

Speaker Bios

Tracy Bennett is the Program Director for Durham Technical Community College's Associates Degree in Opticianry Program in Durham, North Carolina. She is licensed by the NC State Board of Opticianry Examiners, American Board of Opticianry and National Contact Lens Examiners. Tracy has worked as a professional Opticianry instructor with Durham Tech for the past 10 years. Although Tracy teaches a variety of Opticianry subjects at the college, the majority of her courses focus on manufacturing concepts that range from the abstract to the applicable. With over 19 years of experience, she has gained extensive knowledge of lensometry measures and application of ANSI tolerances. Tracy takes pride in her work as an optician, an educator, and program director. She is fulfilled by the accomplishments of her students as they work toward becoming professionally certified and licensed dispensing opticians. With every interaction Tracy's goal is that, in the end, the student has learned more than what is read in books and learned in practice. Her goal is that the student has a new appreciation for their chosen profession, and a desire to provide the best level of care to the patients, customers, and clients with whom they interact.

Grant Brown, ABOM, LDO, NCLEC, is a Senior Optician with the Greenville Health System Department of Surgery Eye Institute in upstate South Carolina and has been involved in the optical industry with solo, corporate, Optometric and Ophthalmological practices. Known for troubleshooting and problem solving, he has enjoyed working with Pediatrics to Geriatrics. Grant specializes in teaching foundational optics and then promoting how optics work practically; not only to beginners but also with review courses for experienced Opticians, technicians, staff and doctors. Through his company, Eyedeas in Optics, he has been a state and national educator for many years, is active with his state association and edits the South Carolina Association of Opticians newsletter, Insight. Grant is certified as a Master Optician by the ABO, is a member of the South Carolina Board of Examiners in Opticianry, South Carolina Association of Opticians, Contact Lens Society of America, Fellow of the National Academy of Opticians, Honored Fellow of the Opticians Association of America and a member of the Society to Advance Opticianry.

Mile Brujic, OD, FAAO is a 2002 graduate of the New England College of Optometry. He is a partner of Premier Vision Group, a successful three location Optometric practice in Northwest Ohio. He practices full scope Optometry with an emphasis on ocular disease management of the anterior segment, contact lenses and glaucoma. He is active at all levels of organized Optometry. Dr. Brujic is on the editorial board for a number of Optometric publications. He has published over 250 articles and has given over 1300 lectures, both nationally and internationally on contemporary topics in eye care.

Jane S. Buckland, FCLSA(H), NCLE-AC, FNAO has over four decades of experience as a contact lens fitter, consultant and clinician. Upon receiving her Optometric Sciences degree in 1971, she continued Ophthalmic Technician training at the University of Florida Department of Ophthalmology. Jane holds Advanced Level Certification by the National Contact Lens Examiners, is a Fellow Ambassador and

previous Board Member of the National Academy of Opticianry, Honored Fellow and previous Board Member, Fellow Exam Committee, Education Committee, Membership Chairman and Speaker of the Year for the Contact Lens Society of America. She served on the VICA advisory committee and is a past President of the Pacific Coast Contact Lens Society. Previous and current capacities include guest faculty for: Baylor Contact Lens Course, Tulane Contact Lens Course, Vision Expo, Contact Lens Society of America, Contact Lens Association of Ophthalmologists, National Academy of Opticianry, Pacific Coast Contact Lens Society, OptiCon® and SECO as well as numerous state and local organizations. She was an adjunct instructor for Hillsborough and St. Petersburg Opticianry programs. Jane has presented thousands of hours throughout the United States and abroad and has authored numerous articles on contact lens fitting, design, and technology. She is presently Owner/Director of Contact Lens Consultants of North Georgia.

Ledonna Buckner is a Virginia Licensed Dispensing Optician specializing in unusual contact lens fitting cases. She entered the Optical Industry in 1985 manufacturing GP lenses while obtaining her Associates in Applied Science at J. Sergeant Reynolds Community College (JSRCC) Opticianry Program in Richmond, VA. She is a Fellow of the Contact Lens Society of America (CLSA) and a Master of Contact Lens Technology in the National Contact Lens Examiners.

