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Letter from the Dean

Dear UHCO Graduate,

First and foremost, congratulations to each of you on this momentous occasion! This is the defining moment in transitioning from your academic career to your professional career, and we celebrate your achievement. I hope you take time to reflect on your journey and to honor the many individuals whose care and support helped you along the way.

For those of you receiving a Master of Science or Doctor of Philosophy in Physiological Optics degree, the need for new knowledge in the vision sciences is significant. We look to you to become thought leaders among your peers as well as for new knowledge that will advance visual health.

For those of you receiving a Doctor of Optometry degree, as a second-year student you recited the optometric oath and received your white coat – a significant milestone in your optometric education. With your first patient came great responsibility of upholding the patient-doctor relationship and of providing the highest quality patient care. Going forward, we ask that you remember this commitment, as it will serve you well.

As the next generation of optometrists, researchers, and vision scientists, we look forward to your continued accomplishments as you go out into the world and give back of your time and talents while building on the foundation of those who came before you and paved the way. You will play a crucial and ever-expanding role in the health care field.

On behalf of the faculty, staff, and administration, we wish you the best in your new endeavors. Remember you always have a home at UHCO, and we will always welcome you back with open arms. You will forever be a part of this family. Again, congratulations on your academic success and on joining the ranks of the entire optometric profession.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Earl L. Smith III". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a stylized "E" and "S".

Earl L. Smith III, O.D., '72, Ph.D., '78
Dean
Greeman-Petty Professor

College of Optometry
CONVOCATION CEREMONY

PRELUDE	Classical Arrangement
PROCESSIONAL	“Pomp and Circumstance” <i>by Sir Edward Elgar</i>
MACE BEARER	Swati Modi, O.D. <i>Clinical Assistant Professor</i>
BANNER BEARER	Lanny Shulman, O.D., Ph.D. <i>Clinical Associate Professor</i>
INVOCATION	Danica Marrelli, O.D. <i>Clinical Professor</i>
WELCOME	Earl L. Smith III, O.D., Ph.D. <i>Dean and Greeman-Petty Professor</i>
RECOGNITION OF GRADUATES	
<i>Summa Cum Laude and Magna Cum Laude</i>	Kimberly Lambreghts, R.N., O.D. <i>Associate Dean for Professional Studies and Clinical Professor</i>
<i>Gold Key International Memberships</i>	Ralph Herring, O.D., M.H.A. <i>Assistant Dean for Professional Studies and Clinical Associate Professor</i>
<i>Beta Sigma Kappa BSK Silver Medal Award</i>	Assistant Dean Herring
<i>Clinical Excellence Awards</i>	Nick Holdeman, O.D., M.D. <i>Associate Dean for Clinical Education and Professor of Optometry</i>
<i>Outstanding Grand Rounds Presentation Award</i>	Associate Dean Holdeman
<i>Special Recognitions</i>	Distinguished Alumnus Award for 2017 <i>presented to Michael Kalloniatis, B.Sc., M.Sc., Ph.D., '88, PGCOT</i> Dean Smith

College of Optometry
CONVOCATION CEREMONY

	Cora and J. Davis Armistead Faculty Teaching Award <i>revealed</i> Dean Smith
STUDENT ADDRESS	Zubin Babu Chacko
COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS	Dr. Kalloniatis <i>Distinguished Alumnus for 2017</i>
PRESENTATION AND HOODING OF THE CANDIDATES	Dean Smith
PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATES FOR MASTERS OF SCIENCE IN PHYSIOLOGICAL OPTICS DEGREE	Laura Frishman, Ph.D. <i>Associate Dean for Graduate Studies and Research and John and Rebecca Moores Professor</i>
PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATES FOR DOCTOR OF OPTOMETRY DEGREE	Amber Gaume Giannoni, O.D. <i>Chair of the Faculty and Clinical Professor</i>
ANNOUNCEMENT OF CANDIDATES FOR DOCTOR OF OPTOMETRY DEGREE	Associate Dean Lambreghts
HOODING OF CANDIDATES	Dr. Gaume Giannoni Julianne Knowles, O.D. <i>Clinical Assistant Professor</i>
FACULTY ASSISTING IN HOODING	Han Cheng, Ph.D., O.D. <i>Clinical Professor</i> Assistant Dean Herring
GUESTS ASSISTING IN HOODING	<i>The College has a long-standing tradition whereby parents, siblings, spouses, grandparents, uncles and aunts who are graduates from the University of Houston College of Optometry, or graduates from a peer optometry institution, are invited to participate in the ceremony by serving as an honorary hooder. Candidates are given the opportunity to designate a hooder provided the individual meets the criteria as listed above and is approved by College Administration in advance of the ceremony.</i>

College of Optometry
CONVOCATION CEREMONY

**GUEST HOODERS
FOR THE CLASS OF 2017** Janet Baker-Guidry, O.D., '85
Jennifer Blaschke Arevalo, O.D., '12
Laura County, O.D., '14
Linda Nguyen Enciso, O.D., '06
Bret Ford, O.D.
Jimmy Gandy, O.D.
Stacy Gandy, O.D.
David Hammond, O.D., '85
Paul Hottel, O.D.
Justine Hung, O.D., '13
Li-Fang Hung, B.Med., O.D., '04, Ph.D., '94
Valerie Marten-Ellis, O.D.
Danny Mathew, O.D., '06
Mehri Moshtaghi, O.D.
Trang Nguyen, O.D., '15
Michael Allen Shurtz, O.D.
Laurie Sorrenson, O.D., '85
Michael Wardell, O.D., '87

PRESENTATION OF DIPLOMAS Dean Smith

Roger Boltz, O.D., Ph.D.
*Associate Dean for Finance and Administration
and Associate Professor*

**ADMINISTRATION
OF THE OPTOMETRIC OATH** Associate Dean Holdeman

THE OPTOMETRIC OATH With full deliberation, I freely and solemnly pledge that:

- *I will* practice the art and science of optometry faithfully and conscientiously and to the fullest scope of my competence.

- *I will* uphold and honorably promote by example and action the highest standards, ethics and ideals of my chosen profession and the honor of the degree, Doctor of Optometry, which has been granted me.
- *I will* provide professional care for those who seek my services, with concern, with compassion, and with due regard for their human rights and dignity.
- *I will* place the treatment of those who seek my care above personal gain and strive to see that none shall lack for proper care.
- *I will* hold as privileged and inviolable all information entrusted to me in confidence by my patients.
- *I will* advise my patients fully and honestly of all which may serve to restore, maintain, or enhance their vision and general health.
- *I will* strive continuously to broaden my knowledge and skills so that my patients may benefit from all new and efficacious means to enhance the care of human vision.
- *I will* share information cordially and unselfishly with my fellow optometrists and other professionals for the benefit of patients and the advancement of human knowledge and welfare.
- *I will* do my utmost to serve my community, my country, and humankind as a citizen as well as an optometrist.
- *I hereby* commit myself to be steadfast in the performance of this, my solemn oath and obligation.

