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www.sunyopt.edu
On October 1st, we had the pleasure of announcing the successful completion of our $10 million fundraising campaign, *The Vision and the Promise*, which was conducted by our campus-affiliated foundation, the Optometric Center of New York. With a final tabulation of $10.15 million raised, the success of our efforts can only be regarded as a remarkable achievement given that it was the first formal campaign in the College's 43-year history and that it was achieved during the most tumultuous economic period since the Great Depression. What is most important, however, is how we’re putting this success into action and, thanks to the great generosity of our community, our institution is well-positioned to pursue our strategic goals at a very critical moment in time. State University of New York Chancellor Nancy Zimpher often speaks of our fundraising efforts as serving to provide our campuses with a “margin of excellence” and, indeed, the success of *The Vision and the Promise* is helping us to do just that.

Our fundraising efforts provide us with the critical support that we need to achieve our strategic goals. Perhaps now more than ever before, our ability to achieve our goals is essential. Like all health care professions today, optometry is in the midst of a very rapid and exciting evolution. Health care reform, innovations in technology,
enhanced patient care coordination through interprofessional practice and other factors are the driving forces behind the need for change. But with this transformation of our profession comes enormous responsibility for educational institutions like ours: we must be at the vanguard of this shifting paradigm in order to effectively prepare our students, as well as serve the patients that we care for, not just for today but for the decades ahead.

The findings of the National Eye Care Workforce Study, issued jointly by the American Optometric Association and the Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry last summer, help to illuminate just how much our evolving health care system and the forces that are coming to bear on the demand for eye care services, are likely to impact optometric practice. The study shows that of nearly 57,000 eye doctors nationally, two-thirds (about 40,000) are optometrists and one-third (about 16,600) are ophthalmologists. The ratio is similar in New York State.

With the implementation of the Affordable Care Act and the resulting expansion of health insurance coverage, as well as the inclusion of eye care as an essential benefit for children, the overall demand for care is likely to grow for the next decade and beyond. Given that optometrists provide the bulk of eye care in the nation, there is good reason to believe that optometry will shoulder much of this growing obligation.

This, however, is only part of the story. The aging population will increase the prevalence of chronic eye disease. This, along with projected increases in diabetes and other systemic diseases, means that optometrists will be increasingly called upon to deliver the nation’s medical eye care in the years ahead. They will also be required to deliver care using progressively sophisticated technology, maximizing the use of ancillary personnel and, perhaps most critically, working effectively as members of interprofessional teams of health care providers.

With an understanding of these trends, the College is preparing our students for the future. As this report illustrates, we’re working hard to adapt to the changes that are driving our profession forward. From evaluating and innovating in the didactic and clinical aspects of our curriculum, to incorporating new technologies and engaging in interprofessional education; from renovating and upgrading our infrastructure, to developing and implementing new academic and career development programs, we are dedicated to ensuring that our students, residents and alumni embrace these exciting new opportunities head-on and thrive in the process.

We don’t stop at simply preparing our students to excel and lead as practitioners either. At the College we play a leading role in advancing future clinical practice and the care of the public through our research program. Of course our academic and research activities come to fruition in the direct care that we provide to tens of thousands of people at the University Eye Center and through an increasing number of outreach activities throughout our community.

As you read this report, remember that without the success of The Vision and the Promise campaign, as well as the current and future support that you provide to our College, these achievements would simply not be possible. From our entire community, I offer heartfelt gratitude for partnering with us in this success.

Sincerely,

David A. Heath, OD, EdM
President
Looking Closely at Clinical Skills

In recent decades, the various health professions have been placing their educational focus on the definition of competency and its assessment as a means for assuring that the practitioners that they train possess the attributes required of independent care providers. The days of using clock hours as a proxy for learning are long gone.

Like its sister professions, optometric education’s use of defined competencies has evolved with the health care system, becoming more sophisticated. Historically, optometric education centered on the teaching of clinical skills, (or techniques), that were used in the measurement of refractive error, binocular vision or eye health. While technical skills remain an important part of practice, far greater emphasis is now being placed on the analytical or cognitive skills required in the application of testing results within an evidence-based framework to assure the best patient care outcomes.

The SUNY College of Optometry has worked to develop and apply effective measures of competencies, together with the essentials of evidence-based practice, to assure that its students develop into clinicians who are able to provide the best and most informed care for their patients. As part of its current strategic plan, the College has committed itself to continually improving and evaluating its evidence-based clinical training and ensuring that it anticipates future trends in health care.

“A student’s ability to gain and demonstrate competencies rather than simply the number of hours spent in the classroom has long been a part of optometric education,” says SUNY Optometry president, Dr. David A. Heath. “The historic focus on technical skills is a by-product of our evolution as a profession and a side-effect of the fact that technical skills are the easiest to directly observe and assess. The focus today must be on developing a clear understanding of evidence-based care, cognitive skills, critical thinking, patient communications and team-based practice. Assuring competency in these areas is far more challenging but it’s a challenge we’re gladly embracing,” he continued.

Dr. Richard Madonna, chair of the Department of Clinical Education, explains that his department, in conjunction with the vice president and dean for academic affairs, Dr. David Troilo, recently initiated the “Core Experiences Project” to identify and develop several distinct areas of clinical competency which students must demonstrate proficiency in prior to completing the Doctor of Optometry program. These competencies fall within four core areas: refractive care, sensorimotor conditions, disease and trauma and interprofessional practice.

“Every student must meet a specified number of points in each core area in order to assure that they have sufficient experience in those areas,” Dr. Madonna explains. “Clinical grading is based upon the effective delivery of patient care as well as the student’s interpersonal skills, communication ability and professionalism.”

continued on page 8

EYE ON THE FUTURE... Interprofessional Opportunities

Health care practitioners are increasingly finding themselves working as members of a broader health care team in order to provide the best possible integrated care for their patients. The College embraces this model and continues to develop ways in which it can incorporate interprofessional education into both its didactic and clinical curriculum. From incorporating case studies in the classroom to increasing the number of opportunities for student involvement at full-service hospitals such as Woodhull Medical Center, SUNY Optometry is fully committed to implementing a premier, multifaceted, interprofessional model for optometric education.
optometrists will practice in the future. “Optometrists are continuing to evolve from measurers to assessors” he notes. “Technology is now allowing many of these measurements to be taken by instruments that can be run by technicians. It is essential that optometric training recognize this.”

