



STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK  
COLLEGE OF OPTOMETRY





Dear Friends,

Optometry is an ever-changing and dynamic healthcare profession, and our goal at the State University of New York College of Optometry is to be innovative, bold and impactful in the ways in which we accomplish our mission. SUNY Optometry is dedicated to the education of optometrists, the advancement of eye and vision care through research and graduate education and the care of our community through comprehensive visual health services. The College is the only institution of its kind in New York State and the surrounding region. In fact, we've educated approximately 60% of all practicing optometrists in New York State.

The University Eye Center (UEC), the College's patient care facility, supports about 75,000 patient visits each year. In addition to primary eye care, the UEC is renowned for its specialty clinical services, including traumatic brain injury, infant vision, pediatrics, visually-related learning disabilities, vision rehabilitation, ocular disease and imaging, vision therapy, specialty contact lenses and laser refractive surgery. Moreover, an extensive array of clinical satellites and extramural programs further broaden the scope and diversity of the patients we serve and, along the way, extend our reach to underserved populations while enhancing the clinical experiences of our students.

A hallmark of SUNY Optometry is its commitment to leading the advancement of vision care through research. The College offers MS and PhD graduate degree programs, both independently and in conjunction with the Doctor of Optometry degree. Our Graduate Center for Vision Research (GCVR) oversees basic, translational and clinical research conducted by members of our faculty and professional staff—some of the leading optometric researchers working today. This commitment to research not only leads to breakthroughs in patient care, but also provides opportunities for our students—the next generation of cutting-edge researchers—to be directly involved in this important, often groundbreaking, work.

Located in the heart of New York City, opposite the historic New York Public Library and beautiful Bryant Park, SUNY Optometry's home is an 18-story facility whose historical facade serves as a graceful reminder of the past and the entrance into a contemporary and pioneering educational institution.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Heath". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

David A. Heath, OD, EdM  
*President*

A close-up photograph of a woman with long dark hair, wearing a white lab coat, looking through the eyepiece of a handheld microscope. The microscope is black and silver, with a textured grip. The woman has red nail polish. The background is blurred. On the right side of the image, there are several overlapping geometric shapes in shades of blue, yellow, orange, and teal.

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## SUNY College of Optometry

The SUNY College of Optometry is contained in a single 300,000-square-foot, 18-floor facility located at 33 West 42nd Street in midtown Manhattan.

The Center for Student Life and Learning is at the heart of the student experience. It is a three-floor, 20,000-square-foot, state-of-the-art resource designed to enhance both the educational and daily lives of our students. The Center has advanced learning spaces—including methods lab, seminar space and study rooms—equipped with modern technology, as well as a fitness center, TV lounge, game room and much more.

The Harold Kohn Vision Science Library is the largest vision science library in the country. It contains approximately 40,000 volumes and maintains a comprehensive website with links to electronic journals and databases, as well as a wide range of online reference, vision science and general health resources.

The University Eye Center, also located within the building, is one of the largest optometric outpatient facilities in the nation, offering both primary and specialized vision care services.

# A GROWING FIELD, A CARING PROFESSION

## The Field of Optometry

A Doctor of Optometry is an independent primary healthcare provider who examines the visual system, the eye and associated structures, as well as diagnoses, treats and manages related diseases and disorders.

Optometry is a growing field with numerous rewarding career paths, a satisfying work-life balance and an excellent salary.

### GROWTH

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, employment for optometrists is expected **to grow by 33% from 2010 to 2020**, which is much faster than the average for all occupations.

Optometrists will continue to be an essential part of healthcare in the future as adults live longer lives; vision problems occur more frequently later in life. A growing number of chronic diseases, such as diabetes, also affect vision and will contribute to the need for optometrists.

### OPTIONS

There are multiple career options for students graduating with a Doctor of Optometry (OD) degree: private practices, multidisciplinary medical practices, hospitals, teaching institutions, research positions, community health centers and the ophthalmic industry. Optometrists can also build successful careers in the military, public health or government service.

Many optometrists also focus on specific sub-specialties, such as pediatrics, vision therapy, ocular disease, head trauma and other areas.

**OPTOMETRY  
IS A TOP 20  
“BEST JOB IN  
AMERICA,”  
as reported by CNNMoney.**

### CONTROL

Because optometrists usually have the ability to maintain more control over their careers than other healthcare professionals, they often enjoy a better work-life balance as a result.

### SALARY

A survey by CNNMoney placed optometrists **among the 20 highest-paying occupations** in the country.

According to 2010 data from the American Optometric Association Research & Information Center, optometrists in private practice reported a net income of **\$147,856**, and optometrists employed by others reported a net income of **\$95,092**.



**“OPTOMETRY IS HIGHLY TECHNICAL, BUT THERE’S ALSO THE ALTRUISTIC ASPECT OF HELPING PEOPLE SEE. IT’S THE BEST OF BOTH WORLDS.”**



## Rima Bakhru

SECOND-YEAR OD STUDENT

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### HOMETOWN

Edison, New Jersey

### ALMA MATER

University of Maryland

*Optometry is such a versatile career choice. For one thing, my mind will stay sharp because I'll be solving scientific problems, but on the other hand, I'll be helping people who might not see as well as others.*

*At the College, I'm getting excellent career preparation with my integrative seminar; it pools scientific understanding with clinical decision making, professional ethics and everyday concerns like billing and coding.*