CLOSING REMARKS	Dean Smith
BENEDICTION	Nimesh Patel, O.D., Ph.D. <i>Assistant Professor</i>
RECESSIONAL	“War March of the Priests” <i>by Felix Mendelssohn</i>

Spring 2017

**MASTER OF SCIENCE IN
PHYSIOLOGICAL OPTICS**

Maria C. Dupré

Orange, TX

B.S., McNeese State University

THESIS: Evaluation of Hemidesmosome
Ultrastructure in the Normal and Wounded
Mouse Cornea

Katherine Moore Johns

Phoenix, AZ

B.A., Vanderbilt University

THESIS: Predicting Driving Fitness in a Low
Vision Clinic: Correlating Two Tasks

Matthew Lentsch

Ocala, FL

B.S., University of Central Florida

THESIS: Approximating Spectacle Wear Time
Through the Use of a Temperature Sensor

Stephanie Marie Marten-Ellis

Killeen, TX

B.A., Rice University

THESIS: Effects of Luminance and Flanker-
Target Congruency on Contour Interaction
and Crowding in Varying Retinal Loci

Sara Nourani

Plano, TX

B.S., The University of Texas at Dallas

THESIS: Lamina Cribrosa and Optic Nerve
Head Geometry as a Function of Myopia in
Older, Normal Eyes

Kelsea Vance Skidmore

Greenville, TX

B.S., University of Arkansas

THESIS: Measurement of Tear Flow in Scleral
Contact Lens Wearers

RESIDENTS

Tiffany Chen, O.D.

Diamond Bar, CA

O.D., Marshall B. Ketchum University

Southern California College of Optometry

Residency: Cornea and Contact Lens at the
University Eye Institute

Naomi Chun, O.D.

Charlotte, NC

O.D., Nova Southeastern University College of
Optometry

Residency: Family Practice at Good Neighbor
Eye Clinic

Mary Delino, O.D.

Beaumont, TX

O.D., University of Houston College of
Optometry

Residency: Low Vision Rehabilitation at the
University Eye Institute

Dieu-Hong Ho, O.D.

Houston, TX

O.D., University of Houston College of
Optometry

Residency: Pediatrics at the University Eye
Institute

Waziha Samin, O.D.

Irving, TX

O.D., University of Houston College of
Optometry

Residency: Ocular Disease at Cedar Springs
Eye Clinic

Kimble E. Slonake, O.D.

Centerville, IN

O.D., Indiana University School of Optometry

Residency: Ocular Disease at the University
Eye Institute

College of Optometry

CANDIDATES FOR GRADUATION

Michael W. Smith, O.D.
Massillon, OH
O.D., The Ohio State University College of
Optometry
Residency: Brain Injury Vision Rehabilitation
at the University Eye Institute

Marsha Ann Thomas, O.D.
Houston, TX
O.D., University of Houston College of
Optometry
Residency: Family Practice at Good Neighbor
Eye Clinic

POSTDOCTORAL FELLOW

Jesus Gabriel Martinez, O.D.
Chino Hills, CA
O.D., Illinois College of Optometry
Fellowship: Cornea and Contact Lens Research
at the University Eye Institute

DOCTOR OF OPTOMETRY

*Candidates' names are followed by their
hometowns, undergraduate institutions and,
if applicable, graduate institutions, and
fourth-year clinical externship locations.*

Jumana Ali
Farmington Hills, MI
B.S., Grand Valley State University
Good Neighbor Eye Clinic, Houston, Texas
Eye Care Associates of Humble, Humble, Texas

Kathleen Aimee Almenario
Pearland, TX
B.S., The University of Texas at Austin
Indian Health Hospital, Santa Fe, New Mexico
Oak Hill Eye Care, Austin, Texas

Flor De Azalea Arenales
Houston, TX
B.S., University of Houston
NSU College of Optometry, Tahlequah,
Oklahoma
Community Eye Clinic, Fort Worth, Texas

Kymber Michelle Blaschke
Yorktown, TX
B.S., Texas A&M University
NSU College of Optometry, Tahlequah,
Oklahoma
South Texas Veterans Health Care System,
San Antonio, Texas

Carrie Jean Bolen
Sugar Land, TX
B.S., The University of Texas at Austin
Cedar Springs Eye Clinic, Dallas, Texas
Signature Eye Care, Cedar Park, Texas

Gabrielle Gandy Boyd
Mangham, LA
B.S., Louisiana Tech University
Dr. Dwayne Yeager, West Monroe, Louisiana
Avallone Vision Center, Ruston, Louisiana

Candace Nicole Brown
High Springs, FL
B.S., University of Florida
Good Neighbor Eye Clinic, Houston, Texas
Community Eye Clinic, Fort Worth, Texas

Zubin Babu Chacko
Houston, TX
B.S., Houston Baptist University
M.B.A., Houston Baptist University
M.H.A., Houston Baptist University
HOPE Eye Clinic, Houston, Texas
Good Neighbor Eye Clinic, Houston, Texas

Steven Chau
Houston, TX
B.S., University of Houston
Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas
HOPE Eye Clinic, Houston, Texas

William Chen
Houston, TX
B.S., The University of Texas at Austin
Good Neighbor Eye Clinic, Houston, Texas
HOPE Eye Clinic, Houston, Texas

College of Optometry

CANDIDATES FOR GRADUATION

James M. Chin

Spring, TX
B.S., University of Houston
Cedar Springs Eye Clinic, Dallas, Texas
Community Eye Clinic, Fort Worth, Texas

Michael James Collins

Jamul, CA
B.S., Brigham Young University
Good Neighbor Eye Clinic, Houston, Texas
Naval Medical Center San Diego, San Diego, California

Ann-Marie Colleen Connolly

Jacksonville, FL
B.S., Jacksonville University
Good Neighbor Eye Clinic, Houston, Texas
Cedar Springs Eye Clinic, Dallas, Texas

Maria C. Dupré

Orange, TX
B.S., McNeese State University
Golden Eye Clinic, Center, Texas
Acadian Vision Associates, Lafayette, Louisiana

Layne Mari Ford

Beaumont, TX
B.S., Lamar University
Indian Health Hospital, Albuquerque, New Mexico
La Nueva Casa de Amigos, Houston, Texas

Sarah Jean Galt

Atlanta, GA
B.S., University of Georgia
Lakeline Vision Source, Austin, Texas
George E. Wahlen VA Medical Center, Salt Lake City, Utah

Sarah E. Godward

Georgetown, TX
B.S., Southwestern University
Lakeline Vision Source, Austin, Texas
Cedar Springs Eye Clinic, Dallas, Texas

Dana Rocha Griffith

Merritt Island, FL
B.S., University of Central Florida
Raymond G. Murphy VA Medical Center, Albuquerque, New Mexico
Heitmeier, Armani, Langhete & Cangelosi Medical & Surgical Eyecare, New Orleans, Louisiana

Eric J. Hammond

Austin, TX
B.S., Texas State University
Cedar Springs Eye Clinic, Dallas, Texas
NSU College of Optometry, Tahlequah, Oklahoma

Sulki Han

Fresno, CA
B.S., University of California, Los Angeles
NSU College of Optometry, Tahlequah, Oklahoma
Raymond G. Murphy VA Medical Center, Albuquerque, New Mexico