There is a clear paradigm shift in clinical education away from the delivery of procedures and towards an increased emphasis on understanding of the scientific underpinnings of those procedures. “The level of skill needed to perform a procedure may change,” Dr. Madonna explains. “But students will need to spend more time working to understand the meaning of test results and how best to utilize those results to provide evidence-based care as part of a broader health care team.” This shift is something that administrators have been paying close attention to, particularly in the face of health care reform. “All signs point to the fact that, in the future, health care will be delivered by teams consisting of individuals from different professions,” Dr. Madonna says. “So it is essential that our students are trained to work as part of these teams.”

Dr. Troilo notes that it is the College’s “role to educate students in the critical assessment of standards of care and evidence-based practice in order for them to deliver the best patient care available.” Moreover, Dr. Troilo recognizes that the College also has an obligation to ensure that it plays a role as a source of that evidence through its own robust clinical research efforts.

Internship Program Provides Unparalleled Experience for CSTEP Students

For two weeks each winter and spring, undergraduate college students from throughout New York State participate in the SUNY College of Optometry’s Collegiate Science and Technology Entry Program (CSTEP) Internship. The students have the opportunity to attend lectures by College faculty members and experience first-hand what it’s like to work with and care for patients in the University Eye Center.

The CSTEP Program is a New York State-sponsored initiative designed to increase the number of historically underrepresented minority students in the sciences. SUNY Optometry is an enthusiastic partner in the CSTEP program. In addition to the internship programs, the College hosts a free, eight-week Summer Academic Program each year from May to July.
Unique Mentoring Program Launched by the Career Development Center

Through its varied programming, events and individualized services, the College’s Career Development Center works to help students, residents and alumni achieve meaningful success in their career. Last year, the Career Development Center launched a mentoring program designed to capitalize on the SUNY community’s vast network of alumni, professional organizations and partners in order to recruit the most talented mentors to connect with its students and residents in an easy and effective way. The Family of Mentors Program utilizes a powerful online system that helps match mentees with an appropriate mentor based on a variety of topics. The Family of Mentors system then helps to facilitate the mentoring process by offering discussion prompts and activities for mentors and mentees to follow as they get to know one another. The program also includes a series in-person events as well.

Mr. Francisco Lucio (pictured above), director of career development and minority enrichment at the College, answers a few questions about the Family of Mentors program and what he hopes it will accomplish.

Q Tell us why the Career Development Center decided to create the Family of Mentors Program as one of the services it provides to students and residents at the College?

A No one ever makes it alone. Everyone who has ever achieved career success has done it with the help of others. Mentoring is a focused effort to facilitate career success because there is a rich and meaningful connection formed between a mentor and mentee. The CDC felt that it was crucial to create that space where mentoring relationships could form and thrive, and thus, the development of the Family of Mentors Program. We also wanted to facilitate the process with the help of our online platform.

Q What do you hope that students and residents will gain most from their interaction with their mentor?

A My hope is that students and residents will make a deep and meaningful connection with a lifelong colleague. So often in today’s fast-paced world of text messages, tweets and one-line email responses opportunities to truly get to know someone are lost. The structured Family of Mentors Program creates built-in opportunities for mentors and mentees to get to know one another via monthly discussion prompts that touch on not just optometry, but also personal goals and aspirations.

Q How about the mentors, what would you like them to take away from their experience mentoring?

A As a former teacher, I know the great satisfaction one receives from helping a young person grow and achieve their goals, so I’m positive our mentors will get similar satisfaction from helping their mentees. Sometimes, it is the mentor who ends up gaining the most from the relationship because he or she has the opportunity to be introspective and giving.

Q What kinds of mentors are you looking for? Do they have to be in the optometric profession or are you looking to recruit mentors with a variety of professional backgrounds?

A We’re looking for mentors with the passion to help students and residents here at the College. We want mentors who come from all walks of life and have decided to take on the responsibility of developing a budding professional. The mentors we’re seeking can come from other professional backgrounds because there is a lot that can be learned from someone else’s experience.

For more information visit www.sunyopt.edu/fmp
The SUNY College of Optometry was buzzing about the future last spring during the College’s 3rd Annual Career Symposium: Imagine Tomorrow. The full-day event assembled a collection of distinguished professionals to provide students and other members of the SUNY community with an informed glimpse at what the future of optometry might look like. Two dozen experts from across a broad spectrum of the optometric community and beyond took part in a variety of fast-paced, interactive panel discussions on such issues as employability, technology, interprofessional practice and more.

President Heath noted in his welcoming remarks to the audience that one of the College’s goals is to ensure that the overwhelming majority of students who attend SUNY Optometry end up in satisfying careers of their choosing. Events like the annual career symposium are designed specifically as tools to help the members of the College community achieve that important goal.

A major theme of this year’s event was the globalization of the profession, something that was reflected in the international nature of many of the symposium’s participants. Dr. Fan Lu of Wenzhou Medical University in China, Dr. Hector Santiago who has worked for three decades on the development of optometric education in Latin America and beyond were two of the panelists, while Dr. Jason Singh, the event’s keynote speaker, is the executive director of OneSight, a nonprofit organization that is working to create sustainable solutions for vision care around the world.

“The energy, the enthusiasm, the collection of talent and the wide range of issues that were addressed helped to make this year’s symposium the best one yet,” said Mr. Francisco Lucio, SUNY Optometry’s director of career development. “It was a great opportunity for the members of our community to really dig into the issues that will matter for their careers in the coming years.”

SUNY Optometry has developed a highly unique residency/graduate program that is designed to produce clinician-scientists with a particular focus on translational and clinical research. This combined program concentrates on primary care/pediatrics, cornea/contact lenses, vision therapy/rehabilitation/traumatic brain injury or ocular disease. The focus areas of the residency complement the research interests that are developed through the graduate degree work. The program takes place over a two- or five-year period depending on whether the participant is pursuing an MS or PhD degree. The participants in this innovative program are expected to devote half their time to residency and clinical activates and the other half to graduate studies and research.
College Completes Major Classroom Overhaul

A major gut renovation was completed to the College’s first floor classrooms prior to the fall semester. Known as 101 (now Feder Hall) and 103, the work was done in order to create a more modern, comfortable and tech-savvy learning space. The remodeled “smart” classrooms, which can also be combined into one larger room, are now equipped with fully automated, multi-media technologies making them a stark improvement over what existed before.

To see a slide show of images showing the transformation of the classroom, scan the QR code (above) or visit www.youtube.com/sunyoptometry
SUNY Community Steps Up for World Sight Day

In October the SUNY College of Optometry community came together to recognize World Sight Day, a day that is designed to draw attention to the scourge of avoidable blindness across the world organized by the International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness.