# COMMITTED TO YOUR SUCCESS

**OPTOMETRY  
IS A GROWING  
FIELD WITH A  
SATISFYING  
WORK-LIFE  
BALANCE.**

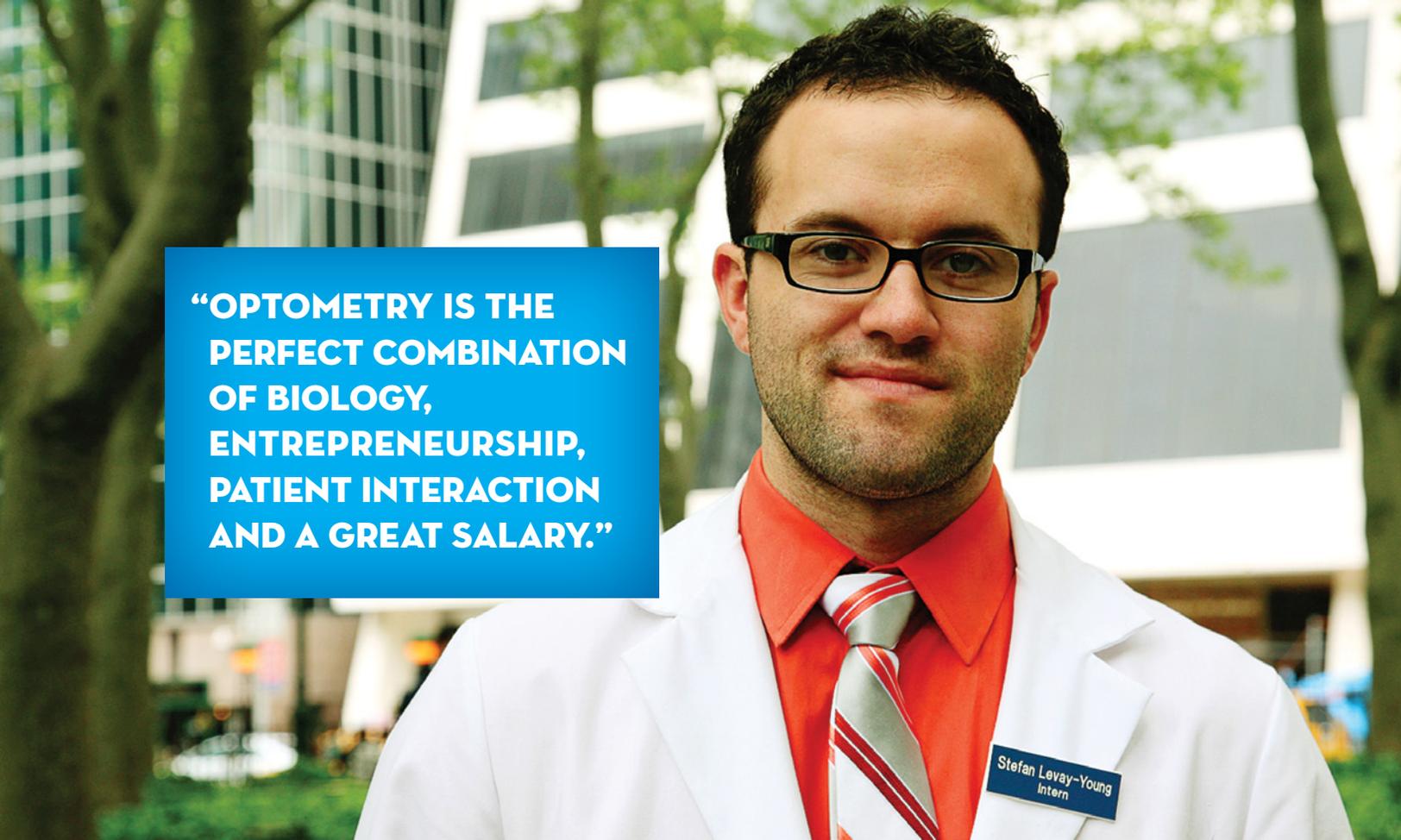


*Back row (l. to r.): Vito Cavallaro, Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs/Director of Financial Aid; Jeffrey L. Philpott, PhD, Vice President for Student Affairs; Francisco Lucio, Director of Career Development and Minority Enrichment; Guilherme Albieri, Director of Admissions and Marketing  
Front row (l. to r.): Sarah Didier, Student Affairs Assistant; Ellen Povitch, Admissions Assistant; Jacqueline Martinez, College Registrar*

## **The Office of Student Affairs**

Student Affairs partners with the academic and clinical divisions of the College to enhance student learning, personal development and satisfaction. Utilizing a wide variety of creative and innovative programs and activities, Student Affairs helps to drive the success of students, both while they are in attendance at the College and after they have graduated and started their careers.

Through academic support, campus and civic engagement and personal and professional development, Student Affairs, and indeed the entire College community, is committed to the success of our students.



**“OPTOMETRY IS THE  
PERFECT COMBINATION  
OF BIOLOGY,  
ENTREPRENEURSHIP,  
PATIENT INTERACTION  
AND A GREAT SALARY.”**



## Stefan Levay-Young

SECOND-YEAR OD STUDENT

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**HOMETOWN**

El Cerrito, California

**ALMA MATER**

University of Wisconsin, Madison

*The College's Annual Career Symposium was extremely helpful because it exposed me to the multifaceted career that is optometry. You hear a lot about private practice, but there are so many other ways I could take my career that I never even considered. I originally didn't want to do a residency, but after the Symposium, I'm considering it. I also learned about creating a brand for myself, networking and other useful skills that I might not necessarily learn in class.*

# PROFESSIONAL GUIDANCE FROM THE BEGINNING



*The Annual Career Symposium, organized by the CDC, assembles industry leaders to provide practical career advice to students and alumni.*

**33%**  
**JOB GROWTH**  
**IN OPTOMETRY**  
**FROM 2010**  
**TO 2020**

*(Bureau of Labor Statistics)*

## The Career Development Center (CDC)

The CDC closely guides students, residents and alumni through key career decision points in their educational and professional development. The highly personalized services and programs include:

- Career counseling
- Market research analysis with special attention on New York State opportunities
- Practice opportunities/placement
- Networking meetings
- Organized optometry functions
- Liaison between corporate entities and student organizations
- Lectures and guest speakers
- Individualized, outside-of-classroom learning opportunities
- Mock interviews
- Preparation for CV/résumé, cover letter and letter of intent writing
- Family of Mentors: a mentoring program designed to engage all in a dialogue about careers in optometry
- Special sessions/workshops and short-course series addressing topics,

issues and trends that are deemed most relevant to ongoing career development

Students also have opportunities to develop leadership skills during retreats and summits and through collaboration with organizations like the American Optometric Student Association and the New York State Optometric Association. *See page 32 for more of these organizations.*

