

Summer, 2014



Ocularum

Chancellor's Corner

Mira Silbert Aumiller, OD, FAAO

Upcoming Meeting

- American Academy of Optometry
- General Membership Meeting and Breakfast
- Thursday, Nov.13, 2014
- 4:45-5:45pm
- Hyatt Hotel, Room 612

www.betasigmakappa.net/

Central World Council

Mira Silbert Aumiller, OD,
FAAO
Chancellor, Executive Director

Kierstyn Napier-Dovorny, OD,
FAAO
Chancellor-Elect

Nicole Quinn, OD, FAAO
Vice-Chancellor

Ilana Gelfond-Polnariiev, OD,
FCOVD
Treasurer

Another grant! Keeping with our mission "to stimulate scientific attainment, academic excellence and the ethical practice of optometry" and "promote and provide financial support for worthy research projects relating to vision care and the eyes", we have increased our donation to the American Optometric Foundation. We are proud to announce that we have now donated a total of \$100,000 to the AOF. Our BSK-AOF endowed grant program will now provide (2) \$2,000 grants yearly to recipients. Residents and young faculty members are welcomed to apply. This added grant money allows for more opportunities for faculty to get involved in research and add to our profession. A special thank you to our esteemed Board of Regents, who read, analyzes and scores each grant application for our three grant programs (BSK student grants, BSK-AOF grants and BSK-COVD grant). Over the last few years the BSK CWC has been working hard to connect with all our optometry schools to establish active BSK chapters. We are proud to have significantly grown our membership and now have 21 active chapters across the US and Canada. Maintaining the GPA necessary to become a BSK member has proven to be a motivator for so many students who we proudly honor at their graduation.

Many of our student chapters are active all school-year long, providing academic assistance to other students.

Some of the chapters and their activities are highlighted in this newsletter. In fact, at our last CWC meeting, we were so impressed by the recent activities by BSK chapters across the nation, that we brainstormed a friendly competition- we will provide a monetary award to the best BSK student project or activity this academic year. Advisors and students stay tuned- we will announce and spread the word on our facebook page and website.

Take note that for the first time, we are moving our BSK general membership meeting. This year is an election year and we welcome all members, including student members, to attend. No longer do you need to wake up early for a 7:00am breakfast meeting. Join us on Thursday, Nov. 13th at the Hyatt Hotel (Room 612) for hors d'oeuvres immediately following the close of lectures for the day at 4:45-5:45pm. Hope to meet you there!

BSK Chapter Updates

Western



Western's Founder's Day

When WUCO's BSK Board was elected, we wanted to meet BSK's Mission to stimulate scientific attainment and academic excellence. For this purpose we organized and hosted three Mock Proficiencies for Clinical Skills to serve the both First Year and Third Year classes. The first mock proficiency helped to reinforce clinical procedures specific to Vision Screenings. The second proficiency provided guidance to students for entrance testing techniques. The third proficiency aimed to prepare the Third Year class for Part Three of NBEO examination. With the investment of time from both BSK Member but importantly many of WUCO's dedicated Professors, all four stations were accurately represented, including the Injections component in Station four.

In addition to meeting BSK's Mission to stimulate scientific attainment and academic excellence, it was also The Board's Mission to further WesternU's core values of Humanism and Caring. BSK fund-raised for Optometry Giving Sight, an

organization that raises money to provide eye exams and glasses to those in need, on October 10th, 2013 as part of World Sight Day. BSK collaborated with several different clubs at WesternU to provide health services in the form of a Vision Screening to those who desperately need Eye Care, but otherwise have limited access to care.

On December 6th, 2013, BSK collaborated with WesternU's NOSA Chapter to provide Vision Screening services to the Under-served Kids of Pomona at the INSAN Foundation. On February 22nd, 2014 BSK worked with WesternU's Lions Club to provide Vision Screening to the Under-served Pomona Community at Fremont Academy. On March 27th, 2014, BSK worked with the AAHPSA Club at WesternU to provide care to the Underserved Community in Rowland Heights. On April 5th, 2014, BSK again worked hand-in-hand with Lions Club to provide Vision Screening services to Homeless Veterans as part of 'Heroes In The Shadows' Veterans Stand Down in South El Monte.

NECO

The New England College of Optometry BSK student chapter continues to provide mock proficiencies and tutoring services for NECO students. These activities help prepare fellow students for exams and proficiencies and ease the transition for students adjusting to the rigors of the optometry school curriculum.

In addition, NECO BSK chapter hosts an informal information session about residencies. This provides a platform for third year students to meet with residents from a variety of NECO-affiliated residency programs. The goal of the program is to allow third year students more insight into the day-to-day life of a resident and the specific experiences gained as a part of each program.