Nicholas D. Heston

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B.S., The University of Texas at San Antonio
South Texas Veterans Health Care System, San Antonio, Texas
Vision Source Alamo Heights, San Antonio, Texas

Elisabeth Ann Hottel

Iowa City, IA
B.A., Luther College
Plaza Vision Center, Dallas, Texas
Golden Eye Clinic, Center, Texas

Wilson Hung

Sugar Land, TX
B.S., University of California, San Diego
Raymond G. Murphy VA Medical Center, Albuquerque, New Mexico
Cedar Springs Eye Clinic, Dallas, Texas

College of Optometry

CANDIDATES FOR GRADUATION

Amanda Nicole Huynh
Longview, TX
B.S., University of Houston
Neuro-Ophthalmology of Texas, Houston,
Texas
Good Neighbor Eye Clinic, Houston, Texas

Ambreen Ismail
Houston, TX
B.S., University of Houston
NSU College of Optometry, Tahlequah,
Oklahoma
La Nueva Casa de Amigos, Houston, Texas

Anita Mary Jacob
Lewisville, TX
B.A., The University of Texas at Dallas
NSU College of Optometry, Tahlequah,
Oklahoma
Community Eye Clinic, Fort Worth, Texas

Sherine John
Houston, TX
B.S., University of Houston
Good Neighbor Eye Clinic, Houston, Texas
Cedar Springs Eye Clinic, Dallas, Texas

Katherine Moore Johns
Phoenix, AZ
B.A., Vanderbilt University
Family Vision Solutions, Houston, Texas
Space Center Eye Associates, Houston, Texas

Ariel M. Johnson
Big Spring, TX
B.S., Texas A&M University
Plaza Vision Center, Dallas, Texas
Cedar Springs Eye Clinic, Dallas, Texas

Amir Karbaschi
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B.S., University of Houston
Good Neighbor Eye Clinic, Houston, Texas
Community Eye Clinic, Fort Worth, Texas

Jane J. Kim
Dallas, TX
B.A., Southern Methodist University
B.S., Southern Methodist University
NSU College of Optometry, Tahlequah,
Oklahoma
La Nueva Casa de Amigos, Houston, Texas

Larry Edward Kocian
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B.S., Baylor University
Eye Care Associates of Humble, Humble, Texas
South Texas Veterans Health Care System,
San Antonio, Texas

Catherine Elizabeth Kristynik
Brenham, TX
B.S., The University of Texas at Austin
South Texas Veterans Health Care System,
San Antonio, Texas
Cedar Springs Eye Clinic, Dallas, Texas

Meagan N. Laqua-LeGrand
League City, TX
B.S., University of Houston
Eye Center of Texas, Houston, Texas
Space Center Eye Associates, Houston, Texas

Gabriela Maria Leche
Plano, TX
B.A., The University of Texas at Dallas
Eye Doctor's Office and Eye Gallery, Dallas,
Texas
Cedar Springs Eye Clinic, Dallas, Texas

Matthew Lentsch
Ocala, FL
B.S., University of Central Florida
South Texas Veterans Health Care System,
San Antonio, Texas
Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas

Elena Elisabeth Lischau
Sugar Land, TX
B.S., Texas A&M University
Signature Eye Care, Cedar Park, Texas
Cedar Springs Eye Clinic, Dallas, Texas

College of Optometry

CANDIDATES FOR GRADUATION

Xavier Lu

Port Lavaca, TX
B.S., The University of Texas
La Nueva Casa de Amigos, Houston, Texas
HOPE Eye Clinic, Houston, Texas

Kelsey Etheredge Mach

Lafayette, LA
B.S., University of Louisiana at Lafayette
Golden Eye Clinic, Center, Texas
Bellaire Family Eye Care, Bellaire, Texas

Stephanie Marie Marten-Ellis

Killeen, TX
B.A., Rice University
NSU College of Optometry, Tahlequah,
Oklahoma
Neuro-Ophthalmology of Texas, Houston,
Texas

Amanda Lee Melendez

Edinburg, TX
B.S., Texas A&M University
Acadian Vision Associates, Lafayette, Louisiana
Cedar Springs Eye Clinic, Dallas, Texas

Lizeth Molina

Houston, TX
B.S., University of Houston
Indian Health Hospital, Albuquerque,
New Mexico
La Nueva Casa de Amigos, Houston, Texas

Mona Moshtaghi

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La Nueva Casa de Amigos, Houston, Texas

Sanjay R. Nancherla

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Oklahoma

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B.A., The University of Texas at Austin
Oak Hill Eye Care, Austin, Texas
Cedar Springs Eye Clinic, Dallas, Texas

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Community Eye Clinic, Fort Worth, Texas
La Nueva Casa de Amigos, Houston, Texas

Jennifer Kim Nguyen

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B.S., University of North Texas
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NSU College of Optometry, Tahlequah,
Oklahoma

Long Hoang Nguyen

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B.S., Texas A&M University
La Nueva Casa de Amigos, Houston, Texas
HOPE Eye Clinic, Houston, Texas

Lynda Nguyen

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B.S., Louisiana State University
Cedar Springs Eye Clinic, Dallas, Texas
Good Neighbor Eye Clinic, Houston, Texas

Paul Nguyen

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B.S., The University of Texas at Austin
Raymond G. Murphy VA Medical Center,
Albuquerque, New Mexico
Community Eye Clinic, Fort Worth, TX

Sara Nourani

Plano, TX
B.S., The University of Texas at Dallas
South Texas Veterans Health Care System,
San Antonio, Texas
Eye Doctor's Office & Eye Gallery, Dallas,
Texas

College of Optometry

CANDIDATES FOR GRADUATION

Michael Andrew O'Neal

Whiting, IA

B.S., Morningside College

George E. Wahlen VA Medical Center, Salt

Lake City, Utah

Lakeline Vision Source, Austin, Texas

Reena Ajit Patel

Irving, TX

B.A., The University of Texas at Austin

Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas

Community Eye Clinic, Fort Worth, Texas

Bichngoc Pham

Baton Rouge, LA

B.S., Louisiana State University

Vision Source Alamo Heights, San Antonio,
Texas

Good Neighbor Eye Clinic, Houston, Texas

Matthew M. Pham

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B.S., University of Houston

HOPE Eye Clinic, Houston, Texas

La Nueva Casa de Amigos, Houston, Texas

Jake L. Pray

Winfield, KS

B.B.A., Texas Christian University

Acadiana Vision Associates, Lafayette, Louisiana

Indian Health Hospital, Albuquerque,

New Mexico

Allison J. Quirin

Lake Tapps, WA

B.S., Trinity University

Family Vision Solutions, Houston, Texas

Cedar Springs Eye Clinic, Dallas, Texas

Audrey Nicole Raley

Bulverde, TX

B.S., Texas A&M University

Cedar Springs Eye Clinic, Dallas, Texas

Lakeline Vision Source, Austin, Texas

Ethan D. Royster

Wylie, TX

B.S., Texas A&M University

Katy VA Outpatient Clinic, Houston, Texas

Space Center Eye Associates, Houston, Texas

Clayton William Rutkowski

Karnes City, TX

B.A., The University of Texas at Austin

Good Neighbor Eye Clinic, Houston, Texas

Vision Source Alamo Heights, San Antonio,

Texas

Alexandra M. Samuelson

Leawood, KS

B.A., Kansas State University

Bellaire Family Eye Care, Bellaire, Texas

Cedar Springs Eye Clinic, Dallas, Texas

Marissa Izabel San Miguel

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B.S., The University of Texas of the Permian