**“I WAS AMAZED AT ALL THE CAREER OPTIONS THAT WERE AVAILABLE TO ME.”**



## Barbara Mendoza

FIRST-YEAR OD STUDENT

### HOMETOWN

Whitestone, New York

### ALMA MATER

CUNY City College

*I saw my career counselor within the first couple of months of my first year. We talked about my immediate and long-term goals, as well as resources on residencies. We have follow-ups every few weeks so that we can both keep track of my progress. I want to someday be a doctor who knows more than the basics, and SUNY's excellent reputation is what brought me here.*



# SUCCESSFUL ALUMNI



**Diane Russo, OD**  
(Class of 2010)

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR,  
MASSACHUSETTS COLLEGE OF  
PHARMACY AND HEALTH SCIENCES

- Member of College's Alumni Association Board
- Speaker and workshop leader at the College's Annual Career Symposium

People take notice when I say I graduated from the College; its reputation precedes it. With its academic and clinical strength, you have access to anything you need as a student. For example, as the field grows, so does the importance of being well-versed with old and new equipment. The College does an excellent job of providing students with access to equipment so that they can develop this very marketable skill.

**OPTOMETRISTS WORK IN A RANGE OF SETTINGS: PRIVATE PRACTICE, ACADEMIA, PUBLIC HEALTH AND MORE.**



**Andrea P. Thau,**  
**OD, FAAO,**  
**FCOVD, DPNAP**  
(Class of 1984)

OWNER OF DR. ANDREA P. THAU  
AND ASSOCIATES

PART-TIME ASSOCIATE CLINICAL  
PROFESSOR, SUNY COLLEGE OF  
OPTOMETRY

- Member of the Board of Trustees of the American Optometric Association (AOA)
- First woman president of the New York State Optometric Association, New York Academy of Optometry and Optometric Society of the City of New York
- Founder of the AOA's InfantSEE® public health program

The outstanding training that students receive at the College prepares them for a career in any area of optometry. Through their work in the University Eye Center, they get a sense of the field's multiple specialties, and through externships, they can sample the many modes of practice.

During all of my time here, the College has always been a leader in shaping the profession for future optometrists through its work with organizations that influence optometric policy on a local, state and national level.



**“IT’S IMPORTANT FOR OPTOMETRISTS TO BE GLOBAL CITIZENS WHO PROVIDE CARE TO THOSE WHO DON’T HAVE ACCESS TO IT.”**



## **Andre Stanberry, OD (Class of 2008)**

**ASSISTANT CLINICAL PROFESSOR,  
SUNY COLLEGE OF OPTOMETRY**

- Completed a residency in family practice and ocular disease at the East New York Diagnostic and Treatment Center in Brooklyn, New York
- Faculty advisor for the National Optometric Student Association

*I recently completed a mission trip to Rwanda, and I am planning another trip to Uganda. These trips allow my colleagues and I to bring vision and eye care to those who are not as fortunate to have regular access to it. The College provides ample opportunity for students and faculty to make these trips, which are so important to get perspective on the patients we see day to day here at home. In addition, the trips are excellent networking opportunities for students to meet established optometrists.*

# CLASSROOM & CLINIC: A CURRICULUM FOR SUCCESS

## Doctor of Optometry (OD) Program

The curriculum integrates the basic biological and vision sciences that form the foundation of clinical practice, teaches the fundamentals of optometry and develops critical thinking for clinical care and case decision making.

Patient care begins early and continues throughout the program, both at the University Eye Center (UEC) under the supervision of the College's clinical faculty and at national and international externships.

### FIRST YEAR

Students are introduced to the scientific basis of optometry, optometric theory and the elements of clinical practice.

**CLINICAL INTEGRATION: Students observe and assist interns and faculty in patient care at the UEC and community vision screenings.**

### SECOND YEAR

Basic knowledge in a variety of specialized areas is acquired, enhancing the primary clinical care skills of students.

**CLINICAL INTEGRATION: Students perform comprehensive eye examinations on patients using state-of-the-art diagnostic technology and testing equipment.**

### THIRD YEAR

Students continue to take didactic courses in areas of ocular disease, contact lenses, binocular vision, public health and practice development.

**CLINICAL INTEGRATION: Students provide patient care in the UEC, working in clinical teaching units called pods that are comprised of students and doctors.**

### FOURTH YEAR

Students focus on specialty areas in the UEC and are assigned to four clinical rotations at internal and external sites to allow for a wide variety of clinical environments, ocular and general conditions and patients. *See page 16 for a full list of UEC specialty areas.*

## OD-MS and OD-PhD in Vision Science Program

These programs are for students wishing to do translational or patient-based research, including those aspiring to faculty positions in optometry.

In the OD-MS program, students follow the OD curriculum full-time while devoting summers and academic year elective time to seminars and research, fulfilling the OD and MS degree requirements within four years and at no additional cost beyond the OD degree.

Students may enter the OD-PhD program as optometry students at the College or after they complete their OD degree. The timetable for completing requirements is agreed upon by the student, the student's advisor and the Program Director.

The College also offers a PhD program for students holding a professional degree in a health science or a bachelor's degree in any discipline. *Read more about the PhD program on page 28.*



**“YOU CAN DO A  
COMPREHENSIVE EYE  
EXAM AFTER YOUR  
FIRST YEAR HERE.”**



## Vanessa Fimreite

FIRST-YEAR OD STUDENT

**HOMETOWN**

Laguna Hills,  
California

**ALMA MATER**

University of  
Southern California

*My Optometric Theory and Procedures class is my favorite because it's where I learn all of my skills, from using equipment to doing full eye exams. I'm looking forward to using these skills to one day help my patients and build relationships with them. I'm especially interested in sports vision therapy, a program that drew me to the College. I want to research how to determine when athletes can play again after injury.*

# UNPARALLELED CLINICAL TRAINING

## The University Eye Center (UEC)

The UEC is one of the largest eye and vision care clinics in the country, seeing approximately 75,000 patient visits annually. The clinic is a major component of students' education beginning with their first year, an experience they find unique not only because it is contained within the same building as the College, but also because of its diverse patients and cases.

Students are exposed to an extraordinary array of ocular diseases and visual problems in clinical rotations throughout the UEC as they train with the College's highly qualified clinical faculty of optometrists, ophthalmologists and other health professionals.

