

# Alumniscope

WITH EXPERIENCE, COMES VISION



FOCUSING ON LOW VISION REHABILITATION



Southern California College of Optometry

# Optimizing Sight

*A team approach combines assessment, technology, training and community partners to make SCCO's Low Vision Rehabilitation Center unique in the nation.*

“Enhancing one’s remaining sight is what we do and we’re excited about the advances in technology and in our expanding services that help us provide the best patient care,” said Rebecca L. Kammer, O.D., ’99, associate professor and chief, Mary Ann Keverline Walls Low Vision Rehabilitation Center, Eye Care Center (ECC), Southern California College of Optometry (SCCO).

“Our goal is to help our patients, who present with a visual impairment or permanent vision loss to live happier, fuller — really more independent lives,” continued Dr. Kammer. “To do that we offer devices and services and take a team approach to helping a patient live daily either at home, at work or at school.

“As SCCO Alumni know, patients receive a thorough low vision evaluation with a customized rehabilitation plan to enable independent living. The Low Vision Center has become more robust in recent years with the addition of occupa-

tional therapy services, and technology assessments with our professional eye care staff to complete the overall evaluation and rehabilitation plan,” she said. “Another key component of the Low Vision Rehabilitation Center is the establishment of community partners, like the Braille Institute and the Dayle McIntosh Center, that provide extensive off-site services such as orientation and mobility, independent living classes, diabetic living education, emotional adjustment services and more. Together, the resulting rehabilitation model is unlike any other in the nation.”

Currently, ECC’s Low Vision Rehabilitation Center provides a model for teaching and increasing independence for people with sight-robbing vision problems such as diabetes, macular degeneration or glaucoma. After a full visual assessment, the patient’s rehabilitation plan will incorporate optical and non-optical devices, rehabilitation training and, a technology evaluation with adaptive devices in the Kathryn T. McCarty Adaptive Technology Center. Featured at the Technology Center are flat screen and portable video magnifiers, screen reading technology, adap-



Dr. Kammer explains to this patient, with a visual impairment, that his vision may qualify him for a restricted driver's license in California. The possibility for maintaining his license has brought him hope for independent living.



Intern Jennifer Kim, '10, provides instruction in the use of an illuminated stand magnifier.

## LOW VISION COUNCIL SERVES WITH PURPOSE

Providing access to eye care and specialized technologies for underserved low vision patients is the purpose of the Low Vision Council, a collaborative group of six community-based organizations. The group of Community Partners includes: Braille Institute of America, Blind Children's Learning Center, Dayle McIntosh Center, Recording for the Blind and Dyslexic, Foundation for Fighting Blindness and the Southern California College of Optometry.

The latest technologies for low vision patients are generally too expensive for many patients to purchase. If insurances or other rehabilitative funding sources are not available for assistance many patients are left unable to accomplish simple tasks like reading their mail or using a computer in their home or work environments. The Low Vision Council's fundraising efforts seek to break through these barriers. If you would like to help, send your contact information to: [lowvisioncouncil@scco.edu](mailto:lowvisioncouncil@scco.edu)



ECC Technology Consultant Wayne Heidle and Dr. Rebecca Kammer discuss the newest computer software that enlarges type and reads content to individuals with visual impairments. This equipment is demonstrated to patients in the Kathryn T. McCarty Adaptive Technology Center at the Eye Care Center, SCCO.

tive software, speech technology, scanners with OCR speech capability and more.

Video capture devices, such as the Zoom Ex, are utilized to help young students feel secure with their visual impairment by allowing a magnified view of both distance and near for classroom use through a tiny camera and laptop computer. Other portable video magnifiers allow seniors to check labels on groceries while shopping and to read documents without complicated equipment.

At the Center, patients are provided with extensive, much-needed training in the correct use of all prescribed sight-enhancing devices and technology. The low vision certified occupational therapist works with patients over three to six visits, in-office or in-home, to teach them how to most efficiently use their peripheral vision (eccentric viewing training) in combination with low vision devices or magnifying technology. The occupational therapist's ultimate goal is to enhance one's independence and improve one's quality of life. In-home patient visits also enable the therapist to modify the home environment to enhance safety and performance.

