THAN FIVE YEARS of planning and design—and two years of construction—the three-floor, 20,000 square-foot **Center for Student Life and Learning** officially opened its doors last

March. SUNY Chancellor Nancy L. Zimpher and Chairman of the SUNY Board of Trustees H. Carl McCall were on hand to help usher in a historic new era for students, faculty, staff and

alumni of the College.

The Center includes a large pre-clinical procedures laboratory that is designed to prepare students for the latest technological advances in optometry. Each station in the lab contains a digital refraction system and instruments that produce images of both the front and back of the eye that can be viewed in real-time at the exam station or stored for later use. In addition to the lab, the Center contains classroom and study space, as well as a large seminar room and lounge on the second floor of the College's Midtown Manhattan building. This dynamic new learning facility also includes the expansive third floor and the third floor mezzanine which contains spaces for individual and group study and gatherings, physical fitness and recreation.

Chancellor Zimpher noted at the opening event that the Center will not only serve the College well but that it also aligns perfectly with the "Power of SUNY," the university system's strategic plan, by helping to create a "vibrant community" within the institution.







## The College Offers a More Diverse Selection of Elective Courses

AS FUTURE HEALTH CARE PRACTITIONERS AND RESEARCHERS, and as the next generation of leaders in their fields, we recognize that our students need to know about more than just vision science. With this in mind, **we broadened our offering of course electives last year** in order to provide an even more diverse and comprehensive curriculum. From courses on nutrition and acupuncture to public health policy and foreign language, the College continues to show its commitment to providing the coursework that our students need and desire in order to succeed and excel in their careers.

### Division of Student Affairs and International Programs Committed to Student Success

THE DIVISION OF STUDENT AFFAIRS AND INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS (SAIP) partners with the academic and clinical divisions of the College to enhance community life, develop a range of personal and professional competencies and continually monitor and improve student satisfaction. Planning and implementing a wide variety of innovative programs and activities—such as the work of the Career Development Center and the EXPLORE initiative in Admissions, among others—SAIP works to drive the success of students at the College and after they begin their careers.

With the retirement of Dr. Michael Heiberger effective last July, the international programs division was realigned to be included within what is now called the Office of Student Affairs and International Programs under the direction of Vice President Jeffrey Philpott.

“This realignment will give the College the opportunity to consolidate resources, mobilize staff more efficiently and make International Programs more relevant to our current students while augmenting our admissions objectives to enroll a more diverse and international student community,” Dr. Philpott said.

### EXPLORE Aims to Educate and Excite

ONE OF OUR GOALS at the College is to continue to grow both the size and the diversity of our student body. And since personal experience is what often drives students to get excited about any profession, SAIP recently **launched the EXPLORE initiative** as a way to offer a wide range of prospective students the opportunity to experience what the profession of optometry has to offer. The initiative includes a bi-annual open house at the College and UEC for prospective students, on-site CSTEP internship programs, individualized counseling sessions for prospective students, online and social media outreach as well as targeted outreach to undergraduate career counselors.



## Career Development Center Hits the Ground Running

STUDENTS AND RESIDENTS come to the College for more than just an outstanding education; they come here to build a successful, fruitful and satisfying career. To this end, SAIP has initiated a series of activities focused on enhancing career development. Established last year, the **Career Development Center (CDC)** was created to help students, residents and alumni achieve their professional goals through pragmatic programming and individualized assistance. During its short time in operation, the CDC has built strong relationships and introduced two key programs:

### Career Symposium

Last February hundreds of students, residents and alumni attended the CDC-sponsored **Second Annual Career Symposium** at the College. Working alongside corporate and organizational partners, the day's sessions were acutely focused on the most up-to-date developments and trends in the optometric community and designed to provide those in attendance with the practical knowledge they need to succeed in their profession.

"This annual symposium is our way of demonstrating how committed we are to helping our students, residents and alumni become successful in their careers," said Mr. Francisco Lucio, director of career development and minority enrichment at the College.

### SUNY Family of Mentors Program

The **SUNY Family of Mentors Program** is designed to enhance students' and residents' personal, academic and career development, and to expand professional networks for alumni and members of the College community. This online program capitalizes on the vast network of SUNY alumni, as well as vital professional organizations and corporate partners. The most talented individuals will be recruited to serve as mentors for members of the College's student body, helping them reach their full professional potential.

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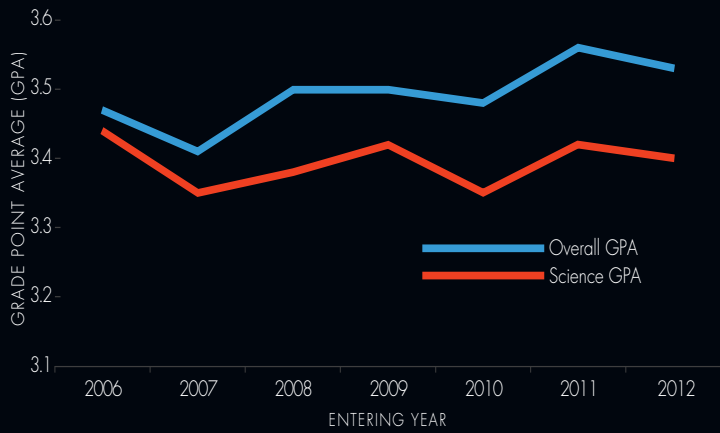
## Free Summer Academic Program for College Undergraduates

SINCE ITS CREATION by the New York State Legislature in 1986, the Collegiate Science and Technology Entry Program (CSTEP) has strived to increase the number of historically underrepresented minority students in scientific, technical and health-related professions. One of the ways that the College has shown its commitment to this important initiative is through a distinctive, free summer academic program developed by the Office of Student Affairs and International Programs through close collaboration with the faculty called "**Introduction to Vision and Optometry.**" This eight-week course, taught by faculty members, provides undergraduate students with an introduction to basic ocular anatomy and physiology, visual perception and visual neuroscience. Students also have the opportunity to learn about and observe clinical practice at the University Eye Center.

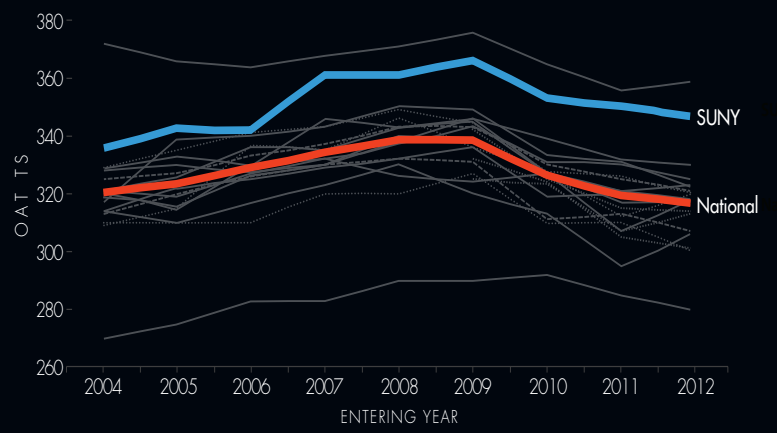
In addition to gaining an understanding of the profession of optometry, students also earn credits that they can transfer back to their undergraduate institutions. Due to the prerequisite knowledge that they receive through this one-of-a-kind program, those who attend will gain a competitive advantage if they choose to apply for admission to the College in the future. Thirty-two undergraduate students participated in the 2013 CSTEP summer program.