The events at the College were organized by the student chapter of the American Public Health Association (APHA). The group organized an information table in the busy lobby of the College’s Midtown Manhattan building so that students, faculty and staff, as well as visitors and patients of the University Eye Center, could learn more about the enormous impact that avoidable blindness has on people across the globe. According to the World Health Organization, about 80 percent of the 285 million people who are estimated to be visually impaired worldwide have either a preventable or treatable condition.

Students, faculty and staff were encouraged to purchase and wear World Sight Day t-shirts to help raise awareness and money for Optometry Giving Sight’s World Sight Day Challenge, the largest annual global fundraising campaign to address avoidable blindness. The events included a discussion by Dr. Jordan Kasslow, an optometrist and founder of VisionSpring, a social enterprise specifically developed to ensure affordable access to eyewear around the world.

The World Sight Day events were partially sponsored by the American Optometric Student Association and the Optometric Center of New York, as well as TOMS, a shoe and eyewear company and innovator in the “one-for-one” business model. World Sight Day is closely aligned with the World Health Organization’s five-year “Global Action Plan” which focuses heavily on ensuring that all people around the world have access to quality eye health services.

Extending our Global Reach

The global presence of the SUNY College of Optometry received a boost this past year under the leadership of Dr. Jeffrey Philpott (pictured, center) and the newly re-organized department of Student Affairs and International Programs. With an eye toward building partnerships that are relevant for students, improving health care and expanding the scope of optometric practice around the world, as well as helping to build an even more diverse student body, the College is in the midst of developing several exciting new international programs. SUNY Optometry has entered into a partnership with the University of KwaZulu-Natal in South Africa and has begun building relationships in Ecuador, France and elsewhere.

“The work that we’ve been doing in Africa, South America and Europe this past year has the potential to have major ramifications, not only here at the College, but in those countries as well,” Dr. Philpott said. “We want to develop international relationships that are relevant for our current students but also have the potential to make a deep and lasting impact on the profession of optometry globally.”

The College’s Confucius Institute for Healthcare celebrated its fifth year at SUNY Optometry. In addition to offering a variety of programs on Chinese language and culture, new programs are being developed, including courses about world health care and acupuncture, as well as Mandarin for optometrists.
Each thin line represents a school or college of optometry.

Includes new programs (not shown on graph).

Percentage of Candidates who Passed all NBEO Parts at Graduation

Entering GPAs by School per Year

Entering OAT Total Science Scores by School Per Year

Optometry School Indebtedness of Students who Took out Loans by School

Percentage of Candidates who Passed all NBEO Parts at Graduation
SUNY Spirit Shines at VisionWalk 2014

The College community showed up in full force at Citi Field last May for VisionWalk 2014, raising thousands of dollars for the Foundation Fighting Blindness and winning the New York event’s “Overall Spirit Award” in the process.

Dr. Susan Schuettenberg, an associate clinical professor at the College, served as medical co-chair for the 5k walk which, since its inception in 2006, has seen tens of thousands of participants from across the country and raised over $30 million to fund sight-saving research. Over 170 students, faculty and staff from SUNY Optometry, and their families, participated.

College Responds to Growing Need for Residency Education

The 2013-14 residency class at SUNY Optometry was the largest in its more than four-decade history. A total of 37 residents in 15 different programs received certificates of advanced clinical competency at a ceremony last June.
A Day of Celebration: Commencement 2014

The College awarded a record 80 students with degrees during its 40th commencement last June. During the ceremony, SUNY conferred an honorary degree upon Dr. Jacob Nachmias, professor emeritus in the Department of Psychology and Neuroscience at the University of Pennsylvania and a leader in developing the modern understanding of spatial vision. This year the College inaugurated the Presidential Medal, awarding it to Dr. Robert Duckman. The Presidential Medal was created to recognize a retiring, full-time faculty member who has devoted the vast majority of his or her career to the College and whose work has made a significant impact in their field. Dr. Duckman joined the faculty of the College when it opened in 1971.

Class of 2014 President, Mitali Sanghani, spoke to her fellow graduates about the camaraderie that they shared and urged her colleagues to use their new careers for good. “We are in a profession that can change lives,” she said.

This year’s commencement address was given by Ms. Ronda Kotelchuck, the chief executive officer of the Primary Care Development Corporation, a nonprofit organization that works to expand and transform primary health care in underserved communities. Ms. Kotelchuck noted that the graduates would be entering into a health care system that has undergone enormous change recently but also carefully pointed out that they had the opportunity to make an outsized impact within the new system.
SUNY Optometry’s partnership with The Bowery Mission, one of New York City’s most respected organizations providing services to the city’s homeless and vulnerable, expanded to East Harlem last spring.

In early 2013 the College signed an agreement to provide those served by The Bowery Mission’s lower Manhattan location with full-service, no-cost, comprehensive eye care. Three days each month, SUNY Optometry’s Dr. Jack Chen, along with interns from the College, visit the site to provide care to a wide range of people. Thanks to broad support solicited by the Optometric Center of New York, the College’s philanthropic foundation, equipment was purchased and provided for the program as well.

The continued support from a range of foundations and individual donors has enabled the College to expand its relationship with The Bowery Mission to include the organization’s new Men’s Center in East Harlem. The center is expected to house up to 60 men in a transitional residential setting and provide services to both the residents and members of the neighborhood in need.

“We are pleased and honored to have the SUNY College of Optometry spearheading the health care services at our new Men’s Center and providing full-service eye care to residents,” said Mr. Matt Krivich, The Bowery Mission’s director of operations and community relations. “The people served by The Bowery Mission have benefited greatly as SUNY Optometry has provided excellent care at our lower Manhattan location. We are excited to be expanding our existing partnership into East Harlem.”

Renovations to the Men’s Center were completed in order to provide two fully equipped diagnostic examination rooms. All services, including any necessary optical devices such as glasses, are provided free of charge.

“Our partnership with The Bowery Mission has been fruitful for us in a variety of ways,” said President Heath, “It has provided us with another opportunity to fulfill our mission of providing service to our community and it has also given us the ability to further enhance our students’ clinical experiences while also promoting the value and importance of public health.”