"In addition to the traditional low vision approach, rehabilitation also includes stroke rehabilitation specific to hemianopic vision loss," Dr. Kammer

notes. "Treatment is provided through a team approach with the low vision optometrist, the low vision certified occupational therapist, and a neuro-rehabilitation optometrist from our Vision Therapy Service creating a new model of care for the College's Eye Care Center. Prism glasses for enhancing peripheral field of view includes newer designs such as the EP lens or the Gottlieb lens. Evaluation and rehabilitation for complications, such as midline shift syndrome and visual neglect, are handled expertly.

"Overall, our team approach, combined with our community partners, ensures the best solutions for enhancing the remaining vision and improving the quality of life of each low vision patient," said Dr. Kammer.

### To refer patients, please contact:

Mary Ann Keverline Walls Low Vision  
 Rehabilitation Center  
 Kathryn T. McCarty Adaptive Technology Center  
 Eye Care Center  
 Southern California College of Optometry  
 714.992.7890  
[www.sccoeyecare.com/lowvision/index.html](http://www.sccoeyecare.com/lowvision/index.html)

Teaching an intern how to do a trial frame refraction on a patient who has macular degeneration is, Rebecca L. Kammer, O.D., '99, chief, Mary Ann Keverline Walls Low Vision Rehabilitation Center, Eye Care Center, SCCO.



## ENHANCING ONE'S REMAINING SIGHT

The Mary Ann Keverline Walls Low Vision Rehabilitation Center at the Eye Care Center, Southern California College of Optometry, is staffed with expert faculty optometrists, optometric interns, a low vision certified occupational therapist, and professional support staff. In the Center's Kathryn T. McCarty Adaptive Technology Center, low vision patients can become familiar with the latest innovations in adaptive technology and magnifying devices. Depending on a patient's visual goals and needs, care will include all or some of the following:

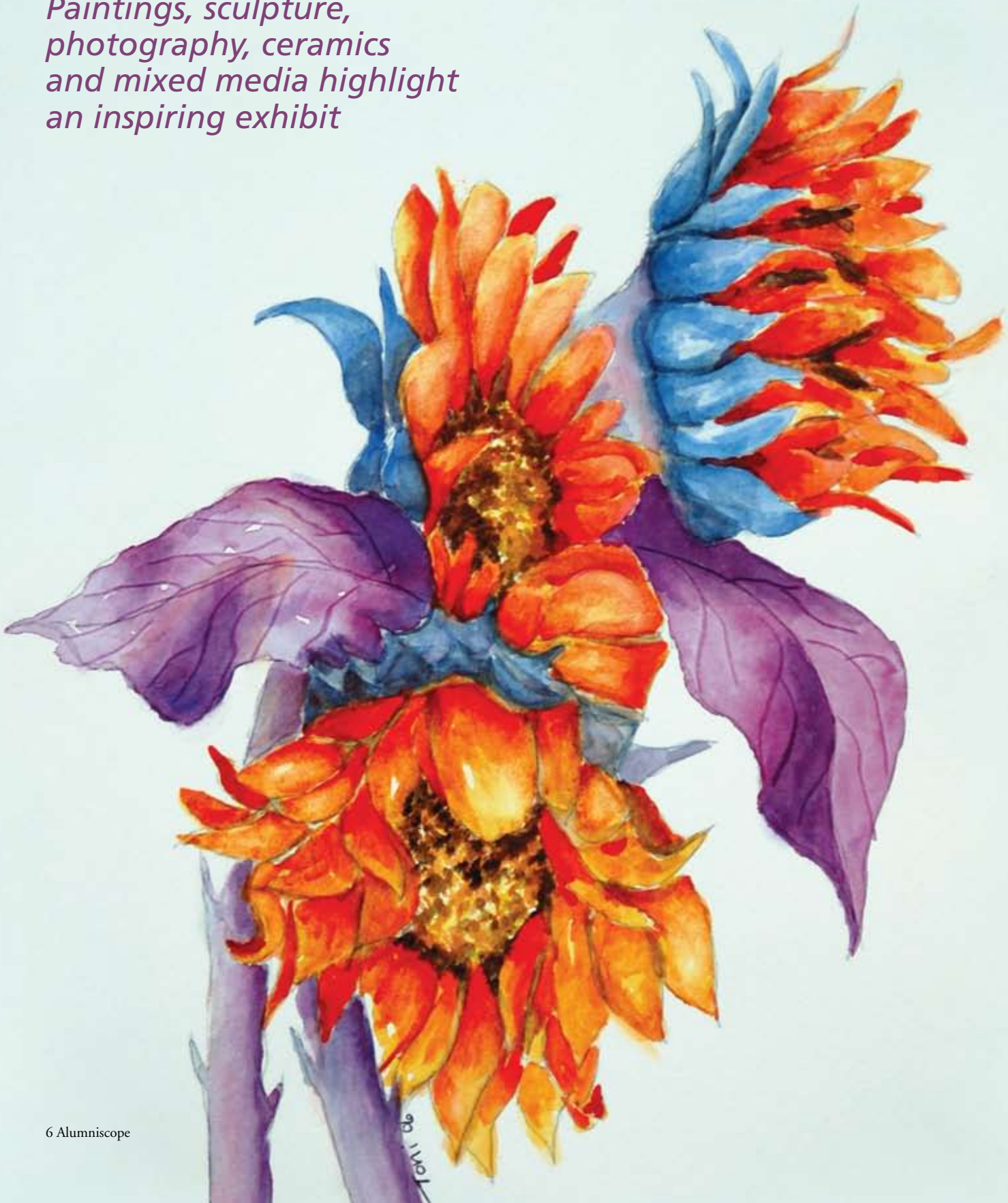
- History, visual acuities and refraction
- Optical device evaluation
- Driving recommendations and bioptic telescope fitting
- Filter and Lighting Evaluation
- Electronic Device Evaluation
- Computer assessment and training with adaptive technology
- Visual Field Enhancement Devices and Strategies:

EP segmented prism fitting and training for mobility enhancement

Vision therapy for scanning and tracking in conjunction with the Eye Care Center's Studt Center for Vision Therapy

# Shared Visions

*Paintings, sculpture, photography, ceramics and mixed media highlight an inspiring exhibit*



## *A positive and motivating experience — that's how two of the 49 blind or legally blind artists describe their participation in the annual Shared Visions Art Exhibit*

"Participating in the art exhibit was a very positive experience," said Toni Johnson of Gresham, OR, who has been legally blind since birth. "This was the first time I had ever entered my artwork in a show and it turned out to be a wonderful experience. I also learned that you never know what's in store."

She studied art in high school, but it wasn't until she was in her 50s that she discovered watercolors and has been taking classes ever since. Two of her paintings, "Fall for Sunflowers" (left) and "Panda Day" were accepted for the juried show and they are currently on display at the Eye Care Center, SCCO. The show runs through mid-August 2010. It's through Oregon's Commission for the Blind that she learned of the art show.

Encouraged by family and friends to attend the Artists' Reception in September at the Eye Care Center, Johnson traveled on her own from Oregon. "I've traveled a lot; however, I'd never traveled alone," she said. "The entire trip was a positive experience. I was asked to speak at the reception and did so even though that's not my thing. I met wonderful artists who were helpful and inspirational."

Artist Okja Nancy Min of La Mirada, CA, echoed similar sentiments about creating art and displaying it at the show. Min was diagnosed with retinitis pigmentosa nearly 30 years ago. She has a deep appreciation for the beauty of nature in landscapes and flowers, and her love for it has grown even greater as her vision has continued to diminish. She enjoys the medium of mosaic because of the wide variety of colors, shapes and textures. Her mosaic piece, "Yin

Yang" (below), meaning foundation of the entire universe and balance of the opposites, is on display at the Shared Visions Art Exhibit.

"Shared Visions is wonderful and motivating for people with low vision. Without the art show, I wouldn't do the work I have been doing the last five years," said Min. "I'm more creative because of the show."