Basin

Cedar Springs Eye Clinic, Dallas, Texas

NSU College of Optometry, Tahlequah,

Oklahoma

Jackie Lynn Seier

Petersburg, NE

B.S., Nebraska Wesleyan University

Raymond G. Murphy VA Medical Center,

Albuquerque, New Mexico

Plaza Vision Center, Dallas, Texas

Jennifer Sheen

Houston, TX

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La Nueva Casa de Amigos, Houston, Texas

NSU College of Optometry, Tahlequah,

Oklahoma

Usman K. Sheikh

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B.S., University of Houston

HOPE Eye Clinic, Houston, Texas

La Nueva Casa de Amigos, Houston, Texas

David William Shurtz

Anderson, SC

B.S., Brigham Young University

La Nueva Casa de Amigos, Houston, Texas

HOPE Eye Clinic, Houston, Texas

College of Optometry

CANDIDATES FOR GRADUATION

Justin Dale Simbulan

Houston, TX
B.S., University of St. Thomas
Cedar Springs Eye Clinic, Dallas, Texas
Oak Hill Eye Care, Austin, Texas

Kelsea Vance Skidmore

Greenville, TX
B.S., University of Arkansas
Space Center Eye Associates, Houston, Texas
Family Vision Solutions, Houston, Texas

Kevin Soong

Pittsburgh, PA
B.S., The Ohio State University
Cedar Springs Eye Clinic, Dallas, Texas
NSU College of Optometry, Tahlequah,
Oklahoma

Nancy Catherine Sorrell

Lufkin, TX
B.S., Texas A&M University
Oak Hill Eye Care, Austin, Texas
Eye Care Associates of Humble, Humble, Texas

Brian Dennis Stanley

Socorro, NM
B.S., The New Mexico Institute of Mining and
Technology
Oak Hill Eye Care, Austin, Texas
Raymond G. Murphy VA Medical Center,
Albuquerque, New Mexico

Christopher J. Steritz

The Woodlands, TX
B.S., The University of Texas at Austin
Community Eye Clinic, Fort Worth, Texas
NSU College of Optometry, Tahlequah,
Oklahoma

Jennifer Thai

Sugar Land, TX
B.B.A., The University of Texas at Austin
Cedar Springs Eye Clinic, Dallas, Texas
Oak Hill Eye Care, Austin, Texas

Denny A. Thomas

Houston, TX
B.S., University of Houston
Cedar Springs Eye Clinic, Dallas, Texas
Good Neighbor Eye Clinic, Houston, Texas

Karlotta Allyce Bushnell Thurman

Lake Charles, LA
B.S., Prairie View A&M University
Cedar Springs Eye Clinic, Dallas, Texas
Fort Belvoir Community Hospital, Fort
Belvoir, Virginia

Hue Tran

Biloxi, MS
B.S., University of South Alabama
Signature Eye Care, Cedar Park, Texas
Cedar Springs Eye Clinic, Dallas, Texas

Alfredo Trejo

Edinburg, TX
B.S., Texas A&M University
Eye Doctor's Office & Eye Gallery, Dallas,
Texas
Cedar Springs Eye Clinic, Dallas, Texas

Jonathan C. Tsao

Sugar Land, TX
B.S., The University of Texas at Austin
Community Eye Clinic, Fort Worth, Texas
NSU College of Optometry, Tahlequah,
Oklahoma

Maha Tufail

Houston, TX
B.S., University of Houston
Cedar Springs Eye Clinic, Dallas, Texas
Good Neighbor Eye Clinic, Houston, Texas

Ashley Sarah Varghese

Dallas, TX
B.S., The University of Texas at Arlington
Lakeline Vision Source, Austin, Texas
Cedar Springs Eye Clinic, Dallas, Texas

College of Optometry

CANDIDATES FOR GRADUATION

Phat Thuan Vo

Lewisville, TX
B.S., The University of Texas at Dallas
La Nueva Casa de Amigos, Houston, Texas
NSU College of Optometry, Tahlequah,
Oklahoma

Jennifer Hong Vuong

Houston, TX
B.S., University of Houston
Lakeline Vision Source, Austin, Texas
Cedar Springs Eye Clinic, Dallas, Texas

Michael Craig Wardell

Billings, MT
B.S., Brigham Young University
Cedar Springs Eye Clinic, Dallas, Texas
NSU College of Optometry, Tahlequah,
Oklahoma

Amanda Katherine Williamson

McKinney, TX
B.S., Texas A&M University
Bellaire Family Eye Care, Bellaire, Texas
Cedar Springs Eye Clinic, Dallas, Texas

Brianna Gabriela Willis

Houston, TX
B.S., The University of Texas at Austin
Good Neighbor Eye Clinic, Houston, Texas
Indian Health Hospital, Albuquerque,
New Mexico

Aaron Michael Jerome Winstead

Corpus Christi, TX
B.S., Texas State University
Cedar Springs Eye Clinic, Dallas, Texas
Community Eye Clinic, Fort Worth, Texas

Kourosch Zakeri

Orange County, CA
B.S., The University of Texas at Dallas
University Eye Center at Ketchum Health,
Anaheim, California
LoBue Laser & Eye Medical Center, Murrieta,
California

Hong Zeng

Arlington, TX
B.S., Jinan University, China
M.S., University of North Texas Health Science
Center at Fort Worth
Good Neighbor Eye Clinic, Houston, Texas
Eye Doctor's Office & Eye Gallery, Dallas,
Texas

Betty B. Zhang

Lawrence, KS
B.A., Washington University in St. Louis
Space Center Eye Associates, Houston, Texas
Cedar Springs Eye Clinic, Dallas, Texas

Wanyu Zhang

Yuncheng, China
M.D., Beijing University
Ph.D., University of Houston
Berkeley Eye Center, Houston, Texas
Eye Care Associates of Humble, Humble, Texas

HONORS

Doctoral students who complete their degree requirements will graduate with the stated academic honors if they achieve the corresponding grade point averages earned in the doctor of optometry program at the University of Houston.