NECO BSK Ceremony, 2014

BSK Chapter Updates

Pacific

Pacific is proud of its graduating class of BSK members. Of the 41 BSK graduates in 2014, 32 of them were BSK members all 4 years. Pacific has 63 continuing BSK members for this year, along with 50 new BSK members.

In 2014, the Pacific University College of Optometry Knowledge Bowl winner was BSK student John Creger, (Class of 2015). The Pacific BSK chapter plans on starting bi-monthly procedures tutoring open to 1st and 2nd year students throughout the school year, starting in September.



Pacific's Knowledge Bowl

Berkeley

The Berkeley chapter of Beta Sigma Kappa over the past year has helped optometry students achieve academic and clinical success by offering over 400 hours of tutoring.

Service is a requirement for membership at Berkeley, and the chapter of 131 members took part in various student-support-driven events. The chapter provided a variety of tutoring services which included: weekly tutoring on clinical techniques and skills with additional sessions offered near practical exams, weekly tutoring in the library for students with questions about specific courses, and private tutoring for those desiring a more personalized learning experience.

Members also participated in this past year's largest events, which included a Retinoscopy Bootcamp, EMR Bootcamp, and the year-end banquet. The Berkeley chapter continuously strives to provide unique services and looks forward to continuing its tradition of supporting students through the learning process.

Midwestern

The Arizona College of Optometry BSK Chapter at Midwestern University hosted a mock proficiency exam in a round robin fashion, for the second year in a row. This was open to second year optometry students who failed any section of this year's pre-clinical proficiency exam. Ninety-five percent of those students who failed a proficiency section attended this BSK event. It was a well-thought out reenactment of the proficiency involving mock-proctors, mock-patients, and 21 volunteers. BSK member's hard work paid off—they have a 100% pass rate for all attendees thus far!

NOVA

The Nova Southeastern University College of Optometry's chapter of BSK will hold their initiation banquet for new members on October 10, 2014. At this time, we will welcome approximately 35 new students to our chapter.

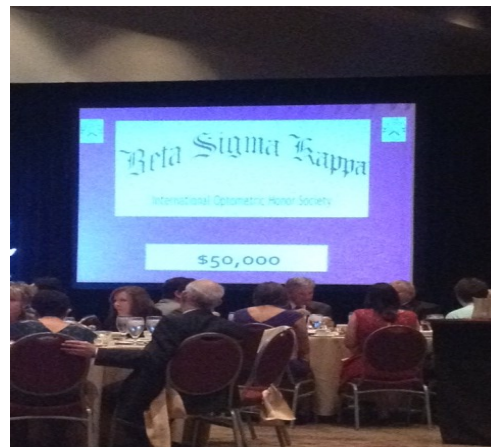
BSK continues to offer tutoring services to our students as well as year round fundraising events for our local community.

Grant Update

BSK Student Grant: This grant has been offered for over 75 years solely to students, at accredited colleges of optometry in the US or Canada. Applications and guidelines are available on our website or through your school's BSK advisor. Currently this is a \$1,000 grant with an April 1 deadline.

BSK-COVD Grant: This grant has an Aug. 1st deadline and is a \$2,000 grant. Our Board of Regents are currently reviewing our grant applicants for the first COVD-BSK grant that will be awarded this year.

BSK-AOF Grants: We recently contributed additional funds to the AOF which translated into an additional grant that we can offer. As of this summer, there are 2 BSK-AOF grants available for \$2,000 each. Our Aug. 1st deadline just passed and there were many impressive grant applications that were submitted.



COVD Annual Meeting Banquet, 2014

Denver AAO

New Meeting Times

Attending the Academy meeting in Denver this November?

BSK is changing its annual general membership meeting this year. For the first time, we are switching to **Thursday, Nov. 13 at 4:45-5:45pm** Room 612 at the Hyatt Hotel for a hors d'oeuvre hour with our general membership meeting and elections. We are trialing this new time slot to be more convenient for members to attend. Please add it to your calendar now; students are always welcomed!

NEXT BSK MEETING:

November 13, 2014
Room 612, Denver Hyatt
4:45-5:45pm



CWC Officers, (L-R)
 Ilana Gelfond-Polnariiev, Mira
 Silbert Aumiller, and Nicole
 Quinn

2014 BSK Student Grant Winners

Sheila D. Morrison, Pacific University College of Optometry

"Exploring the Fluid Reservoir and Tear Exchange Beneath a Scleral Lens"

Laura Goldberg, New England College of Optometry*

"The role of atropine in the emmetropization response to changes in color and luminance contrast"

*project was awarded further funding

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