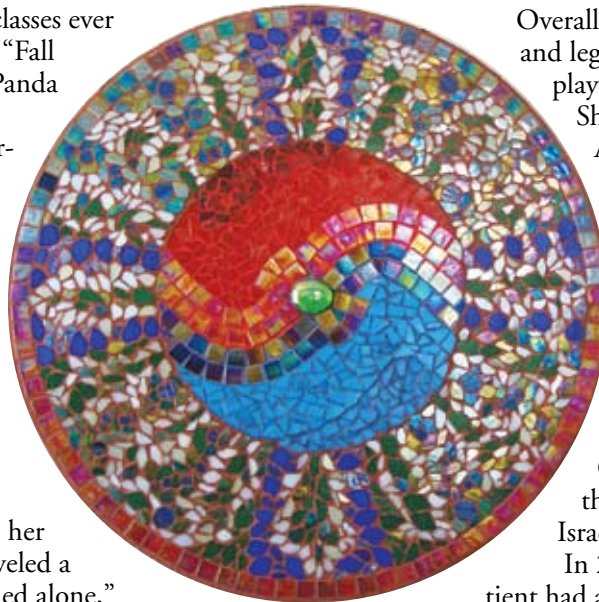
"I'm always asked, 'How can you do such extensive work?' and I tell them that I have the time and the patience," Min explained. "To create and put time toward a purpose is rewarding and something I look forward to. My artwork gives me a lot of pleasure."

"I work through the Braille Institute and many of our students have pieces that are on exhibit through Shared Visions," she noted. "People know about the exhibition through the many organizations that work with blind and partially-sighted individuals. The visually impaired are capable. When we put our mind and creativity into it the results are surprising. We can do more than we thought we could do."

Overall, 90 works of art by blind and legally blind artists are on display as part of the Fifth Annual Shared Visions International Art Exhibit at the Eye Care Center (ECC). Showcased are the paintings, sculpture, photography, ceramics and mixed media works of 49 inspirational artists who continue to create in a visual realm. Artists' works in the juried show are from Southern California, as well as from throughout the United States, Israel and Canada.

In 2005, an ECC low vision patient had an idea to decorate the blank walls of the then-newly renovated facility with artwork from blind and legally blind artists. His idea took hold. Now in its fifth year, the annual event has become one of only four similar art exhibitions in the United States.

Abbott Medical Optics, Optelec and the Foundation for Fighting Blindness generously provided funding for Shared Visions. A Call for Artists for the 2010-11 exhibit has been announced. Both Mrs. Johnson and Mrs. Min are working on pieces to submit for the next Shared Visions Art Exhibit. Information about the exhibit can be found at: [www.sccoeyecare.com/news.html](http://www.sccoeyecare.com/news.html)



# Alumni Notes

1966

**Robert T. Gmelin, O.D.**, and his wife, Sally, continue to enjoy life in Sonoma, CA. Both are active in volunteer service, which includes Dr. Gmelin spending time with the Sonoma Valley Historical Society, both as a board member and docent. He's also studying German in anticipation of the 500th Anniversary Gmelin Family Reunion in the Fall of 2010 in Stuttgart.

**Albert J. Mayer, O.D.**, at 91 years of age, sold his home in Hemet, CA, last May, and moved in with his 84 year-old brother in Fresno. Both men are widowers and have found that the new living arrangement has worked wonders for them. They have an older brother, Philip, who is 96, and lives nearby.

1974

**Donald L. Barniske, O.D.**, Brawley, CA, has been elected Vice President of the College of Syntonic Optometry. He also recently lectured in Greece about dyslexia to an international group of health care providers.

1981

The Wyoming Optometric Association has named, **Martin H. Carroll, O.D.**, the 2010 Optometrist of the Year. Dr. Carroll practices and resides in Cheyenne.

1985

**Brian A. Michaels, O.D.**, Sierra Vista, AZ, placed third in the Grand Masters at the Arizona Copper Classic Body Building Competition.

## IN MEMORIAM

SCCO was saddened to hear of the deaths of the following alumni and friends.