Nikki DiBacco is a 30+ optical owner/manager with many published articles, and Opticianry CE courses, as well as being a nationally-awarded consultant.

Diane Drake has over 40 years in the Optical business. Mrs. Drake is an approved advanced course speaker for ABO and NCLE as well as an approved speaker for Paraoptometrics, JCAHPO, and COPE. She was president and owner of ALL ABOUT EYES VISION CENTER in Griffin, Georgia for over 19 years. She is a Licensed Optician in Georgia, and Advanced and Masters certified by ABO-NCLE. She is a Fellow of the National Academy of Opticianry as well as their current President. She is currently completing her term as a commissioner of the Commission on Opticianry Accreditation of which she served as Vice Chair. She is a Past President of the Opticians Association of Georgia as well as the SouthEastern Opticians Conference. She is a 1995 graduate of the OAA Refractometry program. Mrs. Drake was selected as the Optician of the Year for Georgia in 1992, and was honored with the prestigious Beverly Myers Achievement Award by the National Academy of Opticianry in 1996. She was honored in 1997 as the Outstanding Optician in the Southeast, receiving the Galen B. Kilburn award. She received the annual Eric Muth award in 2000 for outstanding achievement in technical writing and the pursuit of excellence in Ophthalmic Optics. She was honored as being one of the 50 most influential women in Optical in 2004 by Vision Monday. She received the Dan Gosnell award from the SouthEastern Opticians Conference for Outstanding Optician in 2005. She received the Joseph Bruneni Memorial Education Achievement award from the NAO in 2009. She authored "Beginning Your Life as a Contact Lens Technician". She co-authored the COA Evaluators' Workshop, the NAO Basic and Advanced Opticians Tutorial, and the NAO Ophthalmic Career Progression Program. She is a regular contributing writer for Vision Care Product News.

Daniel Feldman is the CEO of dba designs & communications, a Colorado based marketing consulting company and Managing Partner of The Visionaries Group, an optical consulting firm. Daniel has spent his professional life marketing companies large and small. His resume is a career of impressive results creating marketing and advertising strategies for large companies including The Shane Company, the University of Phoenix and Sports Authority as well as dozens of optical shops across the US and in Canada. Daniel's expertise ranges across all forms of online and offline marketing platforms including website development, social media, broadcast advertising, direct mail, print advertising, outdoor advertising, catalogues and newsprint. He is a contributor to Invision Magazine, The Optical Vision Site, and Vision Plus Magazine. His websites have been nominated several times and won a DARE Award from Vision Monday.

Mohamed E. Ganem, ABOC, NCLEC is the Founder and President of Adaptive Consulting, a consulting firm, as well as the regional Director/Corporate Trainer for Eye Doctors Optical Outlets. Mr. Ganem is licensed to practice in the states of Florida, Georgia and Vermont. He has been practicing Opticianry in the United States and Internationally for over 25 years. Mohamed has created multiple successful training programs that have been implemented and are being practiced on a wide scale. Mr. Ganem has presented over 500 lectures, both nationally and internationally on topics that range from customer service, employees' development, business growth and leadership.

John Gelles, OD is the Director of the Specialty Contact Lens Division at the Cornea and Laser Eye Institute-Hersh Vision Group and the CLEI Center for Keratoconus in Teaneck, New Jersey. Dr. Gelles' clinical work is dedicated exclusively to specialty contact lenses and surgical co-management with a focus on corneal disease (emphasis in keratoconus), ocular surface disease, and post-surgical corneal conditions. Dr. Gelles is also the Chief Emerging Technology Officer at Cool Doctors, where his work involves identifying and developing technologies which could be incorporated into the companies eyecare specific telemedicine platform, EyeCareLive, which is purpose-built by eyecare professionals for eyecare professionals to strengthen the doctor-patient relationship, enhance the range and quality of care eyecare professionals provide, and improve clinical outcomes. He is a graduate of the Pennsylvania College of Optometry and is an adjunct clinical instructor for State University of New York College of Optometry and the New England College of Optometry. Additionally, he is an Optometric consultant, active in clinical research, and is involved in multiple academies, societies, and associations.

