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MIDWESTERN
UNIVERSITY

Tomorrow's Healthcare Team

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* 2022-2023 CLINICAL HONORS AWARDS *

Congratulations to our 2023 Chicago College of Optometry graduating students. You've come so far, learned so much and overcame many obstacles. Our highest hopes that you all will continue your success and thrive in the future.

To show our gratitude for our productive students who showed remarkable excellence and commitment to their clinical training; we surveyed all of our preceptors to nominate their top students who they felt best promoted optometry's professional, educational, and ethical ideals. Here are our awardees for the 2022-2023 school year:

Matthew Mcgee



Savannah Lowe



Zacariah Rihn



Katie Flikkema



Luke Flunker



Let's Celebrate!

Please join us in congratulating these five extraordinary students on this achievement.

CLINICAL ROTATIONS SPOTLIGHT

“Nicole Albright”

2023 Preceptor of the Year



“Dr. Nicole Albright attended University of Indianapolis for her undergraduate studies, where she earned her degree in Spanish. She earned her Doctor of Optometry from Indiana University School of Optometry in 2008. Then, she completed a residency in ocular disease and pre- and post-op surgical management at Bennett and Bloom Eye Centers in Louisville, KY. As Clinic Director at Moses Eyecare, Dr. Albright practices full-scope optometry with focus on specialty contact lens fittings (scleral contact lenses), myopia management, peri-operative care and ocular disease management. She also serves as the Externship Coordinator for optometric student interns from both Indiana University and Chicago College of Optometry. Dr. Albright is an active member of the Indiana Optometric Association, serving as the President and Key Legislative Contact for the local optometric society. She is a member of the American Optometric Association and Diplomate of the American Board of Optometry. Fluent in Spanish, she is able to serve Hispanic patients in Northwest Indiana.

In her free time, she enjoys traveling to Colorado with her husband, son and daughter and spending time outdoors with family, friends and her two dogs”. (<https://www.moseseyecare.com/our-doctors/>)

She began her first precepting with the Chicago College of Optometry during the 2021 school year and has shown herself to be not only proficient and very educated, but also a preceptor who goes above and beyond for her students to make them more proficient and think critically. It is because of her effective mentoring and remarkable work ethic that she was selected for our **2023 Preceptor of the Year Award**. Here were just some of the genuine words expressed about her:

“It was a pleasure learning from Dr. Albright. She constantly pushed me to think critically about treatment plans for patients as well as improving my exam efficiency. She was very knowledgeable, thorough with patient care and has continued to be a great mentor even after my rotation at Moses Eye Care ended. Learning how to manage ocular disease and fitting specialty contact lenses from her was an invaluable experience. She exemplifies the type of provider that I hope to be in the future. Picking Moses Eye Care for my primary care rotation and having the opportunity to learn from Dr. Albright was one of the best decisions that I have ever made.”

“Dr. Albright is always asking students what they’d like to improve on in order for her to help incorporate that more into the student’s clinic time. Always asks students what she or the clinic can improve on to help further improve our optometric education and time at this clinic. Is more than willing to take our concerns or questions as constructive feedback that we students found valuable. Works on improving our schedules so that we not only see the optometry side of our career but also ophthalmology side to help improve our co management. Dr. Albright is a very intelligent clinician and will take the time to explain any case that may have been confusing. Truly one of the only clinicians that really took the time to try and improve any skills we needed to work on. This is a difficult rotation, mostly the disease part but I appreciated that she tried pushing students to try their best and always asked for our sincere feedback. Dr. Albright exemplifies true leadership skills and teamwork. Working with her and the rest of the doctors was a pleasure. I will not forget the cases and skills I developed with the help of each doctor I worked with here at Moses.”

Please join us in giving our whole-hearted congratulations to **Dr. Nicole Albright**



Congratulations!

DISTINGUISHED PRECEPTORS

We had many nominations for our Preceptor of the Year Award, and though we can only honor one preceptor, we also wanted to bring attention to two of our runners-up— Dr. Jerry Robben of Bowden Eye and Associates and Dr. Ian Ymalay of America-s Best Contacts and Eye Glasses (Algonquin).



Dr. Jerry Robben graduated from NOVA Southeastern University College of Optometry in 2009 . He is currently the Chief Optometrist and Director of Clinical Research at Bowden Eye & Associates in Jacksonville, FL which is a OD/MD primary and specialty care practice specializing in cornea, anterior segment, glaucoma, refractive surgery and dry eye disease. Dr. Robben is also an Adjunct Clinical Professor at Midwestern University, College of Optometry in Glendale, AZ and Chicago, IL. He serves as a

founding member and contributor to Dry Eye University (dryeyeuniversity.com) and is a founding member of the Medical Advisory Board and is the current Clinical Director for Dry Eye Access (dryeyeaccess.com). His students said the following about him:

“Dr. Robben always values student input and allows students the independence to perform and enhance clinical skills. He demonstrates what it takes to be a good clinician as well as how to excel as a business professional”.

“The nicest preceptor ever! Never have I ever met someone who taught so well and was so patient with students! Love Dr. Robben”!

“Amazing preceptor who takes time with each student to help them work on their weaknesses and challenges you to be the best Optometrist you can be”.

“Made learning super fun and spoke to you as a peer, wants to impart as much real-life applications in lessons. Led by example in patient education and bedside manner and always was respectful and considerate. Down to earth and always showed up in a good mood no matter what was going on”.