Entering GPA and Science GPA

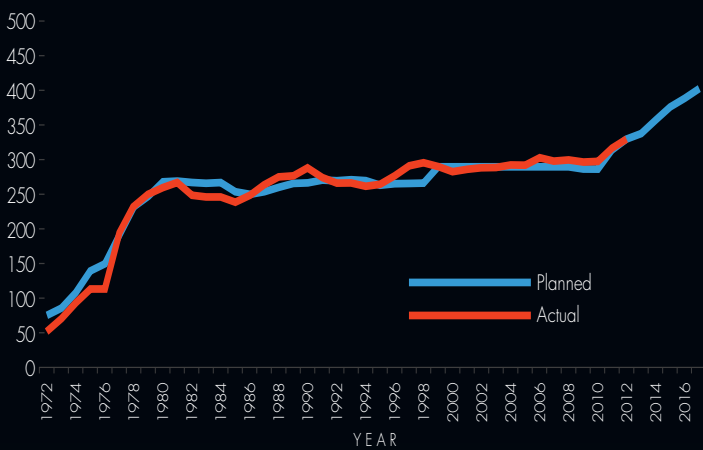


Entering OAT Total Science Scores by School Per Year\*

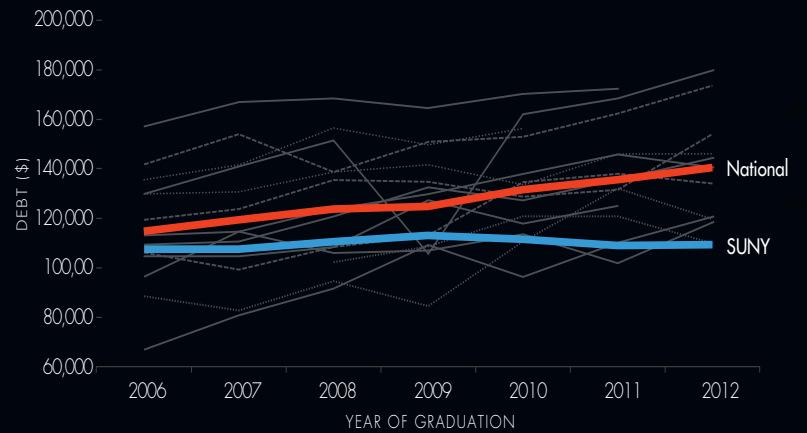


\* Each thin line represents a school or college of optometry.

Historic Enrollment (Professional and Graduate Programs)



Optometry School Indebtedness of Students Who Took Out Loans by School\*



\* Each thin line represents a school or college of optometry.

FOURTH YEAR OD STUDENTS Quy Nguyen and Julia Canestraro with SUNY alumnus and faculty member Dr. Andre Stanberry (right) on a **Student Volunteer Optometric Services to Humanity** trip to a refugee camp in Rwanda last January.





Commencement speaker Dr. Melvin Shipp

THE SUNY CHANCELLOR'S AWARD FOR STUDENT EXCELLENCE was awarded to Antonio Chirumbolo and Irene A. Tran of the Class of 2013. Additional academic and clinical awards, service awards and professional distinction awards were also handed out during a ceremony prior to commencement last June at the College's Center for Student Life and Learning.

## College Community Celebrates Student Achievement at 39th Commencement

IN JUNE THE COLLEGE conducted its 39th commencement exercises at the historic Hudson Theatre in Midtown Manhattan. **Seventy-five graduates from the Class of 2013 received their degrees** during the event.

The commencement address was given by Dr. Melvin Shipp, dean of The Ohio State University College of Optometry. Dr. Shipp, who in 2011 became the first optometrist to lead the American Public Health Association, the world's oldest, largest and most diverse organization of public health professionals, reminded

the graduates about the debt that they owe—to family, loved ones, peers and others—for their success and urged the new doctors to continuously work to pay this debt back through their actions.

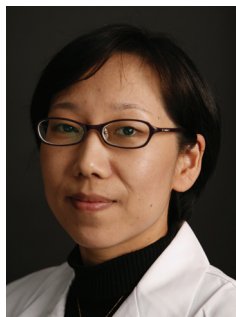
"Your new status brings with it the responsibility for not only protecting the health and welfare of others, but also enabling those less fortunate than yourself," Dr. Shipp told the graduates. "Involve yourself in organizations that promote and advance your profession, but also, and perhaps more importantly, the less fortunate in your community."

During the commencement ceremony, alumna Dr. Susan Fisher, president of the New York State Optometric Association (NYSOA), awarded College Council member Dr. Frank Pirozzolo the NYSOA's "Optometrist of the Year" award and his son, alumnus Dr. Raymond Pirozzolo the NYSOA's "Young Optometrist of the Year" award. In addition, Dr. Julia Appel, president of SUNY Optometry's Alumni Association, announced that 1989 graduate Dr. Jillia E. Bird (see profile on page 27) has been awarded the honor of "Alumna of the Year."

### Harold Kohn Library

MS. ELAINE WELLS, Director of the College's Harold Kohn Library, became a **Distinguished Level member of the Academy of Health Information Professionals (AHIP)**. The AHIP is the Medical Library Association's peer-reviewed professional development and career recognition credentialing program. It provides a structure for individualized professional development for all health information professionals and promotes lifelong learning and exemplary professional performance through the recognition of achievements in continuing education, teaching, publishing, research and other contributions to the profession.

### Faculty Member Earns Chancellor's Award for Excellence



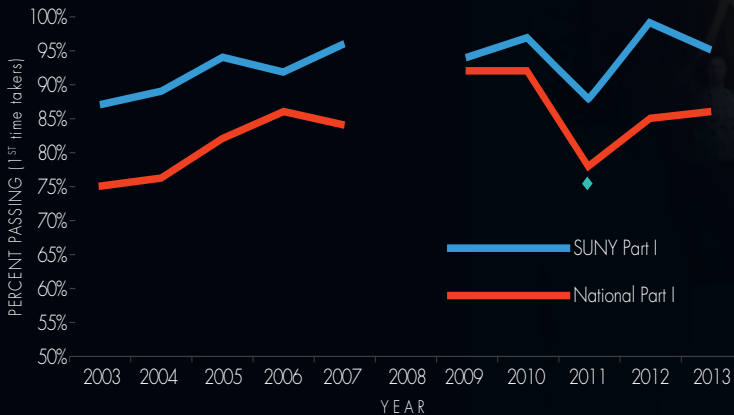
DR. ANDREA YANG was presented with the **Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching** by President Heath at a recognition ceremony for the College's scholars in June. A total of 312 faculty members from throughout the 64 SUNY campuses received the prestigious annual award.