Michael Gzik graduated from Erie Community College with a degree in Ophthalmic Dispensing. He is a New York State licensed Optician/Contact Lens Practitioner. He is a Fellow with the Contact Lens Society of America, ABO-NCLE certified and a Certified Ophthalmic Technician (COT). Mr. Gzik works in a private optical office in Syracuse, New York, and at the Syracuse VA Hospital as an Optician. He is an Adjunct and Clinical Instructor for Contact Lens Technology at SUNY Health Science Center in Syracuse, New York, Department of Ophthalmology Resident Program (20+ years). He is a consultant for Blanchard Contact Lens one day a week. Previously he has worked as a consultant and technical trainer for Bausch & Lomb professional services, as well as a site coordinator for a Taunton Excimer Laser in Syracuse. He is a past president of the New York Contact Lens Society and the Contact Lens Society of America. He was the CLSA Member of the Year in 2001 and 2007. He presented the Theo E. Obrig lecture at the 2003

CLAO Contact Lens and Eye Care Symposium. He was the Keynote speaker for the Kevin Tuohy lecture in Newport Beach in 2012. Currently, Mike serves on the board of directors for the National Contact Lens Examiners.

Tami Hagemeyer is an Optician, Speaker and Author. She is a member of the National Academy of Opticianry and the Opticians Association of Ohio. Tami is certified by the American Board of Opticianry. With 35 years of optical experience, Tami shares her expertise in frame consultations, adjustments and repairs, highlighting compassion with patients and team members, and incorporating positive communication skills. Tami has been successful in creating a strategic office and optical design. Her multiple publications include "Tami in the Trenches," a reoccurring quarterly publication as a supplement in Optometry Times. She has been featured in INVISION'S "Smooth Seller," published "L.O.V.E. Your Optical Career," and "It's Not Just A Job," both in Eyecare Business, and, "Do We Stand a Chance Against Online Optical?" which was written in collaboration with Mile Brujic, OD, and David Kading, OD, and published in Review of Optometry.

Lee Hewitt is currently employed by the Eye Care Centers of North Carolina fitting all types of contact lenses. He was President and owner of Hewitt Opticians Inc., a retail optical business fitting contact lenses and eyeglasses for eighteen years. He retired in 1997 from University Optical Services as Manager after 20 years. The fitting of difficult contact lens cases was routine. The teaching of contact lens fitting to Ophthalmology residents was also part of his responsibility. Mr. Hewitt is a past president of the NC Opticians Association. He has served as Secretary/Treasurer of the Contact Lens Society of America and is an Honored Fellow of that organization. He lectures frequently at national and state meetings. He has written articles for trade publications, and co-authored three NCLE advanced level courses about contact lens fitting.

Zachary Holland, OD is an Associate Optometrist at the Cornea and Contact Lens Institute of Minnesota since his graduation from the Illinois College of Optometry in 2015. He works with irregular corneas on a daily basis and trains fourth year Optometric students in specialty contact lens fittings. He is actively involved in the young Optometric community and is a board member of the Minnesota Contact Lens Society. He has also participated in multiple nationwide studies on various soft lenses.

Steven Indelicato earned his Bachelor of Arts degree from Villanova University, and his Associate in Applied Science degree in Ophthalmic Dispensing from the City University of New York, New York City College of Technology. He is currently pursuing a Master of Arts degree in Higher Education Administration from the State University of New York, Stony Brook. Steven is certified by both the American Board of Opticianry and National Contact Lens Examiners. He is Vice President of Indelicato Opticians in Brooklyn, New York, where he joined his father to continue more than forty years of business. Additionally, Steven is an Adjunct Lecturer at his CUNY, New York City College of Technology alma mater. His current lecture and laboratory courses include, among other topics, Contact Lenses and

Ophthalmic Dispensing. Steven was named "Opticians Best in Class" by Vision Monday Magazine in 2013.

Richard McCoy has been a Licensed Optician in the State of Florida for over 35 years. In addition, Mr. McCoy is a Licensed Optician in the State of Virginia. He has been a professor and site coordinator for the Opticianry Program at Florida Southwest State College on behalf of Hillsborough Community College in Tampa, Florida for 17 years. In addition, he was the program manager and instructor for the Ophthalmology Technician program at Edison State College. Mr. McCoy presently is the Program Director for the Opticianry Program at J. Sargent Reynolds Community College in Richmond, Virginia. A published author, Mr. McCoy's articles have appeared in 20/20 magazine and Vision Care Product News. Richard McCoy is a Subject Matter Expert (SME) for Elsevier Publishing. He has been a past chapter president and Board Director for the Professional Opticians of Florida. Richard also speaks across the United States on a variety of ophthalmic topics.