As it prepares for the future, the University Eye Center is partnering with NextGen Healthcare to develop a series of electronic solutions that will enable the clinic to manage its patient care activities more efficiently. From a new electronic health records system that will allow health information to be more seamlessly and securely shared between practitioners, to improved systems for communicating, scheduling, prescribing and billing patients, this new system—scheduled to come online in 2015—will help prepare the UEC for the future of health care.
The University Eye Center will use a two-year, $200,000 grant provided by the Stavros Niarchos Foundation, one of the world’s leading international philanthropic organizations, to the Optometric Center of New York, to create and staff a fulltime community outreach coordinator. The new coordinator, Ms. Marinel Pena (pictured), began working in September and is responsible for managing and expanding the UEC’s network of ongoing relationships across the New York City community and beyond.

“Enhancing public health through education and service is part of our mission at the College,” said President Heath in a statement announcing the gift. “We’re certainly grateful to the Stavros Niarchos Foundation for partnering with us in our effort to build on the success that we’ve had in caring for our community.”

The UEC has been steadily expanding its outreach programs in a variety of different ways. Last year, the clinic’s doctors made more than 200 visits to individuals in Manhattan and Queens who are unable to leave their homes as part of its decades-long Homebound program. The College also established a partnership with the Bowery Mission to provide regular, free vision care to those served by the Mission in lower Manhattan. That program expand to the Bowery’s East Harlem location this past spring (see page 16).

UEC doctors and practitioners also provided more than 1,100 individuals at various educational and community events throughout the city last year with vital, health-related information. Doctors, interns and staff also regularly examine individuals at free screenings in the UEC and throughout the community designed to detect a variety of ocular and systemic diseases.

In addition to maintaining the institution’s robust outreach programs, the community outreach coordinator will also focus on developing new and different avenues for providing a broad range of care to underserved members of the community.

“We’re very excited by the opportunity that having Marinel in this position will give to us in our ongoing effort to expand our outreach into the community,” said Dr. Richard Soden, vice president for clinical affairs at the College and executive director of the UEC. “The care that we provide for our neighbors is an important service and I am pleased that this grant will enable us to expand on our already vigorous efforts.”
Unique Clinical Care Unit to be Developed at the University Eye Center

Last summer SUNY Optometry signed an agreement with Marco Ophthalmic, a leading manufacturer of diagnostic equipment, designed to assist the College in its ongoing efforts to develop and integrate new technologies into both the educational and patient care components of its mission. Marco, along with its affiliated philanthropic arm, the Seymour R. Marco Family Foundation, has agreed to provide SUNY Optometry, through its own foundation the Optometric Center of New York, with cash and in-kind gifts worth a total of $100,000 over a five-year period. This support, in part, will enable the College to move ahead with the development of a unique clinical care unit that will be known as the “Practice of Today.”

Composed of four examination rooms as well as a pre-testing facility to be housed within the UEC’s primary care service, the unit will be managed by Dr. Thomas Wong. The staffing will include four, fourth-year OD student externs and, potentially, additional first- and second-year OD students in ancillary roles. The unit, by its own design, will be subjected to a variety of experimental structures in both the use of new technology as well as the staffing patterns it deploys. One of the primary goals of the unit is to prepare current students for the inevitable technological changes and workflow shifts within clinical care settings that they will face as they enter practice settings.

“We see this as the University Eye Center’s beta testing site for both technology and for alternative approaches to our clinical care and educational programs,” President Heath said. The goal will be to determine the best practices that could likely modify how the College conducts its pre-clinical training as well as how its clinical services are managed in the UEC.

“Two very critical elements of our current strategic plan are to develop the highest quality practitioners by providing the most progressive and adaptive education possible and to deliver effective, innovative care to our patients,” President Heath said. “This new unit will help us take important steps toward achieving those goals.”
Since its establishment more than five years ago, the University Eye Center’s Referral Service has provided the clinic with a steady and growing stream of patients. The growth, in fact, has been staggering. Last year, the Referral Service produced a record number of referrals, close to three times the number of patient encounters than it had just five years earlier. That growth, according to Dr. Harriette Canellos, the Referral Service’s director, can be attributed to several factors, including the UEC’s reputation, the multitude of specialty services that it provides and simple word-of-mouth from a wide range of satisfied referring doctors and other health care professionals in the community.

“When the Referral Service began, we assumed that we would be receiving referrals from doctors in the New York City area,” Dr. Canellos says, “but we quickly started to receive referrals from Long Island, Westchester County and Upstate New York, as well as from Connecticut and beyond. It’s a testament to the good work that we’ve been doing here.”

Many referrals come from optometrists and ophthalmologists looking for specialized services that they don’t perform in their own practices. “Optometrists and ophthalmologists often refer patients to us for things like specialty contact lens fittings, or for our extensive Imaging Service,” Dr. Canellos notes.

Over the past year, however, one area of growth for the Referral Service has been particularly notable. Two years ago, about one quarter of the referrals made through the Referral Service came from specialists outside of the areas of optometry and ophthalmology. Last year, that number grew to more than one-third of all referrals.

Dr. Canellos credits a growing recognition about the importance of an interprofessional approach to health care as part of the reason for this development. “These referring providers are recognizing that optometrists are part of a larger health care team,” Dr. Canellos notes.

This fact seems to be well-illustrated in the Referral Services’ data. “Primary care physicians and pediatricians have recognized our excellence when it comes to both routine exams and advanced care,” Dr. Canellos says. “We see referrals from primary care physicians for patients with systemic diseases such as hypertension and diabetes, and we see referrals from pediatricians for children with conditions ranging from eye infections to learning disabilities.” In addition, when a child fails a basic vision screening performed by a pediatrician, that doctor often refers that child to the UEC for a more extensive evaluation.

The Referral Service is also seeing an expanding number of referrals from beyond the realm of primary care physicians and pediatricians. Specialists are regularly referring their patients to the UEC. “We have dermatologists who refer their patients to our Oculoplastics Service, and neurologists who refer to our Head Trauma Service,” Dr. Canellos says. “And we’re also seeing an increasing number of referrals from professionals like speech pathologists, audiologists, occupational and physical therapists, as well as from school psychologists, teachers and child advocates.”

The Referral Service was created to provide services and testing that complement what the referring practitioners can deliver to their patients. This goal, Dr. Canellos notes, epitomizes what interprofessional health care is all about. But it also helps to highlight the three-pronged mission of the institution—education, research and patient care—to the larger health care community.