SUMMA CUM LAUDE – 3.75 TO 4.0

Kathleen Aimee Almenario	Kelsey Etheredge Mach
Carrie Jean Bolen	Allison J. Quirin
Maria C. Dupré	Alexandra M. Samuelson
Dana Rocha Griffith	Jackie Lynn Seier
Elisabeth Ann Hottel	Kelsea Vance Skidmore
Katherine Moore Johns	Amanda Katherine Williamson

MAGNA CUM LAUDE – 3.50 TO 3.74

Jumana Ali	Michael Andrew O'Neal
Kymber Michelle Blaschke	Audrey Nicole Raley
Candace Nicole Brown	Ethan D. Royster
Ann-Marie Colleen Connolly	Clayton William Rutkowski
Sarah E. Godward	Justin Dale Simbulan
Nicholas D. Heston	Nancy Catherine Sorrell
Ariel M. Johnson	Brian Dennis Stanley
Catherine Elizabeth Kristynik	Jennifer Thai
Meagan N. Laqua-LeGrand	Hue Tran
Gabriela Maria Leche	Ashley Sarah Varghese
Elena Elisabeth Lischau	Jennifer Hong Vuong
Amanda Lee Melendez	Betty B. Zhang
Cathy Huong Nguyen	Wanyu Zhang
Sara Nourani	

**2017 GOLD KEY INTERNATIONAL
OPTOMETRIC HONOR SOCIETY**

Gold Key International Optometric Honor Society recognizes graduating students who demonstrate outstanding professional and ethical attitudes through leadership and service to their class, college, and profession. Membership is limited to no more than 10 percent of the graduating class. The University of Houston College of Optometry chapter of Gold Key was created in 1974.

Maria C. Dupré
Sarah Jean Galt
Elisabeth Ann Hottel
Larry Edward Kocian

Elena Elisabeth Lischau
Kelsey Etheredge Mach
Kelsea Vance Skidmore
Betty B. Zhang

**BETA SIGMA KAPPA INTERNATIONAL OPTOMETRIC
HONOR SOCIETY GRADUATES**

Beta Sigma Kappa recognizes students who stimulate scientific attainment, academic excellence, and the ethical practice of optometry. Membership is awarded based on scholastic excellence and is calculated per semester. The asterisk denotes membership since fall 2013.

Kathleen Aimee Almenario*
Kymber Michelle Blaschke*
Carrie Jean Bolen*
Gabrielle Gandy Boyd*
Michael James Collins*
Maria C. Dupré*
Dana Rocha Griffith*
Sul ki Han
Elisabeth Ann Hottel*
Amanda Nicole Huynh
Katherine Moore Johns*
Ariel M. Johnson
Larry Edward Kocian*
Catherine Elizabeth Kristynik
Meagan N. Laqua-LeGrand*
Gabriela Maria Leche

Matthew Lentsch
Elena Elisabeth Lischau*
Kelsey Etheredge Mach*
Stephanie Marie Marten-Ellis
Amanda Lee Melendez*
Sanjay R. Nancherla
Cathy Huong Nguyen*
Lynda Nguyen
Sara Nourani*
Michael Andrew O'Neal*
Reena Ajit Patel*
Allison J. Quirin*
Alexandra M. Samuelson*
Jackie Lynn Seier*
Justin Dale Simbulan*
Nancy Catherine Sorrell*

Brian Dennis Stanley*
Jennifer Thai
Hue Tran*
Ashley Sarah Varghese*

Jennifer Hong Vuong*
Betty B. Zhang*
Wanyu Zhang**

CLINICAL EXCELLENCE SPECIALTY AWARDS

Cornea and Contact Lens

Maria C. Dupré

Dry Eye Center

Megan N. Laqua-LeGrand

Good-Lite Pediatric Optometry

Allison J. Quirin

Low Vision

Nancy Catherine Sorrell

Medical Eye Service

Amanda Katherine Williamson

Primary Care

Justin Dale Simbulan

Zelda Schiffman Neuro-Ophthalmology

Amanda Nicole Huynh

FOURTH YEAR PROFESSIONAL AWARDS

Alcon Laboratories Excellence Award

Maria C. Dupré

College of Optometrists in Vision Development

Excellence in Vision Therapy Award

Kelsey Etheredge Mach

CooperVision Excellence in Cornea Contact Lens Award

Jake L. Pray
Usman K. Sheikh

The Ebling Award in Medical Contact Lens Patient Care

Katherine Moore Johns

Eschenbach Low Vision Award

Betty B. Zhang

Excellence in Community Service Award

Long Hoang Nguyen
Kevin Soong

Excellence in Optics Award

Allison J. Quirin

William Feinbloom Low Vision Award

Justin Dale Simbulan

GP Lens Institute Clinical Excellence Award

Elisabeth Ann Hottel

Johnson & Johnson Award of Excellence in Contact Lens Patient Care

Allison J. Quirin

Marchon Eyewear Practice Management Award

Michael James Collins

Metro Optics Excellence Award

Kelsea Vance Skidmore

Ocular Instruments Award for Excellence

Gabriela Maria Leche

Office of Optometry Relations Image Award

Betty B. Zhang

Optelec Low Vision Award

Ethan D. Royster

Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award

Betty B. Zhang

Varilux Student Grant Award

Kourosh Zakeri



2017 Distinguished Alumnus

Michael Kalloniatis, B.Sc., M.Sc., Ph.D., PGCOT, F.A.A.O.

Dr. Kalloniatis completed his Bachelor of Science and Master of Science in Optometry from the University of Melbourne in Australia prior to undertaking his Ph.D. training at the University of Houston College of Optometry. While at UHCO, he worked closely with Dr. Ron Harwerth earning his Ph.D. in 1988. Dr. Kalloniatis received his post-doctoral training at The University of Texas Graduate School of Biological Sciences in Houston before returning to Melbourne in 1991 where he served as a lecturer within the Department of Optometry at the University of Melbourne. In 2003, he joined the University of Auckland as the Robert G. Leidl Professor of Optometry, and also served terms as Head of Department of Optometry and Vision Science and Associate Dean for Research for the Faculty of Science. He became Centre Director and Professor of Optometry and Vision Science at the Centre for Eye Health, University of New South Wales in Sydney Australia in 2009. With an expertise in retinal neurobiology, clinical testing of visual psychophysics, and a keen interest in glaucoma and retinal disease diagnosis, he is an active researcher, publishing on numerous topics. He is a frequently invited speaker presenting within Australia as well as internationally. Dr. Kalloniatis has four daughters and holds a black belt in karate.

Golden Reunion Class of 1967

The University of Houston College of Optometry's faculty, staff, and students salute the Class of 1967 on the occasion of the 50th Anniversary of their Commencement.

John Montgomery Bealmear, O.D.
Jerome Lawrence Becker, O.D.
George Charles Beckwith, O.D. *
Douglas Kent Blackman, O.D.
Donald Bright, O.D. *
Nowlin Sutton Chambers, O.D.
Sam J. Charendoff, O.D.
John William Clement, O.D.
Wendell A. Cox, O.D. *
William Donald Diehl, O.D.
George Andrew Dillard, O.D.
Eugene Frederick Dunham, O.D.
Erik Carlyle Erwin, O.D.
Richard Duane Gallas, O.D. *
Richard Harris Glanville III, O.D. *
Merlyn Laverne Harger, O.D.
Woodson Harvey Jr., O.D. *

Ronald Morris Jackson, O.D.
Terry Layne Jessen, O.D. *
Donald Duane Kilene, O.D.
Ronny M. LaQuey, O.D.
James Herbert McClendon, Jr., O.D.
Jean Mary Miller Medlock, O.D.
James Daniel Penick, O.D. *
Richard Dean Perry, O.D. *
Robert Joe Pinkner, O.D.
William W. Royall III, O.D.
Roland L. Skelton, O.D.
Martin Henry Snider, O.D.
Beckwith Steiner Jr., O.D.
William Blair Thomas, O.D.