Warren McDonald is an internationally recognized educator, consultant and practitioner. He is currently Professor and Chair of the Department of Health Care Administration at Methodist University, Fayetteville, North Carolina. He is also Chief Executive Officer of McDonald and Associates, LLC, a consulting firm dedicated to the Optical industry and related professions. He is a Registered Optician in the State of North Carolina, and serves as a consultant to a number of Ophthalmic and general health care organizations in the areas of staff training and development, and practice management. His academic background includes undergraduate degrees in Opticianry and Management. He holds graduate degrees in Health Care Management, Education and Doctor of Philosophy in Health Sciences, as well as a number of professional certifications, including the prestigious ABO Master in Ophthalmic Optics, and Advanced Certification in Contact Lenses from the National Contact Lens Examiners. He is a member of the Class of 2005 at the Institute for Management and Leadership in Higher Education at Harvard University, and holds a Graduate Certificate in Health Care Risk Management from the University of Florida. Additional faculty appointments include Contributing Professor in the School of Health Sciences at Walden University where he teaches in the Master of Health Administration program, and mentors doctoral students. He also serves on the adjunct faculty at Logan University in the Doctor of Health Professions Education program. Prior to joining the faculty at Methodist University he held senior-level administrative positions in the University of North Carolina system, and regularly consults with a number of institutions in the implementation of online and off-campus degree and continuing education programs. He remains active in the Optical industry through his work in continuing education and consulting.

Craig Norman is the Director of Research at the Michigan College of Optometry, Ferris State University. A graduate of the University of Minnesota's Physician Assistant of Ophthalmology program and a clinician for the past 30+ years, he has been involved in the development and evaluation of numerous products and technologies in the soft, GP and scleral lens category. Craig is a Consulting Editor to the Contact Lens Spectrum where he has authored a column on Prescribing for Presbyopia for over a decade, an Editorial Board Member for the Refractive Eyecare journal and Editorial Advisory Board Member of All About Vision.com. He is a member of the Advisory Panel of the GP Lens Institute and has

been an Advisory Panel Member to numerous SCL and GP lens companies. Presently, he is also an Education Committee Chairman of the Global Specialty Lens Symposium. He has published over 150 articles, posters, videos and book chapters on GP and Soft Lens Design, Presbyopic Contact Lenses, Specialty Contact Lens Uses and Eye Care Practice Management and has lectured extensively throughout the world on a variety of contact lens and eyecare related topics.

B. W. Phillips, Jr. is a Past President of the Contact Lens Society of America, Past Chairman for the NC State Board of Opticians, and was the Manager of the Duke University Department of Ophthalmology Contact Lens Service for more than 25 years. He has also served as the International Education Product Specialist for SynergEyes Inc, a major lens manufacturer. Specializing in keratoconus, post-surgical corneas, traumatic injuries and pediatric contact lens fitting, he is a frequent educator/ lecturer on both national and international fronts. In 2016, he received his Master in Contact Lens Technology as well as being appointed by OAA to serve on the NCLE Board of Directors. Phillips is presently providing specialty fitting for two Ophthalmology clinics in Raleigh/Durham, NC.

Laurie Pierce is an instructor in the Opticianry program at Hillsborough Community College in Tampa, Florida. Laurie is a graduate of Newbury College's Opticianry Program in Boston, Massachusetts and managed Lugene Opticians, an upscale optical boutique in Boston's Copley Place. Ms. Pierce lectures extensively on optical theory and management topics at local, regional and national optical conferences. Ms. Pierce is an ABO Master Optician and is certified by the National Contact Lens Examiners. She received the National Federation of Opticianry Schools' Educator of the Year award in 2003 and was awarded one of the top "Most Influential Women in Optical" by Vision Monday in 2010.