The UEC partners with numerous psychiatric centers, hospitals and ambulatory care centers affiliated with the New York City Health and Hospitals Corporation.

### UEC SERVICES INCLUDE:

#### Primary Care

- Adult Primary Care
- Pediatrics/Children with Special Needs

#### Advanced Care

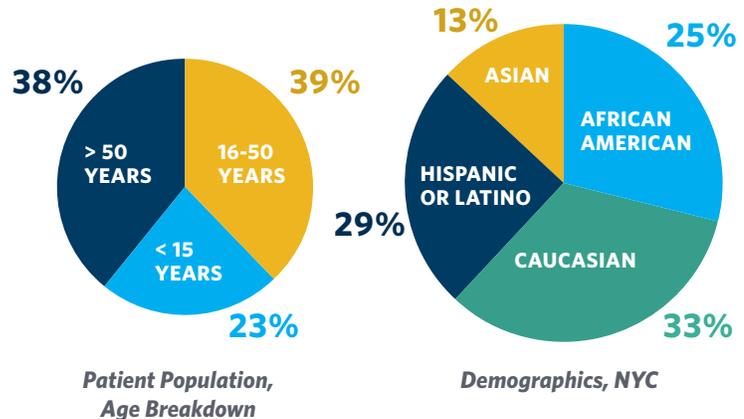
- Glaucoma
- Retina
- Refractive Surgery
- Specialty Contact Lenses

#### Rehabilitation

- Head Trauma
- Vision Therapy & Rehabilitation
- Low Vision

For more on the curriculum's clinical integration, see page 14.

### UEC PATIENT DIVERSITY



## STUDENTS CAN DO EXTERNSHIPS AT MORE THAN 40 NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL SITES.

### Visit

[www.sunyopt.edu/externships](http://www.sunyopt.edu/externships) for a list of sites.



“THE UNIVERSITY  
EYE CENTER GETS  
VERY DIVERSE  
PATIENTS. I’VE  
EXPERIENCED A  
RANGE OF CASES,  
FROM BASIC TO  
COMPLICATED.”



## Rhonda Carr

THIRD-YEAR OD STUDENT

**HOMETOWN**

Bronx, New York

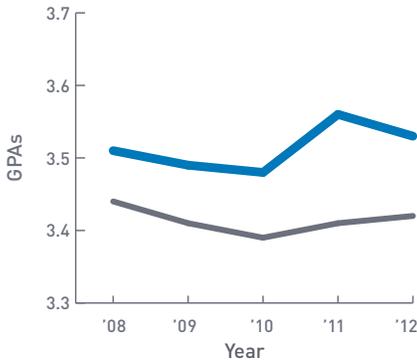
**ALMA MATER**

Williams College

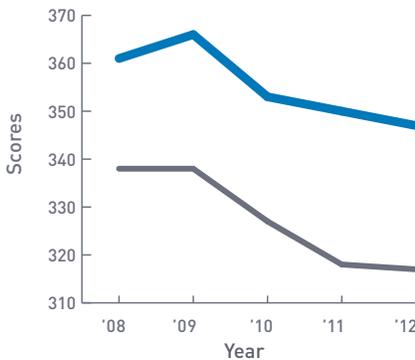
*Now that I’m in my third year, I’m doing my own exams at the University Eye Center. Then I learn more in my integrative seminar, during which I get my peers’ perspective on how they would handle these same cases. The UEC gets very particular patients; I’ve experienced more here than I could anywhere else.*

# STUDENTS OF THE HIGHEST STANDARD

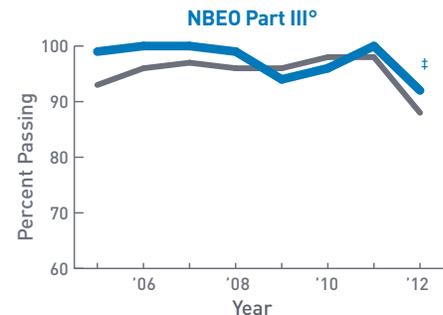
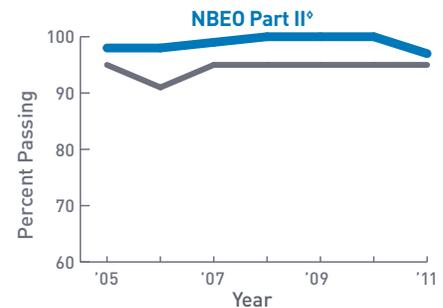
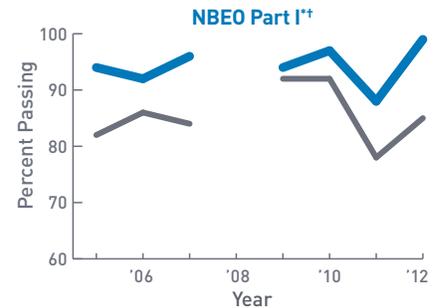
Newly admitted students consistently have **higher GPAs** than students across the nation.



Newly admitted students consistently have **Optometry Admission Test (OAT) scores** that surpass the national average.



Students at the College generally score higher than the national average on the **National Board of Examiners in Optometry (NBE)**.



■ SUNY Opt Students ■ National Average

## Dedication to Students' Success

The College is committed to students' academic and professional success from the moment they inquire about our programs to graduation and beyond.

To this end, the Office of Student Affairs offers many services:

- Individualized counseling programs for applicants
- Individual and group tutoring services for current students
- Career guidance
- Advocacy for all areas of student life
- Opportunities for leadership through student programs, clubs and organizations

\*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 with multiple correct answers were included in the examination.

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

\*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.



**“EVERYONE IS  
MOTIVATED AND  
DETERMINED WITH  
THE SAME DRIVE.  
THERE’S NOTHING  
BUT CAMARADERIE  
AND SUPPORT.”**



## **LAURA ZAVILENSKY**

**FIRST-YEAR OD STUDENT**

**HOMETOWN**  
Kinnelon,  
New Jersey

**ALMA MATER**  
Rutgers  
University

*The upperclassmen at the College take extra time to help first-year students like me. Everyone is interested in seeing everyone else succeed because we all know we'll eventually be working together.*

# DIVERSE STUDENT PERSPECTIVES

## Commitment to Student Diversity

The Collegiate Science and Technology Entry Program (CSTEP) at the College exists to increase the number of historically underrepresented minority students in the growing and dynamic profession of optometry.