Leon G. Lipkis, O.D., '40  
*SCCO Board of Trustees, 1965–80*  
Venice, CA

Henry E. Whitehead, O.D., '49  
San Angelo, TX

Grant E. Hedgpeth, O.D., '51  
Rancho Cucamonga, CA

Donald B. Hanford, O.D., '55  
*Centennial Honoree, 2004*  
Tacoma, WA

Dallas E. Lighthouse, O.D., '60  
Kennewick, WA

N. Rex Ghormley, O.D., '64  
*President, American Academy of Optometry, 1991 & 1992*  
*Centennial Honoree, 2004*  
St. Louis, MO

David K. Matherly, O.D., '78  
Lancaster, CA

Kent D. Ashcraft, O.D., '87  
Los Angeles, CA

Mrs. Bernice Gregg  
Anaheim Hills, CA

Frank "Marty" Reid  
*SCCO Board of Trustees, 1970–75*  
Fullerton, CA



1998: Derek T. Tong, O.D., Temple City, CA, is pictured with Jacee R. Cotton, O.D., '00, Cheyenne, WY, and Rosalie Lee Hopkins, O.D., '98, Greenville, SC. The three alums were attending the COVD 2009 Annual Meeting in Denver, CO.



1999: Gregory Y. Kame, O.D., and his wife, Anna Sun Kame, O.D., '00, welcomed daughter, Avery, on March 15. She joins big sisters, Kaitlyn, 7 and Brooklyn, 5, along with brother, Lucas, 3. The Kames reside in Brea, CA.

## FACULTY ATTAIN AAO FELLOWSHIP

Two SCCO faculty members have attained Fellowship status with the American Academy of Optometry (AAO). Instructors Annie W. Chang, O.D. and Lisa M. Edwards, O.D., '06, were recognized at the AAO's annual meeting held last November in Orlando, FL.

"The national meeting attracted the third largest attendance in AAO history with more than 4,300 attendees," said SCCO Vice President and Dean of Academic Affairs Morris S. Berman, O.D., M.S. "Participation by SCCO faculty, residents and students has always been emphasized as the event offers so many educational and research collaborative opportunities. Many SCCO faculty members are also active participants on AAO committees and sections."

Participants from SCCO presented scientific papers and posters during the four-day meeting. In addition, Fourth-Year Student Chris Alferrez, received the American Optometric Foundation Carl Zeiss Vision Fellowship.

## EDUCATOR TOPS 2010 OPTOMETRIC ASSOCIATION ROSTER



COA President Marsden

SCCO Alumnus and Associate Professor Harue J. Marsden, O.D., M.S., '87, has been elected President of the California Optometric Association (COA). As President,

Dr. Marsden will represent more than 2,700 California optometrists who are dedicated to ensuring the highest quality of health care for the public through the advancement of optometry. Dr. Marsden is the first full-time optometric educator to be elected to the COA Presidency.

Alumni serving with Dr. Marsden on the 2010 COA Board of Trustees are: Secretary/Treasurer James R. Dallas, O.D., '86; and Trustees Jan L. Cooper, O.D., '87, Movses D'Janbatian, O.D., '83 and Barry Weissman, O.D., SCCO adjunct faculty.

In addition to the installation of officers at the COA's 2010 House of Delegates, the organization recognized a number of optometrists. Beverly Hills Optometrist, Martin H. Prince, O.D., '52, received the prestigious Paul Yarwood Memorial Award, the highest award bestowed by the COA. Dr. Prince was honored for his many accomplishments across a wide range of services both in the profession of optometry and outside of COA's structure.

The recipient of the Optometrist of the Year Award was Joseph C. Mallinger, O.D., M.B.A., '72, president and CEO of Vision West, Inc.; Stacey T. Gin, O.D., '06 and Karen L. Peschke, O.D., '02, were two of the five Young Optometrists of the Year; Keyperson of the Year was Robert L. Shapiro, O.D., '78; SCCO Assistant Professor Mark H. Sawamura, O.D., '91, received the Excellence in Optometric Education Award; and Fourth-Year Student Danny Ngo, was one of two recipients of the George I. Deane Jr., O.D., Memorial Leadership Award.

The election of officers for the newly formed COA Low Vision Rehabilitation Section was also held. Serving on the first-ever board are: Chair Gary W. Asano, O.D., '78; Vice-Chair Cindy P. Wang, O.D., '99; and Secretary/Treasurer Catherine L. Heyman, O.D., '93, SCCO assistant professor.