Dr. Ian Ymalay has been practicing in the Chicagoland area since graduating from Illinois College of Optometry (ICO) in 2007. He is currently a preceptor for several schools including Midwestern University’s Chicago College of Optometry, Illinois College of Optometry and the InterAmerican University of Puerto Rico School of Optometry. Dr. Ymalay is also a CooperVision speaker and works closely with NVP’s Clinical Services to ensure the Doctors in the National Vision

network have the latest technology and clinical techniques to care for their patients. He fosters a learning environment where unincumbered discussion is paramount, and the externship students are given the opportunity and freedom to grow into a great Optometrist. The rotation is primary care, but Dr. Ymalay ensures an all-encompassing experience with surgical consults and co-management, disease treatment as well as various contact lens modalities and myopia control. His students said the following about him:

“Keep things simple and straightforward”.

“Knowledgeable in subject matter beyond daily scope of practice - experienced in the practice outside of an academic setting -encouraging yet provides constructive feedback when needed -approachable”.

“Encourage active learned and provided feedback to learn from”.

We deeply appreciate the large impact these two doctors had on our students and we look forward to many similar experiences in the future.

THANK YOU PRECEPTORS

For The Amazing Job You Do Everyday!

Midwestern University Eye Institute wants to take this time to acknowledge our preceptors for all the valuable work and dedication they have invested into our students.

With your guidance and principles, we are confident the students will become successful and strive for the best. In Recognition of your outstanding merit, mentoring, and amazing hard work, we come to the end of another victorious year and we would like to say **“Thank you”!**

Thank You from MWU Faculty, Staff & Students.

YOU ROCK!

Summer Pre-Optometry Program

The Summer Eye Experience at the Chicago College of Optometry (SEE at CCO) is a three-day program that will expose students to the Doctor of Optometry degree. Students will attend workshops designed for those interested in pursuing a career in optometry, as well as those who are still unsure and would like to see if optometry is for them. Sessions will be offered to help prepare the student's application portfolio for admission, and classes will provide a glimpse into the day of an optometry student. Students will also attend hands-on laboratories where they will learn basic optometric skills.

Highlights

- * Tour of the Midwestern University Downers Grove Campus, including classrooms and research labs
- * Tour of the Midwestern University Eye Institute at our Multispecialty Clinic
- * Attend topic discussions led by faculty of the Chicago College of Optometry
- * Participate in preclinical procedures
- * Attend application workshop on preparing an OptomCAS application, taking the OAT exam, and making a good impression during an interview

2023 Dates

Monday, June 12 beginning at 8:30 AM through Wednesday, June 14 ending at 4:00 PM.




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Summer Eye Experience
at the Chicago College of Optometry
(SEE at CCO)

June 12 - 14, 2023 Tentative Schedule		
MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
Breakfast and Orientation	Breakfast	Breakfast
Optometry Building Tour	Ocular Anatomy	Preparing for the OAT
Academic Campus Tour	Pediatrics and Vision Therapy	Study Skills
Lunch with OD Students	Low Vision	Preparing for OptomCAS
Eye Institute Tour	Lunch with Faculty	Lunch
Clinical Shadowing	Optics	Tips and Tricks to Rock Your Interview
Specialty Testing	Primary Care and Ocular Disease	Admissions Discussion
	Contact Lenses	Discussion with Incoming OD Students


Day One: learn about CCO (academic and clinical sides) as well as talk with current students
Day Two: a day in the life of an optometry student (optometric specialties)
Day Three: preparing for optometry school admission (studying, applying, OAT, interview)



2023 Dates:
Monday, June 12 beginning at 8:30 AM through Wednesday, June 14 ending at 4:00 PM

Attendance is mandatory. You must attend all events of the SEE at CCO program, if enrolled.

For questions about the SEE at CCO program, please contact Dr. John Giannicola at 630/656-3185 or SEEatCCO@midwestern.edu



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Please visit the site below to Review Requirements, Application Process and more.

[https://www.midwestern.edu/academics/degrees-and-programs/doctor-of-optometry-il/summer-pre-optometry-program-\(see-at-cco\)#dates](https://www.midwestern.edu/academics/degrees-and-programs/doctor-of-optometry-il/summer-pre-optometry-program-(see-at-cco)#dates)

Flyer: file:///C:/Users/Shamli/Downloads/SEE%20at%20CCO%20Program%20Information--Flyer%20FINAL%20(1).pdf

Calendar of Eye/Vision Awareness

- June:** Children's Eye Health and Safety Month.
Optometry Meeting/ National Safety Month
- July:** Eye Injury Prevention Month
- August:** CDC Contact Lens Health Week
AOA Eye Care Calendar & Events



KEEP IN TOUCH

We would love to hear about any updates on you and your site! Presented a poster or lecture at a conference? Providing new services at your site? Earned a fellowship or diplomate status? Let us know. You may be featured in one of our upcoming newsletters. You may contact the Assistant Director of Rotations, Dr. Daniel Deligio, at ddeligio@midwestern.edu or 630-743-4853, or Clinical Education Coordinator, Shannen Hamlin, at shamli@midwestern.edu or 630-743-4812.

DO YOU WANT TO KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON AT CCO?



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Chicago College of Optometry

IMPORTANT DATES AND REMINDERS:

- Optometry's Meeting June 21-24, 2023
- Submit Midterm Grades July 7, 2023
- Last Day of the Summer Quarter August 18, 2023
- Submit Final Grades August 18, 2023
- Start of Fall Quarter August 28, 2023

INTERESTED IN CE EVENTS AND OTHER OPTOMETRY RESOURCES?

Visit our **CCO Preceptor Resources** page at <https://www.midwestern.edu//academics/degrees-and-programs/doctor-of-optometry-il/current-preceptors.xml>