We believe that greater diversity among health professionals is associated with improved access to care, greater patient choice and satisfaction, better patient-provider communication, and better educational experiences, which will best prepare students to serve the diverse communities in which they will practice.

Current college and graduate students who are New York State residents are eligible for helpful services through CSTEP, including application and entrance exam assistance, skills preparation and career counseling.

Visit [www.sunyopt.edu/cstep](http://www.sunyopt.edu/cstep) for more information.

Undergraduate students are also eligible for these special programs:

### INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

Through this on-site program, offered in winter and spring/early summer, students are assigned to work with fourth-year College students in their own clinical rotations.

### SUMMER ACADEMIC PROGRAM

"Introduction to Vision and Optometry," a credit-bearing course, is offered at no cost to participants and taught by College faculty. Students get an overview of exciting topics in vision science and optometry and have the opportunity to observe clinical eye care in the University Eye Center. Upon completion of the summer course, students have a competitive edge in their applications to optometry school and earn two graduate-level credits as well.



## OSCAR LEIS

### SECOND-YEAR OD STUDENT

#### HOMETOWN

Lynbrook, New York  
(originally from Spain)

#### ALMA MATER

Stony Brook  
University

*Before coming to the College, I shadowed optometrists in Queens. I saw that care works best when patients are matched with an optometrist from a similar background who can most effectively communicate with them. As a student at the College, I'm part of a diverse student body that works with diverse patients at the University Eye Center. Through my work with CSTEP, I help the optometrists communicate with these patients in the best way possible.*

A young man with dark hair, wearing a purple button-down shirt and a dark purple tie, is sitting at a wooden desk. He is looking directly at the camera with a slight smile. To his left, a woman with dark curly hair and glasses is looking down at papers. In the foreground, another person's hands are visible, holding a pink highlighter. The background shows shelves with papers and a bulletin board.

**“DIVERSITY AMONG  
OPTOMETRISTS IS  
KEY TO PATIENT  
CARE, ESPECIALLY  
IN NEW YORK CITY.”**



## A GLOBAL VIEW

### **The Center for International Programs**

Through collaboration with institutions, both international and domestic, the Center promotes a global approach to eye and vision care delivery, research and education. It creates international opportunities for students, faculty and staff.

#### **STUDENT VOLUNTEER OPTOMETRIC SERVICES TO HUMANITY (SVOSH)**

Students volunteer with SVOSH to provide vision care worldwide to people who cannot access or afford it. They make international mission trips to developing countries to provide eye exams and prescription glasses, as well as prepare donated materials for these trips locally at the College.

#### **FELLOWSHIP OF CHRISTIAN OPTOMETRISTS (FCO)**

Through FCO, Christian and non-Christian students serve locally by conducting eye exams for the homeless and internationally by providing eye and vision care on mission trips to underdeveloped countries.

#### **VISION CARE IN CHINA**

The College, through an affiliation with Wenzhou Medical College (WMC) and its School of Optometry and Ophthalmology in China, offers selected fourth-year students the chance to participate in 12-week clinical rotations at the Eye Hospital of WMC.

In addition, with generous funding from the Lavelle Fund for the Blind, the College worked with WMC to develop a Center of Excellence in Low Vision and Vision Rehabilitation, which serves as a model for the delivery of services to the visually disabled.

#### **CONFUCIUS INSTITUTE**

Students can learn more about Chinese language and culture through programs and courses offered by the Confucius Institute, which is a joint project of the College, Wenzhou Medical College and the Chinese government. The learning experience provides a better understanding of the culture of providers and patients and of existing practices such as traditional Chinese medicine.



**“I’VE TRAVELED TO PERU AND RWANDA TO DO VISION SCREENINGS. THESE UNIQUE EXPERIENCES WILL MAKE ME A PATIENT, CARING, CULTURALLY COMPETENT DOCTOR.”**



## QUY NGUYEN

FOURTH-YEAR OD STUDENT

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### HOMETOWN

San Jose, California

### ALMA MATER

University of California, Berkeley

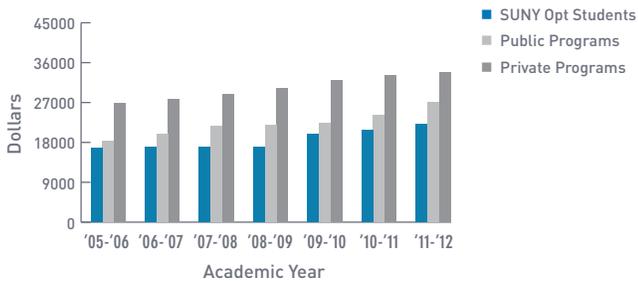
*I made these trips with SVOSH (Student Volunteer Optometric Services to Humanity). My recent trip to Rwanda marked the first time this group went into a refugee camp. We helped 4,000 patients with vision and health screenings in just seven days. I’m going to Uganda next. These travels help me personally and professionally. As an optometrist in America, I’ll see diverse patients. It’s important to understand where they’re coming from to make them comfortable in my chair and be able to help them by working together.*

Photo credit: American Refugee Committee

# AN AFFORDABLE INVESTMENT IN EXCELLENCE

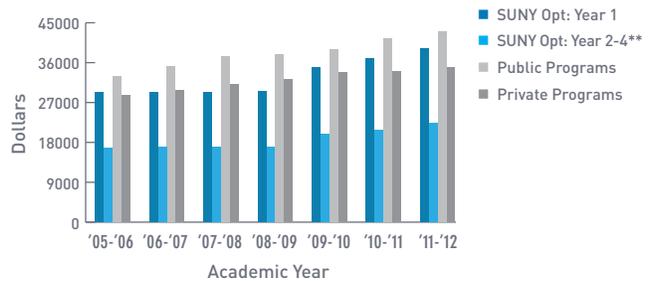
## DIRECT EXPENSES\* FOR IN-STATE STUDENTS

Students at the College have lower expenses than students in other public and private programs.