Liliana Mejia Rodriguez is a long-time resident of Miami, Florida. Her professional career began in 1996 when she became a Florida Board Certified Licensed Optician. During her optical career, she earned a Bachelor's and a Master's Degree in Business Administration. She is a member of the Professional Opticians of Florida and is also certified by the American Board of Opticianry and the National Contact Lenses Examiners. In 2001, she became an adjunct faculty member at Miami Dade College (MDC) in the Vision Care Technology/Opticianry Program which later led to a full time position with the college as an Associate Instructor and Optical Manager at the Vision Care Clinic. Currently, she is full-time faculty and serves as the Program Director of the Vision Care Technology/Opticianry Program. Her role as Program Director has led her to serve as a Florida Department of Education's Curriculum Committee member and as a statewide Discipline Coordinator in the field of Ophthalmic Technology and Vision Care. Her goal is to continue the success of the MDC Vision Care program by contributing enthusiasm and passion to students' education in the optical industry.

Buddy Russell - After a long and distinguished career at Emory University, Buddy left academia to accept a position at Thomas Eye Group in Atlanta. He is also the Chief Clinical Specialist for X-Cel Specialty Contacts. In addition to patient care, Buddy is involved in teaching, product development and validation. He has been certified by JCAHPO since 1986 and is a Certified Ophthalmic Medical Technologist. Buddy

is a Fellow member of the Scleral Lens Society and the Contact Lens Society of America. He lectures frequently at national and international meetings on contact lens related topics. Buddy has written articles for various publications, two chapters for CLSA's advanced training manual and is a peer reviewer for the Cornea and the Eye and Contact Lens journals and also serves on the editorial board for the Contact Lens Science and Research publication. Buddy is a member of the GPLI advisory board and on the board of directors for CLSA. He is also a contributing editor for CLSA's Eyewitness. Buddy served as the National Contact Lens Coordinator for the Infant Aphakia Treatment Study. His most recent accomplishments include being awarded with the Joseph Soper Award for excellence in education and co-authoring a chapter on managing refractive errors in children in Taylor and Hoyt's Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus textbook.

Robert Russo was most recently the Chair of the Vision Care Technology Department at the New York City Technical College. He is certified by the American Board of Opticianry, the National Contact Lens Examiners, the Opticians Association of America in Refractometry and is licensed in the states of New York and New Jersey. Professor Russo is currently the President of the National Federation of Opticianry Schools (NFOS). He is a past Commissioner for the Commission on Opticianry Accreditation, a past member of the board of directors of the Contact Lens Society of New York State and past chapter president of the New York State Society of Opticians. In addition, Professor Russo has served on the faculty for the Opticians Association of America, Vision Expo East and West, EyeQuest and OptiCon®. Professor Russo received an Associate Degree in Ophthalmic Dispensing from New York City Community College, a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Management from the City University of New York, and a Master of Arts Degree in Education from New York University. Professor Russo was named National Federation of Opticianry Schools' "Educator of the Year" in 2009, "Optician of the Year" by the New York State Society of Opticians in 2012 and received the National Academy of Opticianry's Joseph Bruneni Memorial Education Achievement Award in 2015.

Barry E. Santini is a Certified Master Optician by the American Board of Opticianry. He is also a credentialed Ophthalmic Optician by the Society to Advance Opticianry (SAO). Barry is President of Long Island Opticians, a retail optical store located in Seaford, New York. This business traces its origin to an optical business originally started by his father, Alfred E. Santini, in the 1950s. Barry is a nationally known optical speaker, writer, blogger and is a contributing editor to 20/20 Magazine. With over 44 years of experience, Barry is an expert on dispensing, fabrication, optics, rimless processing as well as business and practice management. A New York State licensed Ophthalmic Optician and certified NYS Contact Lens fitter, Barry received his ABOM from the American Board of Opticianry in 1994. In 2012, he received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the NYS Society of Opticians. In 2016, Barry was awarded "Optician of the Year" from the Society to Advance Opticianry (SAO). Barry is currently on the advisory board for the ophthalmic dispensing department of New York City College of Technology.