"SUNY employs an exemplary body of faculty and staff across the state and the annual presentation of these awards underscores our deep appreciation for those who serve SUNY campuses, students and communities with the highest levels of distinction," said Chancellor Zimpher in a statement.



NATIONAL BOARD OF EXAMINERS IN OPTOMETRY (NBE) SCORES OF ENROLLED STUDENTS

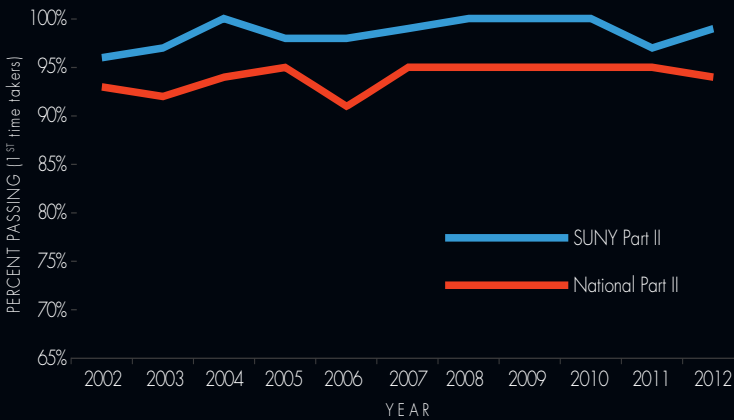
NEBO Part I (Applied Basic Sciences)\*



\* Through 2007, Part I was named "Basic Sciences." In 2009 it was restructured and renamed "Applied Basic Sciences." It was not given to first time takers in 2008.

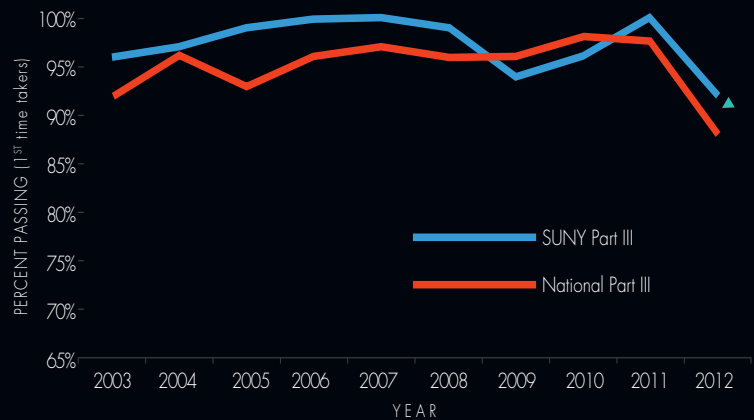
◆ In 2011, for the first time, questions items with multiple correct answers were included in the examination.

NBEO Part II (Patient Assessment and Management)\*



\* This section was restructured and renamed "Patient Assessment and Management (PAM)" in 2009. (It was formerly called "Clinical Sciences.")

NBEO Part III (Clinical Skills)\*



\* Through 2009, Part III was named "Patient Care." In 2010 it was restructured and renamed "Clinical Skills."

▲ In 2012, for the first time, all candidates were required to take Part III at the NBE national headquarters in Charlotte, NC.

AN HONORARY DOCTOR OF SCIENCE DEGREE was awarded by SUNY at the commencement ceremony to **Dr. Jia Qu, professor and president of the Wenzhou Medical University (WMU)** in Wenzhou, China. During his remarks Dr. Qu, who has led WMU for the past quarter century, noted the significant progress that optometry has made in China in recent years, a development that he attributed, in part, to the cooperation between institutions like WMU and SUNY Optometry. In 2008 the College established the Center of Excellence in Low Vision and Vision Rehabilitation at WMU and has maintained a strong relationship with the institution in recent years.



# PATIENT CARE

THE UNIVERSITY EYE CENTER HAS BEEN A VITAL RESOURCE to the New York City region for decades, providing cutting-edge eye and vision care to an expanding patient base within our community and beyond. Last October, when our region was struck by Hurricane Sandy, the resulting week-long loss of utility service in our neighborhood had a major impact on our ability to communicate with our patients. Yet despite this enormous challenge, the UEC rebounded successfully. Over the course of the year, we focused on streamlining our delivery of care in order to prepare for the implementation of the groundbreaking Affordable Care Act and provide the best experience for our patients as well as the doctors, residents and student interns who treat them.



## GOAL :

We will deliver effective and  
compassionate eye and vision care in an  
innovative and accessible way.



## Caring for Our Community

PROVIDING SERVICE to diverse communities is one of our institution's core values and it is something that we take very seriously. The UEC has steadily increased the number of screenings and outreach programs that it engages in each year, allowing our doctors and students to see thousands of often underserved and homebound

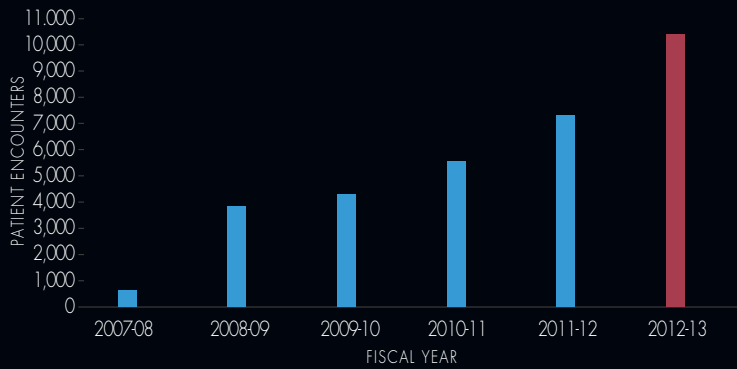
patients—at no cost to them—who might not otherwise have the access or means to receive high-quality eye and vision care.

Last year the UEC made more than 200 visits to homebound patients, provided vision screenings to over 3,600 people and had over 1,100 participants at various educational lectures and community events.