“The Referral Service is looking to increase our recognition, not only as a patient care facility but also as an important educational institution that engages in critical research as well,” she says. “The Referral Service plays a key role in raising the visibility of our entire institutional mission.”
Support Enhances Dispensing Services

Essilor of America provided SUNY Optometry’s optical lens fabricating laboratory with a new optical lens edger. Through this in-kind donation, as well as cash contributions to be made by the company over a five-year period, SUNY will help to ensure that its dispensary remains an innovative, state-of-the-art facility for both its students at the College and its patients in the University Eye Center. In recognition for the gift, the College has named its optical operations the “Essilor Eyewear Center.”

“The future of optometry is important to Essilor, and through this contribution we are pleased to support SUNY and its efforts to train students in a modern, high-tech facility,” said Dr. Howard Purcell, senior vice president of customer development at Essilor of America. “We are honored to be associated with SUNY and the work they do to provide students with the latest, most innovative equipment as they gain a hands-on learning experience in preparation for their optometric careers.”
Class of 2016 Sees Strong Support at White Coat Ceremony

Well over 200 people gathered in the Schwarz Theater last May to welcome the Class of 2016 into the third year of their professional program. This rite of passage, known as a “white coat ceremony,” has been increasingly celebrated at professional health education institutions across the nation in recent years. The College began conducting its own white coat ceremony in 2011 and this year saw the largest collection of family, friends and faculty members in attendance to date.

A total of 85 students received pins as part of the hour-long ceremony that included the perspectives of a parent of one of the students—Dr. Sylvia Bernatsky, herself an OD—as well as inspirational words from Mr. Richard Bernstein, a visually impaired lawyer and advocate who has completed 18 marathons and triathlons.

In his remarks to the gathering, President Heath, noted that the progression of the Class of 2016 into its third year of the Doctor of Optometry program represents a significant watershed in the students’ professional lives that marks a shift of focus away from themselves to a greater concern over the well-being and care of their patients.

Meanwhile, the rapid evolution of the health care environment was also imparted on the clinical interns. Dr. Richard Soden, vice president for clinical affairs at the College, noted that the students will be faced with “the greatest changes in health care reform since the introduction of Medicare” nearly fifty years ago. While Dr. Denise Whittam, the past president of the New York State Optometric Association and the current President of SUNY Optometry’s Alumni Association, told the students that they would soon be entering a profession that has progressed markedly in recent years, a sentiment that was also articulated by Dr. Bernatsky during her remarks.

Dr. Bernatsky urged the students to remember that working with patients is a two-way street. “At times you may need to teach your patients,” she said. “But don’t forget to learn from them as well.” Mr. Bernstein, who was introduced by Jenna Salner, the class president, implored the students to remember the impact that they will have on their patients’ lives and thanked them for their “willingness to make people’s lives better.”
Engaging with the Profession

Last June, SUNY students produced a spirited, Rocky-themed video (screen shot at left) as part of the Varilux Optometry Student Bowl at Optometry’s Meeting in Philadelphia.

Last spring a contingent of SUNY Optometry students met with lawmakers in Washington, D.C. as part of the American Optometric Associations’s annual Congressional Advocacy Conference.

SUNY Optometry Community Highlights Critical Health Issue

The College highlighted the importance of heart health awareness last winter with students, faculty and staff—dressed brightly in red—handing out more than 400 red ribbons and information designed to educate and enlighten the community about this critical health issue. The event, which was organized by the student chapter of the American Public Health Association, is also emblematic of the overall commitment that the University Eye Center and the SUNY College of Optometry have toward addressing important public health issues.

To see a video about heart health awareness at SUNY Optometry, scan the QR code (below) or visit www.youtube.com/sunyoptometry
SUNY Optometry Researchers Solve 400-Year-Old Question

It was a problem that perplexed Galileo more than four centuries ago. SUNY College of Optometry researchers Dr. Jens Kremkow, Dr. Jose Manuel Alonso, Dr. Qasim Zaidi and collaborators in their laboratories published a seminal paper last February in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Science that advances the understanding of how our brains are wired for seeing white versus black objects solving this long-standing conundrum.

The effect that the SUNY Optometry researchers studied is responsible for how we see everything from textures and faces, to why it is easier to read a page with black-on-white lettering, rather than white-on-black (a well-known, and until now, unexplained phenomenon). By tracing these effects as a function of the way neurons are laid out and interconnected in the retina and brain, Drs. Kremkow, Alonso and Zaidi found that the illusion is potentially derived from the very origin of vision—in photoreceptors of the eye themselves.

Clinical Vision Research Center Receives over $2 Million in Funding

Hundreds of individuals participated in 11 clinical research trials over the course of last year, testing everything from a potential new drug for treating dry eye, to the nature of retinal disease, to new glasses and contacts that could slow the progression of myopia in children. The Clinical Vision Research Center (CVRC) collaborated with both industry and government partners to conduct studies and worked closely with faculty members and the University Eye Center to help enroll subjects into the various studies.

“These collaborations allow us to offer treatment options not otherwise available to our patients,” Dr. Kathryn Richdale, the CVRC director said. “I’m proud of the role that SUNY Optometry and the CVRC are playing in the important process of ophthalmic device and drug development and look forward to continued expansion of our industry partnerships.”

Established in February 2013, the CVRC has quickly become an integral component of the College’s robust research activities.
Grant Activity

YEAR

INCOME ($)
Research projects focusing on brain and eye disorders conducted by faculty and students at the College received a total of nearly $380,000 in funding as part of the initial round of awards provided by the new SUNY Brain Network of Excellence. Dr. Jose Manuel Alonso, Dr. Stewart Bloomfield, Dr. Robert McPeek, Dr. Qasim Zaidi and Dr. David Troilo, as well as several students at the College, are currently working on four of the eight neuroscience projects that received the first round of funding through this newly established SUNY Research Foundation program.

“On SUNY campuses across the state, our students and faculty are making major medical breakthroughs, discovering with each new venture a more effective way to understand, diagnose or treat diseases that affect brain and eye function in people of all ages,” SUNY Chancellor Nancy L. Zimpher said in an announcement about the awards.

The SUNY Brain Network of Excellence, one of five networks throughout the SUNY system, was created to maximize interdisciplinary and collaborative neuroscience research across the SUNY campuses and facilitate partnerships with academia, industry and community.