** Deceased*

College of Optometry
ADMINISTRATION, FACULTY, AND STAFF

College Administration

Earl L. Smith III, O.D., Ph.D.
Dean

Roger Boltz, O.D., Ph.D.
Associate Dean for Finance and Administration

Laura Frishman, Ph.D.
Associate Dean for Graduate Studies and Research

Nick Holdeman, O.D., M.D.
*Associate Dean for Clinical Education
Executive Director, University Eye Institute*

Kimberly Lambreghts, R.N., O.D.
Associate Dean for Professional Studies

Marcus Piccolo, O.D.
*Associate Dean for Professional Advancement
Chair, Department of Clinical Sciences
Executive Director, Surgical Services*

Ralph Herring, O.D., M.H.A.
*Assistant Dean for Professional Studies
Director, External Education*

Melissa Mares, B.A.
*Assistant Dean for Student Affairs
Executive Director for Optometry Relations*

Vallabh Das, Ph.D.
Chair, Department of Basic Sciences

College of Optometry Faculty

Heather Anderson, O.D., Ph.D.
Associate Professor

Raymond Applegate, O.D., Ph.D.
Irvin M. Borish Chair in Optometry

Julia Benoit, Ph.D.
Research Assistant Professor

Jan Bergmanson, O.D., Ph.D.
Brien A. Holden Professor

David Berntsen, O.D., Ph.D.
Associate Professor

Rudolph Black, O.D.
Clinical Associate Professor

Roger Boltz, O.D., Ph.D.
Associate Professor

Alan Burns, Ph.D.
McDaid-Vision Source Professor

Carolyn Carman, O.D.
Clinical Professor

Louvenia Carter-Dawson, Ph.D.
Senior Research Scientist

Moriah Chandler, O.D.
Visiting Assistant Professor

Han Cheng, Ph.D., O.D.
Clinical Professor

Yuzo M. Chino, Ph.D.
Benedict-McFadden Professor

Vivien Coulson-Thomas, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor

Debra Currie, O.D., M.S.
Clinical Associate Professor

Vallabh Das, Ph.D.
Benedict-Pitts Professor

College of Optometry

ADMINISTRATION, FACULTY, AND STAFF

Jennifer Deakins, O.D.
Clinical Assistant Professor

Joe DeLoach, O.D.
Clinical Professor

Karen Fern, O.D.
Associate Professor

Muriel Ferreira, O.D.
Visiting Assistant Professor

Laura Frishman, Ph.D.
John and Rebecca Moores Professor

Amber Gaume Giannoni, O.D.
Clinical Professor

Kevin Gee, O.D.
Clinical Assistant Professor

Nancy George, O.D.
Clinical Associate Professor

Gavin Gerondale, O.D.
Clinical Assistant Professor

Marcus Gonzales, O.D.
Clinical Assistant Professor

Samuel Hanlon, O.D., M.S., Ph.D.
Research Associate Professor

Ronald Harwerth, O.D., Ph.D.
John and Rebecca Moores Professor

Roxana Hemmati, O.D.
Visiting Assistant Professor

Ralph Herring, O.D., M.H.A.
Clinical Associate Professor

Nick Holdeman, O.D., M.D.
Professor of Optometry

Nicole Hooper, O.D.
Visiting Assistant Professor

Li-Fang Hung, B.Med., O.D., Ph.D.
Research Scientist

Casey Johnston, O.D.
Clinical Assistant Professor

Kassandra Johnston, O.D.
Clinical Assistant Professor

Anand Joshi, Ph.D.
Research Assistant Professor

Lucy Kehinde, O.D., Ph.D.
Clinical Assistant Professor

Andrew Kemp, O.D.
Visiting Assistant Professor

Tonya Ketcham, O.D., Ph.D.
Clinical Assistant Professor

Julianne Knowles, O.D.
Clinical Assistant Professor

Zanna Kruoch, O.D.
Visiting Assistant Professor

Kimberly Lambreghts, R.N., O.D.
Clinical Professor

Anna-Kaye Logan, O.D.
Clinical Assistant Professor

Ruth Manny, O.D., Ph.D.
Charles R. Stewart Professor

Danica Marrelli, O.D.
Clinical Professor

Jason Marsack, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor

Swati Modi, O.D.
Clinical Assistant Professor

Rebekah Montes, O.D.
Visiting Assistant Professor

College of Optometry

ADMINISTRATION, FACULTY, AND STAFF

Susana Moreno, O.D.
Visiting Assistant Professor

Sheila Morrison, O.D., M.S.
Visiting Assistant Professor

Bruce Onofrey, R.Ph., O.D.
Professor of Optometry

Lisa Ostrin, O.D., Ph.D.
Assistant Professor

Deborah Otteson, Ph.D.
Associate Professor

Lloyd Pate, O.D.
Clinical Associate Professor

Nimesh Patel, O.D., Ph.D.
Assistant Professor

Judith Perrigin, O.D.
Professor of Optometry

Marcus Piccolo, O.D.
Associate Professor

Jason Porter, Ph.D.
Associate Professor

Daniel Powell, O.D., Ph.D.
Clinical Assistant Professor

Tracy Prosak, O.D.
Clinical Assistant Professor

Guoting Qin, Ph.D.
Research Assistant Professor

Sam Quintero, O.D.
Adjunct Associate Professor

Vijaykrishna Raghunathan, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor

Rachel Redfern, O.D., Ph.D.
Assistant Professor

Eric Ritchey, O.D., Ph.D.
Clinical Assistant Professor

John Robson, Ph.D., Sc.D.
Senior Research Professor

Krystal Schulle, O.D.
Visiting Assistant Professor

Pat Segu, O.D.
Clinical Associate Professor

Lanny Shulman, O.D., Ph.D.
Clinical Associate Professor

Earl L. Smith III, O.D., Ph.D.
Greeman-Petty Professor

Scott Stevenson, Ph.D.
Associate Professor

Anita Ticak, O.D., M.S.
Clinical Assistant Professor

Maria Walker, O.D., M.S.
Lecturer

Ashley Wallace-Tucker, O.D.
Visiting Assistant Professor

James Walters, Ph.D., O.D.
Associate Professor

Janice Wensveen, O.D., Ph.D.
Clinical Professor

Suzanne Wickum, O.D.
Clinical Professor

Mona Younes, O.D., M.S.
Clinical Assistant Professor

College of Optometry
ADMINISTRATION, FACULTY, AND STAFF

Emeritus Faculty

Harold Bedell, Ph.D.

Troy Fannin, O.D.

Merton Flom, O.D., Ph.D.

Randy Jose, O.D.

Penelope Kegel-Flom, Ph.D.

James Koetting, O.D.

Paul Pease, O.D., Ph.D.

Don Pitts, O.D.

Nelson Reber, O.D.

Jerome Rosner, O.D.

Charles Stewart, O.D., Ph.D.

Jerald Strickland, O.D., Ph.D.