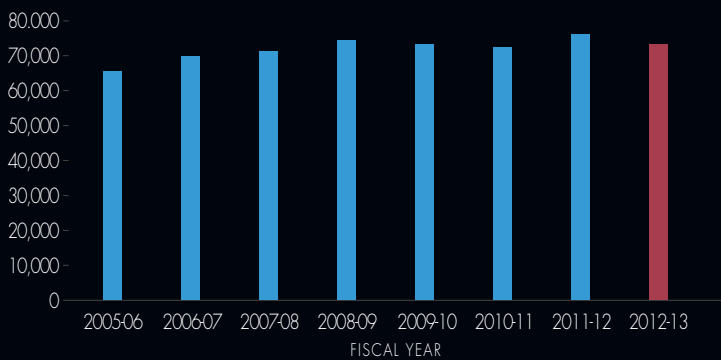




## Referral Center



## UEC Total Patient Encounters by Year



## Referrals

THE UEC REFERRAL SERVICE was established in 2009 as a way to partner with a variety of health care providers to offer specialty services and advanced testing for their patients. Over the last several years the Referral Service has provided a consistently steady stream of patient referrals to the UEC.



## Acknowledging a Legacy

WITH HEALTH CARE REFORM UPON US, our institution fully recognizes the transformational moment that we are now in as health care providers. The delivery of health care in the United States is about to undergo its most monumental change in at least half a century, and in an effort to appropriately plan for the implementation of the Affordable Care Act, we have engaged in a crucial, zero-based resource assessment process designed to fully analyze our clinical operational needs and help us plan for our future. Our goal was to optimize and streamline our staffing in a way that would allow us to carry out our mission in the most efficient and cost-effective way, while still providing uncompromised care for our patients.

As a result of this essential process, a number of dedicated and long-serving, part-time faculty members either retired or otherwise separated from the institution. However, the service that these committed doctors provided to their patients and students, and the role that they played in helping our institution get to where it is today, has not been forgotten. Each of these individuals gave an enormous amount of effort over many years of collective service and we wish to recognize these doctors for what they have contributed to help make us what we have become: Amy Bartelone, Victoria Bulbin, Robert Byne, Brian Cho, Adam Deutscher, Helen Duan, Neil Falasca, Ken Landesman, Maria Miranda, Rudy Rodriguez, Stuart Rothman, Yulila Roytman, Kim Staiman, Terry Scheid, Steve Shaby, Joel Warshowsky, Michael Yellen, Alla Zlotina.







## Leading the Way in Pediatric Vision Care

FOR MUCH OF THE LAST DECADE, INFANTSEE, a public health program managed by Optometry Cares, the philanthropic arm of the American Optometric Association, has worked tirelessly to help make eye and vision care an essential part of infant wellness. Through the program, participating optometrists provide a no-cost, comprehensive assessment to any infant between 6 and 12 months. According to Dr. Ida Chung, section chief of the pediatric unit at the UEC and one of the organizers of a series of events that was held at the College last April designed to promote the program, the UEC has been a strong partner in the InfantSEE program since its inception in 2005.

Dr. Richard Soden, executive director of the UEC, estimates that about one million children have been examined at the clinic during its decades of service to the community. Pediatric services are a major component of the care that is regularly provided at the UEC today.



## Patient Success Story

### Moise Balan

MR. MOISE BALAN was born in one of the Auschwitz concentration camps during the Second World War where, as a young child, he lost the sight in his right eye. In the 1980s he emigrated as a political refugee from Romania to New York. As he got older, Mr. Balan developed dry macular degeneration and the sight in his left eye began to fade.

When he first came to the UEC as a patient of Dr. Rebecca Marinoff in the Low Vision Service about two years ago, Mr. Balan was extremely frustrated by his increased struggles to read and view a computer screen due to his condition. **Dr. Marinoff worked closely with Mr. Balan, utilizing various rehabilitative techniques to assist him with his reading.** Soon they began working with a closed-circuit television device that Mr. Balan could use to greatly improve the readability of books, newspapers and computer screens.

With his much-improved ability to read, Mr. Balan now hopes to be able work on a long-planned book project.

To watch a video about Mr. Balan's story and find out more about how the UEC has helped members of our community, visit <http://youtu.be/BzwEeMwP6x4> or scan here:



# RESEARCH

RESEARCH IS A HALLMARK OF ANY TOP EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION and at the College we're not only looking to conduct important, groundbreaking vision-related research, we're also working hard to develop the next generation of great researchers. Our exceptional faculty have produced some exciting results over the past year as we've redoubled our efforts to become a leading and vital research institution.



## GOAL:

We will create the next generation of researchers and continue to be a global leader in vision science and clinical vision research.



## Clinical Vision Research Center

LAST FEBRUARY the Clinical Vision Research Center (CVRC) officially opened its doors. The CVRC's mission is to provide a dynamic, patient-based research environment where advanced treatments can be rapidly tested and applied to enhance patient care. The CVRC partners with industry, government and foundations to help fund its research and shape

future practice. The CVRC, under the direction of Dr. Kathryn Richdale and through the efforts of its core research team, is responsible for securing, initiating and overseeing clinical research within the College and making certain that studies are implemented and executed according to current research guidelines. The CVRC also takes a leading role in

mentoring faculty, students and staff who are interested in conducting clinical research.

**"Nowhere do the missions of our institution—education, research and patient care—come together so clearly than at the CVRC,"** Dr. David Troilo, SUNY Optometry's vice president and dean for academic affairs, said during the opening reception.

THE CVRC HAS enrolled over 175 patients in clinical vision research studies since it opened in February; Dr. Alexandra Benavente-Perez, Dr. Ida Chung, Dr. Erica Schulman-Ellis and Dr. Marilyn Vricella have all dedicated specific days to work within the CVRC. The CVRC has helped facilitate the submission of an NEI grant, an FDA grant, and seven investigator-initiated industry projects submitted for potential funding. In addition, there has been industry collaboration for studies on dry eye syndrome, adult and pediatric contact lens wear and computer vision syndrome.





## Professor Receives Support for Major Research Project



DR. ALEXANDRA BENAVENTE-PEREZ, assistant clinical professor at the College and an investigator in the Clinical Vision Research Center, **was awarded a \$1.6 million, five-year research grant supported by funding from Johnson & Johnson Vision Care, Inc. (JJVCI).** Dr. Benavente-Perez is doing experimental research on contact lens designs for myopia control.

“We are very excited to be collaborating with SUNY on this project,” said Dr. Noel Brennan, emerging technologies platform lead for myopia control at JJVCI. “This research group is held in the highest esteem and we look forward to seeing this research contribute to our history of groundbreaking new products.”