## DIRECT EXPENSES\* FOR OUT-OF-STATE STUDENTS

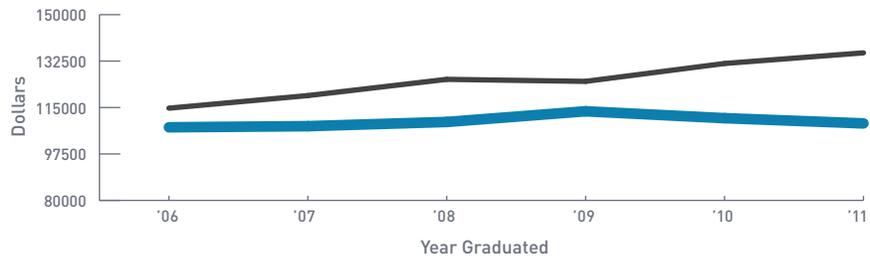
Students at the College have lower expenses than students in other public and private programs.



## AVERAGE INDEBTEDNESS OF GRADUATING STUDENTS

The debt of students graduating from the College is among the lowest of optometry programs nationwide.

■ SUNY Opt Students ■ National Average



## Scholarship Endowments

Scholarships can provide a great deal of help in offsetting tuition and other expenses; they are awarded based on academic performance (undergraduate GPA and Optometry Admission Test scores), financial need or a combination of both.

Current and prospective students have access to a growing number of scholarship endowments established by individuals, foundations and professional associations.

\*Direct expenses include tuition, fees, books and equipment. Source: ASCO \*\*Most U.S. citizens are eligible to establish New York State residency and receive in-state SUNY tuition for years 2, 3 and 4.



**“THE MONEY  
I’M SAVING  
THANKS TO MY  
SCHOLARSHIP  
WILL HELP ME SET  
UP MY CAREER IN  
THE FUTURE.”**



## JENNA SALNER

FIRST-YEAR OD STUDENT

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**HOMETOWN**

Hewlett,  
New York

**ALMA MATER**

Binghamton  
University

*The Saltzman scholarship is incredible. I’m not just saving money, I’m gaining a mentor. From the moment I met the creator of the scholarship, I felt like we connected, and she made it clear that she wanted to get to know me better. It’s great to have a successful person in my corner who can answer questions and provide the right guidance. It’s like a special addition to my education.*



# RESIDENCIES WITH UNIQUE REPUTATIONS

## **The Residency Program**

A one-year residency at the University Eye Center (UEC) or one of the College's affiliated sites is a unique opportunity for new optometrists to experience a diverse mix of patients and cases as they develop advanced clinical competencies in a particular area of vision care.

Throughout the year, residents participate in grand rounds, workshops and/or a series of lectures and seminars at the College and its affiliated residency sites. Each resident is required

to present a minor and major presentation and submit a paper of publishable quality. SUNY's unique program provides all those in affiliated residencies with the opportunity to interact with residents and faculty at sites other than their own.

All residencies are accredited by the Accreditation Council on Optometric Education or, if new, are in the process of being accredited. At the completion of the residency program, the College confers a Certificate of Advanced Clinical Competency.

**“MY RESIDENCY AT THE UNIVERSITY EYE CENTER IS UNIQUE BECAUSE OF THE PATIENTS. I WILL ONLY SEE THEIR UNIQUE CASES HERE.”**



## **SURBHI BANSAL**

**RESIDENT IN THE VISION THERAPY PROGRAM**

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### **HOMETOWN**

Edmonton, Alberta, Canada

### **ALMA MATER**

New England College of Optometry

*When I got the interview for the residency program at SUNY, I was excited; the College has an excellent reputation as a teaching institution. I only had a little exposure to vision therapy and rehabilitation in optometry school. At the University Eye Center, I'm working on cases I've only ever heard about—kids with special needs, head trauma patients, adult patients, post-surgical cases.*

# LEARNING THROUGH ADVANCED RESEARCH

## Research Degrees

Graduate students at the College may work toward either a PhD degree or MS degree in vision science. The Graduate Center for Vision Research (GCVR) administers these programs, which are designed for individuals holding a professional degree in a health science or a bachelor's degree in any discipline.

The graduate program includes:

- One-on-one training with faculty for tutorials and research
- Systematic development of skills to become an effective scientist, including oral presentations, writing for publication, grant applications and scientific culture
- Two rotations in the first year, with optional externships
- Stipend support at \$30,000/year for all PhD students (including international students); there is no additional tuition for OD-MS students during the four years they are enrolled in the professional OD program
- Access to the University Eye Center
- Support for research expenses and presentations
- Easy access to the larger vision research community in New York (SUNY Eye Institute member universities, NYU, Columbia University, CUNY, Rockefeller, Weill Cornell, Einstein, etc.)

## AREAS OF RESEARCH

- Ocular Cell Biology and Physiology
- Visual Optics
- Visual Neurophysiology
- Vision and Visual Perception
- Clinical Research

## Research Resources

### CLINICAL VISION RESEARCH CENTER (CVRC)

The CVRC, located in the University Eye Center, partners with industry, foundations and government to conduct a wide variety of research dedicated to advancing eye care. It staffs a full-time translational and clinical research team with access to dedicated research resources and state-of-the-art equipment.

### SUNY EYE INSTITUTE (SEI)

The GCVR is a founding member of SEI, a statewide collaboration of more than 60 researchers and clinician scientists across the SUNY system. The SEI determines how resources and expertise can be pooled among the institutions to develop collaborative grant proposals and advance basic and applied clinical research and training.

### SCHNURMACHER INSTITUTE FOR VISION RESEARCH (SIVR)

The SIVR coordinates a colloquium series and supports collaborative clinical research, small clinical research projects and innovative vision science research.

### VISIONYC

The College hosts this annual conference, mutually supported by vision research training grants at Columbia, NYU and Cornell. The conferences bring together scholars from around the world to discuss the latest in vision research.