Joseph Sollecito is a faculty member of the Vision Care Technology program at New York City College of Technology. He has served on the Board of Directors for the Opticians Association of America, and the American Board of Opticianry panel for writing of the Masters Examination. He has published several

articles on the subject of Opticianry as well as in Refraction. Professor Sollecito has spoken regionally, nationally, and internationally, on various subjects.

Rebecca Soto is a Licensed Optician, certified by ABO and NCLE and Practicum Coordinator of Vision Care Technology at Goodwin College in East Hartford, Connecticut. Rebecca is earning her Master's Degree in Education at the University of St. Joseph in West Hartford, Connecticut. Rebecca teaches fabrication, dispensing, and the ophthalmic business courses at Goodwin College. She also prepares students to sit for the American Board of Opticianry Exam. Rebecca received the 2016 teaching excellence award at Goodwin College.

Bernie Stewart has 41 years of clinical experience and 38 years of teaching experience in refracting, retinoscopy, contact lenses, optics and exam review. Bernie is a trained teacher with a Master's Degree from Western Washington University. He has taught all levels of ophthalmic personnel (including doctors) in 43 states and two foreign countries and three medical schools. Bernie has an independent business that specializes in hands-on education in clinics and also continues to work as an employee in the Optical industry.

Kimberly Strickler is the Clinical Dispensing Director as well as the Ophthalmic Dispensing and Fabrication Coordinator of the Department of Vision Care Technology at New York City College of Technology in Brooklyn, NY. She is certified by the American Board of Opticianry and National Contact Lens Examiners and is licensed in both New York State and Florida. Professor Strickler is the current Vice President of the National Federation of Optical Schools, a Commissioner on the Commission on Opticianry Accreditation, and a member of the New York State Society of Opticians Education Committee for approving continuing education. Professor Strickler has lectured for both state and national organizations including New York State Society of Opticians, Opticians Alliance of New York and OptiCon®. She is the current and past Chairperson of the annual Essilor/NFOS College Bowl. Prior to relocating to New York, Professor Strickler was Director of Retail Operations for two top-hundred tri-ophthalmic practices as well as a private consultant/practitioner in the state of Florida. Professor Strickler received an Associate of Arts Degree in Counseling from Jordan College in Michigan, a Bachelor of Science degree in Ophthalmic Optics from The City University of New York and a Master of Arts degree in Multicultural Studies from City University of New York, College of Staten Island.

Brian A. Thomas, Ph.D., ABOM, NCLEC, FNAO is the Ophthalmic Science program coordinator at Raritan Valley Community College, North Branch, New Jersey. Dr. Thomas has been a state licensed, practicing Optician and involved in Opticianry education for almost thirty years, including service as an ABO and NAO approved lecturer. He has completed his Ph.D. degree in Educational Leadership, Management and Policy at Seton Hall University. He graduated Summa Cum Laude with his M.A. degree in Health Professions Education from a joint program at Seton Hall University/University of Medicine and Dentistry of NJ. He also graduated with high honors from Essex County College with an A.A.S. degree in Ophthalmic Science, and from Union College with an A.A. degree in Business Administration, and

received a B.S. degree in Allied Health Services/Health Management from Montclair State University, all in New Jersey. Brian has been engaged in all aspects of Opticianry education since 1981. He has developed many courses, both credit and non-credit, at the college level. He has also been a frequent lecturer for state Opticianry organizations, a member of the Opticians Association of NJ (OANJ) board of directors, state Education Chair for the OANJ and he has been published many times by the National Academy of Opticianry as well as several other publications including past technical editor for ECP magazine.

Samantha Toth, ABOC is a professional speaker and marketing consultant for Innereactive, located in Grand Rapids, Michigan. She grew up in an optical practice with multiple family members in the industry. An ABO-certified Optician herself, Samantha worked as a Dispensing Optician for eight years, as well as managed an independent Optometric practice. During this time, she realized there were very few people, or marketing companies, that understood the unique marketing needs of the optical industry. With a strong passion for marketing and design, Samantha pursued and completed her bachelor's degree at Michigan State University. In 2003, she started Innereactive, a full-service marketing company that specializes in the optical industry. Her experience as a certified Optician, along with her formal marketing education has given her a unique perspective on marketing, design, and website solutions for the optical industry. In 2009, Samantha's company launched Innexus®, an all-in-one, don't-do-it-yourself website, social media, and marketing solution. Designed by certified eye care professionals with extensive experience in Optometry and Ophthalmology, these programs help eye care professionals generate new patients online, stay connected on social media, and reactivate patients with unlimited email, text, and voice calls. Samantha is an ABO, NCLE, AOA, JCAHPO, and COPE approved speaker and she lectures across the country teaching Optometrists and Opticians best practices for marketing their practices. Her niche expertise led her to be named one of the "Most Influential Women in Optical," and her company was named one of Michigan's Top 50 Companies to Watch in 2016. She and her team work with laboratories, frame and lens manufacturers, and eye care practices across the country.