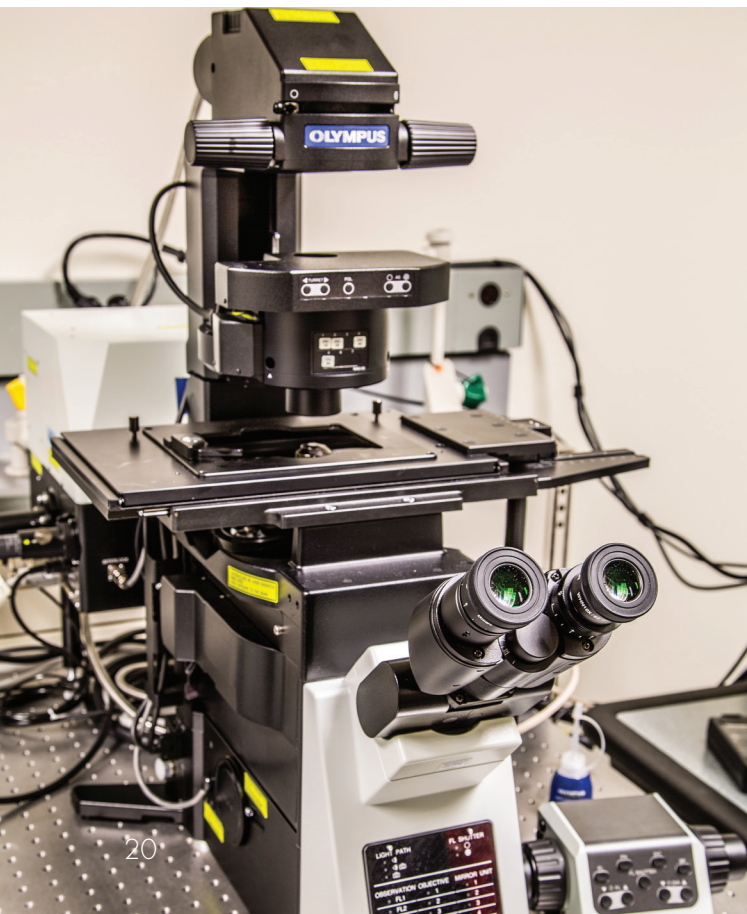
Dr. Troilo, who will oversee and consult on the project, adds that “SUNY Optometry is pleased to be partnering with JJVCI on this important project. We are happy to be a part of their concerted efforts to reduce myopia and control its progression around the world.”

## Renovations on a Dynamic New Lab Are Completed

THE FIRST TWO PHASES of a three-phase, **\$1.86 million renovation and upgrade** have been completed on the research laboratories and facilities on the 16th and 17th floors of the College’s building, a project that will vastly improve the facilities and space

available for research activities at SUNY. Phase I included a conversion of a 1,500-square-foot laboratory space into two labs featuring easily adaptable lab furniture systems and utility connections that allow for floor plan revisions to be adjusted based on specific research

needs. Perhaps most exciting, however, is the new shared confocal and multi-photon microscope facility that will allow even more collaborative research. Phase II of the project consisted of renovations and an expansion of existing research facilities and faculty offices.





# Schnurmacher Institute for Vision Research

THE SCHNURMACHER INSTITUTE FOR VISION RESEARCH (SIVR) was founded two decades ago in response to the growing need for scientific knowledge about the visual system and methods of improving visual function. It was named in 1984 to honor the generosity of Adolph and Ruth Schnurmacher through an institutional endowment.

Among other activities, the SIVR supports innovative and collaborative basic and clinical research projects. It also coordinates a **dynamic colloquium series that hosts respected researchers—doing both basic and clinical work—from across the globe.** The following individuals presented as part of the SIVR Colloquium last year:

Dr. David Berntsen  
University Of Houston College of Optometry

Dr. Rowan Candy  
Indiana University School of Optometry

Dr. Nicole Carnt  
Moorfields Eye Hospital

Dr. Robin Chalmers  
Independent clinical trials consultant

Dr. Bevil Conway  
Wellesley University

Dr. Steven DeVries  
Northwestern University

Dr. Alan Freeman  
The University of Sydney

Dr. Robert Hess  
McGill University, Canada

Dr. Greg Horwitz  
University of Washington

Dr. Elizabeth Johnson  
Duke University

Dr. Timo Van Kerkoerle  
The Netherlands Institute for Neuroscience

Dr. Alfredo Kirkwood  
Johns Hopkins University

Dr. Barry Lee  
SUNY College of Optometry

Dr. Wendy Marsh-Tootle  
University of Alabama-Birmingham School of Optometry

Dr. Marcus Missal  
L'Université Catholique de Louvain

Dr. Thomas Serre  
Brown University

Dr. Jerry Sherman  
SUNY College of Optometry

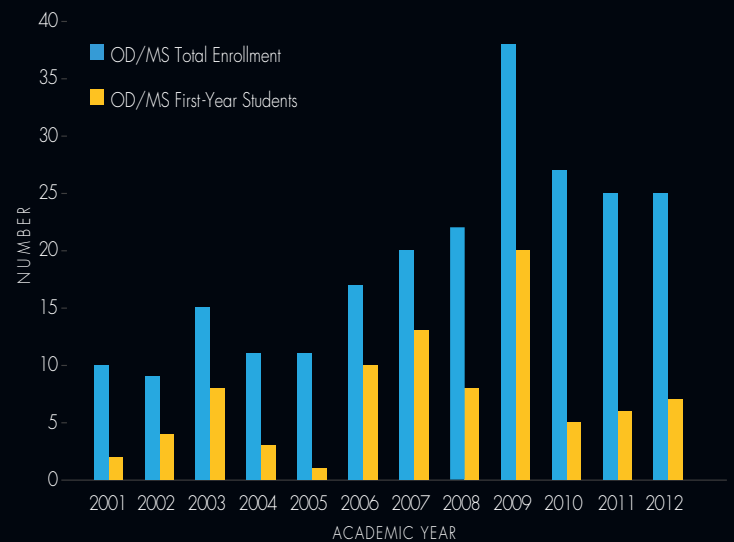
Dr. Preethi Thiagarajan  
SUNY College of Optometry

Dr. Austin Roorda  
University of California, Berkeley, School of Optometry

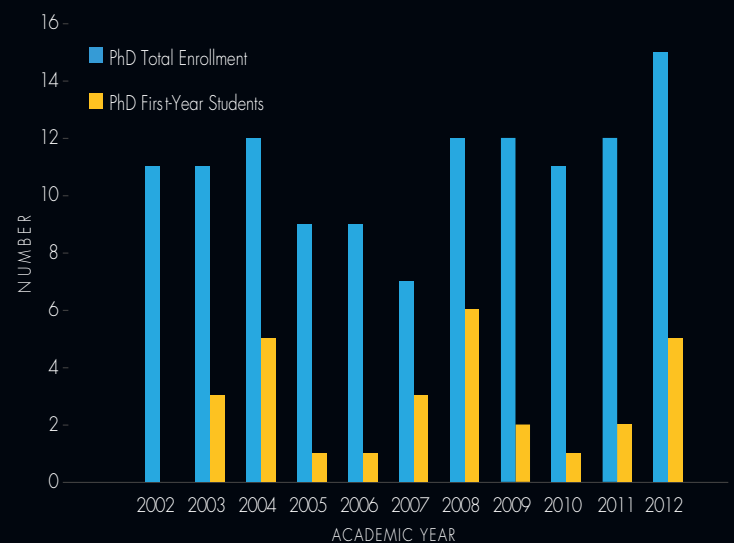
Dr. Mark Wexler  
University of Sussex, UK, School of Psychology