### Optometry Business Academy Business Education for the Eye Care Professional

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## CONTINUING EDUCATION

### Groundbreaking workshop series targets the business needs of eye care professionals

Business education for the eye care professional is now available through a partnership between the Southern California College of Optometry (SCCO) and California State University, Fullerton (CSUF). The two educational institutions have combined specialties to produce a unique practice management program designed to specifically enhance optometry practices.

The Optometry Business Academy's five-day program will be presented in a workshop format by faculty from the Mihaylo College of Business and Economics at CSUF, the premier public university business school in Orange County and SCCO, a leader in optometric education. This program has been generously supported by Essilor of America, Inc.

The five workshops will be held on the CSUF campus. The Sunday workshop dates are: July 18, August 1, August 15, August 29 and September 19. For fee and registration information contact: SCCO's CE Director Susan Atkinson @ 714.449.7442 or [ce@scco.edu](mailto:ce@scco.edu).

## CENTER FOR PRACTICE MANAGEMENT OPENS

The Practice Management Center (PMC) at SCCO is now operational to assist graduate optometrists with purchasing an optometric practice. The PMC will provide consulting expertise and supportive services for the successful transfer and development of independent optometric practices. An O.D. needs to be well represented when purchasing an optometric practice and the PMC will ensure the proper guidance and support every step of the way. More information is available at [www.pmcscoco.com](http://www.pmcscoco.com).

Practice management educators and successful private practice optometrists who have the experience and commitment to help graduates purchase their dream private practice operate the PMC at SCCO. The Practice Management Center will offer the following services to new and existing practitioners: mentoring and consulting for new practice seekers; locating and purchasing a practice; practice appraisals; and partnerships.

The vision for the Practice Management Center originated within the Southern California College of Optometry led by Private Practitioner and Assistant Professor John Larcabal, O.D., '88; SCCO Vice President and Dean of Academic Affairs Morris Berman, O.D., M.S.; and Assistant Professor Sunny Sanders, O.D. Dr. Larcabal organized an Advisory Committee consisting of members from various sectors of the ophthalmic industry including: Robert Schultz, Vision One Credit Union; Nancy Holt, VSP; Carl Moore, Concise/PEN; SCCO Trustee Mark Galvan, O.D., Max Vision Care; and Joseph Mallinger, O.D., M.B.A., '72, Vision West, Inc. These individuals and organizations continue to support the Center and provide invaluable input.

Eddy Naime, O.D., '05, has been appointed as the Director of the Practice Management Center. The program will be part of the Academic Affairs Department and will also work closely with Alumni Relations at the College.

## SCCO STUDENT ELECTED PRESIDENT OF NATIONAL ASSOCIATION



Third-Year Student Saysha Blazier has been elected President of the American Optometric Student Association (AOSA) for 2010–11. Blazier, who took office on March 1, will represent 6,500 optometry students. She's the seventh SCCO student to serve as president of the

national organization since it was formed in 1968.

AOSA is dedicated to promoting the visual welfare and health of the public, promoting the profession of optometry, and enhancing the welfare and education of optometry students in the United States, Puerto Rico and Canada. At each of the 22 schools and colleges of optometry, local AOSA Trustees and Trustees-Elect work to keep students informed about issues important to future eye care practitioners. These individuals serve as the primary conduit for individual optometry students to share their concerns with AOSA leadership.

"I have a passion for optometry and serving as president of the American Optometric Student Association is an extension of that and a way to give back to the profession," said Blazier. "Involvement with the organization has opened a whole other layer of optometry for me. I'm very fortunate to have met so many new friends and colleagues through the AOSA trips and activities."

Goals during her presidency include keeping students informed about national board certification and state association connections during and after optometry school, resources available through AOSA and the American Optometric Association (AOA), and educating legislators and the population in general about the profession of optometry. Blazier would also like to have an increase in the number of optometry students attending the joint AOA and AOSA meeting in June 2010 in Orlando, FL.

A native of Weiser, ID, Blazier earned a B.S. in Cellular Molecular Biology and a minor in Psychology from Bradley University in Peoria, IL. She began the four-year Doctor of Optometry degree program at SCCO in August 2007. As a member of SCCO's Class of 2011, Blazier is an active member and leader in many campus organizations. In addition to serving as Class Historian and on the Student Association Board for two years, she was AOSA Trustee-Elect and Trustee.