SUNY Optometry Researchers Receive Four SUNY Brain Network of Excellence Grants

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Research Foundation Fellowship Awarded

Dr. Kathryn Richdale, the Dr. Alden N. Haffner Innovation Chair at the College and director of the Clinical Vision Research Center, was awarded a 2014-15 Research Foundation Presidential Fellowship. Dr. Richdale is working to enhance the clinical trials infrastructure and increase awareness of patient-based research conducted throughout the SUNY system campuses. The Presidential Fellowship Program is designed to enlist the expertise and assistance of faculty across the system in research collaboration. Presidential Fellows lead and foster multidisciplinary research collaboration among campus researchers and other partners in support of SUNY’s research agenda.
Type of Grants

Faculty & Student Publications and Presentations*

* Publications from Pub-Med search and self reports. Presentations from search of ARVO, VSS and Academy databases and self reports.
Alumnus Provides Substantial Support for the Vision and the Promise Campaign

During the Optometric Center of New York’s ‘Eyes on New York’ gala last March, President Heath announced that SUNY Optometry alumnus, Dr. Mark Feder (Class of 1983) and his wife Sherrie had provided significant support to the campaign which the College recognized by naming of one of its newly-renovated, state-of-the-art classrooms “Feder Hall.” In addition, Dr. Feder has also established two scholarships focused on excellence in primary care and contact lenses. In October, the College handed out the first of these scholarships.

“We are proud to support *The Vision and the Promise* campaign,” Dr. Feder said at the time his gift was announced. “The College plays such a critical role in the community providing education, patient care and research.”

Dr. Feder is the founder of Norwalk Eye Care and has been in private practice in Norwalk, CT since his graduation from the College. He also serves as the chief executive officer of IDOC, an organization for independent optometrists. “SUNY is where I started my career more than three decades ago,” he said, “and it has been an incredibly rewarding journey for me being able to improve so many lives with the gift of sight.”
Alumna Elected Vice President of American Optometric Association

Last June, SUNY Optometry Class of 1984 alumna and faculty member, Dr. Andrea Thau, was elected vice president of the American Optometric Association (AOA). Dr. Thau first became involved with the AOA when she was a student at the College during the 1980s. From 1990 to 1997, she served through all of the chairs of the Optometric Society of the City of New York (OSCONY), and became the organization’s first female president. She also served in the New York State Optometric Association (NYSOA) from 1987 to 2005, including 14 years as a member of its Board of Trustees. Dr. Thau was then elected the first female president of the NYSOA and served in that role from 2001-2003. In 2007, she was elected to the American Optometric Association’s Board of Trustees, re-elected in 2010, and then elected secretary-treasurer in 2013.

Dr. Thau’s interest in the AOA and NYSOA started at a young age. Her late father, Dr. Edwin C. Thau, served as president of the Bronx County Optometric Society of the NYSOA. She witnessed the transformation of the optometric profession due to the volunteer efforts of AOA members on the local, state and national level. As a student, Dr. Thau lobbied with the NYSOA in Albany the year legislation was passed to enable optometrists in New York to utilize diagnostic pharmaceutical agents.

Dr. Thau began her career as a full-time faculty member at SUNY during her first five years of practice and has continued to be a part-time faculty member since. In 1987, she began her own private practice.

“I love being in private practice and cultivating long term patient-care relationships with patients,” Dr. Thau said. “Between my father and I, we have cared for five generations of the same family. As OD’s, we protect, preserve, enhance, rehabilitate and maintain our patients’ vision. Participating actively as a volunteer in the American Optometric Association is exciting, invigorating and helps enhance this great profession.”

Dr. David A. Damari Named 2014 Alumnus of the Year

In July the SUNY Optometry Alumni Association Board of Directors, in coordination with the entire alumni community, selected Dr. David A. Damari, from the Class of 1988, the Alumnus of the Year for 2014. The award was be presented to Dr. Damari as part of Alumni Reunion Weekend at Envision New York last October.

Dr. Damari currently serves as dean of the Michigan College of Optometry at Ferris State University and previously served as professor and chair of the Department of Assessment at Southern College of Optometry (SCO). Since 1995, he has been a national consultant on visual disabilities. Prior to joining SCO, he worked in private practice in New York State.

The Alumnus/a of the Year Award is given annually to a SUNY College of Optometry graduate in recognition of his or her service to the profession, the College, and the community. In 2013, it was awarded to Dr. Jillia Bird.

“Dr. Damari’s leadership and dedication to excellence as dean of the Michigan College of Optometry at Ferris State University will positively impact students for years to come,” Dr. Denise Whittam, president of the Alumni Association said in a letter announcing the award. “As an alumnus of SUNY Optometry, you carry forward a great tradition of education and service and your Alumni Association is pleased to pay tribute to you with this prestigious award.”

For the first time in the history of the award, the selection committee chose three finalists and then opened up a vote to members of the alumni community at-large to make the final choice.
Speaking with the President of the Alumni Association

In July 2013, Dr. Denise Whittam, a 1991 graduate of the College, became the president of the Alumni Association. We spoke with her about staying connected to her alma mater and her goals for the future of the Alumni Association.

Q You're a 1991 graduate and, obviously, you've stayed involved with the institution since you graduated. Can you tell us why staying connected to your alma mater has been important for you?

A Staying connected to SUNY through the Alumni Association has strengthened the bonds of friendship, professionalism and camaraderie that I have with my colleagues. It has been an extremely gratifying experience to meet students on Orientation Day, see them develop into clinicians, joining our professional arena as they receive their white coats at their White Coat Ceremony, following them throughout their academic and clinical experiences to that special toast that we give as they graduate. I remind everyone that commencement is just that—a beginning of their professional journey. Realizing that our colleagues are here for us, through good times and bad, bonding each and every day, adds a dimension of support, dedication and love for this dynamic profession. I am obviously passionate about this choice I have made in my professional life and with every story I hear from colleagues, I feel even more enthusiastic and positive. I have grown with the profession and I have acquired, cultivated and cherished so many special bonds of friendship with my colleagues who have become a part of my extended family.

Q With every new graduation the alumni family at SUNY Optometry grows larger. As it serves this larger community, what sort of developments would you like to see from the Alumni Association over the next year and beyond?

A My dream for the Alumni Association is to bring all levels of the optometric experience together, starting with the first-year students, through graduation, and well beyond. I believe that many of the more experienced doctors can learn a lot from our new graduates entering the profession, especially in areas such as technology and methodology. At the same time, our new doctors, as well as future doctors, will gain invaluable experience working with successful, established clinicians who practice optometry every day. I would love to see even more growth in our mentorship programs and increased communication in the ways in which we can move optometry forward as a profession.
The Optometric Center of New York (OCNY), the philanthropic foundation of the SUNY College of Optometry, held its Eleventh Annual “Eyes on New York” gala last March at Cipriani 42nd Street in Midtown Manhattan, honoring Mr. Andrea Dorigo, a former president of Luxottica Wholesale, North America and Ms. Edie Lutnick, the co-founder and executive director of The Cantor Fitzgerald Relief Fund. OCNY President Richard Feinbloom noted in his remarks during the evening that both honorees “have made significant contributions” to their communities through their professional and philanthropic activities.