Dr. Christoph Witzel  
University of Sussex, UK, School of Psychology

First-Year and Total OD/MS Enrollment



First-Year and Total PhD Enrollment



## RESEARCH BY THE NUMBERS

40

Grants

47

Academic Papers Published

\$3.1

million

Research Funding

## Dean Yager Memorial Award

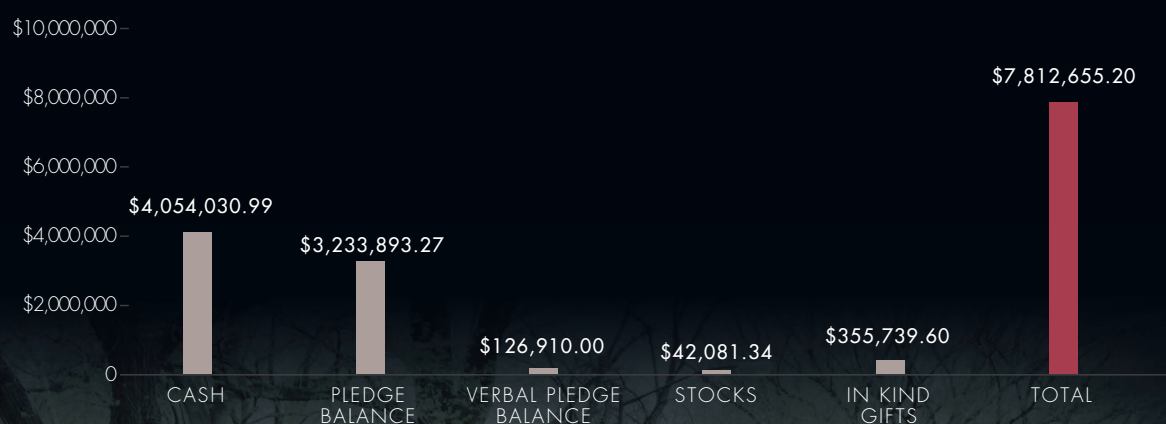
PHD STUDENT REZA LASHGARI, working under the direction of faculty advisor Dr. Jose-Manuel Alonso, **received the 2013 Dr. Dean Yager Memorial Award.** The award has been given annually since 2009 to the best published research paper by a graduate student at the College.

# GIVING

THE OPTOMETRIC CENTER OF NEW YORK (OCNY) is the philanthropic wing of the State University of New York College of Optometry. Since its founding in 1956, the OCNY has stood as a shining example of what cooperation among visionary community leaders in education, business and philanthropy can accomplish.

The OCNY has entered into the final year of its \$10 million *Vision and the Promise* campaign as it works hard to help fund the College's vital education, patient care and research activities.

Total Amount Raised for the Vision and the Promise | September 14, 2009—July 25, 2013





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## Trust and Estates Committee is Making an Impact

THE OCNY'S recently established **Trust and Estates Advisory Committee** has proven to be an **energizing and highly beneficial force for the Foundation and the College**. Under the leadership of OCNY Trustee Hal Wilshinsky and Charles Cangro of Ernst and Young, the Committee has helped to organize a series of events and programs that have raised the profile of the Foundation, as well as the College, the UEC and the work that they both do in the community.

Last January, Mr. Michael Mariani (see profile below), managing director and deputy general trust counsel at Fiduciary Trust Company International and a particularly active member of the new committee, helped organize a unique event as a way of introducing dozens of new friends to the Foundation. The event included a private tour of the New York Public Library's "Katharine Hepburn: Dressed for Stage and Screen" exhibit.

In 2012 the Committee hosted a viewing of an art exhibit prior to its auction at Sotheby's. This spring the committee will host a similar viewing of an impressionist art collection before it heads to auction at Bonhams.

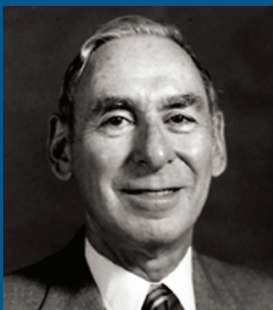
But the Trust and Estates Committee is doing even more than raising the profile of the Foundation, the College and the UEC. Its highly established members are offering their considerable experience to students and alumni on important issues related to financial planning, estate planning, contracts and business agreements, among other things.



Michael Mariani  
*Managing Director and  
Deputy General Trust Counsel*  
**Fiduciary Trust  
Company International**

PRIOR TO JOINING Fiduciary Trust in 1997, Mr. Mariani was in private practice for more than 16 years. An adjunct professor at St. John's University School of Law, Mr. Mariani is a member of the New York State Bar Association, Section on Trusts and Estates, a member of the American Bar Association, Section on Real Property, Probate and Trust Law, and a member of the Surrogates' Law Association. Mr. Mariani is also a member of the Professional Advisors Council of Calvary Hospital and the American Heart Association. He co-chairs annual estate planning conferences sponsored by these organizations.

Mr. Mariani is a guest lecturer at the National Graduate Trust School sponsored by the American Bankers Association, the New York University School of Continuing and Professional Studies, Summer Institute in Taxation, and at the Trust & Estate Administration School sponsored by the New York Bankers Association. He is also the co-author of a three volume practice manual entitled "New York Probate" published by Thomson Reuters. A graduate of Wilkes College, Mr. Mariani earned a JD from St. John's University School of Law and an LLM from New York University School of Law.



Dr. Harold A. Solan

## Endowed Scholarship Established for Dr. Harold A. Solan

THANKS TO THE GENEROSITY of the family, friends and colleagues of Dr. Harold A. Solan, a new endowed scholarship has been established in his memory at the College.

With gifts exceeding \$25,000—including a large gift from the Solan family—the inaugural **Dr. Harold A. Solan Memorial Scholarship will be awarded by the OCNY to a third-year student beginning this fall**. The scholarship will focus on students who have a financial need and demonstrate proficiency and compassion in working with children, as well as a strong desire to practice pediatric optometry after graduation.

Dr. Solan, who passed away in 2012 at the age of 90, was "a giant in optometry," according to

(continued on the next page)

his long-time friend and fellow Distinguished Service Professor Emeritus at SUNY, Dr. Irwin Suchoff. "His research brought functional/development vision to the level it is today."