William B. Underwood, Ph.D., ABOM, FNAO, NCLEM is the Program Director for the Opticianry program at Hillsborough Community College, Tampa, Florida. He received his Associate degree in Opticianry from Erie Community College, Buffalo, New York. Bill earned his Ph.D. in Education from the University of South Florida. Dr. Underwood is an ABO Master Optician, NCLE certified, and licensed in the states of New York and Florida. He is the Vice President of the National Academy of Opticianry, an Honored Fellow of the Contact Lens Society of America, and a past President of the National Federation of Opticianry Schools. Dr. Underwood lectures frequently at state and national meetings.

Phernell Walker, ABOM is a nationally-recognized speaker and author of the textbook, Pure Optics, which is in its Second Edition. He is the recipient of the prestigious Beverly Myer's Achievement Award in Ophthalmic Optics. Mr. Walker is a Master in Ophthalmic Optics, earned a Bachelor's Degree in Business Management from Excelsior College, Albany, NY, an Associate's Degree in Science in Ophthalmic Optics from Hillsborough Community College in Tampa, FL and is certified by both the American Board of Opticianry and the National Contact Lens Examiners. Mr. Walker is an authority and

expert in advanced geometric and applied optics and served as a faculty member for the American Optometric Association, American Academy of Ophthalmology, International Vision Expo, Professional Opticians of Florida, Armed Forces Optometric Society and at Eye Care Professional conventions in 43 states. He has authored articles on lens and frame technology for Ophthalmology Times and Vision Care Products News Magazine. In January 2004, Mr. Walker was honored in Vision Monday's Forty under Forty, which listed forty of the nations' brightest and most innovative ECPs in the country.

Bryan Wolynski has been in the eye care field for over 25 years. He first became an Optician in 1992 graduating from Newbury College and then continued his education graduating with a doctor of Optometry from the New England College of Optometry in 2000. Dr. Wolynski then completed a residency in Primary Care in 2002 at NOVA Southeastern University. He currently maintains a private practice in New York City where he provides primary eye care including contact lens fittings and low vision evaluations. Dr. Wolynski consults for OrCam Technologies and the Florida Heiken Children's Vision Program, a division of the Miami Lighthouse, where he also previously practiced. He has provided continuing education lectures to Optometrists, Opticians and to the Association of School Nurses. He has spoken at many low vision conferences, departments of Florida State government, the United Nations and internationally. Dr. Wolynski is a Fellow of the American Academy of Optometry, a member of the International Association of Accessibility Professionals, The Optometric Society and the American Optometric Association.

Blair Wong, a Massachusetts licensed Optician since 1980, has dedicated his career to the betterment and advancement of our profession. Blair is a Past President to both the New England Contact Lens Society and the Opticians Association of Massachusetts (OAM). He is the Executive Director to the OAM, having served in that role since 1998. Blair serves on many national committees and organizations as an active committee member to the Opticians Association of America, the National Federation of Opticianry Schools and the American Board of Opticianry. Blair is the Department Chair of the Opticianry program at the Benjamin Franklin Institute of Technology in Boston and is an Associate Professor at the New England College of Optometry. Blair is very appreciative and grateful for the many opportunities to have been able to contribute to the growth and advancement of Opticianry.

Alex Yoho has worked in Optometric offices, retail optical, and optical laboratories since 1974. Alex is a Master in Ophthalmic Optics certified by ABO. Alex has presented at meetings of all three "O"s and several special presentations for universities. An independent consultant and author, Alex provides employee education, low vision services, and R&D for special projects.