After taking the podium, President Heath told the gathering of more than 350 people from across the ophthalmic community and beyond that the OCNY had, at that point last spring, raised more than $9.5 million toward the $10 million goal that was established for the five-year Vision and the Promise campaign which the Foundation launched in 2009 to support the College’s education, patient care, research and community health care initiatives. “It is no longer a question of whether we will reach our goal,” President Heath said, “but by how much we will exceed it.”

Mr. Dorigo, who held several senior management roles at Luxottica before joining Brooks Brothers in the newly-created role of president of North America earlier this year, expressed his honor at being recognized by the OCNY and noted that Luxottica takes “a long view” toward its commitment to both the ophthalmic industry and to the community at large. Mr. Dorigo was graciously introduced by gala co-chair Ms. Holly Rush, the current president of Luxottica Wholesale, North America.

Ms. Lutnick received the OCNY’s Humanitarian of the Year Award. The Cantor Fitzgerald Relief Fund, which she established with her brother, Howard, in the wake of 9/11, addresses the needs of victims of terrorism, natural disasters and emergencies. Ms. Lutnick was introduced by co-chair and current OCNY president Ms. Barbara Saltzman. In her remarks Ms. Lutnick expressed gratitude for the work that optometrists and other eye care professionals do, specifically noting the life-changing care that SUNY Optometry’s Dr. Neera Kapoor provided to one of her friends.

“It was a remarkable evening and a wonderful testament to the great support that our community continues to provide to this critical campaign,” Ms. Ann Warwick, vice president for institutional advancement at SUNY Optometry and executive director of the OCNY said about the event.

The 12th annual “Eyes on New York” gala will take place in the spring at The Plaza Hotel, a quintessentially New York institution.
Speaking with the New OCNY Board President

On October 1, Ms. Barbara Saltzman took over the presidency of the Optometric Center of New York Board of Trustees from Mr. Richard Feinbloom. Ms. Saltzman has been a member of the OCNY Board since 2009. We asked her a couple of questions about the OCNY as she prepared to take over its leadership.

Q Can you tell us a little bit about your background and how you became involved with the OCNY?

A I was the president and CEO of a contract sales company in the pharmaceutical industry for many years so health care has always been something that I’ve been closely involved with and interested in. After I sold my business I really wanted to do the things that I never had the time to do while I was running my company and I wanted to give back in a way that was meaningful to me. When I met President Heath I knew that this was the right organization for me. I’m a person of action—I like to get things done—and his vision helped me recognize that there was a lot going on at the College and so much that the OCNY was doing to make a difference.

Q The Vision and the Promise campaign is now completed and the Foundation is providing more support than ever to students at the College as well as for patient care and research activities. The OCNY is in a very strong position as you take on the role of president of the Board of Trustees. How are you looking to build on this success?

A Completing the campaign shows that we have the ability to raise significant funds, however we’re far from finished. It’s important to understand that the end of the campaign is really only the beginning of what we need to do. The board is very pleased with how the OCNY has been able to support the education, patient care, research and community outreach goals of the College but there is so much more work that needs to be done. Resting on our laurels is not an option or else we’ll lose the great momentum that we’ve gained. We have a terrific and extremely active board at the OCNY—Richard Feinbloom was a fantastic president and each of the trustees has made an enormous impact, both individually and collectively. I look forward to building on the successes of the board and expanding it in order to bring in even more individuals with different perspectives and from different walks of life.

This is an extremely exciting time to be involved with the OCNY and the SUNY College of Optometry and I’m really looking forward to using the momentum that we’ve gained from completing The Vision and the Promise campaign to propel us to even greater heights.
OCNY’s Trust and Estates Committee Hosts events at Bonhams and the Lambs Club

Last fall OCNY’s Trust and Estates Committee hosted a unique private viewing of impressionist and modern art for many of the Foundation’s donors and friends the day before the collection was set to go to auction at Bonhams, one of the oldest and largest fine art auction houses in the world. The collection included over 75 works by such artists as Vincent Van Gogh, Henri Matisse, Pablo Picasso, Salvador Dali, Marc Chagall, Auguste Rodin and many others.

Last spring the Committee also hosted a dinner at the Lamb’s Club in Midtown Manhattan that was designed to introduce the work of the College and the University Eye Center to a new audience of wealth managers and lawyers. Dozens of attendees listened to a presentation about SUNY Optometry, learning about its educational, patient care and research missions, and had the opportunity to speak directly with faculty members and administrators who were in attendance.
The Vision and the Promise Campaign Exceeds $10 Million Goal for SUNY College of Optometry

Over 1,300 donors, including alumni, faculty, staff, foundations, corporations and others answered the call to support The Vision and the Promise: Campaign for SUNY College of Optometry. The campaign officially came to a close after a vote by the Board of Trustees of the Optometric Center of New York (OCNY) on October 1. By all measures it was as an unquestionable success, having exceeded its goal and raised $10.15 million.

In September of 2009, the board of the OCNY, the foundation of the SUNY College of Optometry, voted to embark on an ambitious fundraising campaign—the first, formal campaign in the history of the College—to raise $10 million to provide critical support for the growing educational, patient care, research and community outreach needs of SUNY Optometry.

Here are some of the ways in which The Vision and the Promise has directly benefited the multi-faceted mission of the SUNY College of Optometry and helped to change lives:

• It provided more than $3.2 million of educational support, including 18 new scholarships for students.
• It enabled thousands of New Yorkers to receive quality eye and vision care through the funding of a variety of community outreach efforts, including the Bowery Mission Project, the Indigent Patient Fund and the Homebound program.
• It enabled state-of-the-art improvements for the University Eye Center, including the creation of a unique clinical care unit designed to test new technologies and alternative approaches to care.
• It established a College-sponsored low vision clinic to serve a critical need in China.
• It produced the first endowed chair in College history: the Dr. Alden N. Haffner Innovation Chair.
• It helped to establish the College’s dynamic Clinical Vision Research Center.