During Dr. Solan's long and productive career he helped to identify functional vision as an important but generally unrecognized factor in academic performance and encouraged vision therapy as an effective means of correcting such functional vision problems.

Joining the SUNY College of Optometry faculty in the 1980s, Dr. Solan was the director of the College's Learning Disabilities Unit for 11 years beginning in 1981. He formally joined SUNY's research program in 1988, allowing him to turn his attention nearly full time to studying developmental vision and spreading the word about vision therapy to both eye care practitioners and educators. Dr. Solan continued to conduct research and education programs on developmental vision until well after his official retirement.

Dr. Solan was inducted into the National Optometry Hall of Fame in 2003. He was a fellow of the American Academy of Optometry and College of Optometrists in Vision Development as well as a life member of the American Optometric Association.

"My father devoted much of his life studying the relationship between the eye and brain in order to help children overcome difficulties in learning," his son Mr. Lawrence Solan said in a statement about the new scholarship. "Our family is proud to initiate this scholarship as a way of providing some assistance to optometric students who show a similar commitment."

For more information, or to make a contribution to the Solan Memorial Scholarship fund, contact Ms. Ann Warwick, executive director of the Optometric Center of New York at 212.938.5600 or [awarwick@sunyo.edu](mailto:awarwick@sunyo.edu).



## Bowery Project Receives Broad Support

THE OCNY RECEIVED a series of grants last spring to assist in establishing a unique partnership between the College and the Bowery Mission in New York City that will help to provide high-quality vision care for many of the city's homeless population.

**The Lydia Collins deForest Charitable Trust, The Chatlos Foundation, the Ethel Kennedy Foundation, the Hyde and Watson Foundation and the Tides Foundation** have each provided valuable funding in recent months—totaling \$30,000 in support—to help build on an existing, volunteer collaboration between faculty and students at the College and the Bowery Mission, an organization that serves thousands of homeless New Yorkers each

year. For several years student volunteers from the College, coordinated through the Fellowship of Christian Optometrists and supported by the organization Hope for New York, made semi-regular trips to the Bowery Mission in lower Manhattan to provide eye exams and other services, including dispensing eyeglasses free of charge to people served by the Mission. These vital services often help those at the Mission—thanks to improved eyesight—pursue job training or computer classes that will put them on a path toward recovery and steady, gainful employment. In addition, some patients at the Mission are found to suffer from a variety of serious, sight-threatening conditions such as glaucoma or macular degeneration. Once the team from SUNY detects these diseases,

the patients are usually able to obtain appropriate treatment for their conditions.

The OCNY has been actively seeking support to help the volunteer project grow into a formalized program that will now include regular student rotations at the Mission as well as provide equipment and other assistance.

"We're very grateful for the recent support that we've received to help develop what we expect will become an important program for the College," said Dr. Richard Soden, SUNY's vice president for clinical affairs. "Part of our mission as an institution is to help care for our community and to instill a spirit of community involvement in our students and this program will help us do both of those things."



# Optometric Center of New York Has its Most Successful 'Eyes on New York' Gala Ever

THE 10TH ANNUAL 'Eyes on New York' Gala last March at Cipriani 42nd Street in Midtown Manhattan was **OCNY'S largest gathering in its decade-long history of hosting the marquee fundraiser.**

Honorees, Mr. John Carrier, President and CEO of Essilor of America, and Mr. Jim Murphy, vice president and general manager of US Vision Care at Alcon Laboratories, elicited a particularly strong

presence from the ophthalmic community which had descended on New York for the annual Vision Expo East, an international meeting and exposition.

Both honorees focused their remarks on the ophthalmic industry's ultimately altruistic purpose. "We have so much more opportunity to help people," Carrier said during his acceptance speech, noting that everyone in the room that evening plays some unique role in

helping to achieve that goal.

Mr. Richard Feinbloom, the president of the OCNY, offered his gratitude to his fellow trustees as well as members of the greater ophthalmic community in attendance. In addition, he also thanked the faculty, staff and doctors at the College and the UEC for their hard work caring for the community and helping to educate the next generation of vision health professionals.



Mr. David Plogmann (left) with honoree Mr. Jim Murphy (center) and President Heath



Mr. Marc Ferrara (left) with honoree Mr. John Carrier (center) and OCNY President Mr. Richard Feinbloom



Dr. Ronald Hopping (left) with Dr. Dori Carlson (center) and Dr. Joe Ellis at the gala





# ALUMNI

THE SUNY COLLEGE OF OPTOMETRY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION was established 40 years ago and represents close to 2,500 graduates of our degree and residency programs. The goal of the Alumni Association is to create a lifelong personal and professional connection to the SUNY College of Optometry and a sense of community for our alumni that will help them continue to learn and grow throughout their career and beyond.

## Envision New York

ENVISION NEW YORK is part of the College's Alumni Weekend. It is also the signature program of our Continuing and Professional Education department, offering more than 40 hours of COPE

and CE Broker approved continuing education credits over the course of the weekend.

Last October the College hosted the 11th annual Envision New York event with

over 450 people from 22 states and two countries in attendance. The event also served as an opportunity to introduce our alumni to the College's dynamic new Center for Student Life and Learning.





## Alumni Spotlights

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**DR. JILLIA BIRD (CLASS OF '89)** of the Caribbean island of Antigua was named the 2013 Alumna of the Year by the SUNY College of Optometry Alumni Board. Extremely active in the Caribbean's glaucoma awareness movement, Dr. Bird was also named president of the World Glaucoma Patient Association earlier this year and she received the World Council of Optometry's International Optometrist of the Year award last April in Malaga, Spain. She is also a board member of The Glaucoma Foundation in New York and Caribbean coordinator for the World Glaucoma Week Committee.

Upon graduating from the College in 1989, Dr. Bird spent two years working with SUNY Stony Brook and later with the Barbados Eye Study in Bridgetown, Barbados, the largest glaucoma study ever conducted in a black population which identified more people with open angle glaucoma than any previous population study. Dr. Bird then began a private practice back in Antigua.

In 2007, Dr. Bird founded the Antigua and Barbuda Glaucoma Support Group, a thriving patient support and advocacy group that successfully lobbied Antigua's government to recognize the public health threat that glaucoma poses to its predominantly African-origin population.

"I have made blindness prevention my life's work," Dr. Bird has said. "And I am indebted to the SUNY College of Optometry for starting me on this path and mentoring me along the way."



**DR. DAVID DAMARI (CLASS OF '88)**, was named dean of the Michigan College of Optometry at Ferris State University (MCO) last March. Dr. Damari had previously served as chair of the Department of Assessment and professor at Southern College of Optometry (SCO) in Memphis, TN. Since 1995, he has been a national consultant on visual disabilities. While at SCO he also received the President's Special Recognition Award.