**“FAMOUS RESEARCHERS  
IN THE FIELD WORK HERE,  
AND I’M WORKING RIGHT  
ALONGSIDE THEM.”**



**ROMAIN BACHY**  
FIRST-YEAR PHD STUDENT

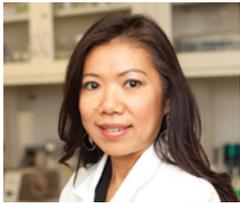
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**HOMETOWN**  
Paris, France

**ALMA MATER**  
Université Pierre et Marie Curie

*I decided to enter the College’s PhD program because of the prestigious researchers here who work in perception and vision science. In France, I was a post-production engineer for cinema. I could always point out a problem in post-production, but it would be too late to come up with a solution. I wanted to be in a field where I could solve problems at the beginning of the process. I hope to learn a lot from the faculty and my peers as well.*

# ACCOMPLISHED FACULTY



**Tracy Nguyen,  
OD, PhD, FAAO**  
ASSISTANT CLINICAL  
PROFESSOR

- NIH KO8 grant recipient
- Researches corneal physiology

The students at the College demonstrate strong clinical knowledge and enthusiasm for learning due in large part to the dedicated faculty and environment that the College provides. I'm excited to be part of the Clinical Vision Research Center (CVRC) team, which I'm confident will establish leadership in clinical and translational vision research. The CVRC allows students to be among the first to know of the new developments in the areas of clinical care and gives them the opportunity to learn about materials, equipment and techniques long before they are in the marketplace or in general use.

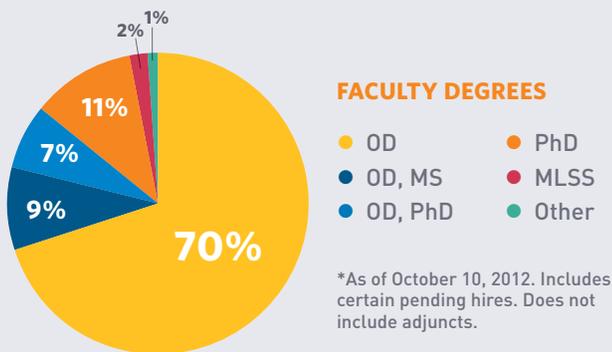


**Suresh Viswanathan,  
BSc Optom, MS, PhD**  
CHAIR, DEPARTMENT  
OF BIOLOGICAL AND  
VISION SCIENCES

- Served on the faculty of Indiana University School of Optometry for 13 years
- Current research: Developing tests for the early detection of neuronal dysfunction in glaucoma and understanding the early mechanisms that contribute to neuronal cell death

I find that the College attracts some of the best and brightest students and top-notch faculty from around the country and world. A clear advantage for students is that many of our faculty members also do cutting-edge research. Students at other optometry schools may only be exposed to these new developments by attending conferences or reading journals, while students at SUNY experience it right in their classroom. Their professors are the prestigious researchers.

And our OD students don't just learn about cutting-edge research, they also have the opportunity to contribute to it. Through a training grant from the National Eye Institute, these students are able to get solid research experience in our labs working with a diverse subject pool. In fact, one of the main reasons I came to SUNY was because I knew my own research would benefit from the diversity of the clinical conditions of the patient population.



**“THERE’S NOTHING MORE REWARDING THAN SHARING MY KNOWLEDGE TO HELP TURN OUR STUDENTS INTO GREAT CLINICIANS.”**

## **Joseph Stamm, OD, FAAO, (Dipl)**

**CHIEF OF ADVANCED CARE, ASSOCIATE CLINICAL PROFESSOR**

- Assistant professor, University of Rochester Eye Institute (2001-2011)
- Past president, New York State Optometric Association (1999-2001)
- Worked in private practice (1982-2001)
- Earned OD at SUNY College of Optometry (1982)

The expertise of the College’s faculty in the various sub-specialties of optometry is outstanding. Combined with the diverse, challenging patient base that the University Eye Center draws, students are getting an experience at the College that they will not find anywhere else. Our patients come from the tri-state area, so we attract a very large population, among which there is often no such thing as a “normal” case. Because we have one of the largest optometric centers in the country, a lot of people trust us with their eyes.

One of our missions at the College is to create compassionate practitioners. Optometry is about more than just science, it’s about people. An optometrist has to see the patient as a person, not as a diagnosis, and know how to talk to them, ask the right questions and really listen to what they say; helping is part of who we are. This is what I teach our students when working with them in the clinic.

The best part of my experience is watching the students mature as they take the knowledge I’m sharing and use it on their own. They are already bright people who are here because they genuinely enjoy learning. Often they will learn about a case in the classroom and be prepared to tackle a similar presentation from a patient in the clinic because they’ve already asked all the right questions. This is how we’re helping students mature into their future career.



# OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM

## Student Clubs, Organizations and Traditions

Students at the College don't just learn in the classroom or the clinic. Opportunities to engage in various professional and volunteer organizations abound, as well as chances for students to interact and have fun with their classmates.

### CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS

American Academy of Optometry:  
Student Chapter

American Optometric Association  
Political Action Committee

American Optometric Student  
Association (AOSA)

American Public Health Association:  
Student Chapter

Beta Sigma Kappa

Canadian Association of  
Optometry Students

California Optometric Student  
Association

College of Optometrists in  
Vision Development

Lions Club

National Optometric Student Association

New Jersey Society of  
Optometric Physicians

New York State Optometric Association  
(NYSOA): Student Chapter

Student Council

Student Optometric Association for  
Private Practice

For more information on these clubs and organizations, visit [www.sunyopt.edu](http://www.sunyopt.edu)

### COLLEGE TRADITIONS

- The Annual Eye Ball
- Halloween Party
- Annual Picnic
- Holiday Party
- Varilux Optometry Student Bowl
- VisionWalk
- Annual Career Symposium