College of Optometry Commencement Committee

Hayley Brown

Jennifer Ebert

David Gee

Gabby Greenwade

Charlet King

Cristian Loayza

Amanda Johnson

Assistant Dean Melissa Mares

Liz Mauzy

Ashley Olheiser

Scott Parker

Sarat Pratapchandran

Tiffany Robinson

Ellen Shaw

Michele Stafford

Lyle Tate

Optometry at the University of Houston

Doctors of Optometry are:

Primary health care professionals who diagnose and treat eye health and vision problems.

Optometry at the University of Houston:

The four-year Post-Baccalaureate Professional Program includes:

- 3,216 hours of lectures and laboratories in optics, advanced human physiology, gross human and ocular anatomy, neuroanatomy, systemic and ocular pathology, general and ocular pharmacology, and vision and clinical sciences.
- 500 eye health and vision care experiences in the University Eye Institute's family practice, cornea and contact lens, pediatric, low vision, and medical services.
- 1,200 eye health and vision care experiences during two externships (32 weeks) at vision and health care centers. These centers include private practices, military hospitals, Indian Health Hospitals, community health centers, surgical centers, Veterans Administration Hospitals, and multidisciplinary vision care centers and institutes.
- Licensing and Credentialing include:
 - National Board Examinations
 - Applied Basic Science
 - Patient Assessment and Management
 - Treatment and Management of Ocular Disease
 - Clinical Skills Examination
 - State Licensure Examination
 - Optometric Jurisprudence Examination

2016-2017 Academic Year Extern Sites include

Chris Allee, O.D.

Eye Center of Texas, Houston, Texas

Lieutenant James Ardis, O.D.

Naval Medical Center San Diego, San Diego, California

Gary Avallone, O.D.

Avallone Vision Center, Ruston, Louisiana

John M. Brand, O.D.

George E. Wahlen VA Medical Center, Salt Lake City, Utah

Randy Charrier, O.D.

Family Vision Solutions, Houston, Texas

John Coble, O.D.

EyeCare of Greenville, Greenville, Texas

Bob S. Consor, O.D.

Eye Doctor's Office & Eye Gallery, Dallas, Texas

Jennifer Deakins, O.D.

Community Eye Clinic, Fort Worth, Texas

Major Lyndsey M. Ferris, O.D.

Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas

Martha Gallia, O.D.

Eye Care Associates of Humble, Humble, Texas

David A. Garza, O.D.

Berkeley Eye Center, Houston, Texas

Nancy George, O.D.

La Nueva Casa de Amigos, Houston, Texas

Gavin Gerondale, O.D.

Mobile Eye Institute, Houston, Texas

C. Robert Gibson, O.D.

Coastal Eye Associates, Houston, Texas

Dennis D. Golden, O.D.

Golden Eye Associates, Carthage, Texas

D. Dixon Golden, O.D.

Golden Eye Clinic, Center, Texas

Marcus Gonzales, O.D.

Cedar Springs Eye Clinic, Dallas, Texas

Jeff Grigsby, O.D.

Vision Health Specialties, Midland, Texas

Mario Gutierrez, O.D.

Vision Source Alamo Heights, San Antonio, Texas

David Heitmeier, O.D.

Heitmeier, Armani, Langhetee & Cangelosi Medical & Surgical Eyecare, New Orleans, Louisiana

Lynn Hellerstein, O.D.

Hellerstein & Brenner Vision Center, Greenwood Village, Colorado

Cynthia Johnson, O.D.

Prairie Eye Clinic, Vermillion, South Dakota

Oliver Lou, O.D.

Signature Eye Care, Cedar Park, Texas

F. Keith Manuel, O.D.

Space Center Eye Associates, Houston, Texas

Harue Marsden, O.D.

University Eye Center at Ketchum Health, Anaheim, California

Earlena McKee, O.D.

NSU College of Optometry, Tahlequah, Oklahoma

Ryan Miller, O.D.

LoBue Laser & Eye Medical Center, Murrieta, California

W. Donner Mizelle, O.D.
Acadian Vision Associates, Lafayette, Louisiana

Susana C. Moreno, O.D.
HOPE Eye Clinic, Houston, Texas

Kathryn Musgrove, M.D.
Houston Eye Associates, Houston, Texas

Moes Nasser, O.D.
Vision Source Willowbrook, Houston, Texas

Clarke D. Newman, O.D.
Plaza Vision Center, Dallas, Texas

Thien Huong Kim Nguyen, O.D.
Katy VA Outpatient Clinic, Houston, Texas

Major Michael T. Sapp, O.D.
Kirtland Air Force Base, Kirtland, New Mexico

Pat Segu, O.D.
Good Neighbor Eye Clinic, Houston, Texas

Richard Sharp, O.D.
Sharp Eye Consultants, San Antonio, Texas

Laurie Sorrenson, O.D.
Lakeline Vision Source, Austin, Texas

Emily J. Sprague, O.D.
*Fort Belvoir Community Hospital, Fort Belvoir,
Virginia*

John Stadick, O.D.
Indian Health Hospital, Santa Fe, New Mexico

Anthony P. Stout, O.D.
*Indian Health Hospital, Albuquerque,
New Mexico*

Megan Stubinski, O.D.
Vision Source Mission Bend, Houston, Texas

Rosa Tang, M.D.
Neuro-Ophthalmology of Texas, Houston, Texas

Grace L. Tsan, O.D.
*Raymond G. Murphy VA Medical Center,
Albuquerque, New Mexico*

David W. Tybor, O.D.
Oak Hill Eye Care, Austin, Texas

Ann W. Voss, O.D.
Bellaire Family Eye Care, Bellaire, Texas

Gregg Wentworth, O.D.
*South Texas Veterans Health Care System,
San Antonio, Texas*

M. Dwayne Yeager, O.D.
Dr. Dwayne Yeager, West Monroe, Louisiana

UHCO Milestones

1950s

In 1952, UHCO officially opens. Charles R. Stewart, O.D., Ph.D., is named first dean of the college.

The Foundation for Education and Research in Vision is established to increase and promote awareness of vision and its care.

UHCO graduates the first class with 11 O.D.s entering the optometric profession in 1955.

Mildred Carlisle, O.D., is UHCO's first female graduate.

1960s

Faculty member Chester H. Pheiffer, O.D., Ph.D., assumes duties as the second dean of the college.

The Texas Commission on Higher Education confirms the offering of optometry at UH, making the college eligible for state support.

Charles M. Stephens, O.D., becomes UHCO's 100th graduate.

1970s

The graduate program is established in physiological optics (vision science) with the M.S. degree in 1970 and the Ph.D. in 1972. The first M.S. graduate is Norman E. Leach. The first Ph.D. is awarded to Pierrette Dahaw-Barker.

James K. Donovan, O.D., becomes the 500th graduate.

The J. Davis Armistead Building is completed with both state and federal assistance. The state-of-the-art \$9.6 million building remains UHCO's home.

UHCO establishes a formal partnership with the Good Neighbor Healthcare Center and on-site optometric services begin.

William R. Baldwin, O.D., Ph.D., becomes UHCO's third dean.

The UHCO Reading Room becomes an official UH recognized library.