“The Vision and the Promise was absolutely essential for providing the means to enable the SUNY College of Optometry to continue to remain a vital, cutting-edge institution,” Mr. Richard Feinbloom, the outgoing president of the OCNY’s Board of Trustees said. “We launched this campaign during a very difficult economic moment and its success is an enormous testament to power of our institutional mission.”

Over the course of The Vision and the Promise campaign, the OCNY raised more support than it had during any other five-year period in its history. The campaign received strong participation from College alumni, including the largest gift ever made by an alumnus. The OCNY Board of Trustees contributed over $3.8 million to the campaign and well over half of the College’s faculty and staff participated as well. In addition, foundation and corporate support for The Vision and the Promise accounted for over $2.3 million.

“We’re very pleased with the breadth of support for the campaign from across our constituencies,” said Ms.
Ann Warwick, executive director of the OCNY and the College’s vice president for Institutional Advancement. “In addition to our wonderful board, our alumni as well as our faculty and staff, the ophthalmic industry and a lot of new supporters really demonstrated their belief in what we’re doing here. That is something that is very gratifying.”

With the College still in the early stages of an ambitious new strategic plan that will run through 2018, SUNY Optometry’s president, Dr. David A. Heath, emphasized that the success of The Vision and the Promise campaign should act as a springboard for the future.

“The work that we’re doing here now is only just beginning,” President Heath said. “I’m enormously pleased with the success of The Vision and the Promise. It has been the catalyst for initiatives that will enable us to remain on the forefront of the work that we do and maintain our position as a leader in health care. But there is much more work still to be done and my firm belief is that the success of this campaign will enable even greater success in the future.

“I am also very grateful to our Board of Trustees and to Ms. Warwick for their leadership and excellent stewardship of the campaign,” President Heath continued. “Without their hard work the successful completion of this campaign would not have been possible.”

Below is a listing of all of the donors who contributed to The Vision and the Promise. We thank you for your generous support and for your commitment to our mission:

**CONTRIBUTORS TO THE VISION AND THE PROMISE CAMPAIGN**

**Contributions that were made between September 14, 2009 – October 1, 2014**

- **Pinnacle Society**
  - Over $1,000,000
  - *Dr. William Pollock 1943*

- **Diamond Society**
  - $250,000-$999,999.99
  - *Mark S. Puder, OD 1983
  - Mr. Richard Reinhall
  - Government of China
  - Lavelle Fund for the Blind, Inc.

- **Platinum Society**
  - $50,000-$249,999.99
  - Adolph and Ruth Schnurmacher Foundation
  - Allene Reuss Memorial Trust
  - Allergan, Inc.
  - The Central New York Community Foundation
  - Charles and Mildred Schnurmacher Foundation

- **Estate of Dr. Leo Hurvich**

- **Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Gehr**

- **George Link, Jr. Foundation, Inc.**

- **Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Gund**

- **Jobson Medical Information LLC**

- **Johnson & Johnson Vision Care**

- **Neera Kapoor, OD 1994**

- **Luxottica Group**

- **Marco Family Foundation**

- **Marco Ophthalmics**

- **Merck & Co., Inc.**

- **Dr. and Mrs. Rama-Million**

- **New York State Optometric Association**

- **Reader’s Digest Partners for Sight Foundation**

- **Ms. Claudia Caruso Rouhana**

- **Ms. Barbara Salzman**

- **Mr. Adam J. Sheer**

- **Bernd L. Snyder, Esq.**

- **Richard Saden, OD 1979**

- **Mr. Harold Spielman**

- **Dr. and Mrs. Sidney Spira 1949**

- **Stavros Niarchos Foundation USA, Inc.**

- **Topcon Medical Systems**

- **Vision Service Plan**

- **Mr. Harold Wilkinsky**

- **President’s Society**
  - ($25,000-$49,999.99)
  - Sherry J. Bass, OD 1980

- **Mr. Richard Feinbloom**

- **Government of China**

- **Lavelle Fund for the Blind, Inc.**

- **Mr. Larry Roth**

- **Mr. George Spiropoulos**

- **The Vision Council of America**

- **Activate**

- **American Vision Corp.**

- **Bausch & Lomb North America Vision Corp.**

- **Center for Children’s Health and Conservation**

- **Carl Zeiss Meditec, Inc.**

- **Mr. Thomas P. Farrell**

- **The Friedfeld Family**

- **David A. Heath, OD, EdM**

- **Michael H. Heiberger, OD**

- **Luxottica Retail**

- **Marchion Bottom**

- **Ms. Phyllis Miller**

- **New Jersey Chapter of the American Academy of Optometry**

- **Pfizer Pharmaceuticals, Inc.**

- **Regent Exhibitions**

- **Rose M. Badgley Residuary Charitable Trust**

- **Mr. Larry Roth**

- **Mr. George Sproul**

- **The Vision Council of America**

- **Visionary Society**
  - ($10,000-$24,999.99)
  - *Abbott Medical Optics
  - Carl Zeiss Vision, Inc.
  - DCP Advertising
  - Ernst & Young LLP
  - Mr. Milton Forman
  - Hertz, Herson & Co., LLP*

- **Hugoton Foundation**

- **The Hyde and Watson Foundation**

- **Mr. Kevin Kelly**

- **Lydia Collins deForest Charitable Trust**

- **Dr. and Mrs. Frank Priozzola**

- **Ms. Jan Rose**

- **Ross Holdings, LLC**

- **Sarah K. de Couzart Article Fund Charitable Trust**

- **Ms. Shirley Solan**

- **The Chatlos Foundation**

- **The Phyllis and Arthur Milton Foundation**

- **The Wallace Fox Foundation**

- **Tides Foundation**

- **Transitions Optical, Inc.**

- **David Troilo, PhD**

- **Dr. Rafael L. Urquidi**

- **Vistakon**

- **Shandor Zelenger, OD 1998**

“Congratulations to the entire SUNY Optometry community on not only meeting but exceeding the goal of its first fundraising campaign,” SUNY Chancellor Nancy L. Zimpher said. “Private investment in our campuses is vital as we seek to increase access to a SUNY education, maintain affordability for our students and deliver on our strategic planning vision of serving as an economic driver for our state while improving the quality of life for everyone who lives and works in New York.”
### Sources of Funds

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### Research Foundation

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SUNY COLLEGE OF OPTOMETRY LEADERSHIP

College Council
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)  Charles Gold, OD  Paula Ulmer Schutz, OD
David J. Dexter, OD  Frank J. Pirozzolo, OD  Vanessa Fimreite, ’16
David P. Dozack, OD  James R. Ruhl, PhD

College Senior Administration

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