## WILZEN ABUBO

FIRST-YEAR OD STUDENT

### HOMETOWN

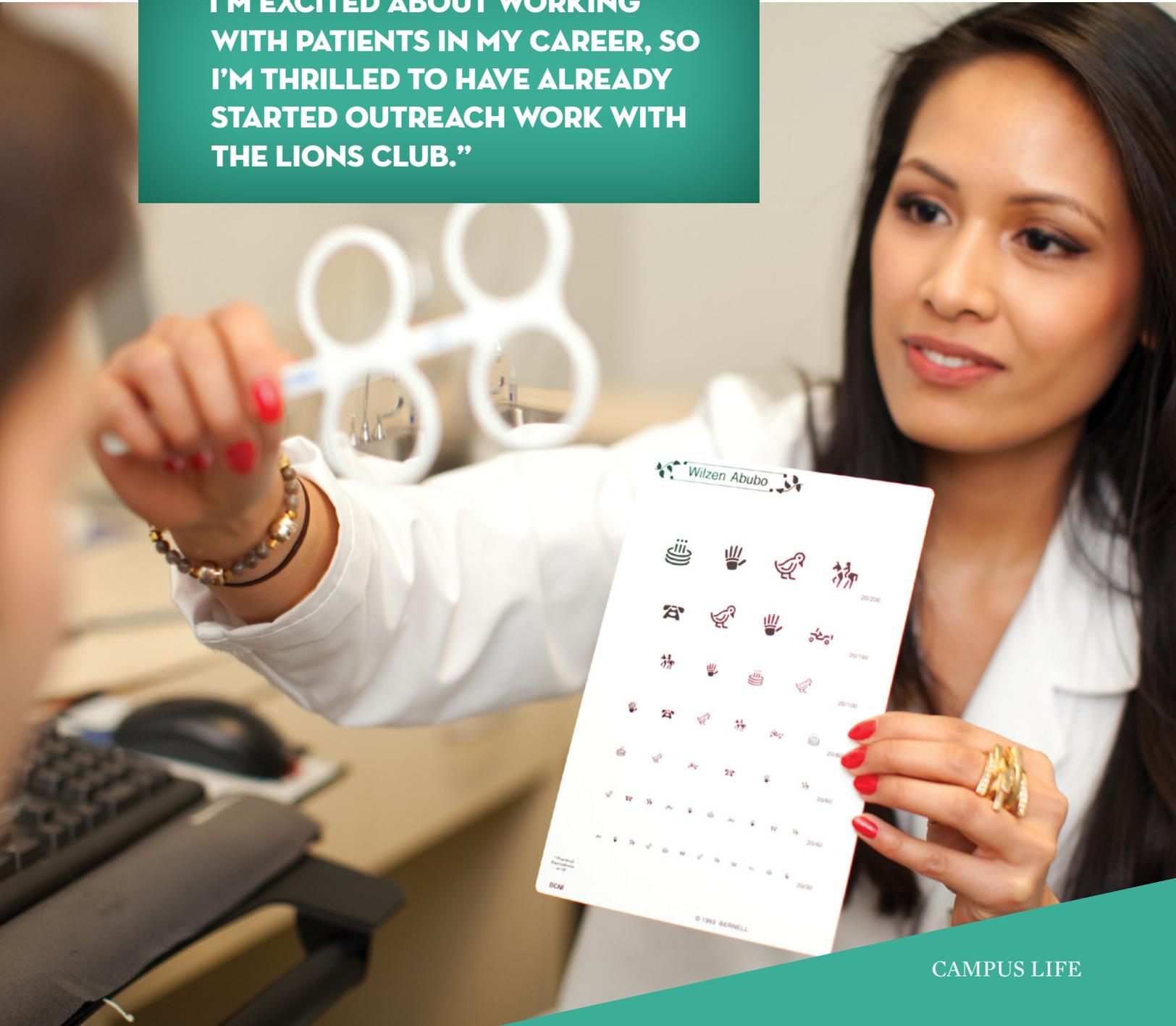
Geneva,  
Switzerland

### ALMA MATER

CUNY City  
College

*The College is located in the center of the city, so there is a lot of opportunity to go beyond its walls. Through my outreach work with the Lions Club, I was able to start practicing for my future career by doing visual acuity screenings at a street fair.*

**“I’M EXCITED ABOUT WORKING WITH PATIENTS IN MY CAREER, SO I’M THRILLED TO HAVE ALREADY STARTED OUTREACH WORK WITH THE LIONS CLUB.”**



# A CAMPUS LIKE NO OTHER



## New York City

The College, located on 42nd Street between 5th and 6th Avenues, is truly at the center of Manhattan, allowing for easy and convenient access to New York City and all it has to offer. It is easy to get subways and buses to travel from the College, whether to complete an externship at a partner site, do extracurricular community service at an outreach event or enjoy the city's many sites for culture or entertainment.

Bryant Park and the main branch of the New York Public Library are just steps away from the College, providing beautiful scenery and culture right in the neighborhood.

An endless supply of attractions and events exist beyond 42nd Street. There's always something to do in New York:

- Free winter ice-skating in Bryant Park
- Madison Square Garden, home to the Knicks and the Rangers, concerts, dog shows and track meets

- Summer Stage, an open-air concert series in Central Park
- Thousands of restaurants serving diverse cuisine
- Broadway's selection of musicals and plays
- World-class museums, including the Metropolitan Museum of Art, Museum of Modern Art, Guggenheim Museum and American Museum of Natural History
- Major zoos and botanical gardens
- The New York City Marathon in the fall
- The Tribeca Film Festival in the spring

New York is also home to many important optometry-related conferences and events, including International Vision Expo East, the Envision New York Conference and VisionWalk.

Despite having a population of more than eight million people, New York City consistently ranks in the top 10 safest large cities (cities with more than 500,000 people) in the United States.



**“NEW YORK IS DIFFERENT FROM ANYWHERE ELSE. OTHER SCHOOLS ARE ON CAMPUSES, BUT THE COLLEGE IS IN THE MIDDLE OF THIS UNIQUE CITY.”**



## **AMY STEINWAY**

**SECOND-YEAR OD STUDENT**

**HOMETOWN**

Scottsdale,  
Arizona

**ALMA MATER**

University of  
Michigan

*New York is so diverse and attracts so many different types of people. It makes the experience of going to school here very unique. The students all have their own story, their own background and their own reason for wanting to come here.*

## **MISSION STATEMENT**

**The State University of New York (SUNY) College of Optometry excels, innovates and leads in Optometry and Vision Science by:**

- Developing outstanding optometrists and vision scientists;
- Making new discoveries that advance vision science and patient care;
- Improving patients' lives by providing exceptional general and specialized optometric care; and
- Enhancing public health through education and service to a broad range of communities.





## CONTACT

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*Office of Student Affairs and Admissions*  
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