## AROUND THE CAMPUS



**Adventures in Science:** It was the girls' turn on, March 5, to participate in Adventures in Science, a collaborative program of the Fullerton School District, Raytheon, Beckman Coulter and the Southern California College of Optometry. Thirty-five middle school-aged girls, all science essay winners, participated in the program. (A similar program for boys was held in mid-January.) At SCCO, the final of three stops, the students attended an orientation about the exciting profession of optometry and participated in hands-on labs taught by faculty and optometric interns. Third-Year Student Aaron Solen, '11, is dissecting a cow's eye for the participants. Photo by Matt Breneman.

### How to Reach Us

Alumni Relations Office	714.449.7462
Optometric Placement Service "In-Sight"	<a href="http://www.scco.edu">www.scco.edu</a>
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Campus Store	714.449.7434
Continuing Education Office	714.449.7442
Development Office	714.449.7464
Eye Care Center	714.449.7400
M.B. Ketchum Memorial Library	714.449.7440
Publications Office	714.449.7463
Student Affairs Office	714.449.7444
Admissions	714.449.7444
Financial Aid	714.449.7448
SCCO Home Page	<a href="http://www.scco.edu">www.scco.edu</a>

### Core Values

The core values of the Southern California College of Optometry are those qualities that constitute the educational philosophy and spirit of the institution, and permeate every aspect of the campus community. The College emphasizes and enhances these values in its students throughout the professional program. The core values of SCCO are leadership, ethics, professionalism, compassion, commitment, pursuit of excellence, pursuit of knowledge, collegiality, and sense of community.

### Vision Statement

Enhancing the quality of life through vision care.

### Mission Statement

The mission of the Southern California College of Optometry is to provide the highest quality optometric education through excellence in teaching, patient care, research, public service and institutional management.

### On the Cover:

A young patient learns how to spot view with a telescope from Intern Jennifer Kim, '10, in this issue's cover story beginning on page 2.

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\*The President of the Alumni Association of SCCO serves as a member of the College's Board of Trustees.

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## Mark Your Calendars

### CONTINUING EDUCATION\*

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A Five-Part Workshop  
July – September 2010  
*Presented by the Mihaylo College  
of Business & Economics at  
California State University, Fullerton  
& the Southern California College  
of Optometry*

#### **Sunday, July 18**

*Financial Statements,  
Goals & Budgeting*

#### **Sunday, August 1**

*Financing & Valuing a Business*

#### **Sunday, August 15**

*Marketing Your Enterprise —  
Workshop for the Optometry  
Business*

#### **Sunday, August 29**

*Human Resources — Putting Your  
People First in Optometry*

#### **Sunday, September 19**

*The Business of Optometry —  
Pearls of Wisdom*

Classes will be held at CSUF  
Contact SCCO's CE Department  
@ 714.449.7442 or [ce@scco.edu](mailto:ce@scco.edu)

#### **Monday – Thursday, May 10 – 13**

Indian Health Service Meeting  
*Open to All Optometrists*  
29 CE Credits / SCCO

#### **Sunday, June 13**

All Technology CE Program  
7 CE Credits / SCCO

#### **Saturday & Sunday, July 10 & 11**

Ocular Disease, Part II  
18 CE Credits / SCCO

#### **Sunday, August 22**

Primary Care CE Program  
7 CE Credits / SCCO

#### **Sunday, September 12**

Treatment & Management  
of Ocular Disease  
VA Faculty Presenting  
7 CE Credits / SCCO

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of Continuing Education for registration  
information: Voice 714.449.7442; FAX  
714.992.7809; Website: [www.scco.edu](http://www.scco.edu)

## Special Announcements

### 106TH COMMENCEMENT EXERCISE

Friday, May 21, 2010  
10 a.m. / SCCO

### ALUMNI REUNION WEEKEND

Saturday, February 19, 2011  
Make your plans now to join the fun  
on the beautiful SCCO Campus.  
Details to follow.

### SEND US YOUR NEWS

Yes, we want to hear from you!  
E-mail your news and digital photos  
to: [alumni@scco.edu](mailto:alumni@scco.edu).