Prior to joining SCO, Dr. Damari worked in private practice in New York and served as an assistant clinical professor at the College. He also completed a residency at the College in 1989.

"Dr. Damari has a passion for the profession of optometry and a keen awareness of the changes that will occur in health care and health care education over the next few decades," said Dr. Fritz Erickson, provost and vice president for Academic Affairs at MCO.

Dr. Damari has been president of the College of Optometrists in Vision Development and co-chair at the Summer Institute for Faculty Development for the Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry. As a student at SUNY, Dr. Damari earned the Fredrick W. Brock Memorial Award for Outstanding Performance in Vision Training.

# CONTRIBUTORS

July 1, 2012 – June 30, 2013

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# FINANCIALS

## Sources of Funds

YEAR	2011-12	2012-13
State Appropriation – Core Budget	\$9,812,291	\$9,822,291
Appropriation Based on Tuition, Fees	\$6,162,440	\$7,500,816
Appropriation Based on Clinic Pledge, Pooled Offset	\$2,945,560	\$3,043,784
Campus Generated Revenues in Excess of State Appropriation	\$7,631,770	\$6,912,112
Research Foundation	\$3,381,262	\$3,173,941
From (To) Fund Balance Reserves	\$1,678,232	\$1,138,005
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$31,611,555</b>	<b>\$31,590,949</b>

## Expenditures

2012-13	PAYROLL (REGULAR)	PAYROLL (TEMP)	OTHER THAN PAYROLL	TOTAL
State Core Budget	\$17,769,382	\$500,172	\$2,097,337	\$20,366,891
Campus Generated	\$4,152,069	\$189,000	\$2,932,345	\$7,273,414
Other – SUTRA			\$118,414	\$118,414
Research Foundation	\$2,172,664		\$1,659,566	\$3,832,230
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$24,094,115</b>	<b>\$689,172</b>	<b>\$6,807,662</b>	<b>\$31,590,949</b>

2011-12	PAYROLL (REGULAR)	PAYROLL (TEMP)	OTHER THAN PAYROLL	TOTAL
State Core Budget	\$16,588,898	\$560,569	\$1,770,824	\$18,920,291
Campus Generated	\$4,274,614	\$137,883	\$4,074,830	\$8,487,327
Other – SUTRA	\$900,000		\$612,740	\$1,512,740
Research Foundation				\$2,691,197
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$21,763,512</b>	<b>\$698,452</b>	<b>\$6,458,394</b>	<b>\$31,611,555</b>

## Research Foundation

SOURCES OF FUNDS	2012-13	EXPENDITURES	2012-13
Sponsored Programs – Direct	\$2,352,348	Sponsored Programs – Direct	\$2,352,348
Indirect Cost Recovery	\$821,594	Indirect Cost Recovery	\$1,479,882
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$3,173,942</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$3,832,230</b>

SOURCES OF FUNDS	2011-12	EXPENDITURES	2011-12
Sponsored Programs – Direct	\$2,416,375	Sponsored Programs – Direct	\$2,416,375
Indirect Cost Recovery	\$964,887	Indirect Cost Recovery	\$274,822
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$3,381,262</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$2,691,197</b>

The 2012-2013 financial information is as of August 16, 2013 and subject to change. 2012-2013 fiscal information may be updated through October 1, 2013, at which point, it will be available on the college website.



# SUNY COLLEGE OF OPTOMETRY LEADERSHIP

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## College Council (2012 – 2013)

The Council is appointed by the governor with one member elected by and from the student body of the SUNY College of Optometry. In accordance with statutes and policies established by the State University of New York Board of Trustees, this Council advises the president on the operations and affairs of SUNY Optometry. The members also serve an essential role in the selection of the College's president. They receive no compensation for their services.

Gretchen Stone (Chair)	Paul R. Edelman, OD	James R. Ruhl, PhD
David J. Dexter, OD	Charles Gold, OD	Paula Ulmer Schutz, OD
David P. Dozack, OD	Frank J. Pirozzolo, OD	Rima Bakhru (Class of '15)

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## College Senior Administration (2012 – 2013 Academic Year)

David A. Heath, OD, EdM President	Richard Soden, OD Vice President for Clinical Affairs, Executive Director of the University Eye Center
David Bowers, MBA Vice President for Administration and Finance	David Troilo, PhD Vice President and Dean for Academic Affairs
Jeffrey Philpott, PhD Vice President for Student Affairs and International Programs	Ann Warwick, MA Vice President for Institutional Advancement

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## Optometric Center of New York Board of Trustees (2012 – 2013 Academic Year)

The work of the Optometric Center of New York has attracted a dedicated cadre of people who serve as its Board of Trustees. This group of men and women brings expertise in business, law, commerce, finance, real estate and philanthropy to their roles as caretakers of the Foundation's endowment and supporters of its mission. Trustees serve three-year terms and make an annual financial commitment to the OCNy.

Richard Feinbloom President	Barbara Saltzman Vice President	Ann Warwick Executive Director and Secretary
Adam J. Sheer Vice President	Harvey R. Kitay, Esq. Treasurer and Legal Counsel	Claudia C. Rouhana Immediate Past President

### Trustees:

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Thomas P. Farrell	Ronald Millman, OD	Harold M. Spielman
William C. Folsom, Jr., OD	Jan Rose	George Spiropoulos
Dennis P. Gehr	Barbara Saltzman	Harold Wilshinsky
David Heath, OD	Beryl L. Snyder	J. Stanley Yake, PhD
Kevin Kelly	Richard Soden, OD	

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## Executive Board of the Alumni Association (2012 – 2013 Academic Year)

The Executive Board of the Alumni Association is an active group of College alumni that meets quarterly during the academic year. They each serve two-year terms.

Julia J. Appel, OD '91 President	Joan K. Portello, OD '86 Immediate Past President	Denise M. Whittam, OD '91 Treasurer
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### Directors:

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Samar Awad, OD '92	Kevin D. Geiger, OD '92	Jonathan Wasserstein, OD '98
Lisa M. Galstian, OD '85	Vito Proscia, OD '91	Shandor Zelenger, OD '98

### Class Representatives:

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Diane Russo, OD, Class of 2010; Jaclyn Benzoni, OD, Class of 2009; Karen M. Perekalsky, OD, Class of 2006; Peter Bae, OD, Class of 2000; Michelle C. Blas, OD, Class of 2003; Lawrence D. Miller, OD, Class of 1991; Theresa Rostkowski, OD, Class of 1990; Renee L. Lee-Valenti, OD, Class of 1989; Anna Marie Fernandez, OD, Class of 1985; Keith M. Dworkin, OD, Class of 1984; Mark A. Gendal, OD, Class of 1980