The Nelson Reber, O.D., Eye Open Golf Tournament is established to raise funds for student scholarships and emergency loans. Dr. Reber passed away in 2011.

1980s

Dan Patterson, O.D., becomes UHCO's 1,000th graduate.

UH Downtown formally names the vision clinic the Herbert H. Moore Vision Care Clinic in honor of the popular UHCO professor.

The Texas Optometric Career Opportunities Program (TEXOCOP) is created with grant funds contributed from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Administration.

1990s

Karen M. Conway, O.D., becomes the 2,000th graduate.

The Weston A. Pettey Library is dedicated to honor Dr. Pettey's tireless efforts on behalf of UHCO and the profession. The Reading Room is named to honor Dr. Irvin M. Borish for his achievements in the profession.

The college building is formally named the J. Davis Armistead Building in recognition of Dr. Armistead's enduring efforts benefitting the college, university, and the profession. Dr. Armistead is known for being the optometrist to singer Buddy Holly and having a hand in selecting the famous black frames.

Jerald W. Strickland, O.D., Ph.D., is named UHCO's fourth dean.

2000s

Seren D. Ngin, O.D., becomes UHCO's 3,000th graduate.

UHCO caps off the 50th Anniversary celebration with a gala celebrating Visions of the Past, Present, and Future.

Earl L. Smith III, O.D., Ph.D., becomes UHCO's fifth dean of the college.

UHCO and the National Multiple Sclerosis Society form an official affiliation to establish the MS Eye Care Center. The clinic is dedicated to the early diagnosis and treatment of MS, to the delivery of comprehensive eye care to patients with MS, and to groundbreaking research.

UHCO debuts its Mobile Eye Institute, designed specifically to provide eye care to the greater-Houston area. MEI is equipped with the latest in ophthalmic technology and brings comprehensive on-site vision services to patients in need of optometric care.

2010s

UHCO hosts a Groundbreaking Celebration on the site that will become the UH Health and Biomedical Sciences Center featuring the UHCO Vision Institute in November 2010.

The Topping Out Ceremony and pillar signing event for the Molly and Doug Barnes Vision Institute within the new Health and Biomedical Sciences Building marks the occasion when construction on the new building reaches its highest point in September 2011.

Bridget Ducote, O.D., becomes the 4,000th UHCO graduate.

The UH Health and Biomedical Sciences Building featuring the Molly and Doug Barnes Vision Institute officially opens in November 2012, and the formal dedication ceremony celebrates this milestone in February 2013.

Pierrette Dayhaw-Barker, Ph.D., '76, UHCO's first Ph.D. recipient, receives the Distinguished Alumnus Award at the May 2013 commencement ceremony.

Vissett Sun, O.D., '95, is recognized as the 2013 Volunteer of the Year.

In August, 2013, Brady Betten from the Class of 2014 receives the Norman E. Wallis Award honoring the student earning the highest score among students from all 23 schools of optometry on Part I of the National Board Examinations.

In November, 2013, Earl L. Smith III, O.D., Ph.D., is appointed to serve as the Interim Chief Health Officer for the University, and Roger L. Boltz, O.D., Ph.D., is appointed to serve as UHCO's Interim Dean.

In February 2014, William R. Baldwin, O.D., Ph.D., UHCO dean from 1979-1990, passes away. The UH Flag flies at half-staff the day of his funeral as a tribute to his memory.

In May 2014, Dennis M. Levi, O.D., Ph.D., '77, is recognized as UHCO's Distinguished Alumnus.

During commencement ceremonies in May 2014, Wanyu Zhang is awarded the 100th Ph.D.

J. Davis Armistead, O.D., passes away in June 2014. He was the first O.D. to serve on the UH Board of Regents and completed two terms, the longest of any optometrist. He served as an advocate for the college, university, and profession until his death.

The Simulation Lab is established in August 2014 giving optometry students an opportunity to learn diagnostic techniques on a state-of-the-art, first-in-the-nation set of networked computers that mimics the experience of examining a real patient's eyes. The sophisticated program is preloaded with 200 pathology cases designed to teach pattern recognition to students.

nJoy Laser Refractive Center opens in the Molly and Doug Barnes Vision Institute in February 2015. This partnership provides the opportunity to integrate new clinical services into the curriculum, including refractive surgery, laser refractive procedures, and advanced treatment options for conditions such as keratoconus.

In May 2015, Jenny Terrell, O.D., '03, and Jennifer Deakins, O.D., '10, receive the Volunteer of the Year Award.

William J. Townsend, O.D., '77 is honored as UHCO's Distinguished Alumnus during graduation ceremonies in May 2015.

In June 2015, Bill Benedict is posthumously inducted into UHCO's Hall of Visionaries for his innovation, dedication, and personal and financial commitment to the optometric profession.

Charles R. Stewart, O.D., Ph.D., UHCO's founding dean, passes away in June 2015.

Brien Holden, Ph.D., D.Sc., founder of the Brien Holden Vision Institute and friend and benefactor of UHCO, passes away in July 2015. Prior to his death, he established the Brien Holden Vision Institute Classrooms and Learning Commons in the Health and Biomedical Science Building on UHCO's second floor. He was awarded an Honorary Degree from the University of Houston in May 2012.

In August 2015, UHCO establishes eye and vision care services at the Hope Clinic, which is located in one of Houston's most racially diverse neighborhoods. A unique characteristic of the clinic is its capacity to provide services in 14 languages including Mandarin, Cantonese, Vietnamese, Korean, Burmese, Arabic, and Spanish.

In May 2016, William R. Elizondo, O.D. receives the UHCO Volunteer of the Year Award.

Brett G. Bence, O.D., '79, is honored as UHCO's Distinguished Alumnus during graduation ceremonies in May 2016.

In October 2016, James H. Dienst, O.D., '89, is promoted to Brigadier General and is the first optometrist to achieve general officer rank in the Air Force. He received the prestigious Air Force Optometrist of the Year Award in 2001.

Suzanne Ferimer, librarian for UHCO's Weston A. Pettey Library, is among one of five recipients presented with the Medical Library Association President's Award in May 2017. This is one of MLA's highest honors and recognizes those that have made outstanding contributions in the field of health sciences librarianship.

Academic Heraldry

The academic costume in America consists of three components: a cap, gown, and hood. The cap is the beret or mortarboard type with a tassel color (black or gold) which represents the graduate level of education - the professional doctorate.

The doctor's gown is an elaborate costume marked with velvet panels down the front and around the neck as well as three bars on the bell-shaped sleeves. The hood design is unique to the profession of optometry. The velvet trim of the hood is seafoam green, the color which represents the academic discipline of optometry. The length of the hood depicts the doctoral level of education, while the field of the hood is specific for the University of Houston - red with a reverse white chevron.

The hooding ceremony and the formal conferring of the degrees by the Dean or the President represent the final acts of academic endorsement by the faculty of the College and the University.

Reception

At the conclusion of the ceremony the College of Optometry will host a reception celebrating our newest alumni. We invite all our graduates and guests to join us for light refreshments as we honor the Class of 2017.

**University of Houston College of Optometry
J. Davis Armistead Building
University Eye Institute Lobby**

ENHANCING VISION FOR LIFE

